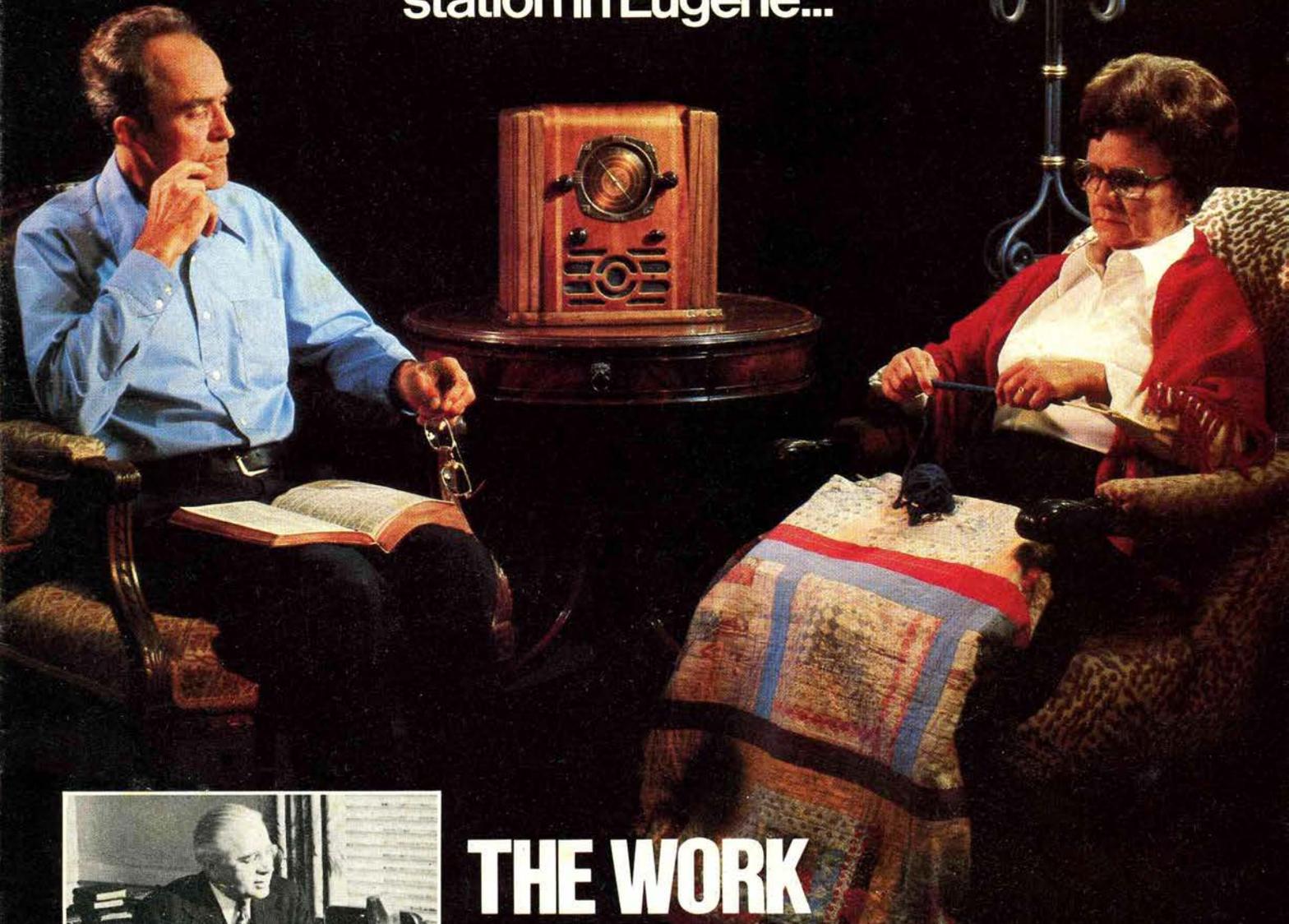


The

JANUARY 1979

Good News

From a small
station in Eugene...



**THE WORK
AFTER 45 YEARS**

SEE PAGE 14

The Good News

JANUARY 1979

CIRCULATION: 120,000

VOL. XXVI, NO. 1

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COVER: Born in 1934 at a small 100-watt station in Eugene, Ore., *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast has grown to more than one and a half million watts of daily output, as part of a Work that has become worldwide in its influence. Photo by Warren Watson.

Letters

Lives changed through the Work

I have just recently been baptized into the Church. I just had to write to let you know how wonderful it is to be a member of God's true Church. At one time I dreaded getting up to face another day of work, but now I can face each day's trials knowing that I have God's Holy Spirit to see me through.

Hayward G. Sharp
Folsom, La.

As a newly baptized Christian into God's Church, I would like to thank you all who led me toward finding the true path. Upon being baptized a few weeks ago I feel like a new person, literally.

Dolores Stiltenpole
Melbourne, Fla.

I really do enjoy reading your magazines, books, reprints and newsletter. They have changed my way of thinking, a new look at life, and I could go on and on.

Mary Lou Seiffert
Midland, Tex.

So many good things have happened to us since the first of the year it's almost impossible to believe. But I know it's a case of *God in action*. Thank you so much for helping us discover happiness and God's Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Brito
Anthony, N.M.

Your literature has blessed me with deep peace and joy. My life has been changed through the power of your fruits.

Martin Torgerson
Logansport, Ind.

I was baptized last October, and I've come a long way in a very short time. My life has been completely turned around. I am no longer the confused, unhappy, depressed person that I used to be, thanks to your TV and radio programs and to God for opening up my mind. I have more good friends than I have ever had in my life and a wonderful minister who is always there whenever I need someone to talk to.

Shirley L. Elson
Moundsville, W.Va.

(Continued on page 26)

Dear Members and Co-Workers in God's Church:

This issue of The Good News marks another milestone in the history of the publication. Once again going back to a magazine format with the availability of full, four-color printing, it makes its appearance with a definite mission and purpose -- to feed the Church of God and to minister to and edify the brethren and co-workers, helping them to grow in grace and knowledge.

But good things never come cheaply -- few of you members and co-workers realize what an obstacle course the magazine has run over a 40-year period of constant struggle. We printed the first edition of The Good News way back in February, 1939, with only that one issue. The Good News was begun anew in April, 1951. But even with the sufficient growth of membership and personnel that prompted the new beginning, the magazine limped and hobbled along for 12 years, until a full-time editorial staff began producing it in 1963.

Various circumstances required the staff to cease publication of The Good News in December, 1976, but the need for a publication to feed the flock with strong spiritual meat is evident. Those already begotten with God's Spirit and those who are being called must be shown how to continue in the true Christian lives they have begun. This magazine is designed to help bring the inspiration and encouragement needed to face the trials of this life.

May God bless you, the readers of this new Good News, and help you remain faithful to the high calling of Jesus Christ.

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

Robert J. Armstrong



CHRIST NOW PUTS CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S FINANCIAL TRACK!

It has been abundantly evident to most in the Church that in considerable measure God had withdrawn His full blessing from His Church the past eight or 10 years. God's Church is built on the solid FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, with Christ its living HEAD. One of the foundational prophets says to God's people, "YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE." Jesus Christ now moves to END that curse and restore God's BLESSING!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

At EVERY Feast site it was joyfully evident that God's Church has ABOUT-FACED — the direly needed SPIRITUAL REVIVAL has started. God's blessing on the Work is being RESTORED! There was a DIFFERENT dedicated, warm, loving and joyful spirit emphatically evident at all Feast sites. It's like a refreshing breath of fresh spiritual air!

How Christ has moved swiftly

First, midspring, Christ moved to set His CHURCH back on God's spiritual track. Then *The Good News* was restored and the radio and television broadcasts took on new life — and week by week more and more stations have continued to be added. Then CHRIST set Ambassador College back as GOD's college, even though this necessitated starting all over with

one freshman class. But it's GOD's college once again.

The Plain Truth is being set back on God's track. As Feast time approached Jesus Christ inspired His ministry and brethren to put the FEAST OF TABERNACLES back on God's track — and what an inspiring, joyous, uplifting reborn Festival it was!

And now Jesus Christ is moving just as surely to REMOVE THE CURSE that has been allowed to come upon us.

Watering down God's TRUTH

When the sons of God came to present themselves before the Eternal in the days of Job, "Satan came also among them." Satan is the author of fifth-column tactics — gradually slipping inside the Church, boring *from within* to water down God's TRUTH and attempt to destroy His Church.

The biblical teaching on TITHING was adroitly maneuvered so that paying God's tithe, which is HIS and which we OWE, was masqueraded as GIVING — if we want to — a 10th of WHAT IS "OURS" as one would give charity

and alms to a beggar! Poor God! But PRAISE OUR HOLY GOD! He is master over Satan, who has been pulling out all stops to DESTROY God's Church and His Work! I wrote you brethren some eight or 10 years ago that Satan had tried to destroy Christ's apostle but Christ intervened — that he would try to destroy those next in line and finally TO DESTROY ALL OF YOU!

Brethren, the real enemy is not flesh and blood, but Satan and his demons! They are unseen. Satan can outwit and deceive the ablest of us. None of us is clever enough to outsmart Satan. Our only defense is the living CHRIST, who has overpowered and mastered Satan.

And as our High Priest He intercedes for us at God's right hand. Satan knows better than we that he now has BUT A SHORT TIME! He "has come down unto [us], having great WRATH, because he knows he has but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

So let me WARN YOU before I write further, that *you and I* — every one of us — NEED FROM NOW ON TO CONTIN-

UE IN CONSTANT PREVAILING PRAYER — *with frequent FASTING* — for the protection of God's Work and of each other and of ourselves!

Removing the CURSE!

I have been giving you AMPLE PROOF recently that the very FOUNDATION of God's Church is the apostles and prophets, with Christ as living HEAD. Also that God's Church did originally, and MUST NOW, receive its teachings, practices and doctrines from Christ's chosen apostle. There is no other teaching or example in the New Testament!

To God's Church TODAY, one of the foundational prophets says very bluntly: "Will a man ROB GOD? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. *Ye are cursed with a curse*, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. BRING YE ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10).

Brethren, THAT IS NOT TEACHING FOR ANCIENT ISRAEL — IT IS TEACHING FOR THE CHURCH! That was written 397 B.C. Both Israel and Judah had long been driven out as slaves and scattered. The Kingdom of Israel was taken captive and moved as slaves to Assyria 721 to 718 B.C. Judah was

taken as slaves to Babylon 604 to 585 B.C. Malachi's teaching *never reached THEM*, but God has seen to it that it *has reached US!*

A small contingent of Judah (with NONE of Israel) was sent back to Jerusalem about 515 B.C. to build the second temple — but this was ONLY A SMALL COLONY. They probably were still there when Malachi wrote in 397 — almost 200 years after Judah had been driven from their land, and more than 300 years after Israel was removed from the promised land.

There is NO WAY Malachi's prophecy could have reached the main nations Israel and Judah. It was a PROPHECY for OUR TIME — the time of the end — the time when God is going to send one in the power and spirit of Elijah, shortly before Christ's second coming (Malachi 4:5-6).

The history and TRUTH about tithing

Tithing began in Abraham. In Galatians 3:7 Abraham is the father (humanly) of the faithful. All the PROMISES God gave for eternal salvation for you and me are based on God's PROMISES to Abraham.

Yet some 430 years before Israel as a nation, Abraham PAID tithes to Melchizedek, the ever-living High Priest (actually Christ). This was the foundation for making TITHE-PAYING a LAW in national Israel.

Speaking of this, the apostle Paul

writes, "And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, PAID tithes in Abraham" (Hebrews 7:9). Not charitable giving of alms, but PAYING what rightfully belonged to God.

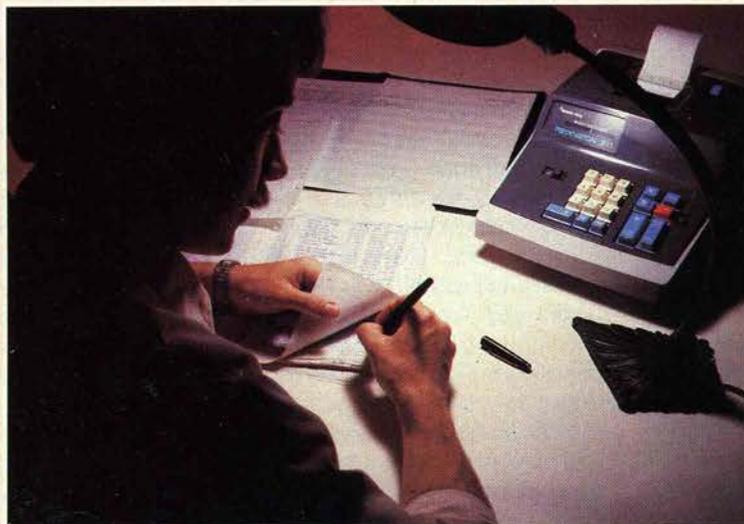
The historic account is in Genesis: "And Melchizedek king of Salem [peace] brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him [Abraham], and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he [Abram] gave him tithes of all" (Genesis 14:18-20).

ALL belongs to God

Here is the FOUNDATION of tithing. Note carefully the PRINCIPLE and the REASON for tithing. Quoted above are the words, "most high God, possessor of heaven and earth." All belongs to GOD the CREATOR and OWNER of all.

All wealth — everything you have, eat or use, has come out of GOD'S EARTH. Even you and I, ourselves, came out of the ground, which GOD OWNS. Need I, here, add the other scriptures declaring that GOD OWNS the earth, out of which God ALLOWS you and me to receive what the Bible terms "increase"? Your food, the materials for your clothes, your homes, even your places of entertainment and amusement, ALL COME OUT OF GOD'S EARTH.

If you work for a bank, and you take . . . the bank's money, that is embezzlement! But stealing from the God who gives you your breath of life . . . that is far worse . . .



Therefore it ALL *belongs to* GOD. Whatever you eat, wear, live in, use or enjoy BELONGS to GOD!

The generosity of God

Now some would think God UNFAIR. Humans have always had a tendency to think that. But NOTICE THE LOVE AND GENEROSITY OF GOD! He allows YOU to extract food, goods, materials of whatever kind, out of HIS GROUND that BELONGS to HIM. And even YOU belong to Him, for He created you in Adam and Eve, and HE gives you the breath you breathe and all you take, have or use. It ALL *belongs to* God. If God dealt with us as humans deal with God, God would selfishly and harshly DEMAND it ALL and, if need be, TAKE IT FROM YOU — for it BELONGS TO HIM! But God is not selfish, as man is!

But now notice the goodness and severity of God. He generously GIVES YOU nine tenths — 90 percent — of all you receive, gain or have, from His earth and CHARGES YOU a meager 10 percent for USING HIS EARTH, having things you need, want and desire out of it.

That shows the LOVE, the GENEROSITY, the COMPASSION and the GOODNESS of God. And He promises to bless and *increase* the 90 percent He gives you!

But, if you STEAL from God His rightful 10th, as well as the other 90 percent, then you are GUILTY OF ROBBERY GOD, and YOU FALL UNDER A CURSE!

That's making it PLAIN. It's just that simple! Those who want to use HUMAN REASON to get around being HONEST with God, TWIST God's Word by representing that what you produce, earn or gain is YOURS, and it might be nice, IF you want (which most humans don't) to GIVE to God, as if you are a haughty MASTER giving charity or alms to a lowly beggar, 10 percent of YOUR money.

That is WRESTING AND TWISTING GOD'S HOLY WORD to, in plain language, KID YOURSELF that your STEALING is right.

And the irony of it is that those of you who have done this DO NOT HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE as you most surely ought to have. And WHY? Because human conscience hurts you ONLY when you do what YOU think, in your own reasoning and under-

standing, is wrong! Millions have reasoned that STEALING is not wrong. Do you think that safecrackers, bank robbers, purse-snatchers or even shoplifters let their stealing trouble their conscience? Yet YOU are just as GUILTY *in fact*, when you STEAL God's TITHE.

God's Church has been under a CURSE. Jesus Christ is SPEAKING PLAINLY TO YOU THROUGH His apostle RIGHT NOW! You try to JUSTIFY YOURSELF by human reason by leaning to your own understanding (see Proverbs 3:5), and you may pay the price of losing ETERNAL SALVATION — WHY? Because you must be JUSTIFIED by God's GRACE, not by your own human reasoning to get around His TRUTH!

Commanded — a law!

Now let's trace the history of the tithing LAW.

The New Testament speaks of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as "the FATHERS" to whom the PROMISES were made. Jacob TITHED.

"And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will *keep me* in this way that I go, and will *give me* bread to eat, and raiment to put on [ALL belongs to God — He GIVES us 90 percent of what is HIS] . . . of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee" (Genesis 28:20-22).

Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) was the grandson of Abraham. And God said of Abraham: "For I know him, that he will command his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the ETERNAL, to do justice and judgment; that the ETERNAL may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Genesis 18:19).

Jacob did follow in THE WAY of the ETERNAL, as his grandfather Abraham had done, and made a vow to be honest in tithing to God, GOD'S DEMANDED 10TH.

Later, 430 years after Abraham, when God called Abraham and Jacob's children — the children of Israel — to become GOD'S NATION in the world, God made OBLIGATORY BY HIS LAW the tithing system. God set apart the tribe of Levi for the sacrificial and priestly service with Aaron's descendants as high priests. Ten percent of the agricultural produce went

to the Levites. Israel, on entering the promised land, was an agricultural nation. The Levites, in turn, tithed to the family of Aaron from the tithe they received.

There were various other offerings — peace offerings, burnt offerings, meat offerings, etc. The people of Israel were to tithe all of their produce, whether grain, food or livestock.

Second and third tithes

To provide for their expenses at annual Festivals, the Israelites were to set aside a second tithe. They were almost exclusively agriculturists. If the distance to the Feast was too far to carry the food, provisions, their herds and flocks, they were to turn them into money and take this money with them to provide for their needs at the Festival. They did not deal, however, in the exchange of money to the extent most of us do today. So today God's Church, we might say, altogether uses money instead of produce and livestock (Deuteronomy 14:22-26).

Then, at the end of three years they were to lay aside a third tithe, for the "stranger and the fatherless and widows, not forgetting the Levites, who had no inheritance in the land and therefore produced no food-stuffs, livestock or other production.

Now, coming to the Church of God, I have already quoted from one of the prophets of the very FOUNDATION of the Church, that to keep or use for yourself or your own purposes God's first 10th is STEALING from GOD.

And STEALING is certainly breaking God's spiritual law — and is SIN, which will cost you your SALVATION!

Come now into the priesthood chapter, the book of Hebrews.

Tithes now to Work of Christ

"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem [peace], priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace." (This was "the Word," who later was born as Jesus Christ. Write for the free reprint article, "The Mystery of Melchizedek (Continued on page 22)

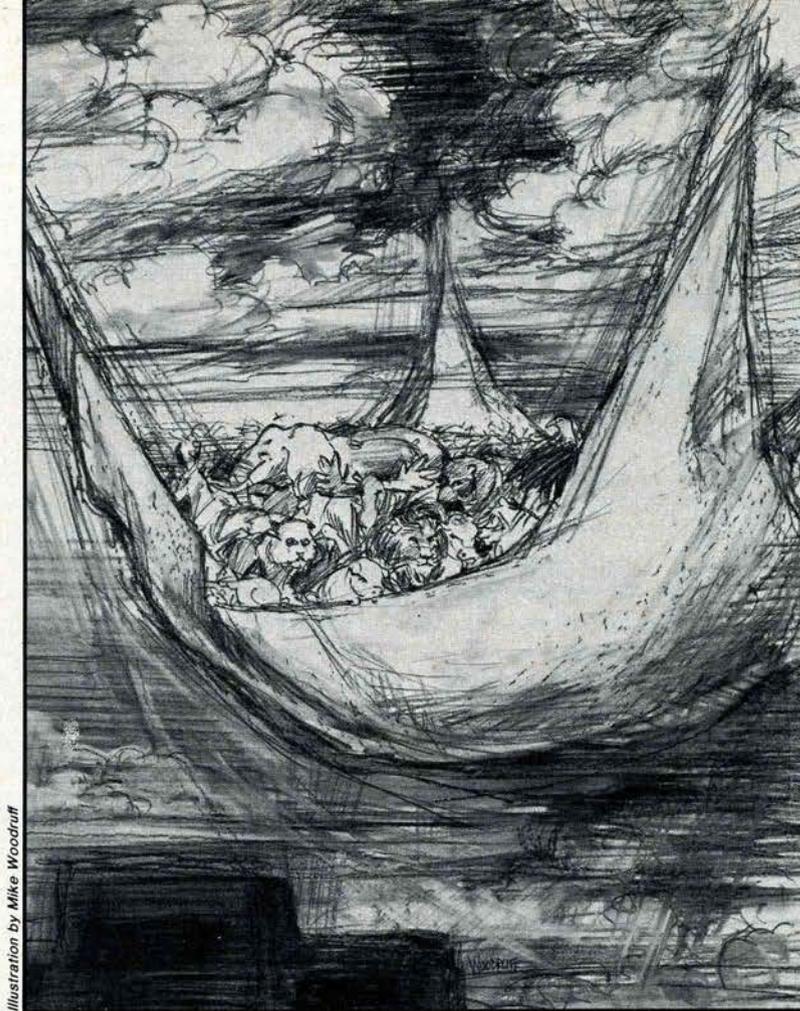


Illustration by Mike Woodruff

If You Had Seen Peter's Vision...

would you have decided Christians may eat as food "all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air"? Did Christ, by a vision, make all unclean animals good for food?

By Herman L. Hoeh

Suppose you had lived in the days of the apostles, and you were hungry at noontime as Peter was. The meal was not yet ready as you were praying upon the housetop in private.

Suppose, suddenly, *you* saw in vision "... heaven opened, and something descending, like a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air" (Acts 10:11-12, Revised Standard

Version). And suppose, further, a voice from heaven ordered *you*, "... Rise ... kill and eat."

What would *you* have replied?

Would you have decided in your mind, that swine, rabbits, dogs, ants, snails and ravens had somehow become clean and fit for human food? Would you have replied, "Yes, Lord, I'll kill and eat, for I have always wanted to taste what is unclean"?

Peter, Jesus' chief apostle, had just such a vision (Acts 10:9-16). Most

professing Christians have assumed Peter decided, on hearing "Rise, Peter; kill and eat," to announce to the Church that "creatures of every kind, whatever walks or crawls or flies" (verse 12, New English Bible) are now clean and fit for food. If you have thought this was Peter's decision, you would be absolutely wrong!

What Peter did decide

Look at Acts, chapters 10 and 11, again. They do not record what most

“... No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” This is exactly opposite to what most people think.

people think! The events surrounding Peter's vision on a housetop in Joppa do not, in fact, begin in Joppa at all. Nor was there any controversy in the Church over clean and unclean meats that needed settling.

The account begins in Caesarea, the Roman capital of Palestine. It was the residence of the Roman procurator. Stationed in Caesarea (by the sea) was a considerable Roman garrison. Among its officers was Cornelius, commander of a hundred men. He was “a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms liberally to the people, and prayed constantly to God” (Acts 10:2, RSV). Yet he was an Italian — not a circumcised Jew. Further, one afternoon as he was fasting, he had a vision. In it he was commanded to “send men to Joppa, and bring one Simon who is called Peter” (verse 5).

Cornelius obeyed. “... he called two of his servants and a devout soldier... and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa” (verses 7-8). It was a 30-mile trip from Caesarea to Joppa. As the three gentiles approached Joppa next day it was about noon. Peter was at that moment on the housetop of Simon the tanner, praying. Suddenly a vision came to him. Let down from heaven in a great sheet of sailcloth “... were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air” (verse 12, King James Version). Then came the voice “... Rise, Peter; kill and eat” (verse 13).

What was Peter's response? Notice carefully, “... No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean” (verse 14, RSV). This is exactly opposite to what most people think.

Nothing common or unclean

It was already about 10 years after the crucifixion when this vision occurred. Yet Peter during this entire period had not once tasted unclean meats. And here he is, Christ's chief apostle, responding, “‘No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.’ And the voice

came to him again a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, you must not call common.’ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven” (verses 15-16, RSV).

Why do you suppose the voice spoke *three* times to Peter? Let us read on:

“Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the men that were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood before the gate and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him...” (verses 17-19).

Notice, “Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision which he had seen might mean.” Jesus' chief apostle did not jump to hasty conclusions. “And while Peter was pondering the vision...” Peter still had not come to any conclusion. He must have considered the scriptures that animals were clean and unclean before the Flood in the days of Noah (Genesis 7:8). He remembered that more than eight centuries later God explained to Moses the differences between the clean and unclean creatures (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14). And that Isaiah prophesied about the time of judgment after the millennium:

“The Lord will judge by fire, with fire he will test all living men, and many will be slain by the Lord; those who hallow and purify themselves in garden-rites, one after another in a magic ring, those who eat the flesh of pigs and rats and all vile vermin, shall meet their end, one and all, says the Lord, for I know their deeds and their thoughts” (Isaiah 65:16-18, NEB).

What did it mean?

That prophecy left no doubt in Peter's mind! The vision he experienced was not about eating unclean animals and insects and birds of prey. Then what did it mean?

At this point the Spirit gave Peter

the answer! “... Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down, and accompany them without hesitation; for I have sent them” (verses 19-20, RSV).

Peter quickly understood the meaning of the vision. He went to the gate to meet the three men and took them in as guests that night. Next day he set out, accompanied by several brethren, with his three guests for Caesarea. When Peter entered the home of Cornelius he found many persons gathered to hear him. The first words of Peter to the assembled group make clear Peter's understanding of the vision: “... You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit any one of another nation; but God has shown me that I should not call *any man* common or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection...” (verses 28-29, RSV).

There is God's answer to Peter! “God has shown me that I should not call *any man* common or unclean.” The vision is not about eating unclean foods.

First-century environment

In the days of the apostles social intercourse with gentiles — Cornelius and the three men sent to Peter were gentiles — rendered a Jew ceremonially unclean, according to the tradition of the elders. Even entering a gentile house (for example, John 18:28) or handling articles belonging to gentiles did so. Bread, milk or olive oil coming from gentile farms and marketplaces could not be eaten by an observant Jew.

Flesh offered in sacrifice to idols and that in any case contained blood was forbidden. To sit down and eat with a gentile was unthinkable. In this environment in Palestine in the first century the apostles lived and worked. No wonder Jesus needed to instruct Peter about social contact with uncircumcised gentiles whom God was calling to eternal life!

While Peter was explaining the forgiveness of sins through the name of Jesus Christ to Cornelius and

(Continued on page 26)

**“And this Gospel,”
shall be preached...
Matthew 24:14**

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

Says Daniel 12:2, speaking of the resurrection: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth [speaking about the dead] shall awake [in the resurrection], some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise” — and the Hebrew implies more than wisdom, it implies the ability to teach; it is as elders, wise ones, teachers that these are resurrected, having a mature and complete grasp and concept of reality and life and its purpose — “shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness [here is an educational teaching process] as the stars for ever and ever.”

And then Daniel is told in verse 4: “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end” — and it zeros in on two characteristics of that time — “many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased.”

What is it that is happening here — in the world today — in human life? It’s experience, learning, education.

I think we have to go back to the beginning to understand.

In the Garden

In Genesis 2:16 we are told clearly: “And the Lord [Eternal] God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die [or, be dying].”

Maybe you have wondered, Why is it that God didn’t want me to have the knowledge of good and evil? Have you wondered about that? I have, many times. I couldn’t see anything wrong with the tree. Neither could Adam and Eve.

I had an occasion over in England to hear a lecture by a doctor in literature on “The Place of Original Sin in Literature.” This lecturer related all of the literature in the last 1,500 years — English, American, French and other nationalities and ethnic groups.

She was an intelligent woman, but the first thing she did was make the mistake of entering the area of the Bible. Because she didn’t know anything about that. She said, first thing, they should not have eaten that apple. And in about two minutes I picked out seven biblical

errors. I felt like telling her it wasn’t an apple, and they didn’t “fall,” and on and on and on. It is amazing how humanity is misled through “knowledge.” It was very obvious throughout. She was excellent on literature; she just didn’t understand her premise, which leads into trouble. And that’s what happened to Adam and Eve.

You see, it isn’t bad to have knowledge about good and evil, if you have a criterion that’s true to base it upon. Now Satan understood that, so he came along and disturbed the entire process.

I want you to understand something about Adam and Eve.

There is a lot you can get out of Genesis 2 if you just think about it. Think about Adam and Eve. Adam was created on the sixth day and immediately given responsibility with Eve to take care of the Garden of Eden and told to rule and dominate the earth, over everything God had created. This was quite a responsibility. Now the question is, what did Adam know? What did Eve know?

These two beings, Adam and Eve, had only lived for a short time, and they decided to act like they had all knowledge.

The result of lack of experience

As Herbert W. Armstrong has stated, at first human nature is neutral. It’s neither good nor evil but it soon becomes a mixture of good and evil, and it can go toward either the good or the evil.

Satan came along in Genesis 3 and started to speak to Eve. Eve replied in verse 3: “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

Now why “die”? Obviously, after they ate the fruit, they didn’t instantly die. In fact, they lived nearly 1,000 years before they died.

Something about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil did produce death, however. But why and how?

It’s a process that develops. You pursue either life or death. God knew His creatures He created would function

**MANKIND,
KNOWLEDGE
AND LIFE**

a certain way toward life and a certain way toward death. So He said, “Don’t take that which produces death.” But they couldn’t understand it, because Satan came along and logically said: “Well, listen! You’re not going to die. You’re now going to know the difference between good and evil.”

As Herbert W. Armstrong has stated, at first human nature is neutral. It's neither good nor evil, but it soon becomes a mixture of good and evil, and it can go toward either the good or the evil.

We read in verse 5 — Satan states, “For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye [you] shall be as gods [or judges], knowing good and evil.”

It's just like taking a child just born or maybe 2 years old and expecting that child to take care of himself. Everything's available — but with no guidance, no education, no development. Just “Here it is. It's yours. Choose.” What do you think will happen to that child?

To see how that functions, you need to understand how you develop as a person towards spiritual growth. Then I think you'll see the correlation between Genesis and Daniel 12:2.

Notice in I Corinthians 15, looking ahead to the resurrection, some interesting facts.

After we have experience and character

The first thing that's interesting and, frankly, very positive is that we're not all going to be the same when we're resurrected. Sure, we'll have the same character. We'll have divine nature. We'll be like God, who is “. . . the same yesterday, today, and for ever” in nature and character (Hebrews 13:8).

The reason you won't sin is because you won't like it. That's better, isn't it? You won't lie, not because you're going to have to fight this terrible nature, but because you have God's nature, and you won't want to lie. You won't steal, not because you're going to have to fight your nature to not steal, you won't want to steal. In fact, it would hurt you to steal. It would hurt you to lie; it would hurt you to commit adultery. It would hurt you to break the laws of God.

But there are differences in the resurrection.

In I Corinthians 15:39 the apostle Paul writes: “All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts [animals], another of fishes, another of birds.” Then verse 40: “There are also celestial [or heavenly] bodies, and bodies [that are earthly or] terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial [heavenly] is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.”

He makes comparisons with physical things that we can see. You can see, and you can compare them, and you can understand they are not the same. Then he summarizes and draws a conclusion. He said, verses 41-42: “There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another . . . in glory [or power or magnitude]. So also is the resurrection of the dead . . .”

Just as there is uniqueness and individuality in physical existence, there will be uniqueness and individuality in spiritual existence — one person having more power than another.

I think the important question at this juncture is: Who determines that? The answer is: You and I do to a great degree. We make that choice in the full capacity of whatever God has given us to become.

Paul goes on, “. . . So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption” (verse 42). In other words, we decay in this physical body; it is temporary. But when we are resurrected, we are to be given a body that is not temporary, but permanent.

“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (verse 49).

The life of experience

As the Feast of Tabernacles pictures, now we dwell in temporary dwellings. The apostle talked about this in II Corinthians 5:1, “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved [destroyed], we have a building [again he talks about a place in which you dwell] of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Now what is especially interesting is verse 2:

“For in this [in this temporary physical body — this instrument in which we can function and operate to gain experience and to learn] we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven [the body of Spirit, which is to be given to each of us at the resurrection].” All you are doing in this body of flesh is temporarily residing in it. But it's something you can use. For you have your five senses, which give you discernment. You can observe, you feel, you taste, you touch.

These feed through your nervous system, register in your brain, and everything starts to come together. You figuratively “groan,” as Paul says, but you come to certain “understandings,” don't you? You come to decisions of good and evil, right and wrong, in combination with the effects of your environment and the genetic makeup of your “house.” You amass experience, and you build character — and it can be either good or bad character — by the process.

You must make decisions

Now since God has given mankind free choice, you have to make decisions. You feel limited, unequal to your task. And as you get older, you generally have less energy. I heard a question the other day on the air: When does a person physiologically hit the apex of his strength and begin to decline? I thought about 29, give or take three or four years. Do you know what the answer was? Twelve, biologically. It shocked me (if it is correct).

In use this “house” wears out. So life does not get easier, it gets harder.

Nevertheless, the point is, this body is a vehicle of use, of development, which is supposed to be the temple of God (see I Corinthians 6:15; II Corinthians 6:16) through God's Spirit. Your body starts to wear out. What's happening to you? Why is it that God told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “When you eat it you're going to die”?

The possibilities in this physical life are almost limitless . . . but are we equipped to handle it? Now we are told that change, escalated, puts a monumental amount of pressure and stress on the human creature.

You groan with all life's problems and even with life itself. But you get fond of your body. You would like to stick around with it a little longer.

The possibilities in this world, this physical life, are almost limitless. And there is a whole universe ahead . . . but are we equipped to handle it? Now we are told that change, escalated, puts a monumental, goliath amount of pressure and stress on the human creature.

It all comes together in time

We have been going through a transition period in society. The funny thing is, the more man learns about what he is not yet equipped to handle, the deeper he goes, the more confused he gets. That's why you see people in some of the disciplines of education who have gotten so far over their heads that they start to go insane.

Now what would a Being do, who is omnipotent and omniscient, all-knowledgeable, all-knowing, who has created everything and plunked you into this universe, in the garden spot of the earth, and you are wide-eyed and innocent, neither good nor evil, neutral, knowing really very little? You are like a little child except the little child at birth does not even have the awareness that it is.

That was not only Adam and Eve, but it is still humanity today.

God would say, as He said to them, "Do it my way. I know all the answers. And I'll show you the way." But they chose not to do it the easy way; they set out to learn it the hard way.

So you see, we groan to receive a body that is not limited. We have an element within us that God gave each being that is beyond being temporary. It is something infinite. And God gave it to every human being, converted or unconverted, the spirit in man.

God told the children of Israel, "I set before you life and death, choose life" (see Deuteronomy 30:15-19, paraphrased). And it's your free choice too. What happens — or should happen — in mankind that doesn't happen to animals?

The spiritual key

Elihu in the book of Job knew. He said in Job 32:7: "I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom." In other words, the progressive experience from the time of birth, if God be with you, should start to produce wisdom in a human being that in the beginning was neutral. Do you understand that at the end you don't end up neutral? Elihu understood that.

"But there is a spirit in man" — and here is that divine essence — "and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (verse 8).

Mr. Armstrong has likened the spirit in man to the

tape on a tape recorder. Our human bodies are the recorders, all the genetic makeup, the five senses. You know, they can't even tell where the mind is today. You always thought it was in the brain? They're not so sure. They found that when you make judgments, evaluations, it's even in the cells of your fingers. Isn't that something? Everybody is trying to find the spot. Where is the mind?

Maybe you can't find that which is spirit.

How can humanity understand that, when people don't even know how to define what electricity is (though they can use it). Ask someone to tell you what wind is. Scientists don't know what light is. Does it come in particles, waves, or in particles and waves?

And mankind's greatest problem: Try without God to define good and evil. It's a real problem when you don't acknowledge God as the One who tells you right from wrong.

What is good?

What is good? How do you tell with your children? How do you explain to them? How do you explain to yourself everything that's happening, what's right and what's wrong? What music is right? What clothing is right? What entertainment is right? If you're going to be the one who decides right from wrong, there's no way to decide it — except at the end you're all dead, then you know it wasn't right. That was the trouble with the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Now move along to our time. There will be greater technological miracles in the future — and greater problems. Greater computers (which, by the way, can't think, so can never take over the human mind), fantastic machines from self-correcting typewriters to fruit-pickers, laser magic, riches — and unemployment, more disease, war and death. Things will get richer and better, seemingly; knowledge will increase more and more; people will travel to and fro. There's going to be a lot more leisure time, and people will go nuttier.

The world is pursuing materialism. They are going to get it. That's what is prophesied, just before the resurrection, a great, apparently prosperous, world-spanning trading society. It's called Babylon the Great.

And because the majority don't and won't understand about spiritual things, and have not grown properly through their experience in character and knowledge, they will cry at the return of Christ and shake their fists at the seven last plagues. □

This sermon was given by Art Mokarow, the director of ministerial career development and of the Church's Human Potential Center.



Be A Positive Christian

Having trouble with your neighbors? Why? This article will show you the reason and give you a positive plan to guide you in living the happy, abundant and exemplary life that God intended.

By Roderick C. Meredith

Enraged at the evangelists, the bloodthirsty mob brought them to the city officials crying, "... These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" (Acts 17:6).

With these words, the angry Jews at Thessalonica accused the apostle Paul and his helpers of the same thing of which many of you have been accused. Does true Christianity turn the world "upside down" or right side up? Is the Holy Spirit the spirit of a peculiar mixture of misguided religious zeal, unreasoning superstition and a rebellious attitude toward custom, society and other people in general? Is this the attitude of a good Christian?

Let's face facts! Some of our brethren have been accused of such wrong attitudes and conduct. Sometimes the accusation is clearly false, but sometimes it is based on fact!

How should Christians live to gain the respect of unconverted neighbors and friends? In spite of persecutions, how can we live the joyous, fruitful kind of lives that we should?

Let's look into God's Word for the answers and use sound-minded wisdom to understand.

Are you a 'light'?

Jesus told His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world . . ." And later, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16). Jesus taught that we are not to put our light under a bushel, but on a candlestick where all can see. But how do we let our light shine before men?

Notice that Jesus said men would see our good works and glorify God (verse 16). He didn't say that they would hear our constant prating about the Bible. Our "good works," our kindness and thoughtfulness to others, our willingness to sacrifice,

our Christian example in daily living, these things will cause even unconverted men to admire and respect us. Eventually, they will realize that it is God who is helping us live this way. Then they will glorify Him.

But arguing, disputing and trying to convince people they are wrong is nowhere referred to as good works. If a friend or relative isn't interested in God's truth, he will in no way be helped if you constantly plague him with what he regards as "your religion." But what type of good works should you demonstrate in this modern day?

Christian works

In John 14:11, Jesus said, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake." He was referring to the miracles that He performed and said in verse 12 that one who truly believed on Him would perform even greater works.

Most of Jesus' miraculous works were acts of kindness to others — healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, casting out unclean spirits. Paul wrote the Corinthian brethren, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (I Corinthians 12:27). Today, Jesus is not here to perform good works in person, but we of God's true Church comprise His Body through which He can and does perform miraculous works. Many times, unconverted friends of our brethren have been forced to glorify God and His power when they have witnessed a genuine, miraculous healing according to God's promise.

If we draw as close to God as we should, through constant study, prayer and fasting, He will grant us the power to do the same miraculous works as the early apostles, and many others will learn to glorify God.

But aside from these miraculous works of the ministry, there are many things that we should all be doing to glorify God in our lives.

Be a good neighbor

One of the most beautiful parables of Jesus that we all learned as children, but sometimes seem to forget as adult Christians, is the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). Set upon by thieves, a poor fellow lay wounded and suffering by the roadside. A priest passed by, feeling too holy to be bothered. A compassionate Samaritan was not too "good" to help a fellow he had never seen before.

Notice Jesus' instruction: "Go, and do thou likewise."

Just how good a neighbor are you?

This is a vitally important factor in determining your ability to be a light to others and, incidentally, in determining your own happiness.

You should realize from the outset that carnal-minded friends and neighbors are just naturally going to have a bad opinion of you — a true Christian trying to keep all of God's commandments — against which their carnal minds rebel. They are going to look upon you as peculiar or fanatical unless you take positive action to counteract this attitude.

The solution to this problem is to prove by positive *action* that these things are not true.

Go out of your way to be a really wonderful neighbor. Remember that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The chief attributes of God's Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering (Galatians 5:22). Put the love of God to work in your life. Try to be understanding, patient and always ready to be of service to others. Cultivate the attitude of joy and peace at all times. Try to make others feel happy in your presence.

God is more willing to give you of His Spirit — His love, joy and peace — than you are to feed your own hungry children. Ask God to help you show more love, to give you His love and to help you be a better neighbor in every way.

Then, with God's help, make your neighbors like and respect you by your good works — your kindness, love and willingness to help in time of need. This will never be accomplished by your words, but by your actions.

Be positive

One of the most striking mistakes of some new converts is their failure to show a positive attitude toward life. Because they have come to realize that much of this world is wrong, they assume a negative attitude toward life in general. They don't take a real interest in their family, their friends or their community. Is this the way to be a light — the kind of example others will admire?

No. Instead of being against everything, strive to be *for* something. Have a positive program of developing your personality, your capabilities, your ability to help and influence other people for good.

James tells us, "... Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith? ..." (James 2:5). Many of us are poor humble people when God calls us. Some have not had many educational opportunities and are handicapped in their speech and writing, their knowledge of this world about us and in many of the social graces.

Does God wish us to remain this way?

First of all, we have to confess that if we had all been highly successful in this world, we would have been too proud to accept God's truth and be converted. We would have had too much self-confidence to recognize our need for God. But now that should all be changed. Now our confidence should rest in God, and what He can do through us if we yield to His Spirit. Now that our confidence about any abilities rests in God —

not self — wouldn't He want us to develop these?

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). We are to strive to become like God in *every way*. Through God's help, we will finally achieve this goal when we are born of God in the resurrection.

Jesus was God in the flesh, setting a perfect example for us to follow. Did Jesus use sloppy speech or dress? Did He appear "backwoodsy" or uncouth to others?

In Luke 4:22, we find that when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, "... all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth ..." They were forced to admire Jesus' ability in speech even though they later condemned what He said and tried to throw Him off the brow of a hill (verse 29).

In reading the gospel, it is easy to discern that Jesus was a natural leader of men. He was a person that people would naturally be forced to admire, even though the Jews hated what He taught so much that they crucified Him.

Are you developing the qualities of personality, of leadership? Are you able to deal with and influence people of all classes? The apostle Paul said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:22).

You should try to do your work the best way possible, to keep your home and yard looking as neat and clean as possible, to dress as well as possible within your means. You should study to use really good English, to broaden your interests and your general knowledge, to develop your personality and abilities in every way. God says to develop your talents, to be like Him in every way! By doing these things, your neighbors will notice the change for good in your life and will be forced to respect you more.

Show common sense

Many fail to realize that, "... God hath not given us the spirit

of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). Instead of demonstrating these qualities in their lives, they proceed in a hesitant, apologetic or sometimes a belligerent attitude to try to talk people into some of their beliefs.

Humanly, we all tend to do these things, and it is hard to overcome them. But God has given us the Spirit of power to do so!

From now on, instead of being down on the world in all your talk and actions, try to show the world by action that you have found something better. Show your neighbors that your faith works for good by doing good to them.

Through God's Spirit within you, live up to what you believe and set a shining example before others. They may not agree with all your doctrine, but they will respect the results you achieve in your life.

Try hard not to give others the impression that you are odd or peculiar. Your job is to show them the Spirit of a sound mind in everything you do. If people do ask you questions concerning your belief — which they will if you are living it — be prepared by diligent study to give them the answer in a nonargumentative, clear and common sense way. Show them that God's way makes sense — and is based on a law of love that would prevent war, murder and most of humanity's troubles, if it were only taught and obeyed. But only tell people what they ask you about. Don't try to force too much new truth upon them all at once. Just show them by your words and actions that God's way is based on common sense and a sound mind.

Even though you will still be persecuted by many, this positive attitude in Christian living will gain you new respect in your community. You may then be a positive influence for good. More important, this way of living faith and action will give your own life more meaning, interest and joy, and will prepare you to better serve as a king and priest under Christ throughout life eternal. Use it. □

HOW DOES GOD CALL TODAY?

The apostle Paul was struck down on the road to Damascus. Samuel heard God's voice in the night. But how does God call in our modern 20th century?

By Brian Knowles

The days and months following the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, were exciting and momentous times for the fledgling Church of God. Each day God was adding more and more believers to the Body of Christ (Acts 2:47). Thousands were coming into the Church.

The Holy Spirit was at work in the lives of many — often in ways little suspected by those involved.

Ethiopian eunuch

The case of the Ethiopian eunuch is such an example: "But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is a desert road. And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister [servant] of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot.'" (Acts 8:26-29, Revised Standard Version used except where King James Version is designated).

Philip had been one of the original deacons (Acts 6:1-6). He had been ordained to minister to the physical needs of the Church of that day. But God had even greater service in mind for this Hellenistic Jew. Philip was led to do the work of an evangelist and later became known as such (Acts 21:8).

God, through the Holy Spirit and sometimes through angels, led Philip to preach the Gospel in Samaria and in many other parts of Israel. This is how he came into contact with the Ethiopian eunuch.

The eunuch was a trusted servant of the queen mother of the Ethiopian king ("Candace" was a dynastic title

given to the queen mother). He may have been a Jew, or he could have been a God-fearing gentile. The former is unlikely, however, since there was a prohibition against allowing eunuchs into the spiritual community of Israel based upon Deuteronomy 23:1.

In any case, he was a devout man who feared God and studied his Bible. As the chariot lurched down the dusty desert road, the eunuch, in his zeal, strained to read a copy of the book of Isaiah. His eyes lighted upon the passage found in chapter 53, verse 7. As he read the words in the Greek version (the wording here follows this version — the Septuagint — rather than the Hebrew), he pondered their meaning.

At that point, God inspired Philip to join the chariot. Overhearing the eunuch reading the words of Isaiah aloud, Philip inquired if the man understood their meaning.

The queen's treasurer replied: "How can I, unless some one guides me?"

The eunuch recognized the need for scriptural explanation.

Philip then explained that the passage concerned Christ, who was the Messiah. Proceeding from that point, he began to expound the Gospel to the eunuch. As Philip continued to talk, the Holy Spirit worked to bring about conviction and conversion in the Ethiopian.

Philip's explanation must have included the matter of baptism, for when they arrived at a stream the eunuch exclaimed: "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" (Acts 8:36.)

Philip knew that God was calling the eunuch to His Kingdom. That is why the Holy Spirit had worked in such a dramatic way to bring about the circumstances whereby the two

men met. Immediately they halted the chariot and went down into the water. Philip immersed the eunuch under the swirling waters of the stream, and the two of them joyfully returned to the shore.

The Ethiopian eunuch had answered the call of God!

How God works today

God does not always work so dramatically today to call those He seeks to attain to salvation. Often God's calling is quite subtle. A man in a barbershop picks up a stray copy of *The Plain Truth*. A friend casually mentions some point of spiritual truth. Curiosity arouses the mind of one who is studying some passage of Scripture. His inquiries lead him inexorably to the truth of God.

Some have been called by a random twirling of the radio dial. They just "happened" to chance upon *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. Somehow the words and the tone of the speaker rang true. The listener was transfixed. "There is something different about this man," he exclaims. One thing leads to another and the person writes for literature. He simply can't get enough. He wants more and more booklets, reprint articles and periodicals. The Bible begins to open up to him as the glorious plan of salvation unfolds before his eyes. "This is it!" he determines. "This is the Church of God!"

Like the Ethiopian eunuch, the man asks, "What is to prevent my being baptized?"

'Join' the Church?

Those who are led through these various paths to truth and to conversion are being called of God. They are being called to have a part in the preaching of the Gospel in this life

and to an incredible, mind-boggling eternity in the Kingdom of God.

And this calling is not of men.

It is not something you can choose for yourself.

Jesus said: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

It is God who adds to the Church daily "... such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47, KJV). God takes the initiative. He acts first. John said, "We love him [God], because he first loved us" (I John 4:19, KJV).

God draws those He is calling like a magnet draws iron filings. He draws them through circumstances. He exposes them to truth little by little. He reveals understanding. As truth is unveiled, conviction deepens. At some point in the process, the potential Christian becomes convinced of the need to act upon what he is learning. "I simply can't continue to sit on the fence," he determines, "I've got to do something about what I've been learning. God will hold me accountable for what I now know."

Religious hobbyists

Some, of course, treat their calling lightly. They do not take it seriously. They merely dabble in religion and may be labeled "religious hobbyists."

There is only one true religion. There is only one faith (Ephesians 4:4-6). Once you have found it you had better hang on to it. You had better "... make your calling and election sure ..." (II Peter 1:10, KJV)

You have a God-given right to become a full-fledged member of the family of God. Yet God will not force you to enter His divine family. You are a free moral agent — not an automaton. You have choices to make. You must arrive at your own decisions.

But no decision is more crucial than that of whether you will answer the call of God!

We believe that this Work being done by the Worldwide Church of God represents the Work of Jesus Christ on this earth today. We make no apologies for that. We are convinced.

Not that we are perfect. We are not. We make no claims to perfection. We, too, are learning and growing as we are led by the Spirit of God. But we believe that God and His

truth can be found in this Work.

Many of you are seeing things you have never seen before — right in the pages of your own Bibles. Many of those things ring true. They make sense.

As you learn, study, pray and grow in grace and in knowledge, the fact of God's calling becomes more apparent. Conviction will set in. Your conscience, your reason and heart will demand that you act upon your heavenly calling.

As you come to understand the truth of God, it will set you free from the doubts, errors and conflicts of the past. You will know your ultimate destiny. You will have hope!

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is ..." (I John 3:1-2).

What a magnificent hope! To be just like Christ! To live forever in the eternal Kingdom of the living God!

Can we be anything but grateful to God, from the very depths of our beings, that He would grant us such a reward? "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thessalonians 2:13-14).

We are called to obtain the glory of Christ! We are set apart (sanctified) by the Holy Spirit for this very purpose. We are convicted of the truth of the Gospel. In short, we have been called by God!

Respond to your calling

Those who have been called have a responsibility to that high calling. You and I must respond to the God who made us and seeks to bring us into His glorious, everlasting Kingdom. It is our duty "to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory" (I Thessalonians 2:12).

Those who have been called to the Kingdom cannot continue to live as

they have lived. Now they must experience a change of direction. Their lives must become oriented to God and to the fulfillment of His purposes instead of to self-indulgence and self-will.

Peter said: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

To repent means to change! It means to do an "about-face" and go the opposite way. Paul expressed it this way to the Romans: "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove [put to the test] what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

When you are called of God, it is time to put away the fleshly, carnal mind and seek to acquire the mind of Christ. Paul said: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, KJV).

The mind of Christ is given by the indwelling and working of the Holy Spirit, which follows repentance and baptism. Those who have received the Spirit of God begin to bear its fruits: "... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ..." (Galatians 5:22-23).

Those who bear such fruit walk worthy of their high calling in Christ!

Ministers available

Those of us in the Worldwide Church of God sincerely want you to join us in answering God's call. We want you to share with us in this great Work.

The Church maintains local congregations headed by ordained, qualified ministers all over the world. These ministers are willing to visit you as time permits and counsel with you about the Word of God and your own personal goals in life. They will put no pressure on you to join anything. Only God can put you into His Church. They are merely there to serve you and to answer your questions.

If you wish to have one of our (your!) ministers contact you, please write to the address of our office nearest you. (See inside front cover.) We'll be more than happy to put you in contact with a representative! □



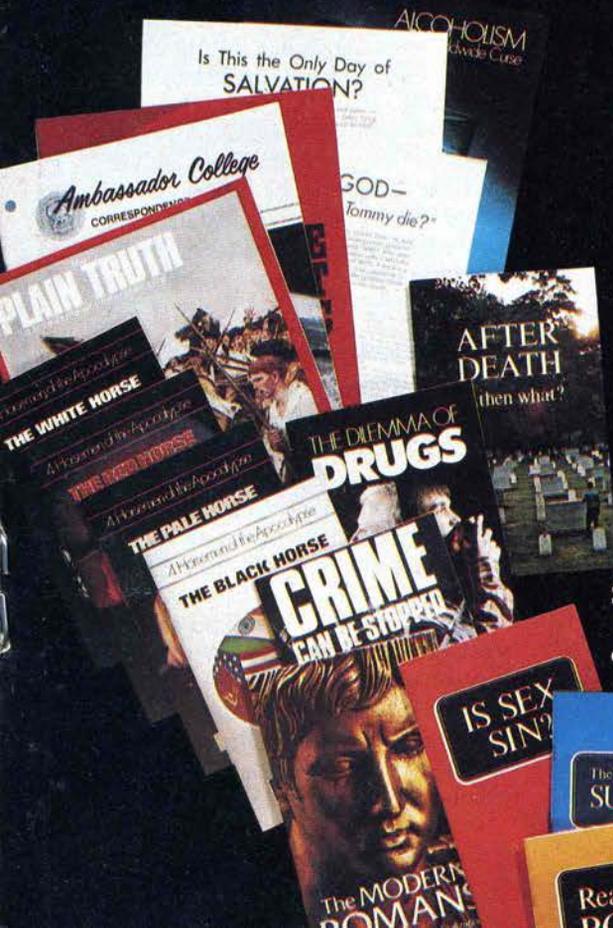
ABOVE: Herbert W. Armstrong addresses a group of dignitaries in Cairo, Egypt. LEFT: The Work's headquarters receives approximately two million letters per year. UPPER RIGHT: Part of the approximately 100,000 people who attend God's Church services each week. BELOW: Ambassador Auditorium provides a superb atmosphere for Church services, college activities and notable cultural events.





From the farms and townships of western Oregon to the present world headquarters in Southern California, God's Work has compiled an outstanding record of growth and accomplishment.

THE WORK AFTER 45 YEARS



Herbert W. Armstrong's first *World Tomorrow* program was a 15-minute radio broadcast with a possible audience of one or two hundred. But he prepared the script as if the world would be listening. And in time it was.

The Work, as it is commonly referred to today, is beginning its 45th year. As we launch another year of worldwide ministry, the Work's international efforts seem only natural, as if it has always been that way.

But when that first broadcast was made, a Work of this present magnitude was not even dreamed of. The Church consisted of 19 members, who received a small bulletin called *The Plain Truth* and who together donated \$1.35 a week to sponsor a 30-minute Sunday broadcast on a radio station in Oregon. It was a struggle.

The fruits of what was started there, however, bear out the worthiness of that struggle. Today millions of listeners and readers are receiving a

Gospel message unique in this world; the real Gospel message that Jesus Christ Himself proclaimed in the hills of Galilee.

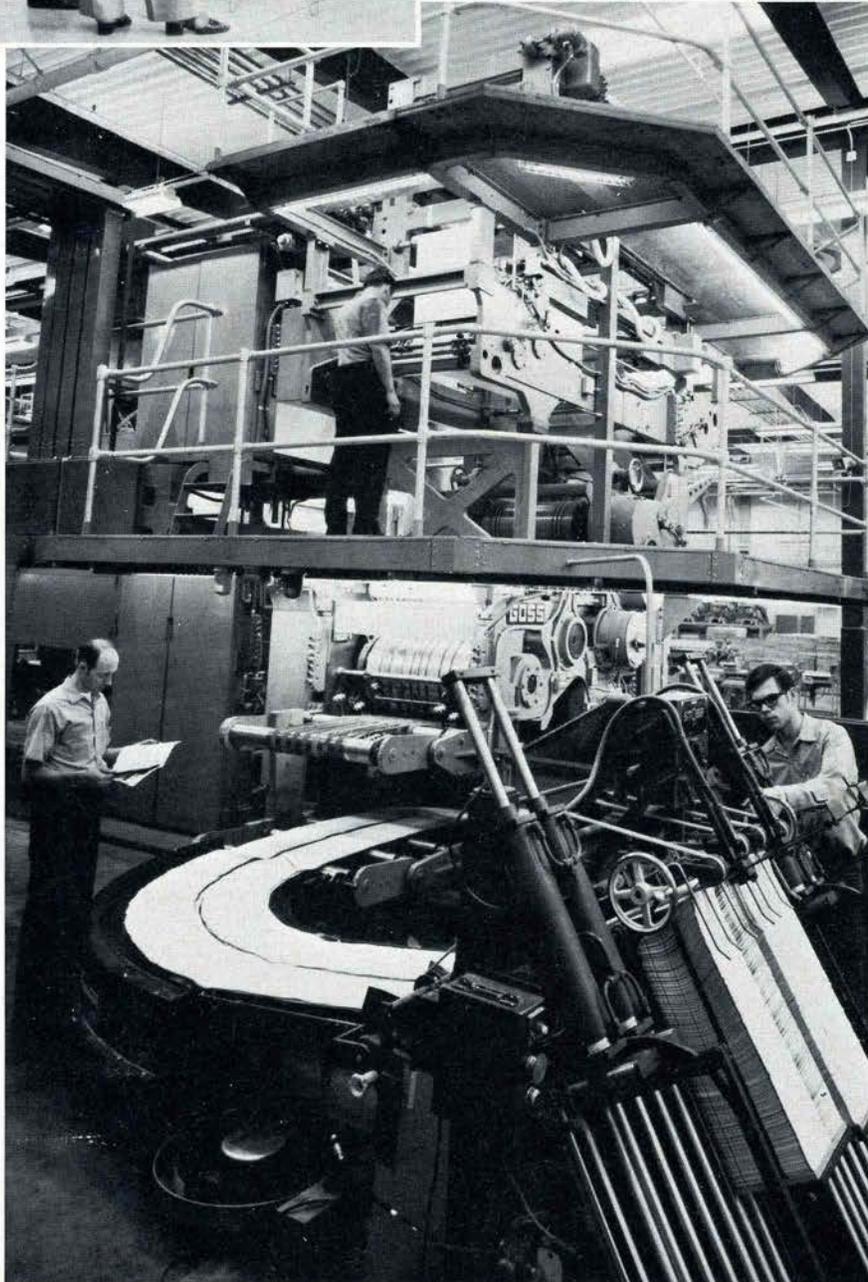
In this issue *The Good News* staff, in cooperation with the Church's Mail Processing Center, has compiled a



partial list of some of the Work's accomplishments worldwide to provide a glimpse into what God has done through this Work over the last 45 years.

Since that first broadcast in 1934, the Work has recorded 4,891 radio programs and 768 television programs. Mr. Armstrong alone has written over 750 magazine articles, nearly 50 booklets, five books and between 400 and 500 co-worker and member letters. The total amount of

LEFT: PT newsstand distribution makes The Plain Truth more visible and available to millions each month. BELOW: Huge presses churn out the Work's publications for free distribution around the world.



literature mailed out adds up to 288 million pieces.

Magazine circulation in millions

Magazine circulation files show that 224 million copies of *The Plain Truth*, 12 million copies of *Tomorrow's World* and 12 million copies of *The Good News* have been mailed, totaling 536 million pieces.

The Work has received 37 million letters, which, if stacked one on another, would reach 14 miles high, and has received 2,090,000 phone calls via the WATS (Wide Area Telephone Service) line since 1973.

Since 1947 the Church has ordained 1,115 ministers. A total of 7,824 students have attended Ambassador College, with 3,046 holding Ambassador degrees. There are 606,894 graduates of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.

A worldwide Work

Scattered throughout the world the Work has 565 congregations established, with a combined membership of 71,003. Weekly Church attendance is near 100,000. The annual Fall Festival is now kept in 75 locations around the world.

The Plain Truth magazine is published in five languages and sent to 188 countries. The Church maintains 17 offices to serve the international Work, which includes 240 churches and 17,828 members scattered around the earth.

In addition, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) and Mr. Armstrong's meetings with world leaders in government and education are opening new doors for the dissemination of Christ's Gospel in this end time.

'Greater works than these'

Shortly before His crucifixion, Christ was admonishing His disciples to keep the commandments and to remember that the Father had sent Him. Jesus had done many great works during His short time on the earth, but He instructed His disciples to do even more:

"... He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). The Work today, through God's guidance, is fulfilling this prophecy. □

If the mystical genie of Aladdin's lamp suddenly appeared before you, what would your wish be? Something strangely reminiscent of that Middle Eastern fable actually happened in the life of ancient King Solomon. Just as Solomon was ascending to his father David's throne, the Eternal appeared in a dream saying, "Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon asked for understanding. In response he was given not only understanding but great wisdom. God said, "... I have given you a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like you before you, neither after you shall any arise like unto you" (I Kings 3:12).

In spite of all this wisdom and understanding, Solomon ended his life years later in a type of failure. His heart had been turned from God by his many women. In fact, the book of Ecclesiastes (understood to have been written by Solomon late in life) demonstrates some of his departures from God.

What went wrong?

But why? What went wrong? Is all that wisdom and understanding not enough?

To understand we must study the meaning of a little-used, but powerful Hebrew word.

That word is *m'zimmah*. It is translated in the King James Version of the Old Testament variously as "devices," "thought," "mischievous device," "wicked," "discretion," "witty inventions," "lewdness" and "intentions." These widely divergent translations cloud an important meaning of *m'zimmah*, however.

That meaning of *m'zimmah* is "to devise or to purpose." It carries the sense of premeditated determination, deep resolve and willpower. The notion is one of powerful determination and resolve.

God's powerful will

A good example is found in Jeremiah 30:24, "The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents [*m'zimmah*] of his heart..."

When God purposes something in His heart — in this case a prophecy — it is as good as done. He is not lackadaisical but undeterred and de-

Are The Seven Laws of Success Working For You ?

By Leslie E. Stocker Jr.

Solomon knew the seven laws of success, but his life may have ended in failure. Why?

termined in His resolve. God's will is powerful!

M'zimmah, strong purpose or determination, can also be directed in a negative or evil way. In Proverbs 24:8 we read, "He that devises [*m'zimmah*] to do evil shall be called a mischievous person." This proverb is not talking about someone who sins carelessly or through weakness. Premeditated *resolve* to do evil is the meaning. Proverbs 12:2 says that God will condemn a person of "wicked devices" (*m'zimmah*).

Formulas for success

M'zimmah appears five times in the introductory chapters of Proverbs — in each case in the positive sense, in basic success formulas.

The first and most important is in chapter 1:2-4. Here the purpose of the book is given: "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and

judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man [or woman] knowledge and discretion [*m'zimmah*]."

M'zimmah is ranked right up in the introduction of the book with wisdom, instruction, understanding, judgment and other weighty factors of a successful life. The word appears several times in the ensuing chapters linked with these same important qualities.

Linked with understanding

In Proverbs 2:11 we read, "Discretion [*m'zimmah*] shall preserve you, understanding shall keep you." *M'zimmah* is linked with understanding if you want to achieve success in life.

In chapter 3:21, "My son, let not them [wisdom and understanding] depart from your eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion [*m'zimmah*]." Willpower and deep resolve to *do* right is an indispensable partner of wisdom.

In Proverbs 5:1-2 we are told, "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow your ear to my understanding: That you may regard discretion [*m'zimmah*], and that your lips may keep knowledge." Here, *m'zimmah* is associated with knowledge.

Finally, chapter 8:12 says, "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions [*m'zimmah*]." Like knowledge, wisdom and understanding, prudence also needs the commitment of determination in order to be of any value.

Something lacking

To have wisdom and understanding is not enough! To be prudent is not enough. Knowledge by itself is not enough. These great qualities must be activated by *m'zimmah*.

In *God Speaks Out on the New Morality* (page 143, 1964 edition), Herbert W. Armstrong painted a vivid picture of what we call character. He wrote:

"What is this righteous spiritual character?"

"It is that controlled ability, in a separate independent entity, to come to a right knowledge of the *true* from the *false* — the *right* from the *wrong* — and, by free choice, to *choose* the right and the true; and, further, to use the self-discipline to will and to actually *do* the right."

Character requires not only knowledge and understanding of what is right and what is wrong — not only choice — but character requires the will — the premeditated resolve and determination — to *do* that which is right. That is *m'zimmah!*

Ingredient for success

While *m'zimmah* resembles two of the seven laws of success (drive and perseverance), it often serves as the

needed catalyst to activate all the laws of success.

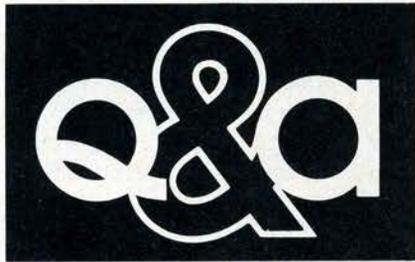
Many times, the only thing standing between you and success (physically or spiritually) is this ingredient — *m'zimmah*.

Solomon was the wisest man who had ever lived. But all the wisdom in the world did not make his life a success. He needed that will to perform that which he knew to be right.

A person could sit in church for years and gain great knowledge of

the Bible. But without *m'zimmah* to activate that knowledge, it will all come to nothing. The apostle Paul noted, "For not the hearers of the law [and those who know and understand the law] are just before God, but the *doers* of the law shall be justified" (Romans 2:13).

Consider Solomon. Consider *m'zimmah*. And consider your life physically, financially, spiritually and in every other way. What could *m'zimmah* do for you? □



What does the Bible say about suicide?

**C.W.
Finland**

The Bible gives no specific command regarding suicide, nor does the word itself appear in the Bible. There are, however, references to seven people who killed themselves: Samson (Judges 16); Abimelech (Judges 9); Saul (I Samuel 31); Saul's armorbearer (I Samuel 31); Zimri (I Kings 16:18); Ahithophel (II Samuel 17:23); and Judas (Matthew 27:5). The earlier conduct of all seven was morally corrupt, and except for Samson their suicides were simply attempts to escape their well-deserved fates.

Suicide means self-murder and murder is forbidden by the Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt do no murder."

God has not given an individual — even one who could rightly judge himself deserving of the death penalty (as could most of the above) — the right to pass such a sentence. Suicide is not an acceptable way of escaping punishment, dishonor or the like.

In a different case, however, Samson died a hero, because his suicide was in fact a dedication of his life, at long last, wholly to the service of God in the liberation of Israel from the Philistines. His motive was not just to kill himself to escape. Christ Himself

similarly gave His life for others.

Since a suicide experiencing quick death or unconsciousness has no opportunity to repent of his murder in this life, some have wondered if suicide is the unpardonable sin. The answer is no, because the unpardonable sin is only unpardonable because it is something a person refuses to repent of.

God is merciful, not willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9), but He simply has not called most people to repentance in this life. They will have their chance in a resurrected life after the millennium in the period known as the White Throne Judgment.

We are puzzled as to why our Lord treated the fig tree that way, because it had no fruit when he was hungry.

**Mrs. M.S.
Lewisburg, Pa.**

Commentaries generally agree that fig trees in the area of Palestine produce fruit for much of the year, if they bear at all. Unlike most trees, the fig tree first produces its fruit and afterward its leaves (see Song of Solomon 2:13) — though the time of figs, mature fruit, is not yet (Mark 11:13). The immature fruit, though green and hard, is considered edible if one is sufficiently in need. It was not out of the way for Jesus to look for fruit in March since the tree was shrouded with luxuriant green leaves, making a show of being a worthy tree. But when Jesus found nothing on the tree, He used it as an example to teach His disciples — and us — some spiritual principles. Seeing the tree was obviously worthless as a fruit bearer — not just at that time of year but all seasons — He had no compunction about cursing and killing it as an object lesson for all.

First, with a tree having leaves but not figs, an element of deception is involved. Secondly this incident teaches that the outward appearance and show is not what counts with God. What counts is production of fruit (Luke 13:3-9; Galatians 5:22-23). It matters not how much we profess to be Christians if we bear no fruit. And the rapid drying up of the fig tree pictures how we will likewise be cursed and die, if we are found to be barren at the time Christ calls for an accounting.

In Luke 13:6-7 (Revised Standard Version), Jesus expressed the principle this way: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down.'" Then the vinedresser prevailed on him to leave the tree for one more year, to cultivate around it, and to fertilize it, to see if finally it might possibly bear fruit, "but if not, you can cut it down."

The parable shows the long-suffering of God, and His willingness to give every possible aid. But finally His allotted time for production comes to an end.

Though the fig tree, like the olive and the vine, was a symbol of the Judaean commonwealth, which was about to be cut down, verses 1 to 5 make it clear that Jesus meant the lesson to apply also to each individual.

John the baptizer also told the Pharisees and Sadducees: "Bear fruit that befits repentance... Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matthew 3:8,10, RSV).

MINI STUDY

The Christian Fight HOW YOU CAN WIN

SALVATION

Most of you have read much, if not all, of our literature, and some have completed the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. You know much about the teachings of the Word of God. But can you turn to the pages of the Bible and readily find the scriptures that form the basis for the beliefs and practices of God's Church?

Beginning with this issue, *The Good News*, in conjunction with the Correspondence Course Department, presents brief monthly excursions into the study of the Bible, delving into topics relevant to the development and increased understanding of future members of the God Family. Bible study is one means by which the Christian is renewed daily (II Corinthians 4:16), so let's begin to refresh ourselves with some of the precious truths of God's Word!

Instructions: The format of these ministudies is similar to that of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Look up and read in your Bible the scripture references given in answer to the questions. Comments following the questions will elaborate on the scriptures just read. That's all there is to it! (These studies are based on the King James Version of the Bible.)

The Word of God tells us that all who will follow the Christian way of life will have to face three deadly enemies. These enemies tend to discourage us from overcoming sin and developing the character of Christ. They put wedges into our minds that will grow, gradually separating us from the guidance and power of God's Holy Spirit — *IF we allow them to*. God says these deadly enemies must be defeated, and He tells us how to do it!

1. Does Paul show there is effort involved in living the Christian life — that eternal life is worth *fighting for*? I Timothy 6:12; I Timothy 1:18-19. Whose "soldier" was Timothy? II Timothy 2:3-4.

2. Did Paul steadfastly follow God's way of life — did he know, shortly before his death, that he had *won* the Christian fight? II Timothy 4:6-8.

3. Is the Christian's warfare against physical armies? Or is it a *spiritual warfare*? II Corinthians 10:3-4. Just what is it that a Christian is to fight against? Verse 5.

The first enemy in the Christian's daily warfare is his own nature with its inordinate lusts (Galatians 5:19-21). This nature in us rationalizes cleverly, sometimes producing deceitful and degrading impulses — vanity, lust, greed. We are enticed to sin, to break God's spiritual law, thus cutting us off from Him. Our nature can destroy us spiritually, unless we *resist* its wrong impulses.

4. What is the second deadly enemy of all Christians? Galatians 1:4. What should a Christian's attitude be toward the world's social order with its glitter, glamour and status-seeking appeal? I John 2:15-17.

John is speaking about this worldly system around us — this "cosmos." It is from the original Greek word *kosmos*, translated "world" in I John 2:15, that English words such as cosmopolitan, cosmography and cosmopolite are derived.

John was referring to the societies of this world, many of which are literally built on and motivated by the vanity, lusts and greed of man's nature. Because most people have been deceived (Revelation 12:9), they don't understand how so many of the world's ways could be wrong in God's sight. This world's ways bombard Christians continually with temptations that can seduce them from following Christ!

5. Should Christians strive to avoid the evil that is in the world? II Corinthians 6:14-18; Revelation 18:4. Does this mean that any who would love God and seek to live the Christian way of life should therefore move away from populated areas? John 17:15-18. Notice especially the first part of verse 15.

Christ's prayer in the 17th chapter of the gospel of John shows that God does not expect Christians to move to the mountains and deserts to escape the world's distractions. Rather, they should strive to be separate *spiritually* and abstain from its ways that are defined as sin in the Bible.

6. What or who is the third great enemy of every Christian? I Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7. Isn't Satan the devil *ultimately* responsible for inspiring the inordinate characteristics of human nature and for all the evil in this world? II Corinthians 4:4;

MINI STUDY

Ephesians 2:2. Hasn't he indeed deceived the *whole* world? Revelation 12:9.

Satan, formerly the great archangel Lucifer, who was originally created perfect in his ways (Ezekiel 28:15), *acquired* his satanic nature by his own reasoning and choice. Humans, in turn, *acquire* Satan's nature, which we call "human nature." Notice how Paul described this natural frame of mind: "... the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

But once the Holy Spirit of God is added to a person's mind, he has the power to resist the attitudes of self-centeredness, lust, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, resentment, bitterness and hate, which are "broadcast" to the mind by Satan.

No person is compelled to respond to and obey these impulses from Satan. The devil has no power to *force* anyone to think or do wrong! But the unsuspecting automatically do so without realizing what is taking place in their minds. Most people just drift along, responding to emotions and impulses, which often find expression in their fleshly drives and vain pursuits.

7. After your begetting by God's Holy Spirit, which makes you a Christian (Romans 8:9), will the devil continue to try to beguile you — to deceive your mind — and lead you away from Christ and His ways? II Corinthians 11:2-4. Did some Christians in Paul's day begin to fall victim to the devil's promptings once again? Verses 13-15; Galatians 1:6-8; 3:1.

Conversion does *not disconnect* Satan's "wavelength." He continues to broadcast the attitudes of his nature and work through others to subvert our life in Christ. When Jesus spoke of overcoming, He referred to overcoming the ways of Satan, which are contrary to God's way. Those who have turned from Satan's way are to be on guard against him and *fight* to overcome his subtle urgings and remain true to God's way.

Before Jesus Christ could qualify to restore the government of God and rule all nations, He had to withstand Satan's most severe temptations. That supreme struggle is recorded in the fourth chapter of Matthew. Notice how the devil attempted to deceive and influence Jesus Christ to sin against God.

8. After Jesus had fasted 40 days in the wilderness, how did the devil appeal both to human vanity and severe physical hunger? Matthew 4:1-4. And to the human desire for prestige, glory and power? Verses 5-9. What were Jesus' immediate responses? Verses 4, 7, 10. What was the outcome of this titanic spiritual battle? Verse 11.

Christ *overcame* the devil. When Jesus gave the devil an order, he had to obey. He slunk away, knowing he was defeated in this supreme spiritual encounter of all time.

Christ overcame the devil's wiles by the Word of God. He *knew* God's will. Therefore, the devil could *not deceive Him!* He responded to the devil's temptations by citing the appropriate scripture that applied in each situation. He knew the Word of God thoroughly.

9. Are Christians today also to resist the devil with the truth God has revealed to them? I Peter 5:9. What must the devil do if resisted steadfastly? James 4:7.

10. What instructions on fighting against the impulses and attitudes of the devil does God give through Paul? Ephesians 6:10-12. What are Christians to put on in order to fight this spiritual battle? Verses 11, 13. Of what does God's spiritual armor consist? Verses 14-20.

"Truth" refers to the inspired Word of God (John 17:17), the first piece in the Christian's spiritual armor. The "breastplate of righteousness" is obedience to God's commandments (Psalm 119:172); the "gospel" is the message of the coming Kingdom of God when Christ will rule this earth and bring it peace.

The "shield of faith" refers to the faith of Jesus Christ, which can be within us (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:9) — not just to our own human, physical faith. This faith is God's gift imparted by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). And it is this faith — *Christ's* faith put within us — that will enable us to conquer and overcome sin!

The "helmet of salvation" is the knowledge of what salvation is, what it involves, what it's all about — the purpose of life, the *true goal* and potential destiny of mankind — becoming divine members of the Family of God!

The "sword of the Spirit" refers to the written Word of God (Hebrews 4:12) — it is the Christian's only offensive weapon in fighting the devil and his wiles.

The final thing Paul mentions in fighting Satan and his wiles is "prayer." Christians are to draw close to God in persevering prayer (I Thessalonians 5:17), praying for all of God's people, the ministry of God's Church and themselves.

This is the way to *overcome* Satan and force him to flee! This is the perfect strategy for defeating human nature and this world, since they are both inspired and motivated by the devil. If you will diligently follow this formula, your success in overcoming all three deadly foes will be guaranteed.

Prepared by Richard Sedliacik.

The Faithfulness of God

Will God ever abandon any of His begotten children? Is God with you only in the good times and down on you when you make a serious mistake? Or is He continually with you throughout your Christian life?

By John R. Schroeder

Once you have counted the cost and made your commitment to God through repentance and water baptism, are you then left on your own to sink or swim? Do you just have to be lucky to attain God's Kingdom? Is it only a series of fortuitous accidents that will make the big difference?

Or has God so preprogrammed events that it is virtually assured you will enter His Family? Has He prepared His plan in such a way as to guarantee success if you follow the prescribed biblical formulas?

The apostle Paul reassured the Philippian brethren of God's faithfulness. He wrote: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). Does Paul say God the Father might whimsically drop His human children at any moment? Or rather does this passage not say that God will continue His Work in us until the day of the resurrection at Jesus Christ's coming?

Continue with the same thought in Paul's letter to the Corinthian brethren. The apostle told them that they came "... behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:7-8).

These two scriptures confirm the fact that both the Father and the Son are totally, irrevocably and unalterably committed to see each and every begotten son and daughter through to the finish. They have no plans to abandon ship.

Is God only a fairweather friend?

But does God guarantee His Kingdom only to those who make a few *nonserious* mistakes? Or has God

committed Himself to help us through the hard times when we have sinned seriously and the door to God's grace appears forever closed?

King David's life story is a living witness to the answer. The prophet Nathan passed on a vital message from God to David. God had said: "Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest . . ." (II Samuel 7:8-9).

Let's face facts. David allowed himself to go to a lot of places that God would have never led him. David had an affair with Bathsheba, he committed murder, he numbered the people, and he shed a lot of human blood in battle. But God Almighty *never* abandoned him even in his worst predicaments.

After sinning, David cried out: "For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications . . ." (Psalm 31:22). David knew that God suffered (vicariously) along with him when he reaped the inevitable fruits of making a wrong choice. But a totally loyal and faithful God stayed with him because David was always sorry for his mistakes and sins.

The patriarch Jacob

King Solomon wrote, "... the way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15). Jacob had a tough time securing God's blessings. He said of himself in his old age, "... few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of my fathers [Abraham and Isaac] . . ." (Genesis 47:9).

Jacob extorted the birthright from his brother; he schemed with his mother Rebekah to secure the blessing from his father; he let his uncle Laban en-

snare him into polygamy; he played favorites with one of his sons. The unhappy fruits of such practices were jealousy between his wives, the rape of his daughter Dinah, a violent and cruel murder committed by his sons Simeon and Levi, the kidnapping of his favorite son Joseph and a whole host of other reeling blows to happiness.

But Jacob endured unto the end.

Where was God?

But where was God in all this? Did He depart from Jacob and nullify His promises? By no means!

The Genesis record is plain on this point. God had promised Jacob, "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Genesis 28:15).

Just before his death and final blessings to his sons, Jacob described God as, "... the God which fed me all my life long unto this day [God never departed from Jacob just as He had promised], The Angel [Messenger] which redeemed me from all evil . . ." (Genesis 48:15-16).

No respecter of persons

Is God a respecter of persons? Is He any different with any one of His begotten children?

Emphatically no! God has a desire to the work of His hands. He will finish the work begun in our flesh. He cannot lie!

The road ahead may be a ratty one. Trials may be enormous. But God will not give up on you unless you are determined to throw in the towel. God is not a quitter. He will bring you into His Kingdom.

Let us say with David: "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: forsake not the work of thine own hands" (Psalm 138:8). □

FINANCIAL TRACK

(Continued from page 4)

Solved.") "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest continually.

"Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, *have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law*, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises . . . And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, *PAID* tithes in Abraham" (Hebrews 7:1-9).

There is a slight distinction here. Apparently, though God led Abraham to tithe to Melchizedek, God made tithing a LAW in the days of the kingdom of Israel, 430 years later. Then it was no longer a matter of giving but of PAYING. Undoubtedly it was the same, IN PRINCIPLE, in Abraham's day — and that is why God led Abraham to do it — but God had not revealed to Abraham it was a legal obligation. Today it *is* a legal obligation to us. But even if this had not been revealed to Abraham, he was dedicated to God and more than willing to tithe anyway.

Tithing a law

But no longer is it GIVING — with the decision of whether or not to do it up to you. It is now a LAW — an OBLIGATION to PAY to God what BELONGS to God.

Yet what a wonderful God. He demands that we PAY the tithe to His ministry. We are STEALING if we do not — yet when we do, God GIVES us the nine tenths and blesses us financially, so that the nine tenths God gives us becomes (from God's special blessing) *more* than if we had been free to keep the ten tenths!

But now notice this teaching in Hebrews 7: Melchizedek was God's priest — eternally. During the Levitical priesthood, God made the Levites the priests in Israel. But now JE-

SUS CHRIST (Melchizedek) is High Priest, and the ministry is NO LONGER a Levitical ministry, but that of JESUS CHRIST, living HEAD of God's CHURCH. The priesthood is now CHANGED, from Levi to Christ.

"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (verse 12). The law of Moses commanded tithes to be paid to the Levitical priesthood. That is now changed so that the LAW (not abolished but CHANGED) commands that tithes go to Christ's ministry for the preaching of the GOSPEL. The Levites *did not preach the GOSPEL to the world*. Christ's priesthood — the Church — does!

Tithing was a LAW. That law has not been abolished or abrogated — but a *change* has been made in it so that the tithes today are to be PAID, on penalty of STEALING — of SIN — into God's Church! And one of God's prophets — of the FOUNDATION of the Church — says the Church is *under a curse* for failure to be HONEST in PAYING God's tithe, which we owe — which BELONGS TO HIM — and even our nine tenths actually does not belong to us UNTIL we have paid God His 10th.

Jesus taught tithing

Tithing was taken for granted by those Jews in Judea at the time of Christ. Even the Pharisees were meticulous about tithing. Jesus did not need to give special teaching to His disciples on tithing. It was well known, accepted and understood by them.

In fact the scribes and Pharisees, so deceitful and hypocritical and disobedient about so many things, were strict tithe payers.

To them Jesus said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these *ought ye to have done*, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23). Notice, these hypocrites did not GIVE tithe — they PAID it, as Jesus said "ye ought to have done."

Some, with a spirit as bad as the Pharisees, argue today, "Jesus did not say it was a New Testament law.

Jesus washed His disciples' feet. He did not make it a law or COMMAND that they do the same, but He

said, ". . . I have given you an example, that ye *should do* as I have done to you" (John 13:15). The Church of God regards that as equivalent to a command. And we would not dare think of NOT doing it!

All who have the Spirit of God will not argue, but consider, also, as equivalent to a command, what Jesus said regarding tithes, "This ought ye to have done." We should FEAR NOT to tithe!

Paul on tithing

The apostle Paul said, "Does a soldier provide his own supplies? [Moffatt] who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? . . . If we [ministers] have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? . . . Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? . . ." — that is by the law of TITHING and offerings. "Even so [by tithes and offerings] hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of that gospel" (I Corinthians 9:7-14).

Paul says plainly the Lord Jesus Christ has ORDAINED the tithing system for His Church.

The tithe HOLY to God

God says, "And all the tithe of the land [or, in our day, of the factory, the shop or store, or whatever earns wages] . . . is the LORD'S [He owns it, IT BELONGS TO HIM]: it is HOLY unto the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30).

God's Sabbath is HOLY to Him. That's why we must not trample on it or desecrate it — it BELONGS TO HIM, not to us.

God's NAME is HOLY. That's why we must not profane it in profanity.

Speaking of the sins of Judah and Jerusalem, God says: "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from *my Sabbaths*, and I am profaned among them" (Ezekiel 22:26). WHAT A JUDGMENT AGAINST ANCIENT JUDAH! This certainly seems

But, if you steal from God His rightful 10th, as well as the other 90 percent, then you are guilty of robbing God, and you fall under a curse!

to indicate that if one profanes GOD'S HOLY TITHE, he will also profane God's Sabbath AND THUS PROFANE GOD!

'But I can't afford to Tithe'

Brethren of God's Church — and ministers — some of you either HAVE NOT TITHED — which means YOU HAVE STOLEN FROM GOD, YOU HAVE SINNED, and you are UNDER A CURSE and causing a CURSE to come on GOD'S CHURCH and His Work — or you excuse it, saying, "Well, I'm just behind in paying my tithe. I can't afford to tithe until I get my debts cleared up."

But LISTEN and HEED! It is not *your* tithe — it is GOD'S — HOLY to Him! IT IS THE FIRST 10th of your income — *before* all else — *before* paying bills. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO IT!

If you work for a bank, and you take some of the bank's money, that is EMBEZZLEMENT! But stealing from the GOD who GIVES you your breath of life, the food you eat, the clothes you wear — *that is far worse in His eyes!*

Pay up GOD'S TITHES FIRST — and assure yourself of God's special financial blessing, so you *can* pay off your debts to humans.

Christ's chosen apostle has SPOKEN OUT with straight-from-the-shoulder talk in this article! DO NOT MAKE EXCUSE! You simply have no excuse in GOD'S EYES!

And to you ministers, Christ's apostle says to you BY HIS AUTHORITY — the damnable watering down of so sacred a thing to God as being financially honest with God, and giving you ministers UNAUTHORIZED permission behind the back of

Christ's apostle, and UNKNOWN to him, to change GOD'S LAW and COMMAND about one of His HOLY things, from *PAYING* into *giving* God alms — IF you want to — that foul teaching in the STP [Systematic Theology Project] was a STENCH in the nostrils of Jesus Christ. It was UNAUTHORIZED and TOTALLY UNKNOWN — that any such thing was being prepared or going out — to His apostle. I say to you before GOD, I knew NOTHING of any such project.

But PRAISE BE TO ALMIGHTY GOD, Jesus Christ our HEAD is now moving as swiftly and relentlessly to ELIMINATE THE CURSE ON GOD'S WORK, that He may now PROVE to us that He will open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it! □

sharing...

ACTION IS THE KEY

God is an energetic, dynamic Being who actually lives in His people and inspires them to good works (Philippians 2:13). Like a flowing, surging river (John 7:38-39), God's Spirit often fills our minds with deep emotional thoughts and desires—the urge to help, the ability to see a need, the wish to serve, feelings of love and interest in others.

Yet, ironically, this same inspiration can create a false sense of righteousness and can deceive one into thinking he is well-pleasing in God's sight. Because these "spiritual sparks" momentarily lodge in the mind, the person who receives them feels good inside. He prides himself on what a fine Christian he is. He has good intentions and sees himself accomplishing great deeds.

Act before you forget

Good feelings do not constitute true righteousness. It's action —

right action — that is the real substance.

The key to spiritual growth and productivity is to allow the spark of God's Spirit to ignite your feelings to action, to truly accomplish what you are inspired to do. Act before you forget. Or resolve to act. Make a powerful, strong commitment. Be a self-starter.

Let these little sparks of inspiration, whether they come from something you read or hear, or simply a thought that God's Spirit infuses, propel you forward. Act with haste! David said, "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments" (Psalm 119:60).

Don't quench His Spirit

When you're close to God these sparks of inspiration are the impulses, urges, convictions and evidences of God's Spirit moving and working in your life. However, if our

hearts and consciousnesses are not as tender as they should be, we need to check up to see if we are resisting God in some way. The Bible warns, "Harden not your hearts, as in the day of provocation . . ." (Hebrews 3:8). If we aren't receiving the inspiration from God that we should, it may be that we are quenching or grieving His Spirit. It can happen.

The key is to act when God's Spirit gives you motivation. Let Christ live in you and use you as a tool to accomplish His will. It may only be a simple little deed of kindness that God wants done. It may be a greater sacrifice that requires more effort. But, this spiritual action is the key to spiritual power and fulfillment.

It's the fuse that does not fizzle but, rather, ignites the mighty flame that can shine outward and help light the lives of others.—By Richard Rice, director of the Work's Mail Processing Center. □

PROVE ALL THINGS

Be Ready Always to Give an Answer

“... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15).

I had an interesting discussion with two men who came to my door recently. The younger of the two said that he was an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I said, “That’s interesting; I’m an elder of the Worldwide Church of God.” And he said that was interesting.

We discussed why he kept Sunday as a day of worship.

“Well, Joseph Smith was given a commission by God to change the day of worship,” he said.

“I think the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and other reference books say that the day of worship was changed from Saturday to Sunday by Constantine in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicaea,” I said. He agreed.

“You know, God rested on the seventh day of the week,” I continued. “Why do we take it upon ourselves to rest or to observe a different day from that on which God rested?”

We continued standing there, discussing things pertaining to the Sabbath and God’s Holy Days. When I told this young man that God condemns worshipping the way pagans did, he made an interesting comment.

“I don’t think it makes a bit of difference to God,” he said, looking me squarely in the eyes.

I looked him right back in the eyes and said, “I think it does, and I’m going to prove it to you. God says:

“Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the Lord thy God.

“When the Lord thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land.

“Take heed to thyself, that thou be not snared [trapped] . . . after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.”

We are being trapped when we say it doesn’t make any difference. It makes a big difference to God. He says:

“Thou shalt not do so [as the pagans did] unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: Thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

Beginning in Isaiah 1:13: “Bring no more vain oblations; incense [a symbol of prayers ascending up to God’s throne] is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is iniquity . . .*” Now the two words *it is* are in italics, and it should be that way in your Bible. Iniquity means *your* solemn assembly. *Your* solemn feast days. Because verse 14 says, “*Your* new moons and *your* appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.”

I told this young man that Christmas observance is not condoned in the Bible.

Next I quoted Mark 7:7-9:

“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

There is no biblical passage suggesting we celebrate Christmas, I told them. And the young elder admitted that these were traditions of men.

Man has added these celebrations, and he tries to condone their observance through the teaching of God. Christ had something to say about that. Read it in Revelation 22:18-19.

It does make a great difference to God whether we observe the Lord’s Sabbaths and keep his Holy Days.

God has given signs between Him and His people. He has sent certain signs to separate His people from the world. They are found in Ezekiel 20:10-12, 19:

“Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.”

The Sabbaths are a sign that points to the true God and His people.

“I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God” (verse 19).

Who will you obey? God Almighty, who gave us laws and statutes and commandments that are good, or Nimrod the pagan, author of Christmas and Sunday worship? It makes all the difference in the world to God. —By Les McColm, pastor of the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, Calif., churches. □



Photo by Bob Millman

Close-Up

There are thousands of members in the Worldwide Church of God. This is the story of one of them.

Col Barker doesn't look or feel 80 as he leaves for another day of work in his downtown Vancouver, B.C., law office. "I went to work when I was 15, and I wouldn't know what to do if I weren't working, to tell the honest truth. It's part of my life."

Another part of his life is a record of integrity and industry, exemplary when you consider Col Barker, 79, and now in his 80th year, has already completed 55 years of legal practice.

Active, Mr. Barker works five days a week, 49 weeks in the year keeping two stenographers busy eight hours a day. Members of the business community and his fellow Worldwide Church of God brethren alike hold him in high regard.

"I'm happy and fulfilled. I've been given long life, an interesting career and good health. I really owe the thanks to the One who gave me the health and strength that made it all possible."

There are no plans in his life to sit back now. "If I retired I would vege-

tate. Most of my friends died when they quit."

Born Percy Collinson Barker in November, 1899, the house he grew up in was just a few blocks away from where his main office is today. At the turn of the century the downtown area of Vancouver was a pleasant residential area with lots big enough to run chickens and cultivate trees.

Growing up in a home that stressed old-fashioned colonial virtues, Mr. Barker spent some of his schooling in England and after graduation from high school in Vancouver was indentured in a solicitor's office. From there his career began taking shape as he became a junior partner, senior partner and finally chief administrator in a prestigious law firm. Later he formed a partnership with an old friend until his partner's health kept him from the office. For the past five years Mr. Barker has been running two offices on his own.

Never particularly enjoying court work, Mr. Barker built his practice around real estate. During the Depression when lawyers had to moon-

light as laborers to feed themselves, he also acted as bailiff, seizing everything from oil rigs to vacuum cleaners for nonpayment of debts.

In 1964 he heard about the second coming of Christ on *The World Tomorrow* program. "I thought I was the only one in Canada to believe this way."

He began attending church services in the spring of 1965. Shortly thereafter he was asked to provide transportation for a lady from his neighborhood who needed a ride to church. After three years of friendship, she became his wife. He not only gained a wife, Luella, but also took on three daughters and eight grandchildren. Quite a handful and quite a bonus for someone never married before.

Today, just after his 79th birthday, Col Barker still leaves for his office around 7 a.m. and works through till 4 p.m.

He reviews his long life by saying a person can continue to work longer with God's help. "I know it for a fact."

— By Bob Millman. □

There is God's answer! "God has shown me that I should not call any *man* common or unclean." The vision is not about eating unclean foods.

Peter's Vision...

(Continued from page 6)

these assembled with him, "... the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles" (verses 44-45, RSV).

Notice it — for upwards of 10 years after the crucifixion the apostles had gone only to Jews and the circumcised Samaritans. No uncircumcised gentile had been called until the moment God called Cornelius. And the Jewish Christians who accompanied Peter north from Joppa to Caesarea were astounded that it was even possible for a gentile to be converted and receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life. No wonder Peter had to have a vision, in which a voice from heaven spoke *three* times, to know what to do when the *three* gentiles knocked at the gate of the home where Peter was residing.

This event was the most significant turning point in the history of the Church of God.

Opposition in the Church

The account continues in the 11th chapter of Acts. "Now the apostles

and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Can you imagine in the New Testament Church of God men criticizing the very chief apostle? Yet here it is! "But Peter began and explained to them in order: 'I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, something descending, like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came down to me. Looking at it closely I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, "Rise, Peter: kill and eat." But I said, "No, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'" But the voice answered a second time from heaven, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." This happened *three* times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction ...'"

Peter concluded, "'If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord

Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?' When they [the critics] heard this they were silenced. And they glorified God saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life'" (Acts 11:1-18, RSV).

The meaning of the vision is clear. It was given to make plain that gentiles who were uncircumcised were not to be counted as socially impure. God is able to clean up their hearts and purify them as He is also able to clean up and purify the hearts of the circumcised Jews. The New Testament Church took years to make this a living principle. It was not finally settled once and for all until in assembled council, nearly 10 years later, Peter declared that gentiles do not have to be circumcised to receive the gift of eternal life (Acts 15).

The question of eating unclean meats was not the issue in Peter's vision. If it had been, then God made a great mistake by not including "sea life" in the sheet sent to Peter in vision on that housetop. It is not lions and vultures and snakes that most professing Christians clamor for. It is sea creatures — oyster, shrimp, turtle, lobster, eel, octopus, whale — that they crave. And these are the very creatures *not included in the vision!* Read it for yourself — Acts 10:12 and 11:6. □

Letters

(Continued from inside front cover)

To all of you of the Worldwide Church of God. For a 69-year-old man, you don't really know how much all of you have turned my life and my wife's life around.

Lewis Johnson
Sycamore, Ill.

We thought our readers would be interested in reading some of the comments we have received from people who have come in contact with the Church within the last few years. (See "How Does God Call Today?" on page 12.)

Good News in magazine form

I am so happy to hear that *The Good News* will be back in magazine form. I have missed it. I can't tell you how much this spiritual food and enlightenment of God's words means to me. It's a way of life for me now. I am so thankful to God for permitting me a share of knowledge of His truth.

Edith B. Oliver
Pittsburg, Calif.

I find *The Good News* full of interesting articles and am happy to hear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong so dynamic and powerful. Please tell him to continue putting out those articles. We the people of the Worldwide Church of God needed someone to put us back on the right

track. I only hope and pray we don't take any more detours.

Judy Henry
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I love *The Good News* and everyone I talk with says the same thing. Thank you for all your hard work to get everything straightened out in God's Work. We do appreciate it.

Mrs. Edwin B. Schlipf
Copiague, N.Y.

I just want to give thanks for *The Good News* that brings so many interesting and encouraging information about God's Work. Through *The Good News* one can see, in a sense, that the Worldwide Church of God is a spiritually inspired and moving body, not a dying one.

Joseph Franklin
Miami, Fla.



NEWTRENDS

Compiled in conjunction with the News Bureau of the Worldwide Church of God

● EUROPE'S QUEST FOR UNITY RECEIVES A BIG BOOST. Jan. 1 the new European Monetary System (EMS), pushed heavily by the Germans and the French, was put into operation. The currency alignment scheme entails binding the component national currencies of the European Community within close tolerances. Backing the arrangement will be a pooled monetary fund of \$32 billion dollars worth of gold, central bank-held Eurodollars and a portion of each nation's own currencies. The core of the new system will be an artificial currency unit dubbed the ECU (European Currency Unit). Financial settlements between the EMS members will be denominated in this new unit. Many believe the ECU is the forerunner of a future European currency. One blow to EMS hopes: Britain is staying out.

● ANTIEUROPEAN MOOD IS SWEEPING BRITAIN, the European Economic Community's most reluctant member. The ire is directed at what Britons see as numerous inequitable policies of the Community, such as its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to which Britain pays a disproportionate amount. The latest development is Britain's decision not to join, at least at the outset, the newly established European Monetary System (see above). This decision is bound to aggravate Britain's entire spectrum of relations with Community partners, and, according to the Times of London, is "bound to increase Britain's sense of isolation, making it an evermore disgruntled and embittered member." Many observers are even talking of Britain's eventual withdrawal from the nine-member market. A leading Labor Party strategist declared, "We'll be out in 10 years, regardless of which party is in power, if something isn't done to make the Common Market more palatable to the British voter."

● CHINA BREAKTHROUGH. President Jimmy Carter stunned the world Dec. 15 with the announcement that the United States and the People's Republic of China had agreed to establish diplomatic relations Jan. 1. Official U.S. ties with Taiwan were scheduled to be cut the same date, although the defense treaty between the two countries would continue for another year. The breakthrough between Washington and Peking came after China gave private assurances that it sought no bloody solution to its "Taiwan problem." The Soviet Union's paranoia over China has been undoubtedly increased by the new development. This could increase the chances of a Moscow overture toward Western Europe, especially Germany. Secondly, the breakthrough between Washington and Peking could increase the opportunity for the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Up until now, one fourth of humanity has been effectively blocked off from the Gospel announcement.

● WASHINGTON IS CONFIDENT that for the foreseeable future heavily armed Taiwan faces no immediate threat from the mainland for three reasons. 1) Communist China lacks the offensive capacity to overrun the island fortress 120 miles across the Taiwan Strait, 2) Chinese military forces are tied down in a standoff against the Soviets along their long mutual border, and 3) the success of Peking's modernization drive, depending upon close ties with Japan, the United States and Western Europe, is at stake; a costly and bloody showdown over Taiwan could ruin it all.

● THE U.S. ECONOMY: HEAD OVER HEELS IN DEBT. A recent report in Business Week magazine reveals that the American economy is dangerously overborrowed. Since 1975 there has been wild debt explosion that has dwarfed all previous credit bubbles. In less than four years -- all relatively prosperous -- corporate debt has increased by 36 percent, government debt by 33 percent and consumer debt by a whopping 49

percent! The total debt load in the United States, public and private, stands at a towering \$3.9 trillion! Clearly, this kind of wild, frenzied borrowing cannot go on indefinitely without ending in either hyperinflation or a severe 1930s-style depression.

● THE CRIME GAP. Based only on reported crime, every 30 seconds an American is murdered, raped, robbed or assaulted. While around 12 million serious crimes are annually reported across the nation, studies indicate the true incidence is nearly four times as great, over 40 million. Serious crime has risen in the United States by 70 percent in the last 10 years, while the population has grown 7 percent. The major reason: criminals play the odds. There is no certainty of capture; even less certainty of punishment. One New York City young tough put it succinctly: "On Baretta (an American TV police drama) they sing: 'Don't do the crime if you can't do the time.' Kids don't do time, so they do crime."

● AN EPIDEMIC OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS that forebodes a spiraling increase in crippled families and critical strains on welfare funds is generating nationwide worry among public officials in the United States. One American child in seven is now born out of wedlock, with the rate exceeding 50 percent among blacks for the first time. Nearly one out of three children born in New York City in 1976 was illegitimate, up from 6.7 percent in 1956. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr. calls the illegitimacy problem "one of the most serious and complex human problems facing our nation today." He described unwed mothers as casualties of the sexual revolution that began in the 1960s. Mr. Califano says this is not liberation, but a form of bondage for the mother, the child and society.

● DO-YOUR-OWN-THING MORALITY INCREASING. A recent survey found Americans increasingly confused about what's morally right and wrong. While rank permissiveness is still resisted by many, the Yankelovich Poll (an American opinion survey) found most people living their lives on a plane somewhere between the old and new morality. The popular attitude could be summed up as, "do your own thing, but don't violate my space." The heavy inroads of humanistic philosophy in modern institutions, including the churches, have taken a heavy toll on moral standards. The poll revealed most Americans are against all government regulations on sexual behavior. Seventy percent subscribed to the statement that "there should be no laws, either federal or state, regulating sexual practice." This included abortion and homosexuality. "America used to have ethical laws based in Jerusalem," said minister and black leader Jesse Jackson. "Now they are based in Sodom and Gomorrah, and civilizations rooted in Sodom and Gomorrah are destined to collapse!"

● EVOLUTION: NEW THEORY, SAME OLD FOLLY. Scientists are now talking of abandoning their search for evolutionary missing links between living creatures. The reason? They can't find any. If the long-standing "gradualist" view of evolution through the slow accumulation of small genetic changes were correct, one would expect to find fossil evidence of such changes. But no such intermediate forms have been found, and many scientists are finally admitting that they probably never existed in the first place. Instead, an alternate theory, "punctuated equilibrium" or "punctuationalism," has now arisen to explain the rather abrupt emergence of species throughout time. According to this idea, today's diversity of life has come about through sporadic leaps forward -- brief bursts of evolutionary activity -- by small, well-defined groups of creatures, interspersed with long periods of little or no change. It is interesting that no scientists have come forward suggesting it may have been creationism -- God's hand -- at work in the geologic record. Instead, since one theory of evolution has been found wanting, another theory of evolution has been substituted in its place.

LITERATURE YOU CAN USE LITERATURE YOU CAN USE LITERATURE YOU CAN USE



This Is the Life — Real Abundant Living!

Many religious people believe that one must give up most of the joys and pleasures, the fun activities of life, in order to please a God who wants us to be austere, serious and sober at all times. But that is not the case at all. The Bible plainly tells us that the fruits produced by real spirituality include joy and happiness. The true religion of God is not a long, oppressive list of *don'ts*; it is one of abundant joy and interest and happiness in daily living. Read in this article how to have this happiness in your life!

What Is Faith?

This is a faithless age. Most people are frantically seeking to satisfy their inner needs by purely materialistic means. Yet never have so many been so spiritually empty and miserable. Real faith brings answers to prayer and the inner peace and confidence necessary to cope with life in these trying times. This booklet explains what faith is and how *you* can have it.

Is All Animal Flesh Good Food?

In these days of worry about killer diseases — when every day it seems some new chemical agent or food additive is suspected of causing cancer — it is time to go back to the basics! Did God create all animals for human food, or are some kinds of meat unfit to eat? Could ignorance of this fact explain why so many are sick? This article reveals the plain instructions of the Bible in both Old and New Testaments. You and your family can begin to reap the benefits of obeying these important laws of health!

The Seven Laws of Success

The price of success, no matter how you define it, is the diligent application of certain basic laws. All who have succeeded have followed these laws outlined in *The Seven Laws of Success*. A section in the booklet is devoted to each of the seven basic laws that form a solid foundation for success in any field. This information is priceless, yet it's yours for the asking.

Should You Try to 'Convert' Others?

Do you have a loved one or friend who cares nothing about God or salvation and doesn't even like to talk about it? And have you wanted to somehow get that person interested in God, to convince him or her of the truths of the Bible? Most of us have felt such a desire. But, what should we do? What does God expect of us? This article explains. It will spare you a lot of disappointments and perhaps some strained friendships!

Managing Your Personal Finances

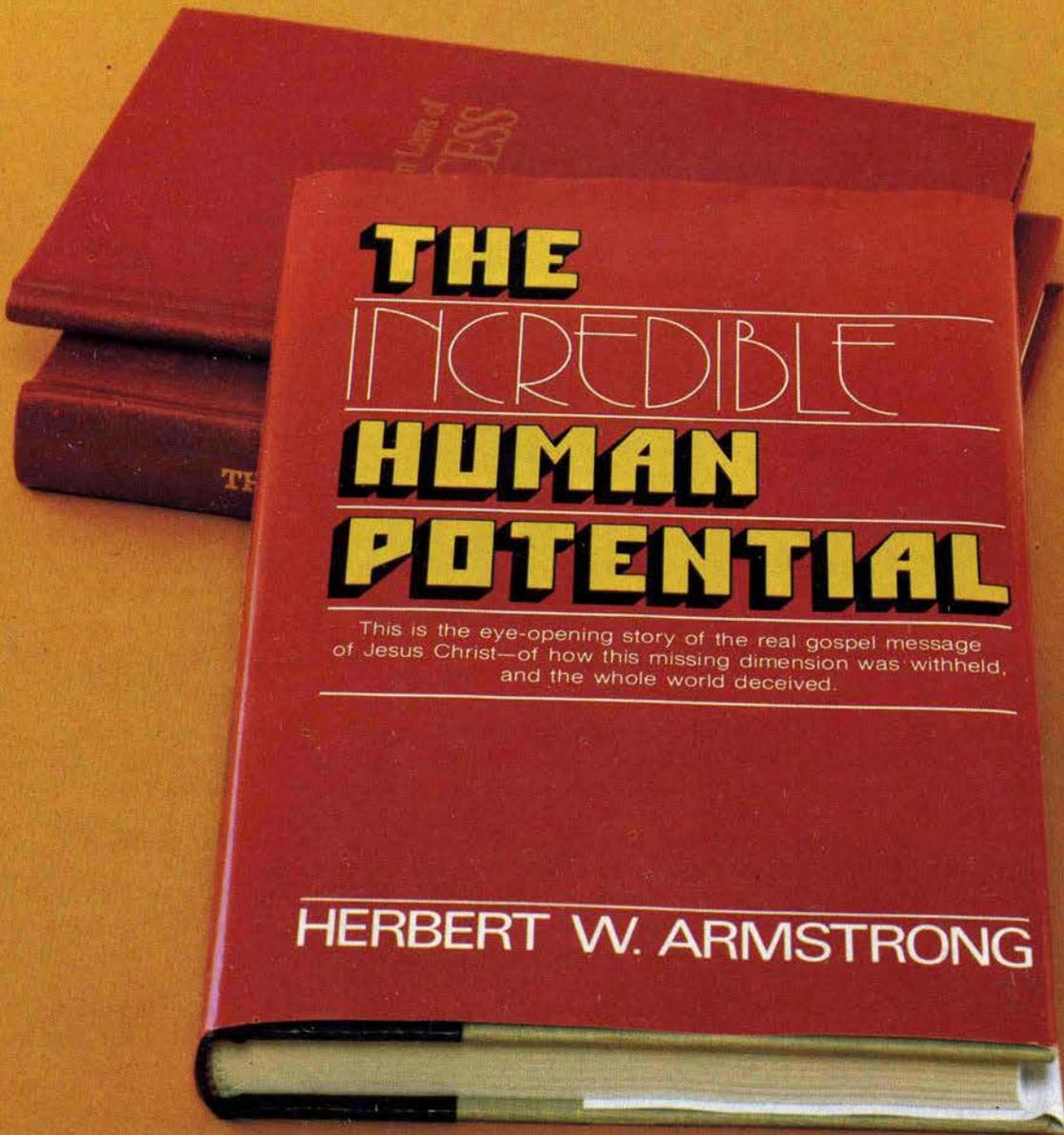
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