

GN

The Good News



“...AND YOU SHALL
BE BROUGHT
BEFORE KINGS”

MARCH 1974



ABOUT OUR COVER

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong disembarks from another visit with world leaders. The picture story ("Update" — page 14) gives insight into these many important personal contacts and shows how the gospel, as prophesied, is going to "all nations."

Tom Haworth — Good News

GN

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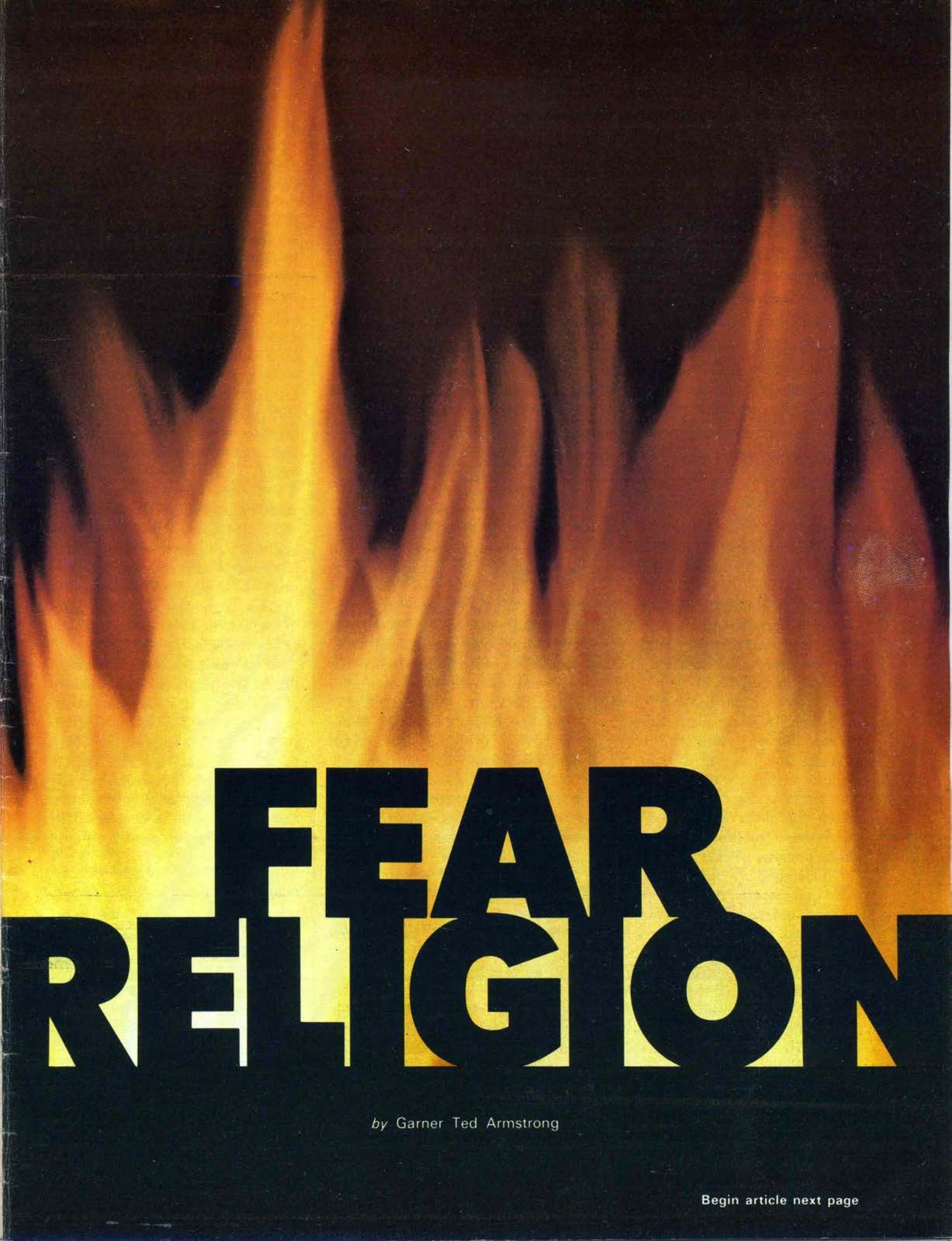
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FEAR RELIGION

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Begin article next page

Fear religion is everywhere. To the layman it may appear nearly all religions are based on fear — fear of loneliness, sickness, accident, or fear of death; fear of terrible spiritual retribution for misdeeds; fear of eternal torture in an imagined inferno of hellfire. Unnamed fear can become a powerful, motivating force. It has led tens of thousands to hiding places in the wilderness; or to caves and dugouts carefully stocked with provisions. But is the Bible a book of fear? Does God want His people constantly afraid of a terrible consequence in the future, looking nervously over their shoulders in anticipation of a terror-stricken flight for their lives?

WHEN YOU were a little child, you no doubt developed many fears. Some were the result of childhood fantasies of your own; some the result of frightening stories told to you by adults or other children; some obtained from children's books.

Did you ever fear the dark? Ever walk along a dark street with the leaves blowing and the trees swaying, and imagine all sorts of evil creatures just waiting to gobble you up? You have, no doubt, received your quota of childhood fairy tales about goblins, trolls, ogres, giants, demons, witches and fairies.

I remember my very first nightmare quite vividly. A neighborhood boy had told me a grisly story about a haunted hospital replete with bloody knives and walking corpses draped in bloodstained bandages; huge syringes, needles and saws; creaking floors, squeaking hinges and groaning elevators loaded with bodies. He took me on a vivid mind's eye tour of gore.

I guess I woke up the entire neighborhood that night — and probably scared my mother out of ten years' growth — because I woke up screaming at the top of my lungs

just as a bloody corpse was about to "get" me.

Remember the time when you were a child and it stormed so violently that you ran in to jump into bed with your parents, or older brother or sister? Remember the way you used to hide your eyes when the chiller movie got to the most suspenseful moment? Well, maybe not everybody remembers childhood fears, but most people had them. And, in many cases, some never got over them.

Fears of heights, of depths, of water, fire, wind, rain, or the dark — all are commonplace in the hidden fears of millions of adults. It's no wonder, then, that since religion deals with an *unseen* world — with spirit beings, future punishments and rewards — that people's FEARS play an important part.

Fear can be a powerful force! A soldier who is decorated for heroic deeds on the battlefield may well have acted, initially, through blinding fear. And a person who is held in the grips of unknown fear over imagined spiritual consequences can make vital, sometimes life-and-death decisions while motivated by that force.

But God is not the author of "fear religion." "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18).

The preceding scripture (verse 17) spoke of "boldness in the day of judgment," meaning the *faith* to KNOW your reward is sure, no matter what the temporary physical suffering during this life. God is love, the Bible asserts! Jesus Christ was love personified! He prayed that His disciples would *love one another*, and said, "Fear not," and "Be not afraid."

Still, the fears of pain, persecution, suffering, or death; the fears of spiritual punishment and unknown, unnamed torments — millions and billions of years in various imagined "places" of suspended animation; or the fear of an ever-burning hell virtually DOMINATES many of the religions of the world.

All of you have read or heard of the Eastern religions of self-inflicted pain; the beds of nails or hot coals; or deliberate self-inflicted blindness resulting from staring at the sun — all this, plus infant sacrifice and the distorting of the human body through deliberate injury during one's youth — all is dominated by *fear*.

The Right Kind of Fear

Blind terror — the chilling, shocking, paralysis of fright — is an extreme human emotion. There are many ranges of "fear" in *between* the kind of fear God *wants* in His people and the kind which has been the hidden, motivating force of all sorts of bizarre religious doctrines and practices.

God said: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would *fear me*, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be WELL with them, and with their children for ever!" (Deut.

5:29.) Here, God plainly says He wants His people to have "fear" of Him. But He wants the *same kind* of fear that an obedient child would have toward a loving father! Moses said: "And the Eternal commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Eternal our God, for our GOOD always, that he might preserve us *alive*, as it is at this day" (Deut. 6:24).

The Bible, especially the Old Testament, contains literally dozens of expressions about the *fear of God*. "In the fear of the Eternal is *strong confidence*: and his children shall have a place of refuge" (Prov. 14:26). David was inspired to write: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so GREAT is his mercy toward them that FEAR him . . . Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Eternal pitieth them that FEAR HIM" (Ps. 103:11, 13).

The *kind* of fear God wants to be a continual emotion inside His people is like an "awesome awareness"; like a full, consuming knowledge of His great *power*, His great *laws*, His great *ability*, His great *purpose* in our lives — and that He is the Righteous *Judge!* He wants us to *fear to do evil* — and the Bible is filled with examples which prove that God's desire is as much aimed at the terrible consequences sin *brings upon us* as it is His wrath when we sin. He wants us to be in awe of Him; in deep, abiding respect; but not in fright, worry, apprehension, or terror!

The fear of God is tempered in exact measure to the obedience and faith of the Christian. Paul wrote: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God," showing the sinner he had better really FEAR to SIN! There is a "certain FEARFUL looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:31, 27). It is those who have WILLED not to repent who should be in terror and fear.

But remember, "Perfect love casts OUT fear" and "There is NO FEAR in love." God is consistent — and there is no contradiction whatever between that great and faithful LOVE He wants to give to us, and the "fear" which is an "awe" and a "fearing to do evil" that is a veritable *part* of that love.

The Wrong Kind of Fear

Fear of *man* — fear of embarrassment or persecution, of being ridiculed and made to feel "small" or "unimportant" or "unsuccessful" — is a driving, motivating *force* in the psychological makeup of the modern business world. The entire social structure of human societies is made up of various vanities, jealousies and fears.

Human nature is a *fearful* nature. It is basically *inferior* and driven by vanity (Jer. 17:9; Eccl. 1:2), yet desires to overcome its dozens of fears by self-assertions of vanity! Self-importance, status, class consciousness and a desire for success are all symptoms of this deep-seated *fear* inside each human being. Millions have driven themselves toward various goals of success — whether in business, the arts, sports, government, the military, or religion — because of a deep, all-abiding *fear of ridicule*. A fear of *failure* is the opposite, and perhaps balancing factor, in each great desire for success.

Crime is fear related, too. Thousands of people have been killed because a burglar was driven by fear of being "found out" and so killed to cover the lesser crime. Hundreds of policemen have been shot as a fear reaction to attempted arrests — and so have shopkeepers who may have appeared to be uncooperative when being robbed.

It's a powerful force, that fear of consequences — a driving, all-consuming force that can be absolutely catalytic to human actions. God's Word says: ". . . I will *never* leave

you, nor forsake you. So that we may *boldly* say, The Lord is my helper, and *I will not fear what man shall do unto me*" (Heb. 13:5-6).

Since human nature is pride, vanity, jealousy, lust and greed — a driving, all-consuming desire to be virtually *worshipped* for one's qualities, abilities, appearance, wealth, possessions, or success — the thought of being appraised at somewhat *less* than the level approved by this self-worshipful attitude of vanity is a kind of constant *fear!* It is the *opposite* of hope, faith and love. God's Holy Spirit gives us "love, joy, *peace*," meaning peace of mind! A person with a full measure of God's Holy Spirit will not only *not* be fearful of man — of man's persecutions, belittling and condemning accusations and attacks — but he will not be continually seeking *status* and *importance* among others — simply because he lacks that ingredient of *fear* which drives most men and women on.

The right *kind* of fear, then, is an outgoing love of God, coupled with a fear to do evil, like a great, "awesome *awareness*" of God's great power — but it is *not* terror, nor unnamed fright, nor fear of physical consequences.

The *wrong* kind of fear is fear of man; fear of failure; fear of having your vanity exposed; fear of what might happen to your physical being.

Notice. Even when God's Word warns us of Satan the devil, it says: "Be sober, be *vigilant* [be grave, *watch*]; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom *resist* steadfast in the *faith* [a calm, patient *assurance*], knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Pet. 5:8, 9).

It is *not* the Christian who is in "fear" — but Satan himself, and his demons! James wrote, "Thou belie-

vest that there is one God [or, "God is one" — margin]; thou doest well: the devils [demons] also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19).

Still, even though God's Word reveals it is strong faith and confidence that is engendered by God's Holy Spirit, millions live in fear of various forms of retribution, punishment, loss of reward, torture or death.

Paul said, "For God hath not given us the spirit of FEAR, but of power, and of love, and of a SOUND MIND" (II Tim. 1:7).

Mental instability, various psychoses, neuroses, fears and worries, are based on fear. It is the devil himself, and his demons who are fearful, in craven, angry, mindless TERROR! They know the impending consequences for sin — and they "tremble."

It is only when "doctrines of demons," and "ideas" which come from such sources, begin to creep into a person's thinking that various kinds of dark fears emerge! Ideas about private little hideouts to "flee" to when the going gets rough stem from fear of physical hardship and martyrdom. When a person begins thinking of PHYSICAL protection, he has quit thinking on "those things above," and is far more concerned, for the moment, on "those things beneath," meaning the perpetuation of his physical existence. Such a person is reasoning from FEAR, and not from faith.

Jesus' Instruction

Your Saviour and mine, your soon-coming King, had calm, patient assurance coupled with godly fear. He had the spirit of the fear of God (Isa. 11:2). And He was heard of God because He possessed the right type of fear (Heb. 5:7-8).

Christ, unlike today's purveyors of fear religion, never taught us to be in terror of His Father. Rather He came to reveal the true character of

a compassionate Father whom Jesus said *was merciful* and even kind to the unthankful and the evil (Luke 6:35-36).

But, that's not the way you've always heard it. You have probably been taught that the old Father God of the Old Testament is like the proverbial hanging judge seeking to vent His wrath on helpless human beings.

Nothing could be further from the truth — and in more ways than one. If you do not yet understand that Jesus Christ was, in fact, the God of the Old Testament, then write immediately for our free article "Who — What — Was Jesus Before His Human Birth?"

If you are a normal parent, you are ready and willing to forgive your small children for the seemingly inevitable offences that children commit. Do you sincerely and honestly think that God the Father — the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17) — a giver of grace and glory (Ps. 84:11) — is any different? Or is He not more willing to forgive us than we are our small children?

God is your friend. He is on your side. He is in your corner. He is simply not going to let things turn out wrong for you in the long run (Rom. 8:28).

Fear Religion in Jesus' Day

Many Jewish families — contemporary with Jesus Christ — were caught in the viselike grip of the Pharisees' fear religion. There is no more poignant illustration of how incredibly deep the fear of men can affect religion than the account in John's Gospel, chapter nine.

Jesus mercifully healed a grown man who had been blind from birth. But his parents were in such stark terror of the establishment religion that they not only unnaturally repressed all normal expression of joy,

but were constrained from publicly acknowledging the miracle itself.

"These words spake his parents [in answer to the Pharisees], *because they feared the Jews*" (verse 22).

Remember also that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night because *he feared his religious peers* (John 3:1-2).

Even the disciples were afflicted with the effects of fear religion, being "... assembled for fear of the Jews..." (John 20:19).

Jesus simply did *not* come to bring us this brand of fear religion. Instead, He exposed its true colors at every turn of His ministry.

The Fruits of Fear Religion

"Woe unto you [the fear purveyors]... for ye lade men with burdens greivous to be borne," said Jesus to the biblical lawyers and professional arguers of His day. Man's ecclesiastical fear builds up a mountain of woe and misery for all who are unfortunate enough to be squeezed in its suffocating, octopus-like tentacles.

Jesus came to free us from all religions that would seek to enslave us in the fear of a God of wrathful terror — including even professing Christian religions that teach an ever-burning hellfire that would roast men made in His very image for all eternity.

He had inspired Isaiah to write: "... Their fear toward me [God] is taught by the precept of men" (Isa. 29:13).

God in His Word — *not men* — tells you how you ought to fear Him as you would a loving Father whom you would hate to disappoint.

Jesus' message to His beloved Church is *not* one of mindless terror or unreasoned fear, but of calm, reassuring faith.

Remember, it was Christ who said: "*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:32). □



COME HELP HUMANITY

News of war, overpopulation, pollution, famine, crime and disease fills our newspapers and our minds. Educators, theologians, politicians, ecologists — all responsible men and speaking as with one voice — warn us that humanity needs help! Something must be done if humanity is to be saved. Read this article to find out what you can do to help.

by Robert C. Smith

WHATEVER happened to “involvement”?

From the minutemen of Colonial times to the awesome armies of World War II and Korea, America has been a people ready to get involved when mankind needed help. From the “halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli,” as sung in the Marine hymn — seemed

to characterize our willingness to “jump into the fray” if someone needed assistance.

Unbelievably Uninvolved

In a not-very-distant yesterday, the weakening cries of a little girl coming from the bottom of an abandoned mine shaft tugged the heart — and muscle — of the nation to

action in a concerted effort to help save her tiny life.

When the strains of “God Bless America” wafted out over the airwaves, America linked arms, and with tears streaming down her cheeks and a lump of pride welling up in her throat, marched forward to give of herself.

But suddenly it’s all changed. The

anguished, tormented cries of rape and murder victims only reverberate hollowly through the box canyons of our major cities — fading into pitiful echoes — and not stirring a human being to raise a window to see what is happening.

Headlines scream out the ills of the world. Instant communication through mass-media projects “on-the-spot” reporting of everything from war, natural disaster, famine and political unrest to crime, sex and anarchy — directly into our living rooms, and all in full, living color.

The hollow-cheeked emaciation of starving millions, grotesquely accentuated by bloated and distended bellies, become only subliminal reminders of an age in chaos as we glimpse them in the hurried channel changing of our television sets. Our quest for self-satiation has caused us to shut our eyes and ears to the desperate cries of humanity. We have become unbelievably UN-involved!

But humanity DOES need help — and you and I can have a part in saving it.

Learned world leaders acknowledge we are rapidly running out of time in which to solve the seemingly insoluble problems which confront humanity today.

Does the horrendous portent of a not-too-distant climax to man’s tenure on this earth send frantic appeals for answers through your very being? Or do you — as a member of the “silent majority” — follow the established tenet of *uninvolvement* with the gargantuan problems of today?

Does the prospect of a future overshadowed with the permanent possibility of thermonuclear holocaust cause you to be actively concerned with seeking answers?

Breaking the Problems Down

Let’s look at some of the *major* areas: War is always a threat. Just since the end of World War II over *sixty* wars have been, or are being, fought.

Must there be wars? Must this tragedy wrench husbands, fathers and sons from their families to be sacrificed on the altar of Mars (the god of war), robbing nations of top-quality brains and manpower?

Such awesome terminology as overkill, MIRV, ICBM, biological warfare and thermonuclear destruction boggle our minds to the point of rejection. Strategic Air Command planes remain aloft twenty-four hours a day — poised to repel and retaliate against any enemy attack. The astronomical projected death figures, as a result of a nuclear war, are not palatable to our comprehension. But, they *are* real! It’s the world you live in.

Internal Social Problems

Rising crime and violence are rampant throughout the countries of this world — whether they be the “have” or the “have-not” nations. The late Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, once said that we are experiencing lawlessness unexampled in our history.

Mr. Hoover went on to say “the flames of crime” are threatening to consume the social structure, but we refuse to face the danger. “They see the flames of crime, of burglaries, murders, physical assaults, but, to all intents and purposes, they immediately close their windows, forget about the problem and return to their ordinary day-to-day business.”

Can *you* see the “flames of crime” and close *your* windows? Can *you* turn the plain truth of today’s news into watered-down items of little significance; or do you ache for the way that will right these wrongs? Can you return to your “ordinary day-to-day business,” ignoring the cries of a suffering humanity? Or do you have enough of the “stuff” which characterized a once-proud people to want *to get involved* — and find out *how* these problems can be solved?

Why are our morals plummeting as if on a toboggan slide and threatening to destroy the very root of

solid, productive societies — the strong, sound family structure? Why the increase in forcible rape, murder and crimes of theft? Why the burgeoning use of narcotics among our youth, accompanied by frantic escapism? Why the profound upswing in divorce and increasing licentiousness among our peoples?

Do you begin to desire *answers* to these questions?

The Threat of Global Pollution

An air approach to any of our major cities starkly emphasizes another of the gruesome problems of today. Pollution!

While you are still miles away from the city itself, the sprawling pall of acrid, particulate matter looms as an ominous lung-wracking blanket, steeling you for the tear-wrenching eye irritation that accompanies every enervating breath you will take once you have landed.

The once-brilliant rays of a marvelous life-preserving sun are now filtered through such a toxic mass of man-made waste as to render them almost totally ineffective. The mind-cheering blue skies of a recent yesteryear have been replaced by depressing grays and browns — the result of the outpouring of industrial and automotive effluent.

To add to the increasing forms of pollutants, we are constantly bombarded by mind-jangling noises — from the screeching, blaring din of countless automobiles clogging our highways to giant airliners assaulting our ears with guttural vibrations. The nerve-agitating cacophony of raucous musical compositions (or *decompositions*, as the case may be) rushes at us from every side.

Can you discount these dire forebodings? Have you allowed yourself to become mesmerized by the “no-solution” advocates of our land? Or, are you able to view the disintegration of our society in its proper perspective and *want* desperately to do something about it? You *can’t* ignore it — for it very much involves *you!*

The Population Bomb

Every three days a million more people are added to our already overcrowded earth. In a *Time* magazine article, former Food Minister Chidambaram Subramaniam told the World Food Crisis Committee in Washington that a lack of protein in our depleted food supplies is causing brain damage to 40 percent of the 20 million babies born in India each year. He stated, "We are producing millions of sub-humans annually."

Can you grasp the magnitude of the disaster looming on the horizon as a result of our inability to produce foodstuffs as rapidly as our population demands them? These are facts — not dire prognostications by wild-eyed fanatics spouting sidewalk rhetoric.

The cry is for world government — but the realization is that world government, under man's rule, is impossible. What a fantastic paradox! World leaders tell us that the *only* way to survive is not even realistic.

Just where does that leave the citizens of this earth?

A Washington, D. C., scientist, Dr. Robert M. Page, said several years ago: "Scientists cannot change human nature, and until human nature is changed we will have war." Man has demonstrated throughout history his inability to change the basic nature which has produced a chronicle of strife and war — and has now placed mankind on the brink of total and absolute destruction.

But, human nature *must* be changed — and *WILL* be changed!

Man was created to experience a life filled with joy, a life brimful and running over with the good gifts of a loving Creator.

How You Can Help

By subscribing to this magazine, *The Good News*, and by reading other literature produced by Ambassador College, you have shown that you *are* interested and concerned. As your eyes peruse the pages of these publications, you

have access to precious information which causes you to ponder the possibility that there just might be a way out.

There really are solutions to the world's ills! Yes, there is a need for a SUPER GOVERNMENT — and there *will* be one! When the quote, "The dominant view (among officials) is coming to be that the problems and tensions of the world may be too deep-seated to be controlled except by a *strong hand from someplace*" was made in a 1965 issue of a major American newsweekly, *where* that strong hand might come from was probably not understood.

There *will* be intervention in the affairs of mankind — and *you may have part in that intervention!*

Jesus Christ of Nazareth — in the pages of your Bible — forecast in vivid detail the very precarious situation in which mankind would find itself just before the cataclysmic end of its wrong way of life.

Matthew, the 24th chapter, states: "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the *beginning* of sorrows" (verses 3-8).

Jesus continued: "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (verses 10-12).

Then, in verse 14, Jesus proph-

esied the very event in which *you* are now participating. "And this gospel" — this good news — "of the kingdom shall be preached [and published, Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

That witness is going out as a warning to all nations. If Christ could prophesy of the dead-end society in which we live, and predict an end-time warning of coming events — then He surely could prepare a group of people to deliver that message.

We of Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God are shouting out that witness. You are hearing that warning in the pages of *The Good News*, *The Plain Truth*, and the many dozens of other booklets and reprint articles emanating from our presses.

Each time you read and contemplate these articles, you become an integral part in the fulfillment of prophecy.

The warnings are foreboding — and they are *real*. However, with the warnings come the hope of what awaits an errant mankind after suffering the results of its wrong practices.

Accompanying the warning is the gospel of the Kingdom, the GOVERNMENT of God, which is to be set up on this earth. If you read — and HEED — you too can participate in the establishment of that government!

Christ said that circumstances would develop to absolutely inextricable ends: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive, Moffatt]; but" — now understand this, for it involves *your* future — "for *the elect's sake* those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22).

Do you grasp it? Except for an "elect" (a group of people involved in doing a *Work* — that of proclaiming the very words of Jesus Christ

BEFORE the final death knell), there would soon be *no one left alive on earth!*

The same invitation which brought that "elect" together is open to you. You don't have to settle for "no solutions." You can become part of the most thrilling work extant on this earth. You can begin to exhilarate in the prospects of a world — a society — which will live the *way* which leads to abundant living, to rich, full productivity, which is not based upon gross national product.

You can learn — and ultimately teach — the very principles of government, marriage, child rearing, and every facet of life, according to the way the very Creator of mankind designed them. You are already acquainted with the education system which guarantees happiness and well-being. You *know* where it is and how it got started. Now savor the satisfaction of contributing your time and talents to a lasting society — a Utopian era such as the world has never known.

God is calling. Revelation 18:4 states: "... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." The reference is to the nations — the society — which has become decadent and can no longer find its way.

There must be a new world order if mankind is to be saved. How will it come about? Where will it begin? Who will be involved in its conception?

YOU — if that calling affects you — can begin, today, to know the answers. You — if the literature you read and study is creating in you an awareness of the need for intervention by "a strong hand from someplace" — can immediately learn *how* that intervention is going to take place.

Jesus said: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." (John 6:44). If you are able to understand the significance of today's world news — and equate it with the plain words

from your Bible, then perhaps the Father is drawing you.

You need to find out! Become part of this group which has an "overview" and is joyfully planning, working, studying and actually putting into practice that way of life — seeing the results of right education in the many lives involved.

It is one thing to give a man a fish so he may have a fish today; but the better way is to teach that man *how* to fish so that he may have a fish *every* day. Right education teaches a man not only how to earn a living, but also *how to live*.

Imagine the satisfaction of being a "pacesetter" for the world tomorrow. Contemplate the responsibility of being a shining example to others. Christ said in Matthew 5:14-16: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth *light* unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

What an unparalleled opportunity awaits you if you follow through on the teachings of God's Word! You can become the "salt" of this earth — the spice that flavors

society. Share the *giving* way with those who have been blessed to know it. No other operation on the face of this earth is able to produce so much for so little. No other peoples on this earth derive such joy as this group which daily sees profound changes in the lives of thousands around the world.

This earth is tired. Wrong practices have sapped the strength of our nations. It is a world of people who do not wish to retain God in their knowledge, and therefore, "... God gave them over to a reprobate mind..." (Rom. 1:28).

A reprobate mind is a mind incapable of sound judgment, and one which is resigned to the inevitability of ultimate doom. Considering the tragic testimony of our society, that description seems to label us. "For we know that the whole creation *groaneth* and travaileth in pain..." (Rom. 8:22).

If you can hear that groaning, if you can feel your whole being ache at the realization of what we are doing to ourselves, then you should seriously consider direct involvement in the very Work which is paving the way to future peace and joy.

Remember — humanity is waiting! □

Personal Counsel

If you want personalized instruction on how you can help humanity, here is good news.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (ordained ministers) in most communities in the United States and British Commonwealth, and in many other areas of the world. These men of God can visit you, *if invited*, directly in your own home.

If you do have biblical questions, and you want personal

instruction, feel free to write us and request a private appointment. (Worldwide mailing addresses are on the inside front cover.)

If you would prefer faster service, please dial this toll-free number in the *continental* United States: 800-423-4444. (Readers in California, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii should call 213-577-5225 *collect*.)

Remember, this service is absolutely *free* and without personal obligation.

QUESTION: "What is the scriptural basis for your statements in the November 1973 *Good News* which classify the white horses of Revelation 19:11-14 as symbolic?"

Dan D.,
North Hollywood, California

ANSWER: The book of Revelation is literally filled with symbolism. (This is also true of the book of Zechariah in the Old Testament.) God often uses symbols to create a certain timeless imagery in the prophetic sections of His Word.

In Revelation 19 we find quite liberal use of such imagery or symbolism. For example, verse 2 uses the term "fornication" to represent an illicit political relationship between the great false church (symbolically called the "great whore") and the governments of this world.

In verse 7 the "Lamb" represents Jesus Christ (John 1:29). Verse 15 contains the imagery of a sharp sword proceeding from Christ's mouth. Rather than a literal sword, this sword represents the Word of God (Heb. 4:12).

Now, regarding the white horses, we must realize that *physical* horses are confined to this earth. They are made of flesh and do *not* dwell in heaven. It would seem a little ridiculous for the living Christ to return in the space age on a literal physical horse! So we may deduce one of two things: 1) the horses are *spiritual*, or 2) they are *symbolic*.

Since the rest of the chapter, and indeed the book, deals heavily in symbolism, we may conclude that the latter is also the case here.

Q. "I would like a question answered. I asked three ministers for a short memorized prayer when we sit down to eat our meals. They gave me no help. Can you?"

G. M.,
Portsmouth, Ohio

A. You don't need a memorized prayer to give thanks to God. God wants us to thank Him from our



hearts. Christ specifically instructed His disciples: "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions..." (Matt. 6:7).

Prayer before a meal should express our gratitude for the food itself — "our daily bread." If some unusual or unexpected blessing has occurred, you may want to mention it as well. Whatever you say should be brief and sincere.

Q. "Please tell me which night goes with the Sabbath day — Friday night or Saturday night?"

B. G.,
Turlock, California

A. According to the Bible, a day is a period of time from sunset to sunset. Read Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19 and focus your attention on the words *evening* and *morning*, *night* and *day*, *darkness* and *light*. Notice that the sun was appointed "to divide the light from the darkness" — to divide day from night.

We are instructed in Leviticus 23:32 to observe the Sabbath *from evening to evening*. So the Sabbath begins at Friday sunset and ends at Saturday sunset — a period of approximately 24 hours.

A much more detailed explanation of this whole Sabbath subject can be obtained by writing for the free booklet entitled *Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?*

Q. "Revelation 16:21 predicts the fall of hailstones 'about the weight of a talent.' How heavy is that?"

Irene B.,
Turlock, California

A. Many of the weights and measures of antiquity are imperfectly known today. *Unger's Bible Dictionary* states: "The talent was used by various nations, and differed considerably" ("Metrology," p. 722).

Many Bible margins will give the weight of a talent as being as much as 130 pounds (100 lbs. — *avoirdupois* system). But the golden crown of the king of Ammon, later worn by David, weighed a talent (II Sam. 12:30; I Chron. 20:2). It is very unlikely that

either man could have long endured a 100-pound crown.

However, Unger's states the following about the *Greek* talent (remember, the book of Revelation was written in Greek): "... Sixty [minas] went to the talent. It [a mina] weighed one hundred drachmae, or fifteen ounces eighty-three and three quarter grains" (*ibid.*). This would make a talent of approximately 58 pounds. Some current authorities, however, calculate the Attic mina (from Athens) to be even less than that — about 330 grams (*Scientific American*, October 1973, page 39). With this value, a talent weighs approximately 43½ pounds.

Q. "I've heard Garner Ted Armstrong ask people to write him when they find a verse in the Bible saying 'you'll go to heaven,' 'he went to heaven,' etc. I believe the eleventh verse of Revelation twelve says something like that."

Joe E.,
Atwater, California

A. Revelation 11:12 reads: "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud..."

There are three heavens mentioned in the Bible: 1) The heaven of God's throne (the third heaven — II Cor. 12:2). 2) The heaven of the great universe where the sun, moon, stars, comets and planets are (Ps. 8:3; Gen. 1:15-17). 3) The atmosphere surrounding the earth *where the clouds are* (Gen. 1:20; 27:28; Deut. 33:28).

Notice that in Revelation 11:12 the two witnesses ascended up to heaven *in a cloud*. Clouds are in *the atmosphere of the earth* — *not* the heaven of God's throne.

WHY OBSERVE THE PASSOVER?

THE following account is paraphrased from *Exodus, chapters 7-13*:

The spring of 1486 B.C. was unlike any previous spring in Egyptian history. Nature seemed to have gone crazy. The Nile, life-giving river of Egypt, turned into a flood of blood. Fish died by the millions. The stench from the river and dying fish filled the land.

Then swarms of frogs, flies, locusts and lice plagued the land. Terrifying hail and thunder storms destroyed what little of the crops the insects had missed. Millions of cattle died of a mysterious disease.

Even more remarkable, a strange, eerie darkness blanketed the land for three days. Terror gripped the population. One of the world's most advanced and prosperous nations was in a state of collapse.

To add to the natural calamities that had seriously weakened Egypt, the slave population was in revolt. A leader for the slaves had mysteriously appeared out of the desert and was demanding that Pharaoh release the Hebrews.

Indeed that spring was very different!

Word among the Egyptian population was that the calamities which had befallen their country were caused by the God of the Hebrew slaves. He was angry because Pharaoh would not free them. However, to many Egyptians the thought that some other God was even remotely capable of challenging the gods of Egypt seemed unbelievable.

A Final Ultimatum

But the worst was yet to come. Moses, leader of the slave revolt,

and his brother Aaron, had just returned from giving Pharaoh the final ultimatum from God. If Pharaoh still refused to release the Hebrews, God would kill all the firstborn of Egypt.

Pharaoh had taken this warning with his usual smugness, even though he had already seen much of his land systematically destroyed by the God of Moses.

Moses and Aaron returned to the Hebrew slaves in the land of Goshen to warn them of God's plan to destroy all the firstborn of Egypt.

God had instructed Moses and Aaron to show the Hebrews how to avoid being part of this terrible final plague. Each family was to take an unblemished male lamb of the first year and pen it up on the tenth day of Nisan (first month of the sacred calendar).

Then on the evening of the fourteenth they were to kill the animal and smear some of its blood on the side posts and lintels of their doors. (The Hebrews counted days from sunset to sunset, therefore the evening of the fourteenth would have been on the night we call the thirteenth — see Lev. 23:32.)

Moses' instructions probably sounded a little strange to the Hebrews. However, they had seen how God had already plagued the Egyptians and were willing to go along with what Moses had instructed.

A Blood Sacrifice

The thought of sacrificing an animal was not new. But this particular sacrifice was for the *salvation* of their physical lives.

The blood to be put over the doorpost was to indicate to the death angel that this particular house was to be "passed over," and that no harm would come to its firstborn. Egyptian homes which did not have the blood of a lamb smeared over the doorpost that night were to be the target of the death angel.

Naturally, such strange activities in the camps and homes of the Hebrews caused some curiosity among the Egyptians. Some scoffed. But others, who had been thinking about the past few weeks, were not so sure that it was just another ridiculous Hebraic ritual. They had seen the first plagues affect all of Egypt, including the Hebrew slaves; but the later plagues had struck only the Egyptians.

It was obvious that the God of the Hebrews was making a separation and a distinction between His people and the Egyptians.

The more curious began to inquire of the Hebrews. Could they too be protected from this final dreadful plague? The Hebrews, in turn, told them what had to be done.

The First Passover Night

When the night of the fourteenth arrived, the Hebrews and some few obedient Egyptians sat anxiously around the tables in their homes wondering what was about to happen. Would their sacrifice really save them? Who or what was this death angel about to pass through the land?

Then they heard the mourning outcries of their unbelieving Egyptian neighbors who had just experi-

enced the full force of this final plague from God. Terror almost impossible to comprehend reigned in Egypt that night.

Every firstborn child was dead. Every home that the death angel visited, from the palace of the Pharaoh to the hovel of the lowest Egyptian serf, was filled with sorrow. Even the firstborn of their animals were dead.

All during the following daylight part of the fourteenth, the Hebrews prepared to leave Egypt. In the evening part of the fifteenth, the first day of their eating unleavened bread, they at last got under way. Finally they were free from the terrors of that long Egyptian slavery.

Needless to say, the celebration of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread had great significance to those who kept it in the spring of 1486 B.C. However, the meaning of the Passover is not limited to the Hebrews. It has an even greater meaning for all mankind.

New Testament Passover

The following account is paraphrased from Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and John 12-19:

Passover season in A.D. 31 began much as it had in previous years. Thousands of Jewish pilgrims from all over the civilized world crowded into Roman-occupied Jerusalem. All were concerned with preparing for the Passover, not knowing that it would become the most important Passover in the history of mankind.

At the appointed time on the evening of the fourteenth, thirteen men sat around a table in a small upper room in Jerusalem. They were eating the Passover meal with a mixture of joy and apprehension. With joy because of what the Passover meant to them historically. With apprehension because their leader seemed overly sober and thoughtful.

After the meal was finished, the leader of the group, Jesus, rose and took off His outer garment. He then took a basin of water and a towel and began to wash the feet of His astonished followers. This act of hu-

mility further illustrated His sober and thoughtful mood.

When He had finished washing their feet, Jesus began to say things that seemed unusual to them. Even though they had been His companions for over three years, His disciples had never seen Him like this. He began to tell His followers that one of them would betray Him into the hands of enemies that very night.

The New Testament Symbols

Jesus did something else that seemed strange to His disciples. He took some of the unleavened bread from the supper table and broke it into small pieces. He blessed the bread and gave a piece to each one of them.

Then He took a cup of wine from the table, blessed it, passed it to His disciples and told them to drink of it.

He explained that the bread was the symbol of His body to be broken for mankind, and the wine symbolized His blood now to be shed for all mankind.

At the moment they received these precious symbols, they did not fully realize what they meant. Later that same evening and the following day, they would begin to understand their symbolic meaning.

After giving His disciples final instructions, Jesus went out into a garden to pray about the trial He was about to enter. When He had finished praying, He returned to His disciples who were sleeping nearby. By the time He got them on their feet, Judas the traitor had arrived with the chief priests, some of the elders and a group of vigilantes with swords and staves.

At first the disciples tried to prevent them from apprehending Jesus. Peter even went so far as to cut off the High Priest's servant's ear. But Jesus quickly healed the servant and rebuked Peter.

The mob led Jesus away. The horror of the night that Jesus spent in the hands of His captors is almost impossible to describe. By early

morning the strong, muscular carpenter of Nazareth was reduced to a bleeding chunk of flesh. In this condition He was made to carry a heavy wooden beam to a place outside the city where He was then nailed to it.

At three p.m., the fourteenth of Nisan, A.D. 31, Jesus Christ died after being pierced with a Roman spear.

The Significance of the Passover

The Lamb of God, as John the Baptist had called Him (John 1:29), was dead. His commission of taking away the sins of the world was completed. Jesus Christ, the Lamb without blemish (I Pet. 1:19), was sacrificed for the world (John 3:16).

The significance of the Passover for Christians today is clear. The parallels between the physical salvation of the Hebrews in Egypt through the blood of a physical lamb, and the spiritual salvation of all mankind through the blood of Jesus Christ, are absolute.

If the Passover lamb of 1486 B.C. could spare the physical lives of obedient Hebrews and was important enough to be kept for generations as a memorial, how much more important should the keeping of the Passover be for Christians today? For by the death of Jesus Christ, *Christians have access* to eternal life, from which there can be no more death.

(Editor's note: If you would like additional information about this sacred Passover ordinance, please write for our free booklet *How Often Should We Partake of the Lord's Supper?*)

The Apostle Paul summed up the significance of the Passover and the equally meaningful Days of Unleavened Bread (request our free booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days - Which?*) when he wrote this to the Gentile Christians at Corinth: "... Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast..." (I Cor. 5:7, 8).

— George L. Johnson

"COME... LET US REASON TOGETHER"

DID YOU ever wonder just how far you can go with God without being disrespectful? Should your prayers be bold; and if so, how will He react? Is it possible to actually change God's mind, or is He essentially unapproachable?

In times past God dealt with His people on a very direct, personal, often face-to-face basis. We know, for instance, that He walked and talked with Adam (Gen. 2:16; 3:8), that He stopped to eat a meal with Abraham (Gen. 18:1-8), and on one occasion even wrestled all night with Jacob (Gen. 32:24-30).

But God does not work that way today. No one is able to see God. He does not speak personally and audibly to us as He did to many of the righteous men of old. But we do have one of the greatest blessings of all — that of being able to look back upon the Old Testament and learn the meaningful lessons which the lives of God's past servants hold for us.

Abraham Reasoned With God

The eighteenth chapter of Genesis deals with the prelude to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. God had permitted these cities to exist for years, during which they had become increasingly evil.

Finally God decided to make an example of them. He said to Abraham: "... I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are utterly evil, and that everything they do is wicked. I am going down to see whether these reports are true or not. Then I will know" (Gen. 18:20-21, *The Living Bible*).

In all probability when Abraham heard these words, the color drained from his face. One thought flashed through his mind — his nephew Lot was in Sodom! Somehow he had to save him.

The fact that God was prepared to obliterate the cities did not seem to intimidate Abraham in the least. He proceeded to reason with God about His decision, not once, not twice, but *five* consecutive times!

He audaciously asked, "... Will you kill good and bad alike? ... That wouldn't be right! ... Surely you wouldn't do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth be fair?" (Verses 22-25, *The Living Bible*.)

Admittedly, it sounds like Abraham was just a little out of line, perhaps a trifle too bold for his own good. But God didn't seem to think so. He listened patiently while Abraham pleaded: "Suppose you find fifty godly people there within the city — will you destroy it, and not spare it for their sakes?" (Verse 24, *The Living Bible*.)

If you read on in verses 26-33, you will find that by the time God finally decided to leave, Abraham had convinced Him to save the city if He found only ten righteous men!

That is quite a job of persuasion; but through it all, God allowed Abraham to say what was on his mind, to be perhaps a bit presumptuous, to bandy words with Him about His own decision.

Abraham Was God's Friend

What is so very exceptional about this entire account is the remarkable

relationship Abraham had with God. Centuries later the Apostle James was inspired to write: "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness, and he was called the FRIEND OF GOD" (James 2:23).

What a fantastic statement! It almost boggles the mind to think that God would personally regard any human being as His "friend." Was Abraham so perfect, so very special, that *only* he could ever be called God's friend? The truth is just the opposite.

Any Christian can and should have the very same kind of relationship with God. To be a friend of God simply means that one is diligently serving Him and trying to unswervingly obey His laws — though perhaps not always perfectly. This is precisely what Abraham was doing — keeping the commandments (Gen. 26:5).

It was not disrespectful for Abraham to make his wishes known boldly to God, to be persistent until he received the answer. This is exactly what God appreciates. In fact, He expressly tells us to do just that in Hebrews 4:15-16.

Paul writes: "This High Priest of ours [Christ] understands our weaknesses, since He had the same temptations we do, though He never once gave way to them and sinned. So let us come BOLDLY to the very throne of God and STAY THERE to receive His mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need" (*The Living Bible*).

Such determination displays an underlying confidence and assurance that God is a loving, com-

passionate Father. This is the kind of attitude God wants all of His people to have.

Moses Also a Friend of God

Another classic illustration that God has human friends involves Moses and the children of ancient Israel. When God was ready to give His people the Ten Commandments, Moses was told to climb to the summit of Mt. Sinai, where he remained for forty days (Ex. 24:18).

While he was gone, the people were without a really strong leader; and they soon became restless. Some of them began to clamor for Aaron to make them a golden calf to worship.

Had this been their first infraction, perhaps the situation might have been different. But these rebellious people had tried God time and again. When He saw that they were reverting to the paganism of Egypt, He became very angry.

Turning to Moses, God said, "Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and *I will make of thee a great nation*" (Ex. 32:10).

Now when you comprehend the almost unfathomable honor which God offered Moses — that of becoming the father of the chosen people — then there is no question concerning what he should have done. Right?

Wrong! Despite what God had said, Moses did not like the idea; and he dared to speak his mind to God.

Moses could simply have accepted God's plan. He could have calmly said, "Thy will be done." But he didn't. Instead he earnestly interceded on behalf of the whole nation. He carefully explained that if the people were destroyed, the Egyptians would impute an evil intent to God. He reminded the Eternal of His unbreakable promises to Abraham and the forefathers.

Finally he implored God to "turn back your fierce wrath. Turn away

from this terrible evil you are planning against your people!" (Verse 12, *The Living Bible*.)

Strong words, those! But did God tell Moses to quit talking back to Him, to have more respect, to shut his mouth? No! Notice verse 14: "And the Lord [Eternal] repented of [changed his mind regarding] the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

Here is an extraordinary lesson from the life of a most exceptional man. The scripture states that "the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his FRIEND" (Ex. 33:11).

Moses was willing to put personal advancement aside to beseech God to save the people of Israel. He turned thumbs down on God's proposal to make a great nation from him.

One very significant point we can learn from Moses' example is that God has made allowance for change. He created within His plan the opportunity for change based upon what we humans do.

Both Abraham and Moses approached God and pleaded for Him to change His mind. And He allowed them to speak forthrightly to Him. He permitted them to disagree, and to challenge what He had decided to do. He listened patiently to their arguments, and in both cases acquiesced to their wishes.

"Come . . . Let Us Reason Together"

The kind of strong, viable association Abraham and Moses had with God is the kind all Christians need

today. It is the kind of relationship that really gets things done.

God wants all of us to be close to Him and serving Him. In other words, His intimate friends. And friends are, above all things, open and honest — always showing the utmost respect for one another. That's the way we should be with God.

God is continually watching every Christian to determine just how strong he really is, how devoted, how obedient. He wants each of us to have a healthy, one-on-one association with Him.

He is *for* you, willing to hear you out, to listen patiently if you need to talk, to plead, to reason with Him over any issue. That is why Isaiah was inspired to write: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Eternal: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

Go unhesitatingly to God with whatever may be bothering you, whether it be a problem with no apparent solution, a need that cries for fulfillment or perhaps a special favor you would like to receive. Talk it over with Him, being confident in the knowledge that He will listen and answer.

Take God up on His own invitation to "Come now, and let us reason together."

Don't be doubtful or afraid. Approach your God confidently; come before Him with determination and boldness. You, too, can be God's friend.

— James B. Rector

CONTRADICTION?

Since God was willing to change His mind when Abraham and Moses appealed to Him, doesn't that contradict Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8, where it says God does *not* change? Not at all! These two scriptures tell us that God is *consistent*. He is *reliable* and unchanging in *purpose* and *character*. Unlike man, God can be counted on to keep His word. He is not fickle and capricious (as are the characterizations of many pagan gods). These scriptures do not rule out the possibility that God might reverse a decision He has made in a specific instance when and if circumstances change. God is both reliable and adaptable.

Editor

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, *Chairman*
Publisher of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT
*An educational service at all levels
for all people worldwide*

October 25, 1973

Dear Co-Workers in the
Work of the Living God:

I have just come from a visit with Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. I want to give you the significant details of that trip.

We had a really spectacular flight from Tel Aviv directly to Addis Ababa (capital city of Ethiopia), over the straits of Tiran, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Red Sea, with Somalia on our left, and Egypt on our right.



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UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

“...AND YOU SHALL BE BROUGHT BEFORE KINGS”

IN RECENT years the visits of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to various world leaders have added an exciting new dimension to God's Work. The message of God's soon-coming Kingdom is now going *directly* to the leaders of many nations.

But how did these visits get started? And how are they furthering the Work of God in this pulsating end time?

Actually, these personal visits commenced with an unusual series of “coincidences” which started about six years ago.

The first such “coincidence” took place when the wife of our office manager in Bonn, West Germany, happened to show a copy of our College yearbook, *The Envoy*, to an industrialist friend. He, in turn, showed *The Envoy* to a personal friend of his — King Leopold of Belgium!

The King then wished to meet the leader of this unique institution.

Such a meeting was arranged and held in 1968. Mr. Armstrong and the King became fast friends and have enjoyed a very warm friendship ever since.

A second “coincidence” also gave rise to many contacts in world leadership circles. In 1968, Dr. Martin and Dr. Hoeh of the faculties of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, and Pasadena, California, wanted the College to participate in an archaeological project in Israel, some miles north of Jerusalem.

Initially, Mr. Armstrong showed little interest in such a project. Later, however, when confronted with the possibility of aiding in the excavation near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, he came to realize the far-reaching significance of this special “dig.” Ambassador College entered into joint participation with Hebrew University and Dr. Benjamin Mazar, head of the project. In the course of events, Mr. Armstrong became personally ac-

quainted with many of the political and academic leaders of Israel. This in turn led to personal contact with other dignitaries.

A third “coincidence” also led to several more acquaintances in the world of government. Following the mid-October meeting in Jerusalem in 1968, Mr. Armstrong headed for Hong Kong and Tokyo for conferences with advertising officials of *Reader's Digest*. He was met at the Tokyo airport by Mr. Osamu Gotoh, a native-born Japanese man who functions as Ambassador's Chairman of the Department of Asian Studies.

Mr. Gotoh was acquainted with Prince Mikasa, brother of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. The Prince expressed a desire to meet Mr. Armstrong. Following their very cordial and successful meeting, Mr. Armstrong eventually met other Japanese leaders, including Mr. Eisaku Sato, the Prime Minister at that time. (Mr. Armstrong met with the



Above: Meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka. Below: Indonesia's President Suharto greets Mr. Armstrong in Djakarta with a warm handshake.



present Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka, a few months later.)

Mr. Armstrong also came to know many of Japan's foremost educators as well as civic and industrial leaders. Various ambassadors from other countries in Southeast Asia extended personal invitations to visit their respective countries. Mr. Armstrong's list of international acquaintances continued to grow. One led to another.

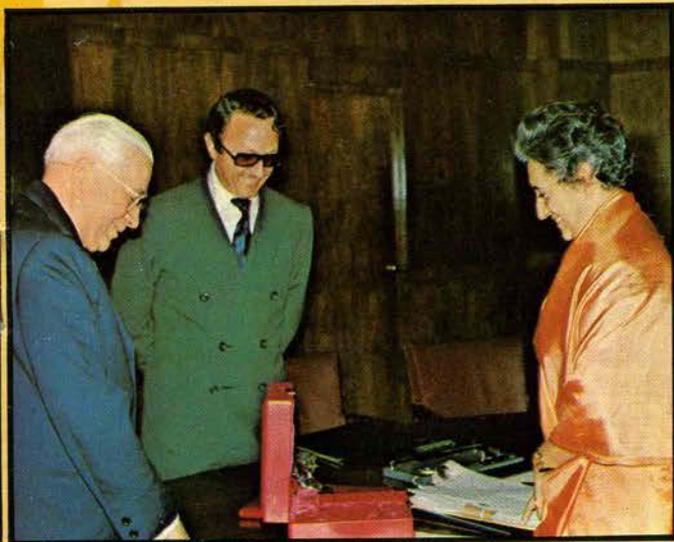
Many other "coincidences" took place, which led to personal meetings with government heads in Indonesia, India, Thailand and other nations of Southeast Asia.

To date Mr. Armstrong has had

important meetings with *many* heads of state, kings, rulers, educators and other leaders. These meetings were not planned by Mr. Armstrong — they were precipitated by some of the "coincidences" briefly outlined here. But they have *not* been in vain. They are *not* mere tea-sipping, handshaking exercises. Rather, they have far-reaching implications for the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

God has a *message* for world leaders. It is the most important information they could possibly receive at the present time. It concerns the way to world peace and har-

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (left) and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India (below), receive gifts of Steuben crystal from Mr. Armstrong.



Good News Photos



Above: President V. V. Giri of India extends warm personal greeting. Below: Mr. Armstrong with Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor of Japan.

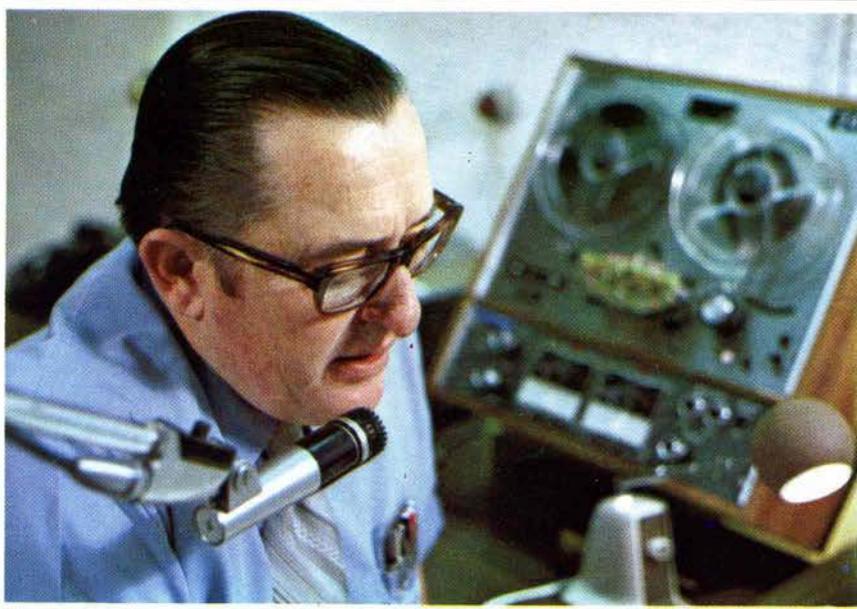
mony — the way to *solve* the problems of poverty and squalor in which so many nations are held captive. It is a message of hope — a message that offers *solutions* instead of platitudes.

Mr. Armstrong is now able to reach those who form national opinion and influence the fate of millions. In a nondemocratic nation it is the leader who governs — not the people. Rather than government of the people and by the people, it is government from *the top down*. It is most important to get the message *first* to the *leaders* of these nations rather than attempting to go directly to the masses.

But the common people are beginning to hear the message too. It is hoped that Mr. Armstrong will address large audiences in Manila and Saigon this month (March). We will be reporting those events in future issues of *The Good News*. Be sure to watch for them in the "Update" section.

In the meantime this picture story will give you insight into the many important contacts that are being made with world leaders. Truly the gospel is now going to "all nations" before the end of this violent and destructive twentieth century (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10). □





Joe Clayton — Good News

good news for the blind

THIS very edition of *The Good News* magazine is now being recorded on cassette tapes (by Jim Bettis, above) to be sent to over 600 blind and otherwise physically handicapped subscribers. In fact, all that is currently published by the Worldwide Church of God is available on compact cassette tapes for the blind.

The Plain Truth (650 blind subscribers), the tuition-free Ambassador College Correspondence Course (500 blind subscribers), over 230 booklets and reprint articles — all are available free of charge on a loan basis to anyone who is blind or physically handicapped.

The Pasadena office of the Educational Service for the Blind receives as many as 700 letters a month inquiring about this service. Overseas, our offices in England and Australia also receive hundreds of requests for this service. For the sake of those interested, we asked Mr. Hugh Mauck, director of the service, to

answer the most commonly asked questions:

Who May Qualify?

Many people who travel a lot and have cassette players in their automobiles would love to have access to these recordings to listen to and learn from as they drive. But for the immediate future, at least, we cannot accept this type of request. If we were to open this service to anyone wishing to avail himself of it, we would need a dozen times the personnel, facilities and office space to handle the work involved. Subscribers should be among the following:

- 1) *Blind people*, including those who have difficulty reading normal print when glasses or a magnifying lens do not solve the problem.
- 2) People with *eye problems* (glaucoma, crossed eyes, one blind eye, etc.) who cannot read for more than a few minutes at a time.
- 3) *Physically handicapped* people

who cannot control reading material, cannot turn pages, cannot hold their heads erect, or cannot sit down for long.

4) People who find reading tiresome due to old age, a bedridden condition, or a limited education (illiterate or semilliterate).

5) People in homes (or rest homes) where the literature is not welcome, and where tape cassettes can be more private.

Other reasons should be brought to our attention, since very few who do not meet one of the above qualifications are eligible for the service.

How Long a Loan?

The normal loan period for cassette tapes is two weeks, since most people can easily complete their study in that time. When tapes are out longer, they can be ignored or misplaced — while others who need the tape on that subject are kept waiting.

If for any reason a subscriber needs his tape longer, the loan period can be extended another two weeks. Another solution would be to recopy the lesson on a blank cassette tape for permanent home reference. We maintain a complete library of tapes of every magazine and booklet of the last few years for those interested in building a home cassette library from our originals.

What Else Is Available?

A list of available booklets is sent upon request. Booklets must be requested by name, with a limit of three per mailing.

Among our special (not taken from literature) tapes, we have a very interesting series of tapes covering a tour of all three Ambassador College campuses. We also have a tape about astronomy which was made by Ambassador College faculty members. We have recorded the Calgary evangelistic campaign by Garner Ted Armstrong, and plan to record the Worldwide Church of God hymnal using a small quartet or portion of the Ambassador College Chorale.

italian literature now available



Gary George — Good News

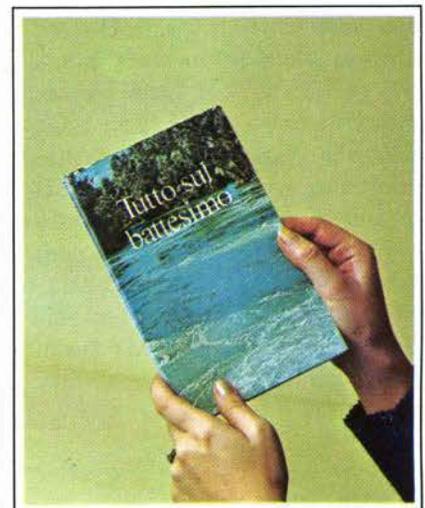
THE PLAIN TRUTH is now circulated in five major languages, with follow-up booklets and Correspondence Courses offered within the pages of those foreign language *Plain Truths*. But there are also various other languages, not represented by a *Plain Truth* magazine, which publish Ambassador College booklets and Correspondence Courses. *Italian* is one of those languages.

About 500 Italian-speaking citizens of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, England, Ethiopia, Italy, France, Mexico, Switzerland, and the United States are presently enrolled in the tuition-free Ambassador College Correspondence Course. The total Italian-speaking mailing list numbers 1200, resulting from three years of Italian *World Tomorrow* radio broadcasts in the Canadian Great Lakes' region, which has a large Italian-speaking community.

Mr. Frank Inghima, director of the Ambassador College Italian Department (pictured above), has translated the following English-language literature into Italian:

- The Wonderful World Tomorrow
- Seven Laws of Success
- Does God Exist?
- What Is Faith?
- Were the Ten Commandments in Force Before Moses?
- You Can Quit Smoking
- Your Marriage Can Be Happy
- What Kind of Faith Is Required for Salvation?
- Twelve Rules for Bible Study
- Why Were You Born?
- What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?
- What Is the True Gospel?
- All About Water Baptism

If Italian is your primary tongue, write to the Ambassador College Italian Department, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123.



DIVIDE and conquer is one of the fundamental rules of warfare. And we *are* in a war!

As Paul said: "... Our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organisations and powers that are spiritual. We are against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil" (Eph. 6:12, Phillips translation). As true Christians we are in a battle for eternal *survival* against a powerful and insidiously evil enemy — Satan the devil. And the devil's existence is *fact* — not superstition! (Write for

embodies both characteristics. He hunts and stalks his prey with incredible persistence.

But what kind of prey does a lion usually go after? He goes after the *weakest* members of the flock or herd. He stalks the stragglers and the wounded. He goes after the young, the lame or the old and tired.

And when he catches them, where does he strike?

Remember the television commercial for *Simba* — the drink that "quenches the African thirst"? It goes for the *throat* — the weakest spot of the anatomy of both animals and humans.

"A HOUSE

Question: If the devil wanted to destroy the Church, how would he do it?

Answer: Divide and conquer.

our free booklet *Did God Create a Devil?* This publication will document the devil's existence by many scriptures.)

The Apostle Peter warned the Church: "Be sober, be vigilant; because *your adversary* the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, *seeking whom he may devour*" (I Pet. 5:8). Satan is the avowed enemy of the Body of Christ. He hates this Church and wishes to destroy it.

He will stop at nothing to hurt, damage, vilify and *utterly destroy* the Church of God. His wicked devices are many. He uses every tool at his disposal to attack, decimate and *divide* the Body of Christ. How well he knows that a house divided against itself *cannot*, in the long run, stand.

The Devil's Devices

Satan is likened to a hunting lion prowling around looking for a kill. Have you ever thought about how a lion operates? Usually it is the female who does the hunting while the male does the roaring. The devil

Satan is no different! He stalks the weaker members of the Church — those who are more vulnerable. And he preys on the *weak points* of even strong members! None of us are entirely free from weakness. Christ said "the flesh is *weak*"! And we are all flesh. We all have areas of vulnerability. It is *those areas* that we must shore up if we are to be able to resist the devil.

One of the most fundamental weaknesses of virtually all human beings is *the urge to gossip*.

The Gospel of Gossip

Being able to give a person a juicy piece of "information" is a position we all like to be in from time to time. Everyone wants to be informed — "in the know." Knowing something that someone else does not gives us a momentary psychological advantage over them. We all have "bargained" for information. "I'll tell you about so-and-so if you'll tell me what you know

about . . .” Sound familiar? We’ve all done it! As natural human beings we thrive on scandal. Whole national magazines are devoted to nothing but digging up dirt about people. They sell like hotcakes.

We’ve all done our share of dirt-digging and we’ve all exchanged shovelfuls with others. It comes naturally to most of us.

But just because it’s natural and easy does not mean it is right! Have you ever stopped to consider the *fruits*, or results, of gossip-mongering? Does exchanging dirt and scandalous “information” produce unity in God’s Church?

“An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man [habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition — *Webster’s Eighth New Collegiate Dictionary*] soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (Prov. 16:27-28).

Rather than producing unity and harmony in the Church, digging up evil generates strife and disharmony. Long-standing friendships are destroyed or seriously damaged. *People lose the desire to work together as a team.* Cooperation and organization disintegrate. A team effort loses its momentum and ultimately dies. AND GOD’S WORK IS A TEAM EFFORT!

But What if the Gossip Is True?

Speaking of the end time, Jesus prophesied: “And because *iniquity shall abound*, the love of many shall wax cold” (Matt. 24:12).

The chances of being able to find evil, sin or iniquity in any given individual are pretty great in these perilous times!

We live in an evil day and age. If looking for sin and weakness in people — and then exposing them — is your “bag,” then you can have a field day. Sin is everywhere and in everyone (I John 1:8, 10; Rom.

5:12; I Kings 8:46; Rom. 3:23, etc.). But you know the old cliché — “People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.” The fruit of trafficking in others’ sins is always evil and bitter. It is *divisive* and defeating.

Just because something is *true* does *not* mean that it should be broadcast to the whole world. Love *covers* sins — it does not expose them. Love *protects* — it does not reveal the weaknesses and shortcomings of others. That does *not* mean that love *condones* sin! Nor does it mean that love permits or provides for sin.

DIVIDED...

“Let him know, that he which converteth *the sinner* from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide [Greek — cover up or remove from sight] a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).

Notice! It does *not* say “he that *exposes* the sins of others shall save him . . .” The help is directed *toward the sinner*. Love seeks to help, not expose, the guilty one.

There is no more effective way for Satan the devil to divide and conquer than to get everyone exposing each others’ sins and shortcomings.

The Quality of Mercy

“... If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:15). If you expect to be granted forgiveness by God, you will have to be willing to forgive the sins of others.

A vindictive and unforgiving spirit is not of God! When a sinner repents before God, he is forgiven *instantly*. God removes the guilt and

the stain of sin. The record is wiped clean by the blood of Christ (I John 1:7, 9; Rom. 3:25). God will *never again* bring up that sin to the transgressor. It is as though it had never happened — the guilt is completely removed.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he *removed* our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:12).

Then who is *mere man* to come along and fling that sin back in the face of the person who committed it?

It is godly to forgive — but it is *satanic* to dig up a person’s sins and tell others about them.

Satan is the chief advocate of spiritual grave digging (Prov. 16:27). Because *his* guilt is ever before him, he wants others to feel the same way. The devil likes to rub our noses in the dung of our own sins long after God has forgiven and forgotten! And all those who dig up other people’s sins and “noise them abroad” *are* (unless and until they really repent) *servicing their father the devil!*

God Staffs for Strength

God has called us all to have a part in His great Work. “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, *as it hath pleased him*” (I Cor. 12:18). God knew what He was doing when He called you and me to do His Work. He was pleased to give us a part in what He is doing on the earth at this time.

He called us, not because of our sins and weaknesses, *but in spite of them!* There is *no one* in this Work who does not have human failings.

But, by the same token, there is *no one* who does not have *something to contribute!* God is able to *amplify*, by means of the Holy Spirit — which is God's power — whatever natural talents and abilities we may have and use them in His service.

When God places us in His Work — in whatever capacity — He utilizes our strengths. Yet, *He does not remove our weaknesses* (though He does help us rule over them and control them). Nor does He prevent others from *knowing* that we have weaknesses.

But God does not encourage us to

“... If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
Mark 3:24, 25

prey on each other's shortcomings. He nowhere tells us to dig up scandal and evil about each other and trade stories like baseball cards! Rather, He commands us to look to the *work* others are doing and respect them for that!

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love *for their work's sake*. And *be at peace among yourselves*” (I Thes. 5:12-13).

God instructs us to look to a person's *works* — to the fruit that is borne rather than to their sins and shortcomings. Satan would like us to do just the opposite — ignore the works and focus on the sins. Will you be his pawn?

Will We Turn Inward?

Brethren, there's a whole world of suffering humanity out there waiting to be served. Will we allow the devil to turn us inward and away from our collective responsibility? Will we become *spiritual isolation-*

ists, divided, bickering and fighting among ourselves? Will we allow Satan to gain an advantage over us by capitalizing on our natural weaknesses?

We cannot afford to allow that to happen!

We must not allow the evil one to divide us over *anything!* We must not allow ourselves to be *diverted from doing the Work* by petty internal squabbles and disruptions. The preaching of the gospel is our *first* responsibility. We are *duty bound* to get that message of hope and salvation to as many as we can before the

end of this mind-shattering age! We have a *Work* to do!

Nehemiah's Example

About four and a half centuries before Christ, God raised up a man to do a great work. It was Nehemiah's job to build a wall around the city of Jerusalem and to at least partially restore the battle-scarred Jewish capital to a semblance of order.

It was a big job and Nehemiah had his enemies. They badgered, threatened, intimidated and ridiculed him with relentless ferocity. But Nehemiah was determined *to do the work*. He would not allow himself to be deterred. Notice his shining example:

“Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of

Ono. But *they thought to do me mischief*. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I AM DOING A GREAT WORK, SO THAT I CANNOT COME DOWN: WHY SHOULD THE WORK CEASE, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Neh. 6:1-3.)

Should we cease, today, from doing the Work of God and spend our time digging up dirt about each other, criticizing and judging each other, and generally wasting precious time? Should we fiddle while the world burns?

God forbid! Let's get on with the Work we have been commissioned to do. Let's plunge into it with a greater zeal than ever before. Let's develop and maintain a *sense of urgency* about helping that suffering world out there instead of picking at each other like monkeys in a zoo!

Nehemiah did the work! He finished his job. And notice the inspiring and moving results:

“So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: FOR THEY PERCEIVED THAT THIS WORK WAS WROUGHT OF OUR GOD” (verses 15-16).

Satan *knows* this Work is of God — that is why he wants to stop it. That is why he wants to divide and conquer us and divert us from doing the Work, as did the enemies of Nehemiah!

God's End-Time Message to His Work

Your Bible contains a very specific message for the Work of God in this closing chapter of this age. It is pointed directly at those who would be God's servants just before the return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom. And it explicitly warns about the possibility of those of us in God's own Work turning on each other in anger and animosity.

Let's read it in Matthew 24, beginning in verse 42.

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

This indicates the time element of the message — the return of Christ. We do not know precisely when Christ will return. But we do know we should be ready at all times.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant [those doing the Work of God], whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (verses 44-46).

God's ministers should be feeding the Church the right kind of strong spiritual food at the most appropriate time — when it is needed.

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of" (verses 48-50). Those are powerful and timely words! They are pointed directly at you and me as we plunge into the searing seventies in an age gone mad!

God warns us that we must not begin fighting among ourselves. We must not allow Satan to divide us over any issue whatsoever. No matter what gossip or slander you may hear about anyone in God's Work — no matter whether that gossip is true or false — you must not let it undermine your faith. No doctrinal "problem" — real or imagined — should ever separate us from the love of those brethren who have been called to share in the Work of God.

Jesus Christ, the Head of this Church, can deal with any and all problems. He can punish sinners, forgive sinners, and help sinners

overcome sin. He can lead us into all truth on any doctrine or belief. He can manage the Church which He Himself has staffed and built. And He can stop Satan the devil from dividing the people of God!

Our Responsibility

It is our job to help protect the Church from disunity whenever we can. If we fail to do so, we are irresponsible! We each have a part to play. It is our urgent duty to resist the divisive tactics of the Adversary.

We should fight against the urge to participate in gossip, slander or

what shaky ground. Yet some have done just that!

God warns the ministry:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [Spirit] hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-30).

*"An ungodly man diggeth up evil:
and in his lips there is as a burning fire.
A froward man soweth strife: and
a whisperer separateth chief friends."
Proverbs 16:27, 28*

character defamation. We should not pass on evil about others — nor should we desire to hear it. Forgive those who have repented of their past sins, and forget those sins — God does!

Give the leaders in God's Work the benefit of the doubt (if you have any). Think about the profound truths you have learned from them. Think about the wonderful changes that have taken place in the lives of so many with whom God is dealing through this Work. Look at the fruits and the good works — not at the shortcomings, of which we are all partakers.

If you have doctrinal questions, take them to the ministry — and leave them there! Do not create doubts in the minds of those "little ones" God is calling by airing your theological questions in open "bull sessions."

Why would anyone want to spread doubt and confusion among the people of God anyway? It is a grievous sin to shake or damage the faith of one who is already on some-

Such men are willing weapons in the hands of the devil. They can be used as instruments of war to divide and mercilessly conquer the sheep of God.

Do not allow yourselves to be deceived by such men. Do not be shaken by their words. Be stable, sound, and solid in the faith of Jesus Christ. If you are troubled by doubts and questions, lay them on the shoulders of the One who can best bear them — the living Christ!

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). And, "Casting all your care upon him [Christ]; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

Look to Christ as the loving, competent, concerned Head of His Church. Don't limit the Holy One of Israel by allowing yourself to think He is no longer running His own Body!

God has not forsaken His people — He never will. Let patience have its perfect work. Resist the divisive tactics of the devil and keep the faith! □

Did Jesus Believe the OLD TESTAMENT?

*Many modern theologians believe that the
Hebraic Scriptures are merely a collection of mythical
stories. And even many Christians suppose they
have little relevance to Christianity today.
But what did Jesus believe?*

by John R. Schroeder

WAS JESUS a creationist? A believer in evolution? Did He think that God created Adam and Eve? Did He believe in the historicity of our first parents?

What about Abel? Did Christ acknowledge that he actually walked this earth? What of the Noachian Deluge? The existence of Abraham and Lot? Sodom and Gomorrah? Moses? David? Solomon? The prophets?

Did Jesus believe that all these ancient peoples and events were actually historical?

There's only one reliable source from which to seek the answers. And that is the New Testament Scriptures where we find Jesus' *own* words!

Jesus a Creationist?*

Did Jesus agree with the very first sentence in the Old Testament – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1)?

Yes, He did.

Here are personal accounts penned by John Mark and the Apostle John:

“For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the *beginning of the creation which God created* unto

this time, neither shall be” (Mark 13:19). And “... These things saith the Amen [Jesus Christ], the faithful and true witness, *the beginning* [beginner – Fenton translation] of the *creation of God*” (Rev. 3:14).

Mark's Gospel and the book of Revelation make Jesus' belief in creation plain with no less than a first-person affirmation in both scriptures.

But, what about man in particular? Did Christ believe in the actual creation of our first parents?

Adam and Abel

For the answer, let's begin where mankind began – with Adam and Eve. Matthew's biography records Jesus' testimony.

Certain “men of the cloth” asked Christ: “Is it lawful for a man to put away [divorce] his wife for every cause? And he answered... Have ye not read, that *he which made them at the beginning made them male and female?*” (Matt. 19:3, 4.)

Jesus referred these religious leaders to the Hebrew Scriptures. He spoke of God creating people – man and woman. What people? Who were the first man and woman?

Compare with the Genesis story. Notice chapter five: “This is the book of the generations of *Adam*. In the day that God created man, in

the likeness of God made he him; *male and female* created he them; and blessed them, and called their name *Adam* [the family name], in the day when they were created” (verse 1).

An honest comparison of Matthew's account and the Genesis record clearly shows that Jesus was talking about Adam and Eve.

But, even if those two biblical scriptures don't convince you, the next surely will. Again we pick up an account where Jesus is indicting certain religionists of His day. He told them: “That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of *righteous Abel* unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias [Greek spelling], whom ye slew between the temple and the altar” (Matt. 23:35).

Here Jesus not only said Abel existed, but also referred to his righteousness. Incidentally, the murder of Zachariah is mentioned in the same verse. And it is certain that this Zacharias is one and the same as the Prophet Zachariah – an Old Testament prophet.

The proof? His father's name is the same. Notice it: “In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah” (Zech. 1:1). The slight differences in spelling exist because the names in

*The term “creationist” as used here refers to belief in the original creation described in Genesis 1:1. The six twenty-four hour days refer to a renewing or recreation of the surface of the earth (Psalm 104:30). We offer biblical proof for this in our free article “How Long Were the Days of Creation?”

the New Testament are transliterated from Greek, those in the Old Testament from Hebrew.

The Noachian Deluge

Is Jesus part and parcel with some of today's pragmatic theologians? Was He ignorant of the Flood of Noah's time?

Here is His personal testimony. "And as it was in the days of Noe [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man [the coming world crisis at the close of man's age]. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe [Noah] entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27).

Jesus corroborated the historicity of the Genesis Flood, alluded to its causes, and reiterated the universal death of that unregenerate world.

Sodom and Gomorrah

Luke continues with Jesus' account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all" (verses 28 and 29). Compare with Genesis 19:24-25. Note Jesus' historical accuracy.

Now, read down to Luke 17:32. Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" — asking His listeners to recall what happened to her when she looked back at and longed to return to Sodom (see Genesis 19:26). Here Jesus used an historical happening as an analogy to illustrate a vital spiritual principle.

These scriptures also nail down Jesus' belief in the historicity of Lot.

Abraham and Moses

But, what about Lot's famous uncle — Abraham? Did Jesus know of him? Notice just one of several of Jesus' references to Abraham.

Again Jesus was grappling with certain of the clergy. He stated, "I

know that ye are Abraham's seed [children]; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you" (John 8:37).

Jesus acknowledged that these people were the *physical* descendants of Abraham — a national hero to the Jewish nation. Jesus also recognized the existence of Abraham's son and grandson — Isaac and Jacob (Matt. 8:11).

Moses descended from Abraham through Jacob's son Levi. Moses was a Levite (Ex. 2:1-2, 10). Did Jesus make any references to this great leader?

Several. Read just one. Once again, a famous national hero is the center of a heated discussion. Jesus indicts: "For had ye believed *Moses*, ye would have believed me: for he wrote [prophesied] of me. But if ye believe not *his writings*, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:46, 47.)

Here Jesus not only refers to Moses, but also *his writings*. And what were Moses' writings? Check the titles of the first five books of the Bible in the King James Version. They are named the *First Book of Moses*, the *Second Book of Moses*, etc., etc.

David and Solomon

Continue chronologically with two more Jewish national heroes. A few generations after Moses, David ruled Israel as her second king.

In yet another verbal confrontation with the religious set, Christ reminded them: "... Have ye not read what *David* did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him ...?" (Matt. 12:3.)

Later in the same chapter, Jesus spoke of Solomon: "The queen of the south shall rise up in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of *Solomon*; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here" (verse 42).

Isaiah and the Prophets

Skipping over a couple of chapters to Matthew 15, we find the fol-

lowing conversation between Christ and some of the scribes and Pharisees. Focus on verse 7. Jesus said, "Ye hypocrites, well did *Esaias* [Greek for *Isaiah*] *prophesy* of you..."

Notice carefully. Here is Jesus' own testimony not only of *Isaiah's* existence, but also of his office — that of a prophet.

Jesus Himself was the subject of many Hebraic prophecies. He once admonished His disciples, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe *all that the prophets have spoken*... And beginning at *Moses* and *all the prophets*, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:25, 27).

Later, Luke records Jesus' acknowledgement that the Jewish people had the proper canon of the Old Testament Scriptures.

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things [the Old Testament prophecies] must be fulfilled, which were written in *the law of Moses*, and in *the prophets*, and in the psalms [a representative book of *the writings*] concerning me" (verse 44).

Now notice an interesting quotation from the book *The King James Version Defended!* by Edward F. Hills, Th.D.: "... But the doctrine of the providential preservation of [Old Testament] Scripture is not merely a seventeenth century doctrine. It is the doctrine of the Scriptures [both Old and New Testament]. ... Our Lord evidently believed that the Old Testament had thus been preserved. There are two passages especially which clearly indicate this. The first is Matthew 5:18, *Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, until all be fulfilled*. And the second is Luke 16:17, *It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than one tittle of the law to fail*. Here Jesus attributes greater stability to the text of the Old Testament than to the heavens and the earth..." (Des Moines:

The Christian Research Press, 1956, p. 24).

So, Jesus accepted the testimony of the Old Testament record as absolutely authoritative. And He had good reason. For biblical revelation represents Christ Himself as living in ancient times as an eyewitness. The One who became Christ was the One who created Adam and Eve (Eph. 3:9), walked and talked with Enoch and Abraham, wrestled with Jacob, was a personal friend of Moses, inspired Ezekiel, answered Elijah's prayers.

God of the Old Testament

Jesus was the God of the Old Testament. Numerous New Testament scriptures prove this biblical fact. I will quote one: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and *that Rock was Christ*" (I Cor. 10:1-4).

See also John 1:1-4, 14 and Colossians 1:16. And write for "Is Jesus God?" — a free theological article giving many more scriptural proofs.

Why Study the Old Testament?

We have proved from the Bible that Jesus acknowledged the authenticity of the Old Testament. But what of it? What, if anything, does this have to do with you and your life in the here and now? Would Jesus actually want you to read and study these ancient writings — knowing you had to cope with the unprecedented complexities of a space-age society?

Believe it or not, He would! Its wisdom is timeless.

Jesus Himself was an Old Testament scholar. His knowledge of its wisdom-filled pages stood Him in good stead in an excruciating men-

tal battle with Satan the devil. He quoted the Old Testament three times in resisting three strong temptations from the Tempter (see Matt. 4:1-10).

You can't afford to be without its unique wisdom. Paul wrote: "Now all these things [events in ancient biblical times] happened unto them for ensamples [examples]: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11). And again: "For whatsoever *things were written* aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the [Hebraic] scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4).

And Jesus Himself said: "*Search the scriptures*; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). The only Scriptures extant when Jesus spoke these words were the Hebrew Scriptures.

Free Publications

You need to *read and study* the Old Testament. And why not begin with the beginning? With the book of Genesis. Genesis is a book of origins. It shows the beginnings of mankind and how the earth was overspread. Genesis also contains the commencement of spiritual promises — promises of eternal life to Abraham and his descendants.

If you need help and encouragement to really get started, write for our free publication titled *Read the Book*. This attractively printed booklet tells:

- Why you should read the Bible
- How to read it
- How men died to bring you the Bible
- Surprising things the Bible really says
- Surprising things the Bible is commonly believed to say — but *no-where* does.

Also write for another booklet titled *Answers From Genesis*. It clarifies many common misconceptions about the first six chapters of Genesis. □

How your Good News subscription has been paid

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A price must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, booklets and other literature.

But how? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received, freely *give*," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His gospel. "It is more blessed to *give*," He said, "than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's way is the way of love — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His to give freewill offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying the gospel to others.

We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting this precious gospel truth in the hands of others.

The faithful, tithe-paying members of the Worldwide Church of God and our ever-growing family of co-workers gladly give of their incomes that we may give this precious gospel to an ever-widening number of readers.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this *Good News* magazine without charging a price. God's way is right — the way of giving to others.

Most murders in the United States are committed by relatives or acquaintances of the victims. And many of these are the result of uncontrolled outbursts of anger or rage. Read here what your Bible says about controlling your temper.

by Arch Bradley

THE TIME: a balmy summer evening. The place: a resort hotel on the beach.

Jim and Sharon, a middle-aged couple on vacation, were at the desk registering for their room.

Their reservation stipulated a room with a view of the beach. But the reservation clerk insisted that all the rooms with a beach view were taken. They would have to take a room with a view toward the city.

Sharon was deeply disappointed. She had anticipated this vacation for a year. She had lived vicariously through every minute detail of it. A room overlooking the ocean was a pleasure she had planned to thoroughly enjoy. And she was sure Jim would protest to the clerk and secure the room described in their reservation.

But to her amazement and total disgust, Jim docilely accepted the second-rate room.

"Why, the weak-kneed so-an-so," she thought. "Why doesn't he stick up for us and get the room we both wanted?"

She knew, as Jim sheepishly paid for the room, that she must control herself. But it seemed as if she could barely hold herself in.

Two hours later in their room, as they were snacking on cheese and wine, Sharon finally erupted.

"Jim, why didn't you stand up like a man and demand the room you knew we had planned for and reserved? Don't you have any backbone? Sometimes you just don't act like the man I married."

Of course, this made Jim feel guilty and at the same time infuriated him.

Stung, he retorted, attempting to

TEMPER YOUR

TEMPER

tell Sharon off and put her in her place. This angered Sharon even more. Eyes snapping, face reddening and veins bulging, she stood up and flew into an uncontrollable rage. Shrieking at him at the top of her voice, she finally yelled out, as she grabbed a bread knife, "I could kill you!" Jim, also in a rage, yelled back, "Go ahead!"

Jim was buried three days later. His life ended in tragedy during what was to have been the highlight of the whole year for him and his wife.

Sharon, suffering the most mental turmoil, depression, sorrow and bewilderment of her life, was held by authorities for first-degree murder. It seemed like a terrible unbelievable nightmare — she still halfway expected to wake up from it. But the stark reality was that she had *murdered* her own husband in an uncontrolled outburst of temper and rage.

How About You?

And when did *you* last lose *your* temper? What made you abandon self-control and fly into a rage? What did you say that you later wished you hadn't?

Probably none of your bursts of

anger have ever ended up like Sharon's and Jim's. But one could! Any of us can say and do things *irrationally* in the heat of anger that we may forever regret and for which we pay severe penalties.

The solution is prevention — *avoiding* such outbursts of uncontrolled emotion.

Let's peek into the personalities of a few biblical notables whose hot blood boiled over at times. Most of us picture great men of the Bible as quiet, contemplative characters of near absolute perfection. But this isn't so.

Moses' Temper

Even Moses had a temper. In Exodus 2:11-12 we read that he killed an Egyptian in "righteous" indignation at the abuse of an Israelite slave.

Exodus 32 tells of Moses' anger (righteous indignation again) upon returning from Mt. Sinai and viewing the incredible sight of the Israelites worshiping a golden calf. Upon seeing this spectacle, he actually smashed the tables of stone upon which God had personally written the Ten Commandments. Being angry at such blatant sin is totally



"What ever makes you imagine I'm angry?"



"You make me SO mad!"



"If I'm going to be a hothead, I might as well use the energy."

understandable (see Ephesians 4:26), but smashing those stones was a rash act that Moses undoubtedly later deeply regretted.

The fact that Moses himself had to hew two tables of stone just like the ones he broke and carry them up Mt. Sinai indicates that God wanted to impress a temper control lesson upon Moses (Ex. 34:1-2).

Numbers 20 records that Moses became impatient with his people when they complained about a lack of water. He lashed out at them (verse 10). Verse 11 records that Moses struck the rock twice. In his anger he had failed to follow God's commands.

Then God told Moses and Aaron that they would not enter the Promised Land because they had failed to sanctify Him or follow His commands (verse 12). He had told Moses to speak to the rock and strike it once. In his impatience and anger with the people, Moses shouted at them (Ps. 106:33) and struck the rock twice.

God knew that the leader of His people had to exercise self-control and avoid "flying off the handle" and making irrational decisions in the heat of anger. To emphasize His point, He disciplined Moses and Aaron.

The Israelites were a griping, grumbling, emotionally motivated people. God simply could not afford to allow Moses to react as he did. He knew that uncontrolled anger

leads to erratic and irresponsible behavior.

Sons of Thunder

Apparently Jesus' disciples James and John were men recognized as having proclivity to "blow their stacks." In Mark 3:17 Jesus nicknamed them the "sons of thunder." The name was appropriate. Read Luke 9:52-56:

"One day He [Jesus] sent messengers ahead to reserve rooms for them in a Samaritan village. But they were turned away! The people of the village refused to have anything to do with them because they were headed for Jerusalem.

"When word came back of what had happened, James and John said to Jesus, 'Master shall we order fire down from heaven to burn them up?' But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village." (This and all of the following quotes are from *The Living Bible*.)

Peter was another example of a man capable of instant fury. He sliced off the right ear of Malchus, the High Priest's servant (John 18:10-11). Jesus immediately reprimanded him. This happened when Jesus was arrested shortly before His crucifixion.

Peter was either a very accurate marksman with his sword — being able to hit such a small target as an ear — or a rather poor "shot." He may have aimed squarely *between*

the man's ears — which would have made all the difference to Malchus!

Rewards of Self-control

Let's face it. None of us are perfect and some of us may never completely eradicate our tempers. But we should be able to learn control to the point that losing our temper is the exception rather than the rule. And as we do this, we will reap practical results.

One of these benefits is examined in Proverbs 14:30:

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots it away."

Many doctors and psychologists agree that emotions often directly affect and cause physical symptoms. Negative emotions such as stress, anger, or resentment can cause a multitude of ills from tension-headaches to constipation. Digestive difficulties, trouble in swallowing, gastric ulcers, rheumatoid arthritis, backaches, high blood pressure, hives, colds, and even asthma have at times been connected with emotionally seething minds.

God meant that proverb *literally*. A relaxed attitude, free of constant or chronic resentment, dissatisfaction or chronic anger, makes for a longer, healthier life.

Here's another advantage of "keeping cool." It is mentioned in Proverbs 14:29:

"A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes."



"I hope this pop valve will keep my blood pressure down."



"You guessed it! I finally blew my stack!"



"If only I could keep cool as a cucumber!"

Have you ever made a decision in the heat of anger? Chances are you were sorry later if you did. I know a person whose car would not start in a downtown parking lot. After an hour of trying to start it, he was "madder than a wet hen" and on the verge of vowing he would trade the car in for a different one that very night.

Fortunately, after getting the car started and arriving home, he cooled off and decided to keep the car. It was in fine mechanical condition — needing only a minor adjustment. He could have traded in a perfectly good car for another that might have given him far more trouble than the original. And, of course, he would have had to pay additional money for the new car.

Do you see how easy it is to make a foolish decision without calmly weighing all the facts? Remember, controlling your temper will result in wiser decisions — which will result in a smoother, more organized, prosperous life for you and your family.

Win Friends and Influence People

Proverbs 19:11 states: "A wise man restrains his anger and overlooks insults. This is to his credit."

Two points here. A wise man will have more friends and less enemies because he does not antagonize others. He will generally be well-liked — and that's important. How

can you help others, either directly or by your example, if they do not respect and like you as a friend or at least acquaintance?

The second point contained in this proverb is that a wise man does not let others rule him. He doesn't automatically react with contempt or anger toward someone who insults him. He is not at the mercy of another person's rude remarks. He is big enough to disregard them, to step aside, to ignore and forgive the person for being a boor.

A fool is always vulnerable. He is often like a gun with a hair trigger — always ready to discharge with just a little pressure. He is a slave to his emotions.

Results of a Red-hot Temper

"A hot-tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble" (Prov. 29:22). Enemies, bad feelings, strife, lack of cooperation and hard feelings are this man's lot in life. He lacks peace of mind and often agitates others. He lives from one hassle to the next.

His family life is destroyed by this same attitude and behavior. "The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left. He shall be the servant of a wiser man" (Prov. 11:29). So the family atmosphere often turns into a scarred battleground. A ridiculously high price to pay for lack of self-control.

Here's another hazard: "A man without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls" (Prov. 25:28). A hot-tempered man is vulnerable. He often discloses things he should not, exaggerates things that are not true, and reveals to everyone that he is operating on nervous emotional energy — not logical reason.

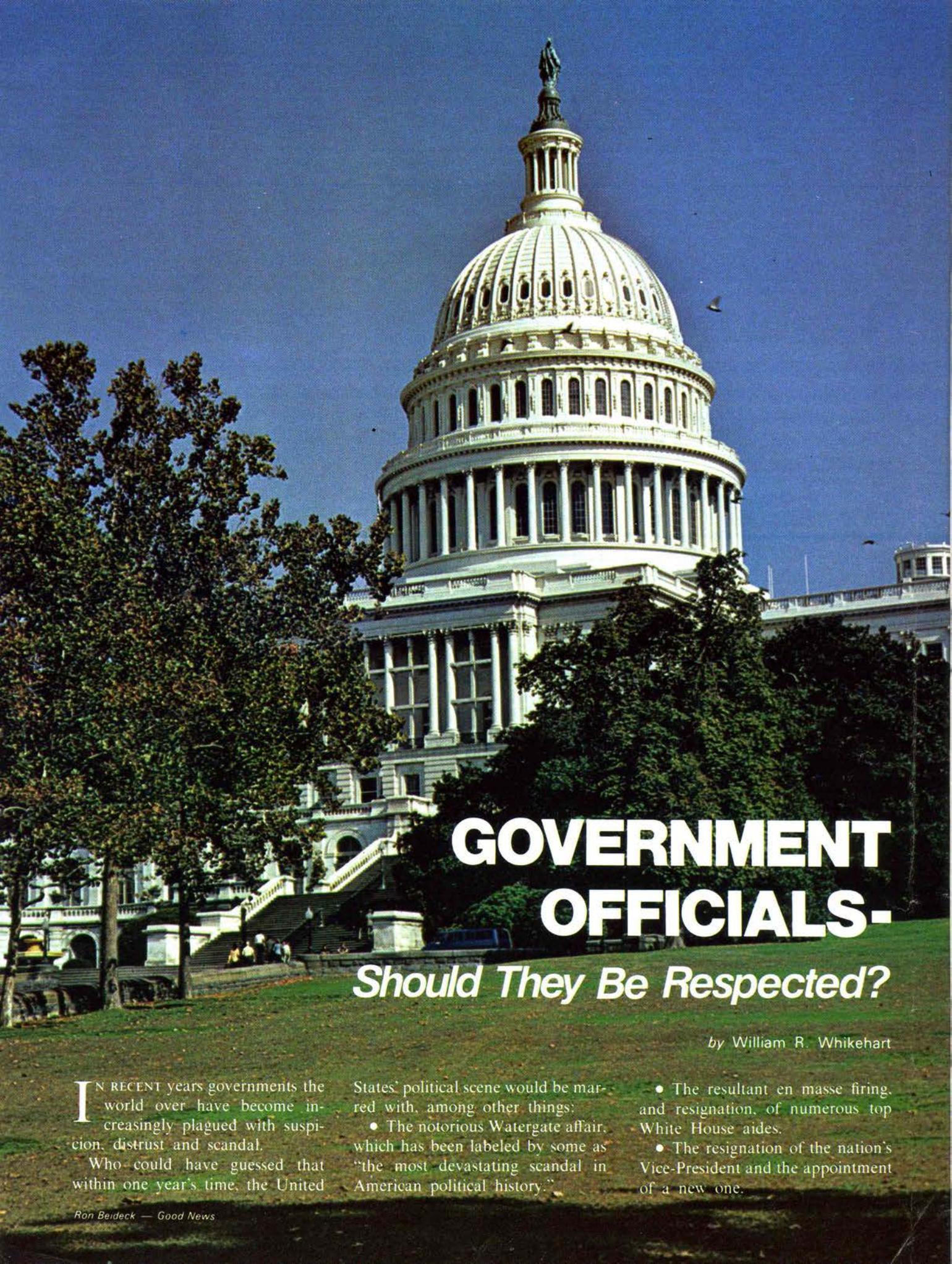
Proverbs 13:3 says it another way: "Self-control means controlling the tongue! A quick retort can ruin everything." In other words be sure your mind is in gear before engaging your mouth.

An End-time Problem

We need to beware of today's prevalent lack of self-control prophesied by the Apostle Paul:

"You may as well know this too, Timothy, that *in the last days* it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them and thoroughly bad. They will be hardhearted and never give in to others; they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel, and sneer at those who try to be good. They will betray their friends; they will be *hotheaded*..." (II Tim. 3:1-4).

Let's temper our tempers and reap the automatic benefits! □



GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS— *Should They Be Respected?*

by William R. Whitehart

IN RECENT years governments the world over have become increasingly plagued with suspicion, distrust and scandal.

Who could have guessed that within one year's time, the United

States' political scene would be marred with, among other things:

- The notorious Watergate affair, which has been labeled by some as "the most devastating scandal in American political history."

- The resultant en masse firing and resignation, of numerous top White House aides.

- The resignation of the nation's Vice-President and the appointment of a new one.

- The firing of the “special Watergate prosecutor” followed by the resignations of the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General.

- The controversy swirling around the missing White House tapes.

- The virtually unprecedented calls for the resignation or impeachment of the President.

Government corruption and controversy, however, have not been strictly limited to the United States:

As an example, West Germany experienced its own “Watergate on the Rhine” when it was disclosed that a former Bundestag Deputy had sold his vote to keep the Chancellor in power.

Fundamental Questions

But where does all of this leave you, the average citizen? What should your attitude be toward government leaders accused of official wrongdoing? Whose side should you take — if any?

Is it worth sifting through all the voluminous rhetoric, finger-pointing, and self-justification to try and come to some sort of intelligent conclusion?

What is a citizen’s obligation toward governments which are found to be less than perfect? Should the people respect and submit to public officials who are accused of indulging in corrupt and scandalous practices?

Source of All Government

Actually, there is an authoritative source which defines the relationship between citizens and human governments. That source is the Holy Bible, the Word of God.

Here is what it has to say on this most current topic:

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1).

According to the Scriptures, all human government and authority proceed from Almighty God. Since

it is God who has created the universe and everything in it, it is God who is ultimately responsible for all power and authority — particularly that of civil governments.

Jesus informed Pontius Pilate of this fact as He stood trial for His life almost 2,000 years ago. Here is what prompted Christ’s response:

“Then saith Pilate unto him . . . knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?” (John 19:10.)

Notice Christ’s answer:

“*Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above . . .*” (verse 11).

It took the ancient, world-ruling, Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar seven grueling years to grasp the reality of this truth. He was given the mind of an animal and dwelt with the beasts of the field to learn this vital lesson. After finally regaining control of his mental faculties, he admitted: “. . . The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Dan. 4:17; 2:21).

It should go without saying that history’s tragic chronicle of countless wars, disasters and upheavals sparked by faulty human governments clearly demonstrates the reality that human beings inherently possess neither the wisdom nor the ability to govern other fellow human beings.

But Almighty God is a God of order, not chaos (I Cor. 14:33, 40). And since mankind as a whole has never submitted to God’s government and rule, He has ordained that in this society — during this age — that physical humans be allowed to exercise the authority of civil offices.

Of course, those in positions of governmental authority frequently fail to fully live up to the responsibilities of their offices. They may, in fact, even corrupt the government.

But does that give the people living under the jurisdiction of such officials the right to maliciously malign and accuse them?

The answer, according to principles based on the inspired Word of God, is this: As long as God allows officials to remain in office, citizens are obligated to respect their offices and remain subject to their authority.

No matter how corrupt government figures may be — or how high accusations against them may mount — it is God’s *ultimate* responsibility to deal with them. Since it is God who has set them in office, it is His responsibility to remove them — which He is perfectly capable of doing whenever He desires.

David’s Example

King David of Old Testament Israel was one man who was fully aware of this principle. As the Scriptures make clear, David was but a growing youth when the nation was given its first human king — Saul. Despite the fact that God had not originally intended it that way (see I Samuel 8), God *allowed* Saul to exercise the authority of the highest position of national leadership. David knew that Saul’s office and kingship proceeded directly from God Almighty.

As the scriptural record makes clear, during the early years of his reign Saul obeyed the commandments of the Eternal God who had placed him in power; but, due to his own human weakness, Saul eventually rebelled and turned his back on his Creator.

David, whom Samuel had anointed to be the next king, was personally acquainted with Saul’s disloyalty to God. On several occasions, Saul had even attempted to murder David by running him through with a javelin. *Humanly speaking*, it would have seemed that David had every right to remove Saul from office.

Yet, did David react impulsively to what appeared to be humanly right? No. Instead, David restrained himself and remembered that it was God who had chosen and anointed Saul to be the ruler of the nation. David knew that it was God’s sole

responsibility to remove Saul from office — at the time of God's choosing — not David's.

Though at times he found it hard to keep himself from striking back in retribution at Saul, David restrained himself and placed the entire situation in the hands of God. Notice David's trusting attitude:

"... The Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed..." (I Sam. 26:10-11).

Those familiar with the story know that David's trust in God eventually paid off — for Saul did descend into battle and God allowed him to be slain. It was then, and only then, that David took over the throne.

Penalty for Those Who Resist

Hundreds of years after David's time, the Apostle Paul magnified the principle of submission to constituted authority. Under God's inspiration he described the penalty which God will ultimately impose on those who willfully and deliberately seek to tear down the government over them.

"... Anyone who resists authority is opposing the divine order, and the opposition will bring judgment on themselves" (Rom. 13:2, Moffatt translation).

This penalty applies not only to those who assassinate or murder public officials and policemen, but to those who willfully incite civil strife, destroy public buildings, or maliciously accuse and condemn public figures.

Why?

Because: "... The magistrate is God's servant for your benefit... he is God's servant for the infliction of divine vengeance upon evildoers" (verse 4, Moffatt translation).

The Scriptures make clear the fact that God has ordained rulers and officials for the control and regulation of society — especially for the punishment of those who would cre-

ate domestic strife and anarchy. In this way society can be given at least partial protection from criminals and anarchists. Those who attempt to remove public officials from office through violence or character assassination are usurping an authority that has been established for the good of society as a whole.

This principle holds even in cases where officials have admitted — or are strongly accused of — corrupting their own offices.

This is not to say that God expects citizens to be naive or ignorant — that they can't mention a man's mistakes in a right attitude. Nowhere does the Bible even imply that God expects citizens to condone or ignore blatantly scandalous practices of public figures. But rather, that the office of government officials must be respected and honored regardless of what men might do — or have been suspected of doing.

Is Submission Always Obedience?

The apostles of the early New Testament Church knew what it meant to submit to public officials. On one occasion they were threatened by the religious and civil leaders of the community with beatings and imprisonment if they did not discontinue spreading Christ's gospel.

But these servants of God knew that to submit to the orders of these public officials meant to *disobey God* and His instructions to preach the gospel. So what did they do?

Notice what they told the community officials:

"... Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

These leaders of the early New Testament Church were fully aware of the fact that in cases where a conflict between the two arose, obedience to God was more important than obedience to men. Yet, even

then, they knew they were still obligated to submit to the penalty imposed upon them by their accusers (Acts 5:40).

It is only in cases where adherence to human rules and regulations violates God's law that human ordinances are to be ignored. However, even then, the penalty is to be submitted to if there is no *legal* and *godly* recourse. (An example of such legal recourse is when the Apostle Paul was about to be scourged [beaten] by Roman soldiers in Jerusalem. But "... as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and undcondemned?" [Acts 22:25.] If you will read the rest of this chapter, you will see that Paul avoided a terrible beating by correctly calling this centurion's attention to his Roman citizenship.)

The Apostle Peter wrote: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake..." (I Peter 2:13).

Take special notice of the wording. Peter did not say "obey" every ordinance. Of course not. He was fully aware that some human regulations clearly conflict with the divine law of Almighty God. He therefore enjoined New Testament Christians living under the human governments of their day to *submit* to every ordinance.

No Human Government Perfect

Adding it all up, we see that God has established human governments for the purpose of maintaining peace and order within human societies during this age. It is a citizen's duty to submit patiently to public officials, not condemning or reacting violently against the obvious faults inherent in human leadership.

No human government can be perfect. Most are far from it. But that gives no one the license or right to accuse, condemn, or malign — either physically or verbally — the human authority over them. □

What Our Readers Say

The Good News

In regard to Mr. Ted Armstrong's introduction to the November GN, I know of a few things I personally would like to read about. First, I've heard a lot of talk about keeping the various annual Feasts, but I've never been to one or seen one to find out what goes on. You might show some pictures of the various festival locations and describe the activities.

Second, perhaps you could relate certain experiences of various Church members (perhaps rather trying experiences) and how they overcame them. For instance, in the October *Plain Truth* (the one on Europe) I read about how Mr. and Mrs. McNair handled the "red-tape" problem in Russia. Not being a member of your Church and being rather lacking in Christian knowledge, I was surprised to read that Mr. McNair just didn't let the situation ride rather than following the course of action he chose. It seems to me that articles of this type would be very valuable to those of us who sometimes get in "spots" and aren't quite sure what Jesus would have done or what a Christian should do.

Craig S.,
Los Angeles, California

In response to your request for comments on the new expanded *Good News*, I'm really happy to be getting it. It fulfills a hunger for deep spiritual material. Keep it strong. I've totally "bombed out" (failed, in a wordy sense), and nothing I can envision that you could print would offend or drive me away, as long as it is biblical and can be verified.

Norman A.,
Covina, California

The new *Good News* is terrific. We really appreciate it. Members need refreshing on various subjects; and, of course, the more we read, the more indelible the mark in our minds. The advertisements in some of the newer booklets and on the back page of *The Good News* will be very effective, I believe. Paperbacks from some publishers offer about four advertisements maximum to a book, and the advertiser can choose the book or subject he wants to advertise — therefore choosing the type of audience he wishes to reach. We are right in step with the latest methods. Keep it up.

Louis P.,
Dayton, Ohio

West Indian Member

I must indeed thank you for granting me the special blessing of the Correspondence Course. I am now 70 years old, and have

passed through several stages of other religions. I was born as a Muslim and went to church regularly on Fridays. Then I became a Presbyterian Christian and went to church on Sundays, as is the custom. On many occasions I was called upon and went out to do preaching. I am now sorry for what I have done to many people. On August 13, 1965, I was baptized by Mr. Apartian and Mr. Kelly on their first baptizing tour to Trinidad. Since then, thank God, I have understood the Bible, which I now find so simple and understandable. It was previously so confusing.

S. P. H.,
Trinidad, West Indies

• S. P. H. now observes God's Sabbath (on Saturday).

Personal Counsel

I would like a minister of the Worldwide Church of God to counsel with me personally. I was very happy to know that you provide this service. While reading the booklets, my thoughts were, "Where do I go from here?" My thought was answered at the end of my reading [*The Real Jesus* booklet]. God bless you for the work you have undertaken. It is very vital in these times. Perhaps you can send me the name of someone who is within easy reach of me.

Stella F.,
Naugatuck, Connecticut

For quite some time now, we have been receiving as much of your literature as we could get our hands on. Each piece is as enlightening as the next. However, it wasn't until I read page 31 of *The Real Jesus* that I realized that you have ordained ministers throughout the nation. I would very much like to have one of your trained men come to our home, but I don't know how to locate one. If you could send the right party our name, address, and phone number I would appreciate it very much. Or send us his — either way.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip T.,
Clearwater, Florida

Prayer

I have received and read my first issue of *The Good News*. I can only add my thanks to the many you must have already received for having the privilege of obtaining your Correspondence Course and the many supplementary booklets and pamphlets you so freely offer. My best thanks for *The Good News* coming at a time when I have finished my Correspondence Course and need even further study of His Word and His Work.

Your article on prayer in the magazine struck me because when I pray, I feel somehow that, as a sinner, not begotten of the

Spirit, I am not heard. I try to pray and will continue to. Someday I hope I can truly say "my Father."

Mrs. Glen S.,
Woodlawn, Tennessee

• Are you sure you are not being heard? *The Prophet Daniel* was told: "... From the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard..." (Dan. 10:12). But, it took three weeks for the answer to finally come (verses 2, 13).

Remember, God does not say when He will answer our prayers. Sometimes God, for His own good reasons and purposes (often to build patience in His human children), is not in such a great hurry as we. In any case, write for our free article "The Answer to Unanswered Prayer."

Perplexing Questions Answered

I have just finished reading my first copy of *The Good News* magazine. It is beautifully written and I think your "Question and Answer" section is simply marvelous. Some of the questions asked were some of the very same questions that have always perplexed me.

John G.,
Camden, Tennessee

• Send in your questions. We will try to answer all that space permits.

Jesus' Blood

I would appreciate your not sending any more written material, since you are in direct contradiction to the Word of God when you say that the blood of Jesus Christ does not save. My Bible says that Jesus' blood saves, and past, present and future sins are forgiven when we ask forgiveness. I believe in Jesus Christ. So your false theories on salvation and other related matters are of the spirit of Antichrist. I pray that Jesus will inspire you to find the truth and that His precious blood does save.

Sandy W.,
Kelso, Washington

• "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10).

Proper Way to Send Donations

I was happy to receive my first issue of *The Good News* magazine and enjoyed it very much. I wonder if the editors could list the proper way to send donations to the Work. I'm not sure what is the most appropriate way.

Orvis B.,
Dallas, Texas

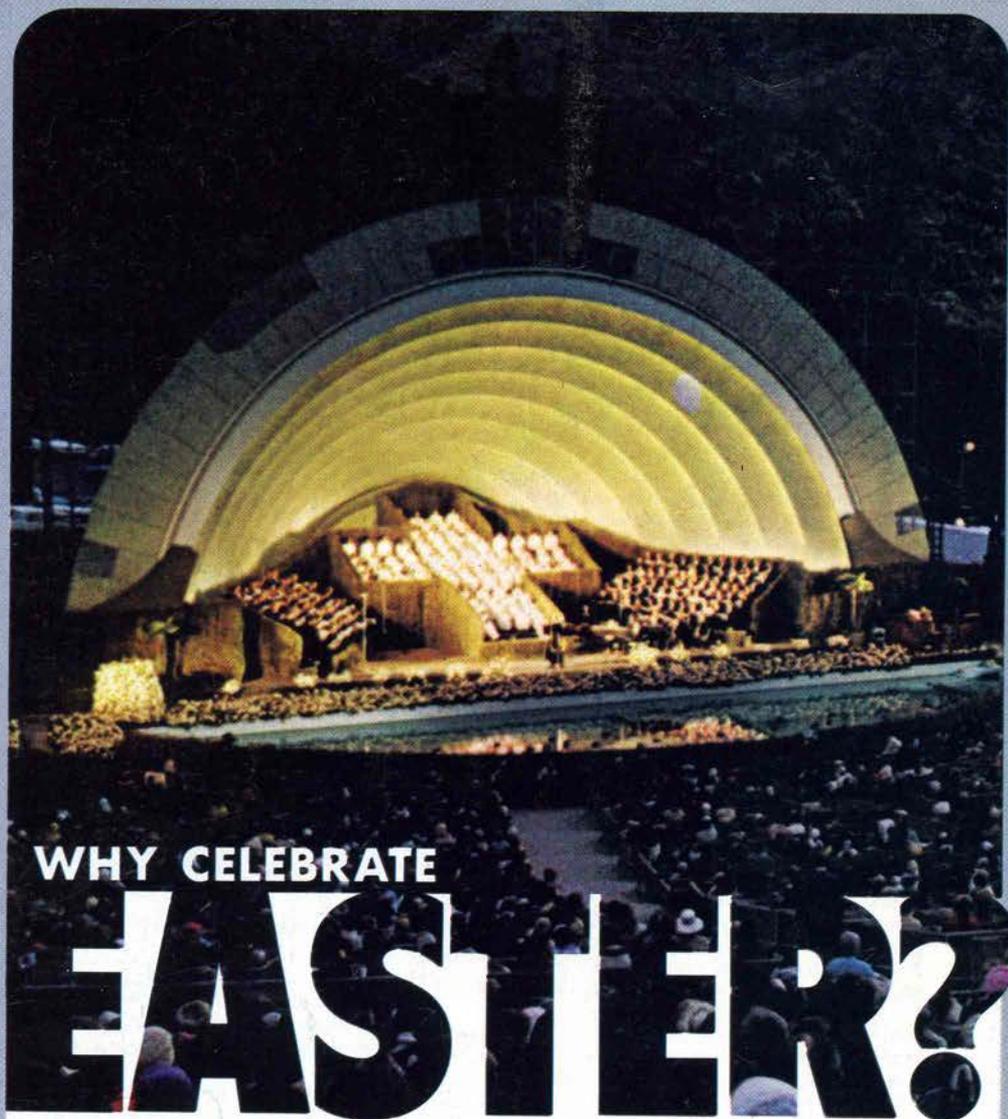
• Glad you enjoyed the magazine — we send it free to all who request it — but, of course, it does cost money. Our box on page 26 explains the source of our income. And to specifically answer your question — you can send your donations payable to either *The Worldwide Church of God or Ambassador College*.

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WHY CELEBRATE

EASTER?

Easter is universally accepted as chief of the Christian holidays. But is Easter based on the Bible or mere pagan tradition? Does the Bible teach observance of Lent, Good Friday or Easter sunrise?

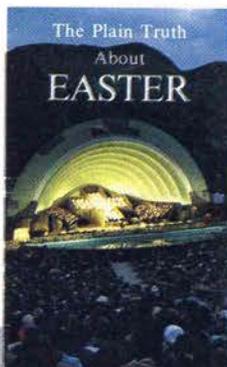
It matters a lot to God which days you observe. His Word — the Bible — mentions a God-ordained festival which is intended to be kept.

Do you know what it is? Can you prove it from the Bible? Write for our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter* for the answers.

Just send your request to:

The Good News
Pasadena, California 91123

If you live outside the United States, refer to the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.



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