

February 2023

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)**

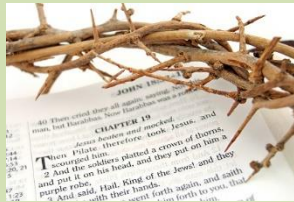


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See page 2**

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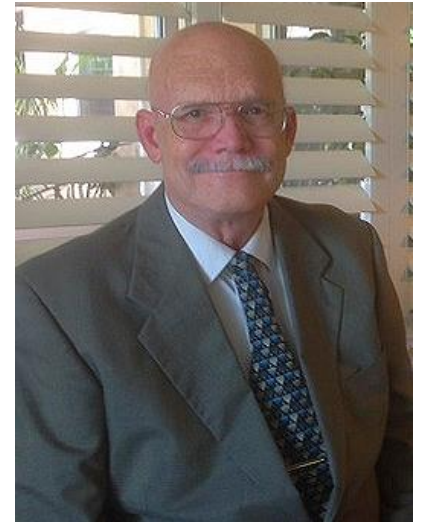
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# Personal from the editor



## The Faith Once Delivered

**A**pparently, there are 500+ corporate churches of God in existence today. One man told me that he had contacted well over 300 of them. Many of these churches openly reject Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's office as an apostle and his role as a TYPE of "Elijah" (**Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:11**). Other groups take the "smorgasbord" approach to the doctrines taught by God's end-time apostle. Their thinking is, "**We'll choose these doctrines over here because we agree with them, but these others we'll reject because we don't agree.**" The reality is these leaders do not have any authority from Christ to decide on their own what doctrines to accept and what doctrines to reject.

There are also leaders who CLAIM to teach EVERYTHING Mr. Armstrong taught, while behind the scenes they subtly dismantle the doctrines and teachings established by Jesus Christ. Others like to remind their congregations of the many television stations they broadcast from or the number of magazines they print. One man made the statement, "**We have all of these web sites,**" to "prove" God was working with him exclusively. There is one recurring theme found in these groups. They believe their specific church is "**...the ONE TRUE CHURCH!**" They also believe that if you are not part of their group, you will find yourself in the GREAT TRIBULATION and possibly even the LAKE OF FIRE. Is that really God's thinking? NO! God is not looking for seat warmers in a corporate Church of God. As Christ said, "**You shall know them by their fruits**" (Matthew 7:16).

**Jude 3** shows us that we are to be keeping our spiritual focus on the FAITH once delivered. "**Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**"

By his fruit, we saw that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong followed Christ's lead. He knew that the Church was a "SPIRITUAL ORGANISM." He stated this on page 230 (hardbound edition), of *Mystery of the Ages...* "**So, once again, WHAT and WHY is the CHURCH? The Church is the called out (from this world) begotten children of God. It is the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:23). It is the spiritual organism that shall be the "Bride of Christ" after its resurrection to immortality. Then it shall be married to Christ! It is the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come at his second appearing (Eph. 2:21).**"

Today, we can see the current condition of the Church of God. The Church ("the called-out ones"), has indeed been SCATTERED! "**Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been COMPLETELY SHATTERED, all these *things* shall be finished" (Daniel 12:7). We must LOVE God's TRUTH and never STOP loving it! (Ephesians 1:13, 4:15; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Thessalonians 2:13; I John 3:18-19; III John 4).**

*Gary R. Liebold*

# 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?*

Gary Liebold

If you were to ask virtually anyone who professes Christianity the question, “**Did Christ die for your sins and mine?**”, the answer would undoubtedly be a resounding “**YES**” – and rightly so! “**For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Romans 5:6-8).

But, WHY? Why was it necessary for Christ to die for our sins? Why was He chosen to die? Couldn't we just say, “**I REPENT**”, and our heavenly Father could say in return, “**Your sins are forgiven**” without Christ's sacrifice? Clearly, as we've seen in the book of Romans, Christ died for us as sinners. But what exactly is sin? Does the Bible have a written definition of SIN, or is sin just based upon what our own moral compass dictates? Is sin dancing, playing a card game, or rolling a pair of dice? Those things would be sin only if they were used in a wrong manner, such as in lewd dancing or in gambling with the cards or dice. Dancing, cards, or dice of themselves are NOT sin, any more than a computer in and of itself would be. However, the WRONG use of a computer (such as committing a



crime with it), would be sin. In **I John 3:4** we find where God defines what SIN is! “**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law**” (KJV). Then, in verse 5 we read the following... “**And ye know that he [Christ] was manifested to take away our sins; and in him [Christ] is no sin**” (KJV). Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote the following in the March 1972 *Good News of Tomorrow's World* magazine (Personal from the Editor) ... “**On the day the Church of God was started, the Apostle Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized ... in the name of**

**Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Repent of what? Of sin. And what is sin? "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). What law? The law that the carnal mind, hostile to God, is not subject to -- the Law of God (Rom. 8:7). Again, we read of "the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32)." Transgressing (violating), God's royal law, - the Ten Commandments, is what spiritual SIN is (James 2:8-14)!**

God shows us that the penalty for breaking God's law is DEATH ... ETERNAL DEATH! **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).** Every one of us, and all who have ever lived (except for Jesus Christ), have been guilty of sin (Romans 3:23; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:21-22). Those sins have placed us under the death penalty. Since Christ never even once sinned, He was the ONLY human being who could be the PERFECT sacrifice in paying the death penalty for us. He became (what scripture shows us), our Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for us (I Corinthians 5:7).

Our sins totally separated us from God. **"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).** We cannot come to God **"Just as I am"** and continue in sin without repentance (Acts 2:38).

It's only through Christ's shed blood that we can be reconciled to the Father to have our sins forgiven, through our repentance. **"... by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—" (Colossians 1:20-22).** The persons who are TRULY repentant of their sins will cry out to God for forgiveness and seek the lifting of sin's penalty through Christ's shed blood. When a repentant person accepts the sacrifice of Christ

paid through His shed blood, they will want to be baptized (the outward showing of their repentance) and receive God's Holy Spirit through the "laying on of hands." Those persons are now given access to the Father that had once been blocked, due to sin.



Through God's plan, there had to be a way to reconcile us to the Father, or ALL of humanity would end-up dying forever! **"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:2-3).**

It's only because of Christ's sacrifice and shed blood that we could be given reconciliation. There is no other way but through Christ for us to come to the Father and be given access to God's throne. **"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Romans 5:8-10).** What Christ was willing to do for each of us makes it possible for us to be a part of the coming Kingdom of God! (John 14:6).

After our baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, we're then commanded to commemorate Christ's death annually, on the Passover (I Corinthians 11:23-27). ♦

# Just How Does Leaven Represent Sin?



*God offers Christians vital lessons through His commanded Holy Days. Not only are they structured to be reminders of His Master Plan for mankind, but they also contain key elements of the spiritual knowledge we need to understand and live a righteous life.*

Gary Liebold

**T**he second of these important festivals instituted by God, falling right after the Passover, is the seven-day festival known as the Days of Unleavened Bread.

In ancient times, the Days of Unleavened Bread pictured the freedom of the Israelites from the bondage of slavery to the Egyptians (**Exodus 12:15-17**). Today, these days represent the release

of Christians from the bonds of sin and are depicted by the removal of all leavened products from our homes and properties (**Exodus 12:15, 13:7**). This includes leavening agents such as yeast, baking soda, and baking powder; all substances that produce fermentation in baked goods and cause dough to rise.

**Leaven Symbolic of Sin**

While there is nothing sinful about these products of themselves, these physical items do represent spiritual sin. Removing them from our lives is a symbolic reenactment of removing SIN from our lives! When we remove these leavened foods, we replace them with unleavened products (**Exodus 12:19-20; Leviticus 23:6**), just as when we remove sin from our lives, we replace it with God's righteousness. So, we can see the parallel here - that physical leavening represents spiritual sin.

In **Matthew 16:6**, after being mocked and chided by hypocritical Sadducees and Pharisees, Jesus Christ told His disciples to, "**Take heed and beware the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees**". While His disciples may have thought Jesus was talking about physical bread here, He was talking about the doctrines of the religious authorities at the time, which were leading the people into sin (**Matthew 16:11-12, 23:13**).

The apostle Paul also used physical leaven as a symbol for sin. He wrote to the brethren during the Days of Unleavened Bread, when they would have already removed physical leavening from their homes and encouraged them to address the issue of a church member committing a serious sin in their congregation (**I Corinthians 5:1-8**). Paul told them that this person was like a little leaven that would affect the whole lump with his sinful way of life. Paul encouraged the brethren to remove that person from amongst them in the Church, as they would the temptation and wickedness of sin - and that person was put out of the church. Thus, the brethren in the church that Paul addressed developed righteousness - the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

### Spiritual Comparisons

There are many spiritual comparisons to be had when we consider the nature of leavened and unleavened bread along with the aspects of sin and righteousness. Let's take a moment to explore five of these comparisons.

- ◆ *Sin spreads easily. -- Righteousness develops slowly.*

While sin spreads easily, righteousness is built slowly. When used in a food product, like bread,



leaven doesn't take long to spread throughout the entire product. Sin, like leaven, spreads rapidly (**Galatians 5:9**). In comparison, developing holy, righteous character takes a lifetime or work, diligence, and commitment.

- ◆ *Sin is always based on a lie. -- Truth is the basis of righteousness.*

Sin appears to be something it is not, deceiving the sinner into thinking he is getting something worthwhile when he is only earning the death penalty (**Hebrews 3:13**). However, with righteousness there is no lie, no deceit; only truth (**Psalms 119:151, 172**). The truth of God.

- ◆ *Sin exalts self. -- Righteousness reflects humility.*

Leaven puffs up the sinner by playing on the desire to rely on oneself, rather than allowing God to rule (**Psalms 10:3**), opening the door to sin. When we choose God's righteous, "unleavened" so to speak, way of life, we overcome the selfish desires of sin. We humbly allow God to rule in our lives.

- ◆ *Living in sin is easy. -- Being righteous is much more difficult.*

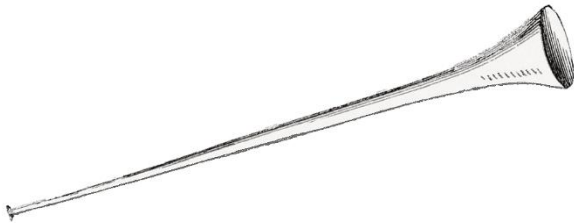
Just like leavened bread is easier to eat because of its light, airy texture, going the way of sin is easier than obeying God's laws and living a righteous life (**Matthew 7:13-14**). The world with its society around us is full of attractive pastimes and temptations that pull our attention away from God

*(Continued on page 9)*

# SEVEN REASONS WHY CHRIST CAME TO EARTH

(Part 2)

Geary Whiting



**A**s mentioned in the first part of this series (The Seven Reasons Why Christ Came to Earth), most worldly religions will not touch or discuss the thorough understanding of this subject. Rather, they are often confused about why Christ came to this earth.

Religions often teach that Christ was on a soul-saving campaign! They regularly leave God the Father out of the picture unless they mention Him in a bad light, depicting Him as a harsh, angry God! They believe that Christ came to do away with the “Old Testament” laws by “nailing them to the cross”, and therefore saving the world from His Father’s “harsh, unjust edicts.” Thus, they enable those in the world to feel good about themselves and with minimum effort, be seen as a “good person.”

Just as this physical, push-button world filled with ease, dazzles and seduces unsuspecting people, this false religious concept of the world is pushed on the unwary ones. Many believe that all you need to do is quickly confess your many sins and somehow, like a magical switch is pushed, you can be heaven-bound to sit on a cloud, staring at the face of Jesus while taking harp lessons or some other silly, unimaginable

idea! Some soundness from God’s Word should be brought into the picture to understand why Christ had to come to this earth.

## A REVIEW: THE PREVIOUS THREE REASONS

In the November 2022 issue of *The Lantern* magazine, part one covered the first three of the seven important reasons Christ came to this earth. We’ll take a moment to review those reasons.

First, God sent Jesus Christ to live a perfect life, qualifying to replace Satan as the current ruler of this earth where the first Adam failed. We can read about how Christ overcame Satan to receive this qualification in **Luke 4:1-13**.

The second reason covered in the first part of this series is the fact that Jesus Christ was sent to establish the New Covenant to introduce the gospel of God’s Kingdom to this earth. By doing so, He magnified the law (**Malachi 3:1**).

Third, Christ set an example for all of us to follow by showing the entire earth how He lived. He observed His Father’s law in its perfect, spiritual intent. His entire life was filled with the spiritual, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit (**I Peter 2:21; I Corinthians 11:1**).

## IV. REVEALING THE FATHER

The current world civilization that we know today developed from the time of Adam and Eve. When God shut off the tree of life, that act marked the FOUNDATION of this world’s civilization. It was built on the rejection of God and on disobedience to God’s law, which defines God’s way of life.

God had designed a 7,000-year Master Plan for accomplishing His wonderful purpose. The first 6,000 years were allotted to allow Satan to remain as ruler of the earth, and for humanity to learn a bitter lesson - that Satan’s way of self-centered opposition to God’s law only leads to pain and suffering, anguish, and death. In other



words, the whole of mankind has been deceived into preferring this getting, self-serving way of life. Even the peoples of Old Testament times had never really known God - only Jesus Christ, as the "Spokesman" of God - until He came to reveal the Father to them (**Ephesians 3:15, John 1:18, Matthew 11:27**).

**One of the reasons Christ came to this earth was to reveal God the Father to us.**

One of the reasons Christ came to this earth was to reveal God the Father to us. God SENT Him to this earth (**Mark 9:37**). Christ came to reveal the divinity of the Father. (**John 1:18**). **"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him"** (Luke 10:22).

For example, in **John 14:9**, one of Jesus' disciples asked Him what God the Father looked like. Jesus replied, **"Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father..."** Jesus looked like the Father. He was actually **"God with us"** (**Matthew 1:23**). Jesus was the begotten and then born Son of God.

Jesus Christ's appearance was that of a human man, for He was also the Son of man. In fact, He looked so much like the other Jewish men of His day that His enemies bribed Judas to point Him out, to identify Jesus while in a crowd at night. So, by this, we know that God has the same form and shape as a man, while He is composed of Spirit. Spirit is invisible to the human eyes unless manifested by some special process,

which God has not yet done. So, if manifested, we would see both God the Father and Jesus Christ formed and shaped like a human, glorified with faces like human faces but as bright as the sun's full strength. In **Revelation 1:14-16**, we are shown that their eyes are like flames of fire, feet like burnished brass, and hair as white as snow!

Christ also revealed to us that when we pray, it must be to God the Father, and He must be addressed as our Father. (**Matthew 6:9**). Throughout the New Testament, He is revealed as the one to whom we should go with all our trials and problems. Like a human father, He loves and watches over His children and blesses and protects them. That also includes chastening when we need it - He chastens every son that He loves (**Hebrews 12:6**).

So, we can see that in these examples above, and so very many others throughout the New Testament, Jesus was really a messenger from God, sent here to reveal the Father to mankind. Perhaps Nicodemus said it best in **John 3:2**, **"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; and no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him"**.

## V. TRAINING THE APOSTLES

As we read above, God had set a definite plan, with a specific timeframe, for working out His purpose here on earth. This 7,000-year plan is composed of seven "millennial" days, a type of which were the first seven literal days of creation in Genesis. At the end of this time, God will intervene to teach humanity His Truth. Therefore, in God's plan, Jesus Christ was to come to earth and choose disciples to become apostles, teaching them about the Father, and training them how to proclaim the gospel message (the good news of God's coming Kingdom), and to become the foundation of His Church!

In the book *Mystery of the Ages*, by Mr. Armstrong, we read on pages 207-208, **"The first place in the New Testament where the**

word *church* appears is **Matthew 16:18**, where, speaking to Simon Peter, Jesus said, “I will build my church.” ...Stated in more clear English language, Jesus said “I will call out of Satan’s world disciples, to grow into the altogether new and different world, which will be God’s kingdom.” Christ told His disciples directly, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16).

**Christ taught the disciples throughout His entire time with them, through sermons and personal examples, as well as the many parables scattered throughout the New Testament.**

Christ taught the disciples throughout His entire time with them, through sermons and personal examples as well as the many parables scattered throughout the New Testament. He set forth the understanding of the nature and presence of the Almighty God, and the attitude of reverence the disciples - soon to become apostles - should hold toward His name and office. Christ specially focused on lifting their understanding of the Sabbath and how it is the identifying “sign” of the true God and should be observed by the true servants of God - spiritual “Israelites” of today.

Then, after the resurrection, before ascending to heaven, Jesus taught His disciples - again, soon to be His apostles - about the Kingdom of God. (**Acts 1:3**). So clearly, Jesus Christ, according to God’s plan, was to choose and teach disciples to

become apostles, to understand the Word of God, carry on the proclamation of the gospel message, the Good News, and to become the foundation of His Church here on earth. “**For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,**” (Ephesians 2:18-20).

We can see the evidence of that training in Biblical passages describing actions and teachings of the apostles after Christ ascended to the Father in heaven. When addressing the Church of God in Corinth, Paul stated in **I Corinthians 9:1**, “Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?”. Paul also said to those in Corinth, “**Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city. And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."** (Acts 18:9-11).

#### **THE TRAINING CONTINUES WITH US**

Yes, God the Father sent Jesus Christ here to this earth with carefully crafted, specific purposes, two of which we have covered in this article. Christ came here to reveal the Father to us in a clear definition, showing glimpses of His divine nature and power. He wanted mankind to understand the Father and our relationship with Him. He underscored that revelation by His example while here on earth (**Luke 10:22**). He taught through sermons and parables, as well as examples that relate to our human experience and can be easily understood.

In that teaching also lies the other reason covered here for Christ’s physical habitation on

the earth - the training of those specially called and chosen disciples to become apostles on earth for Him. These individuals were to carry on the proclamation of the message of God's plan for mankind and to become the actual foundation of God's Church here on earth. Heavy responsibilities for mere physical humans, and yet with God's planning and direction and Christ's training, chosen individuals have risen to the challenge.

There are valuable lessons for us in today's world to glean these ancient events, for at no

time in the history of civilization has so much information - revelation and training - been available to man. We have even more information at our fingertips than ever before. So, let's take advantage of it and learn and grow each day so that we, too, can be counted as pillars in the foundation of God's Church! The training Jesus Christ started with the first disciples-turned-apostles continues with us today. ♦

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## How Leaven Represents Sin...

*(Continued from page 5)*

and His way of life. For a Christian, it's hard to obey God because we still have that carnal nature that wants to sin (**Romans 7:14-25**).

- ♦ *Sin creates a false image. --  
Righteousness builds GODLY character.*

As we have seen in this article, leavening and leavened products give a false impression, building a false image. So does the sinner. He may look impressive on the outside, but his inner character reflects a different story (**Matthew 23:27**). A true Christian is developing and radiating GODLY character, a light to all who can see (**Matthew 5:16**).

**A true Christian is developing  
and radiating GODLY character,  
a light to all who can see.  
(Matthew 5:16)**

### Remember By Analogy

When we thoroughly examine the many nuances and intricacies contained in God's instruction

book, the Bible, we can see how God is showing us, through the analogy of leaven and sin (especially at this time of the year with the Days of Unleavened Bread fast approaching), that He wants us to overcome sin and lead a righteous life. To eliminate sin, we need to follow three basic steps - recognize sin, resist the temptation before it turns into sin, and repent of sin by seeking God's forgiveness when you find yourself in the clutches of sin.

We must strive with all our might to put sin out of our lives completely, just as we do with leaven and leavened products during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Our goal should be to try to grow in the perfect character of God and live righteous lives.

Remember, by analogy, that the leaven of false doctrine and sin has spread through the whole world as a tool of Satan's deception (**Revelation 12:9**). But when we understand God's law and apply it to our lives, we can resist and remove the temptation to sin and reach for righteousness, just as we remove leaven from our lives during the Days of Unleavened Bread! ♦

# BIBLE STUDY

## THE OVERVIEW OF GOD'S MASTER PLAN

***God has devised 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.***

God's annual festivals provide an overview of His Master Plan, as summarized in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Leviticus. These festivals are God's own Feasts, which He originated and gave to His followers to observe year by year and specifically commanded to be observed in addition to the weekly Sabbath (**Leviticus 23:37-38**).

1. The festival of Passover is the first festival to be observed each year (**Leviticus 23:5**). The original Passover was a reminder to ancient Israel of God's delivery from slavery in Egypt, and pictured, in advance, the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Passover lamb for the sins of mankind (**I Corinthians 5:7; I Peter 1:19**).

2. Immediately after the Passover is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which pictures the putting away of sin (**I Corinthians 5:7-8**). We must strive to put ALL sin out of our lives, as this festival pictures removing the "leaven of sin" away from us in a renewed resolve to live in harmony with God's laws.

3. In **Acts 2:1**, we see that the next festival in God's plan is Pentecost, also known as the Feast of first-fruits, observed in the memory of the first arrival of the Holy Spirit of God (**Acts 2**), to beget repentant believers in Christ. Pentecost marks the beginning of the New Testament Church of God and the gift of His Holy Spirit to help us overcome our human weaknesses.

4. The Feast of Trumpets is the first FALL festival of the seven annual sabbaths described in

**Leviticus 23:23-25**, depicting the triumphant return of the living Christ to set up the government of God on earth and rule as King of Kings (**I Thessalonians 4:14-17; Revelation 19:16**).

5. Only nine days after the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement is the next annual festival, picturing Satan being restrained by Christ, no longer able to broadcast attitudes of vanity, lust, and greed to lead man into sin (**Leviticus 23:26-32, 16:2-34; Revelation 20:1-3**). The minds of all mankind will then be opened, and they will become at one with Christ and the Father.

6. The next festival portraying God's Master Plan is the Feast of Tabernacles (**Exodus 23:16, 34:22**). This annual Sabbath pictures the wonderful 1,000-year advent of the World Tomorrow under the righteous rule of Jesus Christ and those first-fruits born into God's Family.

7. Immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles is the final festival, known as the "Last Great Day" of the Feast (**John 7:37**). In **Revelation 20:5**, we learn that billions of dead who were never converted or knew of Jesus Christ will be resurrected after the preceding 1,000-year period.

God's annual Sabbaths and their related festivals remind us of His plan for salvation and point us directly to Jesus Christ, who will make salvation available to everyone who has ever lived after He has come to set up His government and rule the earth, making this world a real utopia for all. ♦

# *Excerpts From the Desk of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong...*

*For each continuing issue of our magazine, we will post various EXCERPTS from Mr. Armstrong's past writings and sermons.*

**The Good News of Tomorrow's World**  
**Personal from the Editor**  
**February 1972**

"...Thousands know that I, personally, have been called and chosen for a very definite commission in God's service. But I have definitely NOT been called to be a PROPHET -- except as that word, Biblically used, does sometimes refer to a minister or speaker -- one who proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Emphatically I am NOT a prophet, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God -- separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. And I never have claimed to be.

## **THERE IS NO SUCH HUMAN PROPHET LIVING TODAY!**

The Bible is the written Word of God -- and, for our time now, it is COMPLETE! Never have I believed or claimed that God reveals to me new truths not contained in the Bible -- in addition to, or apart from the Bible.

In a special group festival held at Belknap Springs, in Oregon, in the autumn of 1951, I was shocked -- and so were those there -- to hear Herman L. Hoeh, then recently graduated from Ambassador College, say with conviction, as if with authority, "Mr. Armstrong IS NOT A PROPHET -- but a man called to the same kind of commission as the original evangelists and apostles of the first century Church of God -- to proclaim the Message -- the Announcement -- the Good News of the Kingdom of God -- the Message that Christ brought from God and taught His disciples."

I shook my head in astonishment that he would make that statement. I KNEW WELL I was not a prophet. I simply knew I had been called to proclaim Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God -- to get a job done -- but I had no illusions about being an evangelist, or an apostle, or anything more than my own part in proclaiming and publishing this Great NEWS, as a witness, to as many as I could reach. I had no vision then of a worldwide ministry.

Let's take a look at the Church of God of the first century, as we find it revealed in the Book of Acts, beginning from the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. The Bible was not fully written -- only the Old Testament -- in 31 A.D. God then was still communicating new truth, instruction and knowledge directly and personally to prophets. As the Church progressed, it was the function of a prophet to communicate to the apostles special messages which God had personally revealed to them. Others were inspired in the writing of the books of the New Testament. So we read, in Acts 11:28 and 21:10-11, of the prophet Agabus. **But today we have the COMPLETE Word of God, for our time, in the Bible. There are no such prophets -- except false ones...** *(Emphasis above, mine)* ◆



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## COMING ARTICLES



II Peter 1:19

### ◆ Speculation or Revelation – Our Spiritual Priority

Today, we see plenty of speculation in various corporate churches of God. They usually label their speculation as – “NEW REVELATION.” True revelation is a revealing from God. Speculation is a theory or conjecture. Do we know the difference between the two?

### ◆ Seven Reasons Why Christ Came to Earth (Part 3)

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 3 of the series on the seven reasons why Christ came to earth.

### ◆ Bible Study – What it Means to be a Real Christian

Jesus gave us the very basis of real Christianity, which clearly identifies His true followers. What is a Christian? Is it just believing in Christ? So, what exactly does it mean to be a REAL Christian?