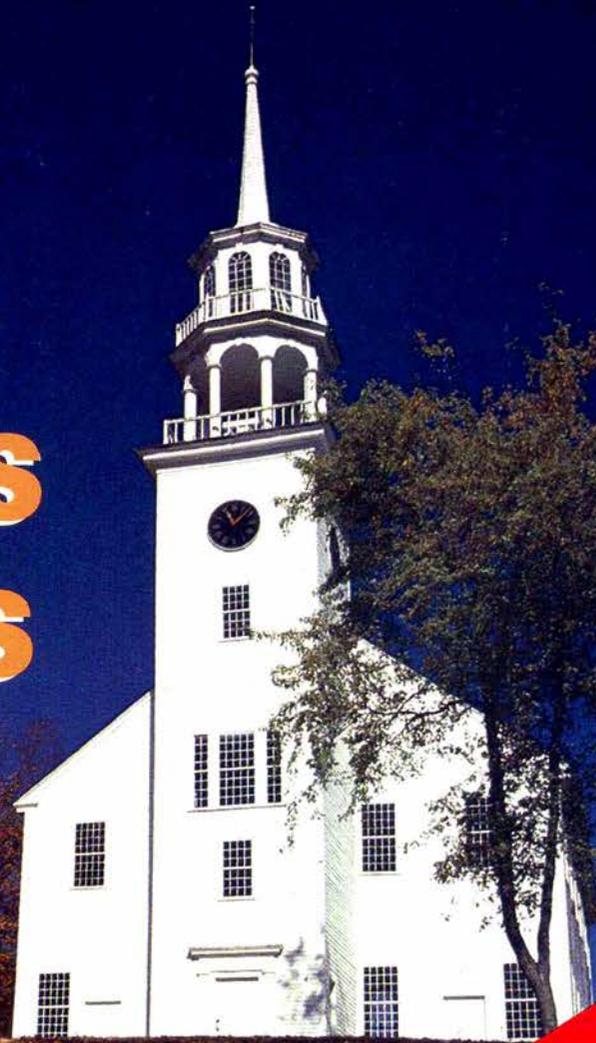


JUNE-JULY 1985

# The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

## The ROOTS of Today's Religions



**WHY Trials and  
Troubles?**  
By Herbert W. Armstrong

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OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

JUNE-JULY 1985

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**Proper Speech Begins at Home!**  
See page 9



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**COVER:** What's behind today's religious confusion? Why is Christianity so divided? The important article entitled "The Roots of Today's Religions," beginning on page 23, traces the development of today's religious system and shows you how to find the one true Church where God is really working today. Photo by Comstock.

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# WHY Trials and Troubles?

**D**o *YOU* have problems, difficulties, troubles?

Some seem to think *God's* people meet no trials or tests but are blessed with continual smooth sailing.

In my personal responsibilities in the conduct of this great, important, always growing work of God, I have not found it a smooth, easygoing road with no difficulties. I have encountered repeated trials, problems, tests.

There have been critical crises. There has been real persecution. There has been deliberate, vicious, lying, unprincipled misrepresentation. One enemy printed and circulated a list of 20 things he claimed I believed and taught — and I didn't believe or teach a single one of them.

In this work of God there has been deceitful, malicious, ruthless opposition. Obstacles have had to be hurdled frequently. Problems constantly require solution. It has required unwavering faith, perseverance, determination, constant prayer for guidance and reliance on God for both direction and protection.

Does the Bible teach smooth sailing for true Christians whom God is using? Did the men of God, whose lives pleased God, as recorded in the Bible, have only an easy time of it, or were they constantly meeting trials, tests, troubles of every sort — being continually forced to cry out to

God for deliverance? And *WHY*? Listen to God's own instruction:

"*MANY* are the afflictions of the *righteous*, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19).

"For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. . . . They are not in trouble as other men . . . behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches. . . . For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning" (Psalm 73:3-14).

"We must through *many tribulations* enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

"*All* who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus *will suffer persecution*" (II Timothy 3:12).

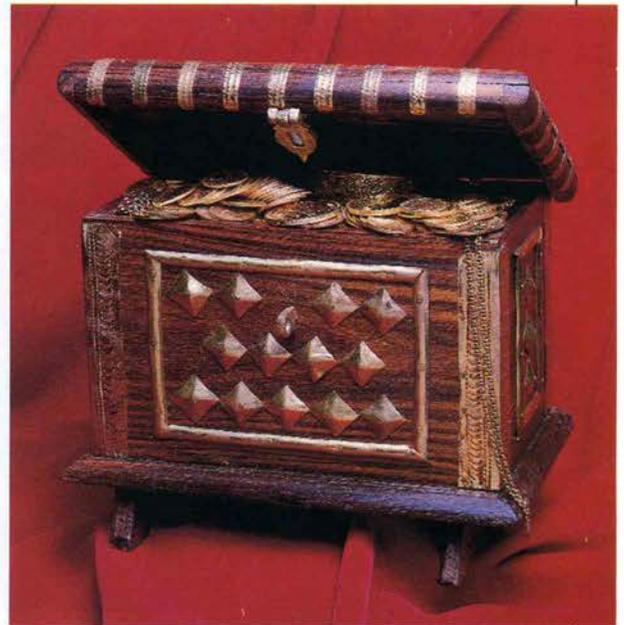
"If we *ENDURE*, we shall also reign with Him" (II Timothy 2:12).

"For as the *sufferings* of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if *we are afflicted*, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for *enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer*" (II Corinthians 1:5-6).

But is God unfair? Does He hate Christians and punish them, while He loves the ungodly and

prosper them? *Not at all!* There is great purpose in the trials the Christian must endure. For these are the very means of strengthening *CHARACTER* — of developing fine, upstanding, strong Christians.

God does not *bless the ungodly* with wealth — they acquire it



*More precious than gold*, genuine faith in God is irreplaceable in the Christian life. This faith is produced through trials and tests, preparing us for our awesome future in God's Kingdom.

usually in one or both of two ways: by setting their hearts and minds on acquiring it and following through this purpose to the exclusion of all else, until, without realizing it, the pursuit of  
(Continued on page 18)

# Is God Fair?

*Why has God permitted 6,000 years of human woe and suffering?*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**L**OOK AT THE WORLD TODAY! War, famine, pestilence! Poverty, inequality, hunger, want! Sickness, disease, suffering, death! Crime, graft, dishonesty, corruption! Insanity, degeneration, decay! Unhappiness, fear, wretchedness and woe!

How, so many are asking, can a supreme, all-powerful God of LOVE permit such human woe?

Why is He permitting civilization itself to crumble?

## Is God FAIR?

Listen! Some are saying, "God isn't fair!" — or, "Is there a God, after all?"

But what do you suppose people would say if God took away their right to think and do as they please? For God could never stop this awful carnage without FORCING people to act according to His will — denying them a free will of their own!

It is *man's ways*, so contrary to God's ways, that have brought on this unhappy state. And they have brought on all the world's sorrows and anguish *in spite of* the pleadings of God. He says, "Your ways are not my ways" (Isaiah 55:8).

God's ways, had they been followed, would have led inevitably to peace, happiness, prosperity and joy. God always has revealed to humanity His ways. Always He has pleaded with the human family.

Suppose God had taken the only alternative. Suppose He had

FORCED human beings, against their wills, to have lived according to His laws?

Can't you almost hear the defiant, rebellious, stiff-necked human race indignantly screaming at the Almighty, "You can't cram your religion down *my* throat!"

For it *is* a matter of religion. Can't we see that, had God followed that course, more than ever mankind would have shouted, "GOD ISN'T FAIR!"

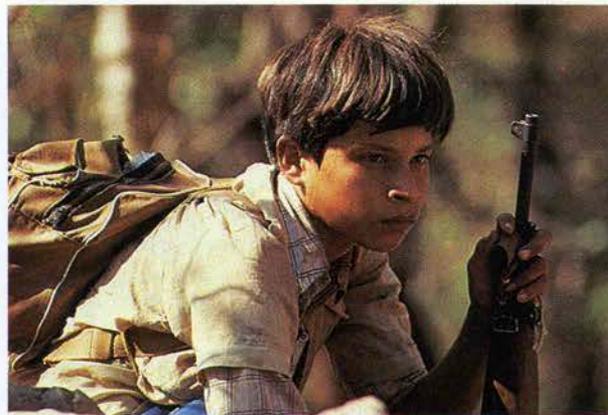
For 6,000 years men and women have lived in defiance of God's laws. Had God denied

them this right to be wrong, they would have accused God of injustice, demanding freedom to follow their own ways.

automatically by fiat — it must be developed through *experience!* Nor could character be instilled without free moral agency. To achieve this great purpose — that of producing the pinnacle of all God's creation, children of God having perfect holy, righteous character — human beings have to be *convinced*, of their own free will, that God's laws are JUST, and that His ways are the only right ways for mankind! Man must turn to them, voluntarily! This lesson could be learned *only by EXPERIENCE!*

In the beginning, Satan appeared to contest the wisdom of God's law. This law is, simply, LOVE for

*God's perfect way produces every good, yet God has not forced man to obey Him. Man needs to see the evil results of Satan's way.*



God and love for neighbor, as defined in the ten broad principles of the Ten Commandments. A fundamental, spiritual, eternal law. The philosophy Christ taught is that it is more blessed to GIVE than to receive.

But Satan argued for the GETTING way. Competition, he argued, is the lifeblood of activity. Self-desire provides incentive to endeavor. Vanity spurs to action. And so, in Satan's philosophy, self-desire, competition, strife provide the root principle

*Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work."*

Six thousand-year days have been permitted Satan for his labor of DECEPTION. Even then his dominion has been limited to the power of influence and suggestion. Never has God permitted even Satan arbitrarily to force men and women against their wills. And so for nearly 6,000 years humanity has been left free to accept the self-seeking, competitive philosophy of Satan, or to follow the golden, loving rule of

been able to GET, not on how well he or she has served.

God has never left humanity in ignorance of the TRUE way of life. Always He has made known the true values — the way of His spiritual law of love! Continually God has pleaded, with patience and in love. He pleaded through Noah in the days before the Flood. He set up a nation of His own on earth that pledged to follow His laws, dedicated voluntarily to God's way of life. But ancient Israel turned from God's ways, and persecuted and killed God's prophets!

God sent His only begotten Son to point men back to the true paths. And Him, too, men rejected and killed!

During these 6,000 years since Adam, human beings continually have spurned God's love, rejected His law, turned a deaf ear to His prophets and His true ministers. They have built a world after the false philosophy of Satan, replete with its pagan customs, traditions and beliefs.

Today people are hopelessly engulfed in these false ways, but, being deceived, realize it not at all!

Satan is revealed as the "GOD of this age." And this worldly civilization worships its GOD. The appalling fact unrealized by the world is that Satan, not the Eternal, is its god!

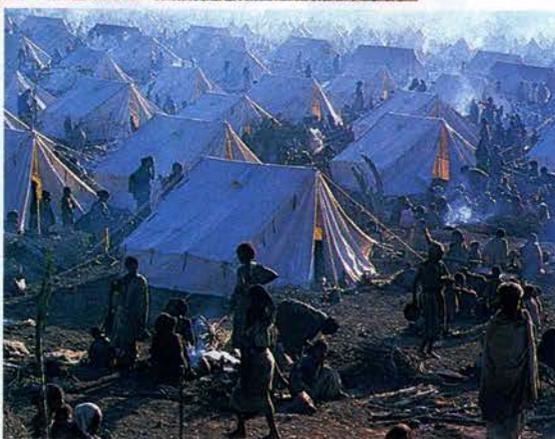
The Creator God "is not the author of confusion," we read in I Corinthians 14:33. Its real author is Satan, the world's god! And so he has his many

denominations and sects, all striving in a Babylon of confusion!

### The devil's WORK

There is just one thing, it seems, that most of Satan's ministers can agree upon. "God's LAW," they chorus in unison, "is DONE AWAY!" Yes, they have to tell that in order to draw their salaries!

Today the people of organized  
(Continued on page 19)



for accomplishment. The way of GETTING is the way of progress and advancement.

Had not God permitted this selfish way to be tried, tested and demonstrated, God's creatures could argue throughout eternity that they had been denied the better way.

### The devil's WEEK

And so God turned over to Satan the first six days of ONE WEEK, consisting of seven 1,000-year days, in which to demonstrate the falsity of this way — the way of greed.

During the first six days of this week of 7,000 years Satan was permitted to retain DOMINION over all the earth.

"Six days," God said, "you shall labor and do all your work" — his work of deception and hate — "but the SEVENTH day is the

God. And for 6,000 years Satan has labored. And mankind has fallen for his delusion!

Satan's philosophy is the philosophy of the world today. On it our present civilization has been built. A civilization human beings love and cherish, and for which they patriotically sacrifice their lives! A civilization developed on desire for self-gain, competition, strife! In its success is determined by HOW MUCH an individual has

# What Worries You?

*Surely, in this confused and hectic age, few subjects are more timely.*

By Clayton D. Steep

**W**hat is worrying you? What bothers you when you think about tomorrow — or next year — or five years from now?

Do financial problems loom on the horizon for you? Do you worry about your job, or the prospect of being unemployed?

How about your health or the health of your loved ones? Are you anxious because almost everything you eat these days is tainted or polluted in some way? Do you ever worry about what would happen if you had to deal with cancer or some other catastrophic illness? Does advancing age concern you?

What about your personal safety or the security of your possessions in this crime-ridden, accident-prone society? Do you fret about that? Does the specter of war or famine or earthquake or some other disaster distress you?

Are you anxious concerning relationships with other people



and how they might act or react toward you?

And at night, how well do you sleep? Do you lie awake for hours trying to sort out the cares that torment you? Or are you the kind of person who always sleeps soundly, but for whom sleep is the only reprieve from the worries that are ever ready to start anew moments after the alarm clock sounds?

What is it that lurks in the

background of your waking moments like a dark cloud, sometimes swelling to overwhelming proportions, sometimes receding, but always there, weighing on you, dampening the feeling of joy and peace you know you as a Christian should be experiencing?

Jesus advised — more than that, *commanded* — His followers, “Let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:1). What did He mean by that? Did He really mean what those words imply, that a Christian need not be troubled in heart or mind?

“Peace I leave with you,” He declared, “My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (verse 27).

If we are to understand Jesus literally, it must really be possible to be free from worry and anxiety. What is this peace Jesus spoke of?

## **Never forsaken**

To worry is futile, someone once said, for if you worry about

something and it doesn't happen, you've wasted time and energy; if you worry about something and it does happen, you have only prolonged the agony.

Well and good. Most people will agree with that. But simply acknowledging that worry is futile does not seem to help those who are plagued by it.

We humans have been given minds that can contemplate the future in great detail, whether it be five minutes, five years or five centuries from now. Because we are able to conceive of the future, we are able to worry about it — to be afraid that it may not turn out for our good. The element of the unknown — that which has not yet happened — produces dread and fear.

If only it were possible to be in control of all circumstances present and future, there would be no need to worry about them.

Of course, we don't have that power. But God does!

God proclaims: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

The future doesn't worry God. He is in control and He will see to it that His pleasure is accomplished. Nothing can stand in the way.

What is His pleasure? It is not selfish. Far from it. God experiences pleasure in giving. For instance, Jesus said, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

God wants us to inherit His Kingdom. That will give Him pleasure. When God allows trials or tests to come upon us in our personal lives, He is not trying to place obstacles in our path to keep us from the Kingdom. He is not trying to trick us or make us stumble. It is not His purpose to make things too difficult for us, to cause us to be discouraged, to give up.

Not at all!

God so strongly wants us to be in His Kingdom that He gave

what was of greatest value to Him: the life of His Son (John 3:16). Since He did that, why can't we have more confidence in His willingness and ability to finish the job — to bring us safely to the inheritance He has prepared for us? He is the Almighty, for whom nothing is too difficult (Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

Remember the ancient Israelites and how they let fear and anxiety get the best of them? When God brought them out of Egypt, the Israelites imagined that He did so not to bring them into the promised land, but to trip them up, to overwhelm them with trials, to let them die prematurely (Deuteronomy 1:27).

Did they worry! They fretted that the promised land would be too hostile, that the cities would be too fortified, that the giant inhabitants would be too huge to defeat. They worried about this and about that. They were a nation of worrywarts. This, in spite of the fact that God promised them the land was ready for the taking (verses 21, 29-31).

God didn't bring us out of modern spiritual Egypt to abandon us to some problem-filled, awkward existence where we are forced to live in today's society, but are not able to be part of it and that's as far as we go.

How shortsighted we sometimes are! If God brought us out of the evil system around us, it is because He really and truly wants to bring us all the way into the promised land. He is prepared to do anything and everything it takes to see that we arrive there safely.

Let Him do it!

### **God will supply our needs**

Our heavenly Father has promised to supply everything we need (Philippians 4:19). That doesn't necessarily mean everything we desire or think we need, though.

When it gets right down to it, we really have only one need in this life. That is to be more like God, so we can qualify to inherit eternal life. Everything else is of secondary importance.

Once a woman named Martha

invited Jesus into her house. This was a major occasion for her. Here was the very Messiah and, probably, at least several of His disciples under her own roof (Luke 10:38)!

Everything had to be just so, she thought. While Jesus was teaching spiritual truths to those listening, Martha was fretting about scores of details concerning the preparation and serving of the meal.

"And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me'" (verses 39-40).

Martha thought she needed to be engaged in the preparation of an elaborate meal. She thought she needed help. She was in a fluster, worrying about what would happen if this detail and that detail did not turn out as planned.

"And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her'" (verses 41-42).

Yes, one thing is needed: to learn God's ways. Anything else is secondary. Anything else can be taken away. Anything else is expendable.

What if God does allow financial problems to come upon us? We don't need affluence if it is necessary to go without it to develop godly character. We don't need perfect health if that would interfere with our Christian growth. We don't need many of the things we think we need exactly when we think we need them.

Oh, God wants us to have physical blessings — even some of the very ones we often worry about. But only as they contribute to our spiritual welfare.

You can't know whether something in your future plans will turn out the way you think it ought to turn out. No reason to

be anxious, though. Put the matter in God's hands and trust Him to do what is best. You have His unbreakable promise that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

You can't lose in a proposition like that. So why worry? Worry is actually a lack of faith that God knows what He is doing.

### One day at a time

The future is in God's hands. Let it stay there. You don't need to worry about what is going to happen tomorrow.

In what is frequently called the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus addressed the human tendency to worry. "I say to you," He declared, "do not worry about your life" (Matthew 6:25). Instead of being anxious about the things of this life, He said, we should concentrate on seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness, and God will take care of our physical needs (verse 33).

Do you really believe that? The apostle Paul wrote, "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (I Timothy 5:8).

The God who inspired Paul to

write that principle is Himself bound to fulfill it. God will most certainly provide for His own household. You can count on it! As long as you yield to Him, He will never forsake you, no matter what may happen in this life.

You can be "confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

We have the two greatest beings who exist on our side. How can we lose? Jesus said of His followers: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one" (John 10:28-30).

Jesus and His Father are in perfect agreement. They both want what is good for us. Who or what can stand against that? They are not going to let anything harmful happen to those who belong to them. What is it that you fear, that you worry about, that can possibly escape God's attention — that is too big for Him to handle?

In His "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus concluded His remarks about worry and anxiety

have are concerned, concentrate on today. Be thankful for this day and do the best with the opportunities it offers. Leave tomorrow in God's hands. Make all your plans for the future contingent upon whether God wills that events happen as you would like them to. As James wrote, "You ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'" (verse 15). That way, you need never be disappointed.

### "Worst-case" scenario?

Think for a moment of the worst things you have worried about happening. What are the eventualities you have dreaded most? If you remain faithful to God, what does it matter if they do in fact happen? Can that take eternal life away from you?

Can a catastrophic illness rob you of your salvation against your will? Can unemployment, accident, old age, earthquake or any disaster imaginable in your worst fears come between you and God?

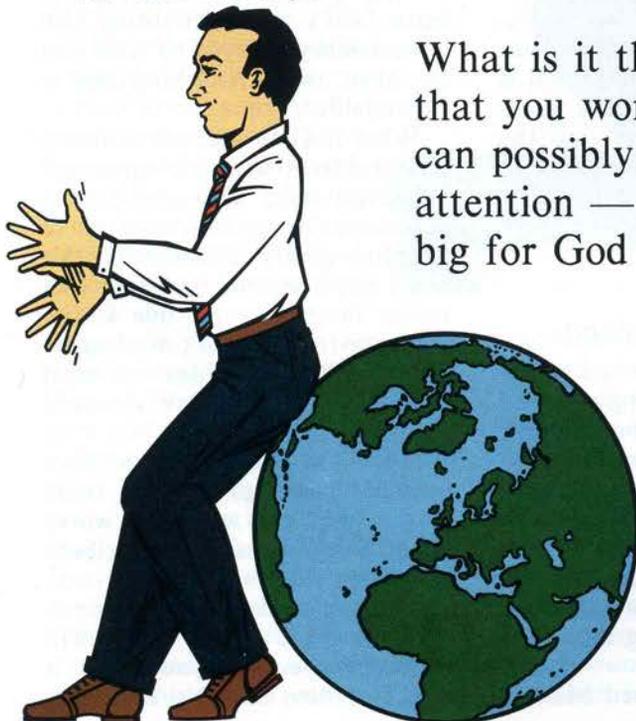
"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" No, a thousand times no! "Neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35, 38-39).

Press on with courage to the reward God has promised. The goal, the vision of being in His Kingdom, does not grow dimmer, less real, as each day goes by — no matter what that day may hold.

To the contrary, for those in Christ it becomes more real, more vivid, more imminent. Each day we can say, "Now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

Time is on our side. The future is ours. Victory is ours. Instead of worrying about the things of this life, let your heart be filled with joy and anticipation! □

What is it that you fear, that you worry about, that can possibly escape God's attention — that is too big for God to handle?



by giving a vital principle: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

In other words, as far as any preoccupations you may

# The Joy of Teaching Outside the Classroom

*How many realize that every one of us  
has opportunity to teach outside the classroom?*

By John A. Halford

“**W**hat a wonderful sight!” Richard Ames and I, both faculty members of Ambassador College, were standing on the stairs of the lobby of the Ambassador Auditorium, waiting for the procession that would start the annual graduation ceremony.

Before us were the young men and women who would shortly receive their diplomas. They looked so elegant — the men in formal suits, the women in long, white dresses and carrying bouquets of red roses.

It was this sight that prompted Mr. Ames’s remark.

I knew how he felt. Those students represented thousands of hours of teaching and counseling. Looking over the undergraduates as they waited expectantly, I recalled the times that I had spent with them.

Because Ambassador College is small and has a high faculty-to-student ratio, we can get to know our students personally. There were the brilliant students who had worked hard to graduate

with honors. There were also those who had really struggled just to make it through. They all



gave us special satisfaction.

We could see students from many different countries, for Ambassador College is an educational institution of a truly *Worldwide Church of God*.

There was the student from Africa who had such a hard time paying his bills when the economy collapsed at home. And the young woman from

France who “found ze English *grammaire* so *difficile*.” And over there was the Australian who had been so homesick for the first few months.

But they had all surmounted their difficulties, and now as they were about to graduate (or, as they so sensibly say in America, “commence” — it is really a beginning), we faculty could share their satisfaction.

Their success was our success. And I knew what Mr. Ames meant. They were a wonderful sight. Perhaps only their teachers appreciated just how wonderful.

## An important role

There are few things in this life as hard — or as rewarding — as teaching.

To pass on the things that you have learned so that others will know them and be able to enjoy them and use them, maybe even more effectively than you yourself have done — that is not something to be taken lightly.

It isn’t always easy. There are times of frustration, and there are the students who fail. You tend to take those failures personally. But then there is the thrill of seeing many of those that you have taught becoming successful.

I wish every reader of this magazine could share the feeling of accomplish-



ment that Mr. Ames, myself and all the faculty members of

Photos: Hal Finch, Nathan Faulkner

Ambassador College know each year at graduation. And you will one day!

### **Called to be teachers**

Jesus Christ called us all to be teachers. He instructed His apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Most of the people the apostles preached to were not willing to be taught at that time. One of those who *was* willing was a young man, Timothy, who had heard the apostle Paul teach. As he matured, Timothy became one of Paul's most trusted assistants. Paul gave him the responsibility of pastoring the church that had been raised up in the city of Ephesus.

In his second letter to Timothy, outlining his responsibilities, Paul told him, "The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2).

Let's look again at this instruction from the apostle Paul. He makes a most important point, not only to Timothy, but to you and me.

Timothy's job was to teach. Teach what? The things that he himself had been taught by Paul. Teach whom? Capable and faithful men. Why? So that they could go on and teach others also. Timothy's job, then, was to teach others to become teachers. It is the same today.

### **God is preparing teachers**

Through God's apostles, many have been taught, and they, in turn, have taught others. Somewhere in that progression of teaching you have come into contact with the truth of God.

Maybe it was from the *World Tomorrow* broadcast, or an article in *The Plain Truth*. Maybe it was contact with some person, or from the Correspondence Course, or perhaps even this magazine. Whatever it was, your interest was aroused, and you decided you

would like to learn more. God then began using His servants to teach you to grow in knowledge and understanding.

But it doesn't stop there.

Study, and particularly the study of the Bible, should never become just an end in itself. The reason why you should desire to learn is so that you yourself can one day teach others. The knowledge that you have gained by studying the truth of God is far too precious for you to keep all to yourself.

Jesus Christ regards the education He is giving you as an investment. He expects to be able to capitalize on that investment when the right time comes.

There are always people who want to be teachers before God is ready to give them that office. They try to launch themselves into the ministry, many times, or other positions of authority.

But God decides when you become a teacher. It is not something you take to yourself. It is, indeed, foolish to take it upon yourself, because unless God backs you up you are going to fail miserably and earn God's displeasure instead of qualifying for His reward.

Jesus Christ has chosen only *some* of the men that He has called in each age to become the teachers and ministers of His people.

Why? Because they are His favorites? So that He can leave the rest of His people feeling thwarted and inferior? Not at all.

### **Why teachers?**

Perhaps some in Timothy's church at Ephesus were becoming impatient. Notice what Paul wrote to them: "And He [Jesus Christ] Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

In other words, He called *some*

to teach so that *all* can succeed. God hasn't called everyone to be a teacher in this age. That would lead to confusion, something that God never creates (I Corinthians 14:33). He knows what He is doing.

God's plan is eventually to take mankind out of the clutches of Satan and undo the effects of 6,000 years of wrong education. He has chosen you to help Him do that. But not until He is ready, and not until you are ready.

When the time comes, God will send Jesus Christ back to the earth to take over the rulership of all the nations and begin to teach mankind how to live. At Christ's return God will resurrect those He has prepared and educated, and give them positions of rulership and service. Then they can help in the reeducation of the world. This will be the greatest challenge ever placed before a team of teachers, because the whole world has been led astray by Satan (Revelation 12:9).

### **The greatest teaching challenge**

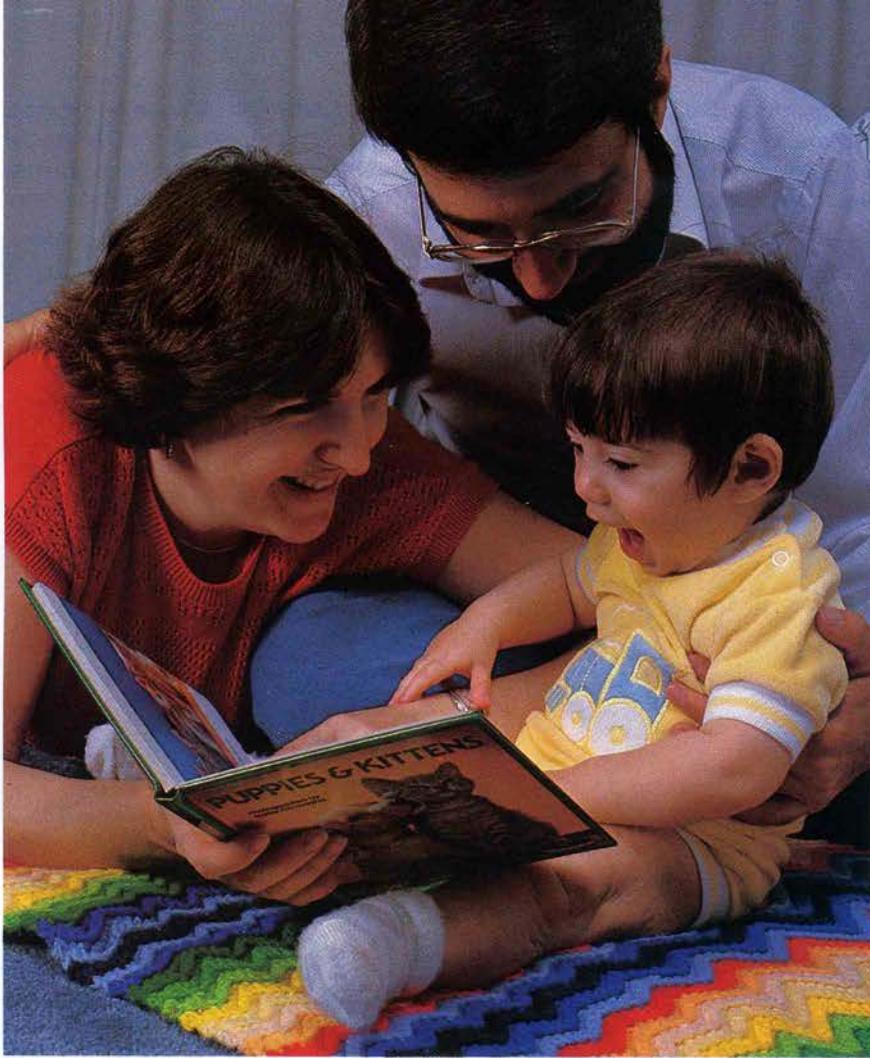
In the world tomorrow entire nations will come to Jesus Christ, asking to be taught a new way of life (Isaiah 2:3, Micah 4:2).

You, as a resurrected, immortal member of God's Family, may be sent back with them to their homelands to begin the process of education. It may take a long time. Some students are slower than others. Some peoples have degenerated a long way.

But your people will eventually succeed, for God is not willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9), and you as their teacher will be armed with the knowledge, the power, the ability, the patience and the love of God.

For the first time, people all over the world will learn how to be happy and live in peace. Families will learn how to get along. Men will discover how to be successful in their jobs and their personal lives. Women will learn how to be happy as wives and mothers. Children will grow up without the frustrations and setbacks that

*(Continued on page 19)*



# Proper Speech Begins at HOME!

*The marvel of speech development is this issue's focus as our series on early childhood education continues.*

By Joan C. Bogdanchik

“Da-da, da-da,” the baby babbles. The parents become ecstatic.

“Did you hear that, Honey? Did you? Robert just called me!”

New parents are thrilled. They are as enthralled with their child's first vocal glides as — or perhaps even more than — the baby is with their words. Parents yearn for their child to speak as they watch him or her grow in size and ability.

## The wonder of it all

One of the wonders in the growth process that continually amazes parents is the development of speech.

Speech development is so vital to life and interfacing with others that God planned vocal expression to begin immediately at birth.

With the first cry of the newborn, beginning skills directly involved in the talking process come into play. Then the sucking and swallowing movements of feeding continue to build this skill.

Air, the breath of life, plays a monumental role in speech.

By the end of the first month, parents find that baby can be calmed by their soothing voices. Besides crying now, he makes additional sounds. He sighs and grunts in his throat. He is getting more muscular control.

He has been listening to his parents and their tone of voice. He is making associations — he is learning that speech has a definite, important meaning in the world he has entered.

In earlier articles in this series, we covered the importance of speaking. Speaking often to the baby from birth is vital. When done often and correctly, parents seed the ground for an abundant harvest of words to be used in fine sentences later on.

From baby's cries, grunts, coos, crows and whimpers come babbles in repeated syllables. He enjoys them and repeats his creations. Great vocal experimenta-

Photos by Hal Finch

tion takes place now! Parents note inflections in their child's beginning efforts. His sounds rise and fall according to pleasure or dissatisfaction at the moment. It is important for parents to approve, for then he babbles all the more. The babbles have a definite rhythm.

A child grows into understanding new words, but, please remember, *at the child's own rate*. Many factors enter, such as health, family history, hearing difficulties or other problems.

The original "da-da" or "ma-ma" is not usually considered talking, as these are just sounds made by the infant in vocal exper-

imentation. Real talking usually begins at the second year of life, after he has spent the first year hearing, listening to tones and

words, associating sounds, names, objects and situations with meaning. For true talking must have a meaning or purpose, just as true



**H**ow many times have we heard the expression, "Practice what you preach!"? Many parents prefer this one: "Do what I say, not what I do!"

What kind of parents are we? The training we give our children is only as effective as we are by our examples. Much of what they learn comes from what they see and hear us do and say. What kind of example are we setting in our speech?

It's often said that words are cheap, but the truth is that words can exact a high price — not so much in monetary currency as in the currency of an uneasy conscience, an undying quarrel or a family disagreement.

As long as words remain unspoken, we are masters of them, but once spoken, our words can master us. The apostle James certainly did not think words were cheap. Take time to read James 3:5-8.

Proverbs 15:1 refers to the healing power of words: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." One whose words are charged with hate and anger may well be overcome by an unexpectedly calm and modest reply. He does not anticipate that his cutting remarks could be answered in such a soothing, healing manner.

#### "A word fitly spoken"

Proverbs 25:11 comments, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." When our words are spoken at the appropriate time, they possess great appeal. That is when they are most likely to be heard and acted upon.

A person is known by his or her words. Just as dirty words reveal a

dirty mind, so clean words reveal a clean mind and a pure, clean heart. And what a positive effect a parent's use of language can have on a child! "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34).

Grunts, abbreviated expletives and vulgarities are not symbols of clean and honorable Christian living. If you are forced to hear such words every day on your job, you must be careful not to allow them to stay long in your mind. Swearing, bathroom terms, profanity and wrong uses of God's name have no place in our vocabulary or that of our children.

#### Abusing God's name

The common abuses of God's name are obvious to any true Chris-

tian, and he will zealously avoid using or thinking them. But other, more subtle, vain uses of God's name can creep into our language, and we should just as diligently guard against them. These wrong words and phrases are euphemisms substituted for blatant misuses of God's name, but are just as wrong.

Consider, for instance: Oh, gosh! Golly! Egad! Geez! They may sound innocent enough at first, but think about them a moment and it's obvious that they really are slang expressions for God's name. Be sure your children are aware of the double meaning of these common words.

#### Acceptable speech

In Ephesians 4:29, Paul gives four standards we can use to change our

# Language: Hallmark of Character

By Dexter H. Faulkner

reading must. It is not merely parroting words. Both talking and reading need life experiences to have meaning and be effective.

Hearing and listening must precede true speaking. Hearing and the process of talking work closely together. A baby both hears and begins the speaking process from — and, in a real sense, before — birth. Air, used in speech, is also used in transmitting waves of sound into our ears, where they are changed into electrical waves carried to the brain.

We are indeed “wonderfully made,” and babies are tremendous evidence. That this little

bundle of humanity can learn so much in so short a time is miraculous! Parents must continually create the right environment for speech development by talking, providing activities and making proper materials available. They should help their child enjoy sounds and enrich his life with clear, pleasant and effective speech.

### Developing speech patterns

Following the child's first true words, which usually occur at between 10 and 18 months of age, repeating the parents' words and a lot of “words” of his own making that serve as a kind of bridge, the child moves on to phrases. These are groups of words that begin to have meanings but are not always clear, as pronunciation is in the developmental stage. The child can be further helped here by parental conversation.

At age 2 a child can be using 200 recognizable words. Parts of speech begin to emerge. Parents may think the child's first acquaintance with grammar and language construction will come at school, but no! Proper — or improper — use of speech begins much earlier, at home.

It is puzzling at first. Think of it: The child has to learn verbs, tenses, singulars and plurals, prepositions and later conjunctions, all the while steadily increasing the vocabulary by connecting words to life experiences. He is also copying the speech patterns of his family. Speech habits are learned from parents. Mother, especially, has a big role here.

### What about speech problems?

Speaking is a complex skill. The movement of the speaker's lips, tongue, larynx, jaws and teeth must take place precisely and in correct order, and it all must be done in fractions of a second. At the same time, mental processes of forming ideas must be taking place.

It is so important that a child have much time to practice and use his speech! It is like an adult learning a new language. Statis-

tics show that nearly a million children in the United States alone are seriously handicapped in the area of speech, and the problem is international in scope. Speech-handicapped children make up the largest single group in special-education programs in our schools.

Speech problems are rooted in a variety of causes:

Hearing may be impaired, which could cause a child to perceive sounds in distortion or not at all. Articulation problems then result — he cannot imitate what he has not heard.

A cleft palate may make it difficult to build up enough air pressure inside one's mouth. The sounds of *p*, *b*, *d*, *g*, *t* and *k*, which are explosive sounds, cannot be made easily.

Dental abnormalities may prevent or hinder a youngster's proper placement of lips or tongue to make certain sounds. Frequent thumbsucking can alter the shape of the mouth.

Injuries to the brain may cause difficulty in controlling the muscles or memory required for speech. Mental handicaps, emotional shock and bilingual conflicts may enter (though many children have no difficulty with two languages).

Stuttering (also termed stammering) is a speech disorder in which interruptions of speech flow occur. These interruptions can be prolonged, blocked or repeated. The speaker may not be aware of them initially.

When we bring the problem to the speaker's attention by our reaction of negativity, he can react by struggling. He could then avoid or postpone speaking. His fear of talking now makes the situation worse.

Stammering may make its appearance in the preschool years of 3 to 5, when the child is developing speaking ability. But it can occur later. Stammering can be associated with shock or it can occur gradually. It is believed that stammering most often occurs when a child is pushed into speaking before really being ready or able to make complete

old speech patterns for acceptable ones. What are these standards? Paul instructs us, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Notice:

- First, what we say must be wholesome, be of some value, have a richness and have some redeeming quality.

- Second, what we say must build up, not tear down or destroy. Even corrective comments should be said in uplifting ways. Our motive should be to edify the listener.

- Third, what we say must need to be said at the time when we say it. If a person is not ready or willing to listen, or if you would merely be saying “I told you so,” what you say is not needful.

- Fourth, and most important, what we say must give grace and mercy to those who hear. Our words should contribute to others' happiness, be worth repeating and be said with the proper tone. And, it should be pleasing to anyone who accidentally overhears — our children, unconverted mates or relatives.

Remember, our speech is one way to let our light shine to others, especially our children. Our example is one of the strongest influences on their development.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). Our language is a hallmark of our character, and language will reflect the depth of character our children have, too.

If we realize the force words can have, our lives will be easier and more rewarding. □

sentences. Forcing a child to use the right hand when he prefers the left may also be a contributing factor.

Be aware, though, that a period of nonfluency in your child's speech is normal. This is when a child hesitates in completing or organizing thoughts. Stammering is different. Here he has trouble *speaking* ideas. He can repeat starts of words.

Parents should do all they can to make the young stammerer *unaware* of the difficulty. Listen to *him* and what he is saying, not *how* he talks. Reduce as many stresses as you can. Speak clearly in short sentences. In this way he has a much better chance to overcome stammering as he grows.

### **Surprising cause of speech problems**

Most speech problems are not caused by physiological or neurological disorders. About 75 percent of speech defects occur in children who have the ability to reproduce sounds in language correctly, but do not! Faulty training and faulty learning are to blame.

Some children omit and some substitute sounds. Others distort or add unnecessary sounds.

Some parents become comfortable with the sounds their child makes and are not aware of these problems until they are pointed out by teachers at school or by the child's playmates.

Other children have no need to learn to talk. Their parents or older brothers and sisters do all the talking for them!

Be aware of this. Give the child a chance to speak for himself. A child not stimulated to speak can have difficulty developing the skills needed for it.

A child's speech can show, to lesser or greater degree, patterns of shyness or aggressiveness. Some children, because of their own shyness or overprotectiveness by their parents, find it difficult to be apart from their parents. They may not try to reach a mature level of speech. There could be other reasons, too. The child may have a temporary hear-

ing loss and perhaps is not hearing certain consonants. He may jumble syllables, displaying difficulty in perception. A child, too, may revert to baby talk when a new baby enters the family.

### **Children need help**

All children need help in developing speaking skills. It is necessary that the child talk freely. He must not be made to feel defeated by continual correction of mispronounced words, especially if he is simply not yet able to repeat them correctly.

Present a given sound in isolation. Prolong that sound when speaking. Help your child develop awareness. Make sure, of course, that you are producing the sound correctly.

A child enjoys sounds — and grows. He learns best in a warm, secure, relaxed atmosphere. Then he is able to make maximum utilization of all senses. And all senses enter into play:

The lips must be spread in certain ways to produce the sounds of *m*, *b* and *p*. These are usually learned early.

The lips must be in a slight smiling position for *s*. *S* is the most misarticulated sound in the English language. You can help him say it by not letting the tip of his tongue show behind nearly closed teeth as he says *sssss*. The tongue is behind the lower front teeth.

Air going over the tongue in a "slushy" manner causes a lisp. Exercises can help to send the air centrally out of the mouth. A small hand mirror can help as the child "sees" his sound. Let him put his hand near your mouth, too.

The tongue must rise for *l*, *t* and *n*. Unless the tongue is very tight, the child can adapt.

Besides being useful for breathing and smelling, the nose helps our speech sounds of *m*, *n* and *ng*. It is a sound box.

Rhymes and songs, especially the refrains, enable a child to participate distinctly, because the rhymes demand it. Humor in them will cause the child to want to say them over and over. It can

help to have your child repeat poems and songs that contain letters and sounds with which he is having difficulty.

This positive, loving encouragement brings the child such joy that "speech-correction anxiety" isn't hindering progress. He should begin responding at the level he should be on. Don't push the child because of your anxiousness. If your child detects that you're anxious — and he will if you are — it may hinder speech growth.

Have fun with oral language. Bring your child into conversations. Ask about what he has done that day. Play word games using categories of items. Repeat sounds in nature. Provide toy animals and practice making their sounds.

Syllable games are excellent for listening, speaking and reading training. First explain how to count syllables (red, 1; ba-by, 2). Play on! Add words with more syllables as your child grows in understanding. Make these games, not exercises.

Practice in creative thinking takes place when you start a story and have your child add the next development. This fires imagination. Play games with storybook characters. Give clues. Have your child guess what character it is. This is good recall practice and shows how well your child has listened, infused thoughts and can speak information in words and sentences.

### **Make speech fun**

Respect your child as a speaker. He may be conveying to you more than you realize. A child is proud of his accomplishment and thrives on praise. He is learning to put his mind and mouth in gear together. He wants his family to understand what he is saying.

Voice quality will be growing. It will reflect his family and his personality.

Make speech fun! Keep your approach warm, pleasant and purposeful, but relaxed and unpressured. If you do, both you and your child will know and show that speech is surely special. □

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Are we headed for a time of worldwide catastrophes? Is this what Jesus meant in Matthew 24:8, when He said: "All these are the beginning of sorrows"?**

Bible prophecy not only speaks of a time of chaos affecting all nations, but it singles out the peoples of the United States, Britain and other areas of the English-speaking world.

God, through the pen of the prophet Ezekiel, forewarned that fully two thirds of our people will perish by catastrophic warfare and disease: "One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them [captivity and slavery]" (Ezekiel 5:12).

Ezekiel never reached the peoples of ancient Israel with this prophecy. They had gone into captivity more than 100 years before his time. This prophecy is for our peoples, the descendants of the House of Israel, today!

The clear proof of our national identity is revealed in our startling book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. You may have a free copy by writing to our address nearest you.

Why is this national destruction to come upon our lands? "Because you have not lived by my laws nor followed my orders but have followed the practices of the nations around you, therefore — it is the sentence of the Lord the Eternal — I am against you, I am; I will inflict punishment upon you" (verses 7-8, Moffatt).

God, who controls all events and would intervene on our behalf if we turned in repentance to Him, is going to allow disasters to teach us once and for all that it doesn't pay to transgress the laws He gives us for our good.

God told our forefathers, after He had rescued them from the

slavery of Egypt, that if they were obedient to His laws, He would bless them greatly. Disobedience, on the other hand, would bring nothing but drought, misery, hunger and every frightful curse. Read it for yourself in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

Most Bible prophecy is dual. The horrible penalties of disobedience listed in these two chapters not only are prophetic for the near future, but they were inflicted upon ancient Israel when they rebelled against God.

One account of ancient Israel's destruction has been preserved for us by the Greek historian Dionysius, a native of Halicarnassus. Born around 54 B.C., Dionysius went to Rome about 30 B.C. He specialized in the study of the early peoples who dwelt on and controlled the sea routes of the Mediterranean.

Our ancestors anciently controlled the sea. For that reason Dionysius called the ancient Israelites who settled on the shores of the Mediterranean "sea peoples" — *pelasgians* in Greek.

Note what Dionysius says about these people: "The Pelasgians" — the ancient Greek name for the House of Israel — "after conquering a large and fertile region, taking over many towns and building others, made great and rapid progress, becoming populous, rich and in every way prosperous. Nevertheless, they did not long enjoy prosperity, but at the moment when they seemed to all the world to be in the most flourishing condition they were visited by divine wrath, and some of them were destroyed by calamities inflicted by the hand of heaven, others by their barbarian neighbors. . . ."

"The first cause of the desolation of their cities seemed to be a drought which laid waste the land [notice Leviticus 26:19, 26, Deuteronomy 28:24 and Joel 1:12], when neither any fruit remained on the trees till it was ripe, but

dropped while still green [Deuteronomy 28:40], nor did such of the seed corn as sent up shoots and flowered stand for the usual period till the ear was ripe, nor did sufficient grass grow for the cattle [Joel 1:18]; and of the waters some were no longer fit to drink, others shrank during the summer, and others were totally dried up [verse 20].

"And like misfortunes attended the offspring both of cattle and of women [Deuteronomy 28:18]. For they were either abortive or died at birth, some by their death destroying also those that bore them; and if any got safely past the danger of their delivery, they were either maimed or defective or, being injured by some other accident, were not fit to be reared.

"The rest of the people also, particularly those in the prime of life, were afflicted with many unusual diseases and uncommon deaths [verses 35, 60-61]. . . ."

"And there began to be disorderly emigrations, such as might well be expected from a people driven forth by a frenzy and madness inflicted by the hand of heaven [verse 28]. . . ."

"Many, also under specious pretences, were being driven away by their enemies through hatred; so that there were many emigrations and the Pelasgian nation was scattered over most of the earth [verse 64, Leviticus 26:33]."

There you have the amazing, detailed account of what happened to Israel of old. The same punishments are to fall on our peoples around the world today!

If the nations as a whole will not repent, *you* as an individual can be spared. Repent of disobedience to God's laws. Obey Him in every way as truth is revealed to you. Only in this way can you expect God's protection as mighty forces are unleashed in full fury in the months and years immediately ahead. □

# Are the Ten Commandments in Force Today?

*Have the Ten Commandments been replaced by some new commandment? Have only part of the Ten Commandments been approved in the New Testament? Have some been altered or changed? Here is the surprising answer from inspired New Testament scriptures.*

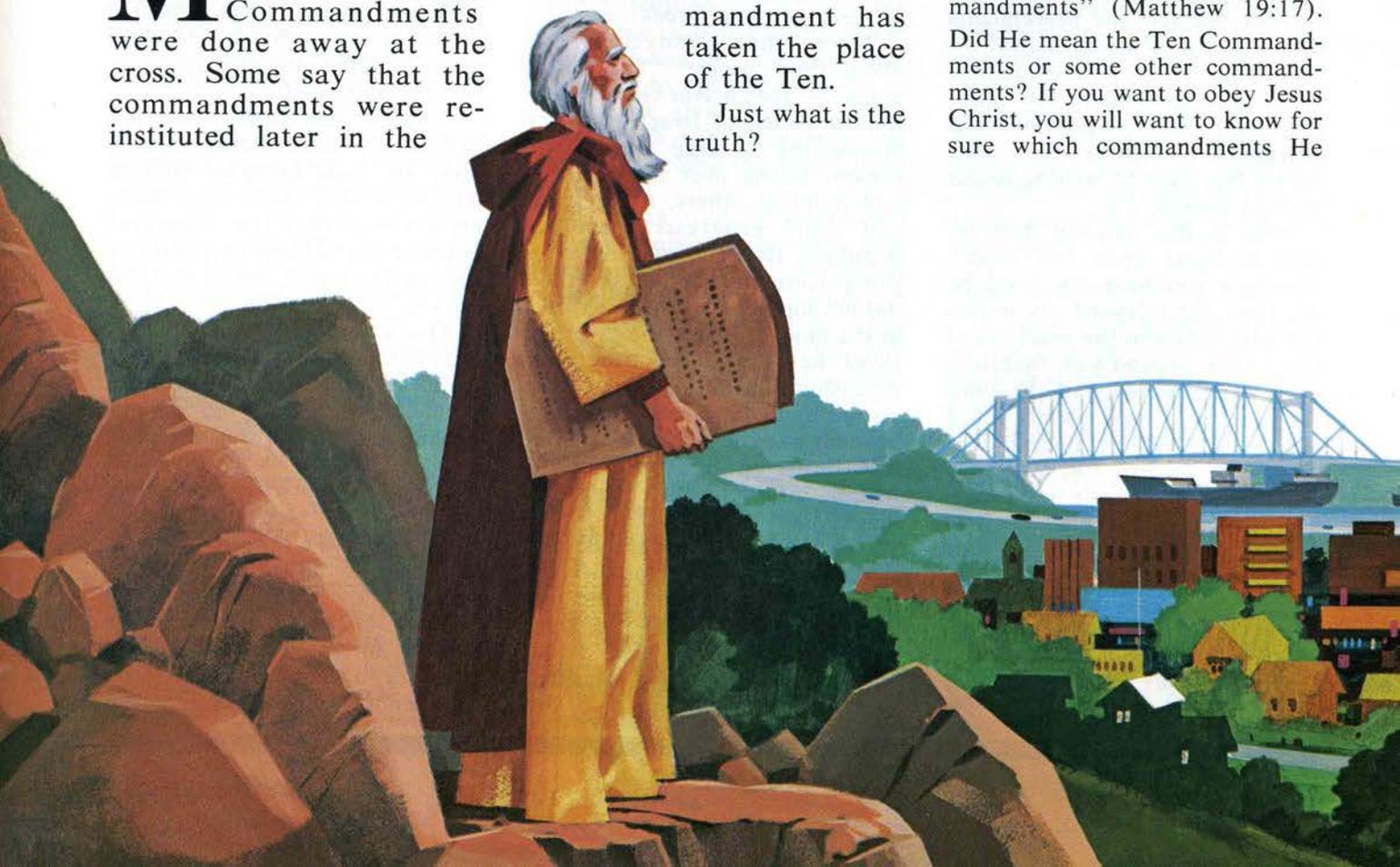
By L. Leroy Neff

**M**any people believe that all of the Ten Commandments were done away at the cross. Some say that the commandments were re-instituted later in the

New Testament. Others believe that a new commandment has taken the place of the Ten.

Just what is the truth?

Jesus said, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). Did He mean the Ten Commandments or some other commandments? If you want to obey Jesus Christ, you will want to know for sure which commandments He



was referring to. Your eternal salvation is at stake!

There is no reason for confusion. The Scriptures will show the truth if you diligently search for God's inspired answer.

### Which commandments?

The young man who was speaking to Jesus had the same question we are asking. "He said to Him, 'Which ones?'" (Matthew 19:18). In answer Jesus quoted five of the Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20:

"Jesus said, 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother'" (verses 18-19).

He then summed up these five commandments by saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (verse 19).

The five commandments Jesus mentioned concern our relationship with our neighbors. They cover murder, adultery, stealing, lying and honor to parents.

Obviously, when Jesus used the word *commandments*, He was referring to the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Even though Jesus mentioned half of the Ten Commandments here, someone might suppose that things changed after the cross. To make sure, we ought

to see if the other New Testament writers mentioned all or just part of the commandments.

We will see if all 10 commandments are found in the words of Jesus and, in addition, the letters of the apostles, particularly the writings of Paul, the apostle to the gentiles.

We cannot love God properly if we do not love our neighbor, so let us see if the last six commandments concerning our neighbor are reiterated.

### Love your neighbor as yourself

The Fifth Commandment from Exodus 20 states: "Honor your father and your mother" (verse 12). We have already read what Jesus said in Matthew 19:19: "Honor your father and your mother."

Did Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, mention this commandment in his writings?

He most certainly did. He repeated it almost word for word, and in addition explained the spiritual intent and purpose of this law: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). Paul's next statement quotes the Fifth Commandment, adding that this is the first command with promise (verse 2).

The Sixth Commandment,

against committing murder, has already been given by Jesus in Matthew 19:18: "You shall do no murder." He explained the spiritual intent and purpose of this command in Matthew 5:21-22: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

This command is therefore more binding in its spiritual intent in this New Testament time than it ever was before.

Jesus Christ was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah proclaiming that the Christ, when He came, would "magnify the law" (Isaiah 42:21).

Paul repeated this command in Romans 13:9. It is still a sin to murder another human being.

The next command forbids adultery. Many people want to do away with this command today. But Jesus showed that it is more encompassing now than before the New Testament period. He also emphasized its importance and the spiritual application of this law today when He said that it is wrong now even to lust: "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with

Illustration by Ken Tunell



her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). Paul repeated this same command and showed that it was still binding even on the gentiles (Romans 13:9).

The Eighth Commandment prohibits stealing. Jesus said, “You shall not steal” (Matthew 19:18), and this same command is repeated word for word by Paul in Romans 13:9. He said, “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good” (Ephesians 4:28).

The Sixth through the Tenth commandments are all given in Romans 13:9: “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Notice that Paul agreed with Jesus and summed up the keeping of the last six commandments by stating that this is the way to love our neighbor (verse 10).

#### How to love God

If it is sin to violate one of these last six commands, which show how to love fellowman, then it surely must be sin to violate any of the first four, which explain the right way to love God. Certainly our relationship to God is more important than our relationship with other people.

God said, “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). Jesus showed plainly that this command is still in effect when He rebuked Satan: “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve”’” (Luke 4:8).

This command against idolatry is mentioned many times elsewhere in the New Testament. Notice Paul’s instruction to the church at Corinth, in I Corinthians 10:7: “And do not become idolaters as were some of them [the ancient Israelites].”

The Second Commandment,

which prohibits the worship of or bowing down before images, is given in detail by Paul in Romans 1:18-25. In this place he shows that the pagan philosophers, who knew God, did not worship Him as God. Instead they began to worship the things that they made with their hands. These people were violating the command of God against making images and then using them in their religious worship.

Jesus taught that God is a spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), not through idols, or the things made by man.

The Third Commandment prohibits the use of God’s name in vain. It is often referred to as a sin of blasphemy. This sin is mentioned several times, including

name of God] depart from iniquity [iniquity is sin, and sin is the transgression of God’s Ten Commandments — I John 3:4].”

#### Is the Sabbath forgotten?

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8) is the Fourth Commandment — and the one most people have forgotten! This is the command that many people falsely claim was forgotten and left out of the New Testament.

Is it reasonable that God would have left out any of the Ten Commandments in the New Testament when David said these commands “stand fast forever and ever” (Psalm 111:7-8)?

The Fourth Commandment is shown plainly to be in the New Testament. Have you ever read

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**Many religious teachers today will not keep God’s commandments and, for that matter, teach that we are under a curse if we do keep them. They claim that they know Christ. Christ says differently!**

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Paul’s statement in Colossians, 3:8: “But now you must also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”

Jesus showed that this commandment and several of the others are still in force today by the following teaching: “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders [Sixth Commandment], adulteries, fornications [both of these last two are included in the Seventh Commandment], thefts [Eighth Commandment], false witness [Ninth Commandment], blasphemies [Third Commandment]” (Matthew 15:19).

There are many additional scriptures that plainly show that these commands are still in effect. The most thought-provoking of these is found in II Timothy 2:19: “Let everyone who names the name of Christ [that is, calls himself a Christian — taking the

this inspired scripture? “It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath” (Hebrews 4:9, *New Testament from Aramaic*, Lamsa).

You probably have not known about this important scripture before, because the Authorized translation of the Bible, along with certain others, has failed to show the real meaning of this verse. The original Greek writings and some marginal renderings make it clear. Notice it in the Authorized translation: “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.” The Revised Authorized Version gives a similar translation.

This chapter tells of the *millennial rest* to come for God’s people who are faithful and inherit the promises of God. A “rest” is mentioned several times before verse 9. The Greek word for “rest” in the first part of this chapter is *katapausin*; however,

in verse 9 the word *rest* comes from an entirely different Greek word, *sabbatismos*. This word literally means, as most margins show, "keeping of a sabbath."

The Sabbath rest each week is a memorial of creation and a picture of the soon-coming millennial rest.

Correctly rendered, this verse reads, "There remaineth therefore the keeping of the Sabbath to the people of God."

Notice these points about this verse: This keeping of the Sabbath remains. It is not forgotten or done away or nailed to the cross. And it remains for the people of God. The rest of the world has forgotten that it still remains.

If it still remains, then it is still holy to God. We ought therefore to remember it and keep it holy as God has always commanded.

This day pictures the rest that God had on creation week and therefore honors the fact that He is Creator. It also foreshadows that He is soon going to bring a millennium of peace, the seventh thousand-year period, to this world. The government of this world will then fall and Jesus Christ will establish His government over all the world.

The command to keep the Sabbath today is also proved by several other scriptures. Paul instructed us to follow him as he followed Christ (I Corinthians 11:1). Peter also told us that we ought to walk as Christ walked (I Peter 2:21). The apostle John said the same thing in I John 2:6.

Christ always kept the Sabbath! It was His custom (Luke 4:16), and He was continually showing His disciples and the religionists of that time the proper way to keep it. He showed this by the perfect example He set.

The disciples were to follow His example and teach others the same things. His parting instruction was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have com-

manded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20, AV).

This makes it plain that His commands, including the Sabbath, are to be observed today.

Paul followed Christ in always keeping the Sabbath (Acts 17:2) and taught the gentiles as well as the Jews on the Sabbath (Acts 13:42, 44, 18:4).

Several other New Testament scriptures, particularly in the book of Acts, show plainly that the Church, as it started out, kept the Sabbath. Sunday on the other hand, was always a work day. Jesus said that He was Lord of the Sabbath, not Lord of Sunday (Luke 6:5). Sunday is *not* the Lord's day, and it never has been, contrary to many cherished beliefs.

For further information about this command, write for our free booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

#### **A new commandment**

We have not seen that each of the Ten Commandments is commanded in the New Testament.

But what about the "new commandment" that Jesus and the apostle John spoke of? Just what was this new commandment, and does it abrogate or do away with the Ten Commandments?

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34).

People assume that all we have to do is "love" one another. Then they interpret "love" to mean that they do not necessarily have to obey God's commandments. They take for granted that love is just affection.

They do not realize how much Christ loved His disciples. He had the kind of love described in I Corinthians 13, the kind that always obeys God's Ten Commandments. He had the kind of love that caused Him to instruct His disciples, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14).

That is the kind of love that Christ was talking about when

He told His disciples about the new commandment.

Yet how could this be a new commandment when Israel in ancient times was commanded plainly to love God and neighbor (Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18)?

Notice II John 5: "And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another." Love is ever new and yet old.

That kind of love that Jesus and John spoke about is not just affection.

People today have come to think that lust is love. Lust is getting, but love is giving and serving others in the way defined by God. The first four commandments define the way to show love to God, and the last six show the way to express love to neighbor.

Any other way is not love at all, but is only lust, greed and selfishness. The commandment of love is therefore not only the one that was given at the beginning of Christ's ministry to His disciples, but also a way of life given to the first man, Adam.

This kind of love is further affirmed by John: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (I John 5:3).

Instead of the new commandment of love doing away with the old Ten Commandment law, this scripture shows plainly that it establishes the Ten Commandments in this New Testament age more firmly than before.

#### **What will you do?**

There are many religious teachers in the world today who will not keep God's commandments and, for that matter, teach that we are under a curse if we do keep them. They claim that they know Christ. Christ says differently through John: "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

Such people claim that only

part of the Ten Commandments appear in the New Testament. This is a convenient way to “do away” with any command that one does not want to obey, or does not want others to obey. The Bible plainly labels such teachers what they are.

We have already seen how each and every one of the Ten Commandments is still in effect today! Are you going to follow those who want you to disobey God and forfeit eternal salvation, or are you going to obey all of God’s commandments?

If you do not have a copy of our free book *The Ten Commandments*, write for it immediately. It offers a thorough study of how each of God’s Ten Commandments applies to us today.

### God’s plain truth

It should be clear now that all 10 commandments are to be obeyed today! It is obvious from hundreds of Old and New Testament scriptures that they are to be followed as a way of life. These commands of God are in the Bible all the way from Genesis to Revelation.

The scriptures show that Jesus Christ of the New Testament was the only God ancient Israel knew. Therefore it was Christ who said: “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My Commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Do you want things to go well with you, or do you want the curses of disobedience?

In the very last chapter of the Bible, it is again made clear that the Ten Commandments are still to be obeyed: “Blessed are those who do His commandments [all of them], that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

This is the way to live happily and abundantly. It brings the right results. It is the way, through Christ, that we may inherit His free gift of eternal life.

Will you obey and live? □

## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

MONEY becomes the pursuit of their god, destroying the soul; or by dishonest means.

But God does bless those who seek Him *first* — not always with great wealth, but always, in the end, with material prosperity they would not have had otherwise. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” admonished Jesus, “and all these things [material prosperity in shelter, food, clothing] shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). That is Jesus’ PROMISE.

God loves to see His servants prospering. He says so through David and John. He corrects and chastens every son whom He loves. He allows His true children to suffer much — to fall into troubles, difficulties, to face trials and tests for their strengthening.

But if we *endure* these tests, hard though they may be — and if we seek *first* our God, His righteousness and His Kingdom, putting material interests second in our hearts, then in His own due time God will always prosper His children even in a material way!

“But *we also glory in tribulations*, knowing that *tribulation produces perseverance*” (Romans 5:3). Therefore it produces GOOD in and for us.

“My brethren, *count it all joy when you fall into various trials*, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3).

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning *the fiery trial which is to try you*, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice” (I Peter 4:12-13).

If you had to choose between receiving gold valued at \$50,000 or a great trouble to test your faith, which would you choose? The gold? You’d make a wrong choice if you did.

God says, through Peter: “. . . the genuineness of your faith, *being much more precious than gold that perishes*, though it [the genuineness of faith] is

tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:7).

Moses suffered affliction in order to lead the children of God, choosing this rather than the riches of the king’s palace and the pleasures of sin for a season.

David suffered constant criticism and false accusation, his enemies continually tried to unseat him and his trials were so great sometimes it seemed God would *never* come to his rescue — yet God always did!

Truly these trials teach us to be *patient* — for it often seems an eternity before God finally delivers us. How often I have experienced this personally. Yet, *always* God has intervened *before it was too late!*

God chose Paul to be an apostle of Christ, and the Lord said, “I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:16). And late in life Paul wrote: “In all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments [people probably would call Paul a crook, a racketeer, an impostor and a jailbird today], in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings” (II Corinthians 6:4-5).

Paul outlined more of his troubles in II Corinthians 11:23-28.

Perhaps a chosen servant of God may be called upon to endure more trials and tests than other Christians — but every Christian shall suffer persecution and meet fiery trials, sorrow, troubles, tests of faith. All our readers who are Christians will understand. Let us not grumble. Let us have FAITH, and endure in our faith *patiently*.

All these problems, troubles and trials are allowed to test us, strengthen us in faith and character and prepare us for joy eternally in God’s Kingdom. Paul wrote, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). □

# Is God Fair?

(Continued from page 3)

religion refuse to HEAR the law of the Lord (Isaiah 30:8-11). They demand that their ministers preach the soft and smooth things — the deceits! They have turned away from the TRUTH, and are accepting and believing FABLES (II Timothy 4:2-4). They are BITTER against God's law, and against the few who have courage today to proclaim the PLAIN TRUTH of God's Word!

Yes, Satan has *organized* religion. He himself appears, not as a devil with horns and a tail, bearing a pitchfork, but "transforms himself into an *angel of light*" (II Corinthians 11:14). His ministers are transformed *as* the ministers of righteousness, appearing as the apostles of Christ (verses 13, 15)! But they are preaching "another Jesus" (verse 4), in the power of a "different gospel" than the true Gospel of the Kingdom that Christ brought and all the apostles preached (Galatians 1:6-7).

Satan's congregations go in for much FORM. "Having a FORM of godliness but denying its POWER. And from *such people turn away!*" plainly warns God's Word (II Timothy 3:5).

The present worldly order — its competitive principle, its customs and traditions, its political systems — are upheld by Satan's churches within every land! Truly, ALL nations are deceived (Revelation 12:9, 17:2, 18:3).

Jesus Christ appeared 1,900 years ago as a messenger bearing a message from God. He brought to an unhappy world steeped in false ways the "GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD." A Kingdom now, soon, to replace these crumbling governments of earth!

That Kingdom today is near at hand — *even at the doors* (Luke 21:31)!

Thank God, we are near the END of the six working days allotted to Satan's dominion. God's thousand-year Sabbath day is just about to dawn!

There is a saying that it is always darkest just before the

dawn. Now we see on every hand the final fruitage of men's ways. Written in unerasable blood, in human misery, anguish and despair is the 6,000-year record of EXPERIENCE!

Even now men will not heed this horrible lesson — not until they are FORCED to see it!

But, as Satan's sixth "working day" closes, God is about to step in and supernaturally interfere!

The coming seventh millennium shall see Satan restrained. Christ will return to rule the earth with all the power of God. God's new order for the next thousand years will restore peace, happiness and joy. Then men may look back over this present world, and COMPARE! *Never* will God force a single human being, against his own will, into salvation and eternal life.

But, with the 7,000-year record of experience set plainly before seeing eyes, do you think anyone will *want* to return to these ways we seem now to love? Not many, you may be sure of that! Yet some, even then, will rebel.

Finally the world shall acknowledge, of its own free volition, that God's ways are right. Christ, says the scripture, "learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8-9)! Even He who never did wrong! "And *having been perfected*" — through experience — "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

Some day we shall look upon GOD's plan with breathtaking admiration and awe! The suffering of this present time shall have faded completely from mind. The lessons of experience we shall have with us for eternity!

Finally humanity shall accept God's ways of life, KNOWING that they are right ways. The happiness and joy we shall then experience cannot be conceived by our minds today! Through all eternity we shall worship and praise the eternal God for His wisdom, His mercy, His LOVE!

Do you think anyone, then, will look back and say, "God isn't fair"? □

# Joy of Teaching

(Continued from page 8)

so often befall them in this age. And people all over the world will begin to understand the way of God.

As they rebuild their shattered cities and resettle their once-devastated farmlands, you will be there, guiding and leading them in a way that works.

## Preparing now

The experiences you have had in this life will be turned to good advantage to help people in the world tomorrow, just as Paul used his experiences to help us (II Corinthians 1:6-7). In that day you will look back with gratitude on the trials you face now. Through these experiences God is teaching us valuable lessons.

On the Sabbaths and Holy Days, you will teach your people in groups. At other times, perhaps in the evenings after work, you'll be able to get to know them as families and individuals.

Remember that with a glorified, immortal mind and body, you will never get tired or run out of energy. You'll have all the time you need to fulfill the needs of those God has sent you to serve.

Some of them will find the new way of life easy. Others may find it hard to adjust. Eventually the people that you have taught will be ready to be born into the Kingdom of God. It will be the greatest day of their lives.

And you will be there to share it. As they stand before the throne of God, waiting to receive their reward, you will have the deep satisfaction of knowing that you helped them achieve this, the greatest possible success.

God wants every one of us to experience the joy of teaching.

For a more detailed look at what the Bible reveals the world tomorrow will be like, write for our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. Just mail the literature request envelope in this issue or send your request to our address nearest you. □

# LETTERS

## "Let God Fight Your Battles!"

Mr. Armstrong, I know I don't write often enough to let you know how much your articles are appreciated. But I just had to write this time to let you know what your "Personal," "Let God Fight Your Battles!" [March] did for me.

For years I've fought my own battles — not winning any! Now I realize, thanks to your article, that we don't have to cheat ourselves out of happiness anymore. All we need is faith and the knowledge that we can call on our living Savior, Jesus Christ, for help in times of need, no matter how great or small the need may be.

I realize now I lacked the faith of Jesus Christ. It's good to know if I look to God, my battles are God's and He will win them for me!

Dora Valenti  
Pueblo, Colo.

I was greatly inspired by your article "Let God Fight Your Battles!" I want to thank you so much for writing it.

It made me realize that I had only been trusting God in a halfhearted way, and that our trust in God must be whole and 100 percent. I guess because we could never physically have the kind of strong, outflowing love that God has for us (only a limited version we aren't able to really have without our selfishness coming into it), we tend to forget just how much God wants to do for us and how much He cares.

I'm going to try harder and pray for a more trusting attitude. After all, if you can't trust your own Father (in heaven), who can you trust?

Thanks to all the *Good News* and *Plain Truth* writers for their inspired guidance!

Terri Graham  
Flat Rock, Mich.

## Encouraged by article

I would like to express my thanks for Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" entitled "Conversion is a Process!" [February].

Many times I have felt discouraged and downhearted because I felt I wasn't living up to what a true Christian should be. This article was of immense value and comfort, showing me that we are not expected to become perfect overnight and that God is patient and understanding as long as we sincerely try to live His way. Thank you for an encouraging and uplifting article!

Donna Rideout  
St. John's, Nfld.

## Valentine's Day

A lady who works in our office receives your magazine. I, too, would like to be on your mailing list.

I just finished reading in your February issue about Valentine's Day. A very interesting article but — I don't celebrate it as a pagan. I do find it nice when my husband gives me candy, flowers and a card. To me, he is only showing his love and nothing more.

If you asked 10 people what Valentine's Day means to them, nine out of 10 would more than likely say candy, flowers and cards. Many husbands won't buy a gift for their wives unless it's a certain day — mine will, but he's certainly in the minority.

The article certainly is food for thought. Too many people have to have a certain day for gift giving, and even then it doesn't always work. I send Valentine's cards to a lot of elderly in nursing homes. These are lovely Christian ladies. All they see from it is just being remembered when far too many people forget.

Just wanted to include my thoughts and will be looking forward to the *Good News* magazine.

Linda Jennings  
Ethridge, Tenn.

I just finished reading your article "Valentine's Day — Christian Custom or Pagan Pageantry?" I admit I didn't know Valentine's Day origins were that extreme in nature. But then, man's way of interpreting most of God's works can be misconstrued so easily without true faith.

Greg Oberlin  
Newport News, Va.

## Bible study

I would like to thank you for the article "Making the Bible Work for You," by Earl H. Williams (February). I had always had a hard time doing Bible study because I just didn't know how. I had prayed about it often and now have received a terrific answer to my prayers. I thank God most especially for inspiring the article to be written.

Sonya Haffner  
Calgary, Alta.

## Checks up on us

I want to thank you for your wonderful work. May God always be with you and all of us in these troubled times.

I'm an avid reader of the Bible and *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth*. I always look forward to your magazines

and their fine articles, which help in the guidance and understanding of the Bible.

I must confess, though, that being deceived for so many years and being a former ardent Catholic, I do check up on you and you are always correct in your writings.

I thank you so much for standing for the truth of God and showing us all the way to truth.

Carla Pelaiá  
Wayne, N.J.

## Lives changed

*The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* have changed my life for the better.

I have never heard many preachers mention God's Kingdom, the Ten Commandments and the seventh day (the Sabbath). They speak of Easter Sunday worship and Christmas. As yet I am not a Christian. I have neglected the churches because I was told the Old Covenant was in the past (forgotten).

I am glad I have found a church of my choice that I believe in.

Dempsey Plumley  
Morril, Ohio

I would like to thank the people of the Worldwide Church of God for *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* that I have been enjoying every month.

I also have enrolled in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, through which I have been learning to understand the Scriptures and God's great plan.

Frank Krizinsky Jr.  
Polk, Pa.

Please be advised that *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* are such wonderful textbooks to offer help in my study (daily) of the Holy Bible. I have learned so very much since I have been receiving your literature and special booklets on specific subjects.

Elzena Slovak  
Wheeling, W.Va.

I enjoy *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* more than my words can express. I read them over many times. I am 80 years old and all alone, so, you see, I welcome them like a loving friend, bringing me a communication with a world that I have been very confused with for many years. Thanks for the loving understanding.

Alice M. Wells  
Virginia Beach, Va.

# The Evidence of God's Holy Spirit

Do you have God's Holy Spirit? Are you a Spirit-begotten child of the living God — a true Christian?

How can you know?

This concluding study in our three-part series on the Holy Spirit will show you where to find the answers to these crucial questions, in your own Bible.

But first, let's review a few facts we learned in the last two studies. This foundational knowledge is vital to understanding.

The Holy Spirit is the power, mind and life of God, not a third person in the Godhead. God is not a limited "trinity," as much of professing Christianity incorrectly believes. God is a Family. And God is in the process of expanding His universe-ruling Family.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn Son of that divine Family, and true Christians are heirs to inherit sonship with Christ in God's Family — to receive eternal life, power and glory, when born of God's Spirit into the Kingdom or Family of God.

But before a Christian can be born of God, he must first be begotten by the Spirit of God so he can grow spiritually, developing the righteous character of God.

This process of spiritual growth and development is possible only through the Holy Spirit, which imparts the power to fulfill the righteousness of God.

Let's understand a little more about this spiritual growth process and learn how we can know without any doubt whether or not we have God's Holy Spirit.

**1.** According to the Bible, who must all Spirit-begotten Christians strive to emulate? Ephesians 4:15, I John 2:6, I Peter 2:21. What is the end result of this spiritual growth process? Galatians 4:19, Ephesians 4:13.

**2.** Does Christ "live" in Spirit-begotten Christians to help them grow spiritually? Colossians 1:27-29, Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 13:20-21. Exactly how does Christ dwell in them? Philippians 1:19, 2:5, Romans 8:8-10.

If we have the mind of Christ — if Jesus Christ is in us by means of His Spirit — we have the power to grow spiritually as we allow

His Spirit to lead us along the path of righteousness (Romans 8:14).

Through God's Spirit, we have the ability to obey God and thereby grow in the holy and righteous character of God. We actually come to think and act the way God does.

Notice again how Paul explained this when he addressed Spirit-begotten Christians in the Church of God at Rome: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you [that is, the Holy Spirit from God the Father, which transmits God's own attributes and characteristics]."

But notice what Paul added: "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9).

A person who does not have God's Holy Spirit does not belong to Christ — he is not a true Christian!

Paul was talking about the Holy Spirit from God the Father — the seed or germ of spiritual life that begets us spiritually as the very children of God Himself — the Spirit sent to us from Jesus Christ so we can overcome and grow spiritually and have God's own character developed in us.

Since the presence of God's Spirit in one's mind, or the lack thereof, is the sole factor that determines whether or not a person is really a Christian, it is important to understand how one can know if he has the Holy Spirit.

**3.** Did Jesus Christ clearly indicate that a person is known by his "fruits," or works? Matthew 7:20. How did He describe Himself, His Father and true Christians? John 15:1-8. How much fruit does God expect Christians to bear? Verses 5, 8.

This is the reason God calls Christ's disciples — to bear much fruit.

Jesus was not talking about a momentary emotional thrill or experience that proves you are one of His. That is not true conversion at all.

Once begotten by the Holy Spirit from the Father, you must continually be led by the Holy Spirit and bear spiritual fruit throughout your Christian life.

But what spiritual fruit, or results, does the

mind of Christ through God's Spirit produce in one who is striving to do the will of God?

4. In Galatians 5:22-23, the apostle Paul outlined the fruit or results the Holy Spirit produces in a Christian. What is the first fruit Paul lists? Verse 22. Also notice Romans 5:5. Is love the basic characteristic of God's nature? I John 4:16. Is it the greatest attribute God transmits to us by the Holy Spirit? I Corinthians 13:13. Be sure to read all of I Corinthians 13 to learn more about this all-important characteristic of God's nature.

The Holy Spirit imparts the traits of God's character to true Christians. And the first and most important fruit of God's Spirit is love. It is not a form of human love, but the divine love that comes directly from God. The Greek word translated "love" in Galatians 5:22 is *agape*. It means devotedness or kindly concern — an intense desire to serve God and man.

5. Is this the same love that will enable us to fulfill — to obey — God's law? Romans 13:8, 10. Did Paul clearly indicate which law he was referring to? Verse 9.

Humans have had many conflicting ideas about how God's love should be expressed in a Christian's life. But God makes it very clear that His love is expressed by obedience to the Ten Commandments. Obedience to the first four commandments expresses love toward God, and obedience to the last six commandments expresses love toward fellowman (see Matthew 22:37-40).

The apostle John plainly stated how God's love is to be expressed and then defines it: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments" (I John 5:2-3).

6. Can one who refuses to obey God's commandments possess the Holy Spirit and its all-important fruit of love? Acts 5:32.

When you receive the Holy Spirit, the love of God is the first and most important fruit that will begin to show. The other fruits of the Spirit mentioned by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 amplify this basic characteristic of God's nature — the divine love given to those whom God begets by His Holy Spirit.

7. Is faith another vital fruit of the Spirit of God? Galatians 5:22. Is it possible to please God without real faith? Hebrews 11:6. Must obedience to God accompany one's faith in order to make it alive and acceptable to God? Romans 3:31, James 2:14-26.

8. Is the faith all Christians must possess, and which comes as a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8) through the Holy Spirit, in reality the faith of Jesus Christ? Revelation 14:12.

In Revelation 14:12 is a description of the

true Church of God. Those in God's Church have the faith of Jesus. It is not just their faith in Him, but His faith placed in them and acting in them!

That faith — the very faith of Jesus Christ — enables them to live God's way of life — conduct themselves as God conducts Himself.

If we were able, of ourselves, to supply the faith to obey God, our obedience would be self-righteousness, which to God is but "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Our righteousness must be through the faith of Christ. Yes, *Christ's* faith, not our own!

9. When one receives the Holy Spirit, will these fruits suddenly appear overnight — almost all at once? II Peter 3:18.

Fruit does not appear overnight on a tree. It takes time, water, the nutrients in the soil and sunlight to grow.

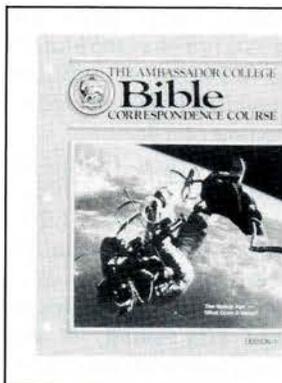
Likewise, it takes time to grow spiritually and manifest the fruits of the Spirit once a person has received the Holy Spirit.

After studying the above verses in the Bible, can you say that you are a Spirit-begotten child of God — a true Christian? Is the Holy Spirit at work in your life, producing its fruit? Do you have the love and faith of God motivating you to live by every word of God?

If not, then review the last five ministudies that have appeared in *The Good News*, beginning with the January, 1985, study, to see exactly what you need to do to receive God's Holy Spirit.

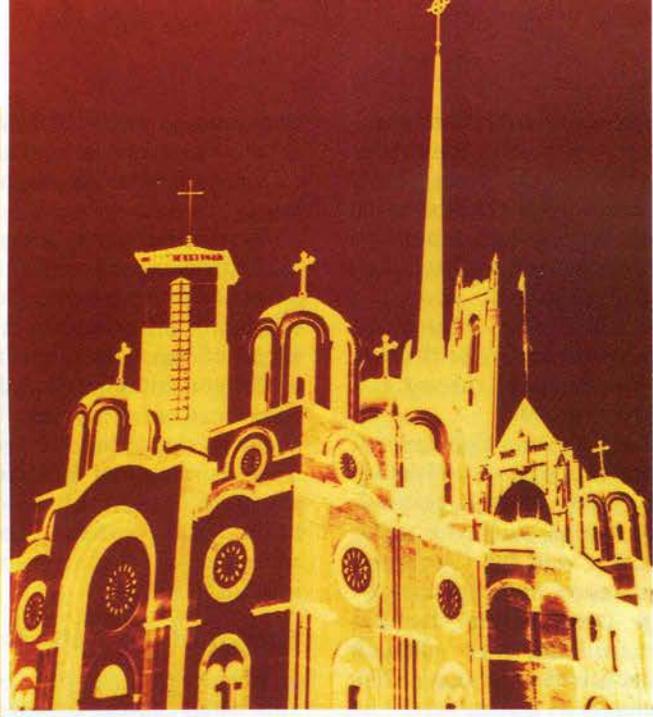
You should also feel free to request a copy of our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean... Conversion?* and copies of our free reprints "Just What Is the Holy Spirit?" and "How You Can Be Imbued With the Power of God." They explain much more about God's law, repentance, the Holy Spirit and other facets of the Christian life.

For your free copies of the booklet and reprints, just mail the literature request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you. You will find a list of our addresses on the inside front cover of this magazine. □



## ENROLL IN FREE BIBLE COURSE

The short study you've just completed is a sample of the study method used in each monthly lesson of the eye-opening Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. You can enroll in this free course by writing to the *Good News* office nearest you. See inside front cover for addresses.



# The ROOTS of Today's Religions

*Do you know why Christianity  
is so divided? Where is  
God's truth being proclaimed?*

By Roderick C. Meredith

**H**uman annihilation is nearer than we think! In a world torn by strife and hatred, man has devised several frightful ways by which he can destroy all living things!

Year by year, this condition grows worse. What is the meaning of these times?

U.S. President John F. Kennedy, in a speech before the United Nations, stated: "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. . . . Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable. . . . Together we shall save our planet — or together we shall perish in its flames."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan admitted, "There have been times in the past when people thought the end of the world was coming, and so forth, but never anything like this."

Today's state of affairs clearly indicates that humans do not know the way to bring peace to the world. We are living in a so-called "Christian" Western world. Yet it is a world cut off from God, groping in the dark, living under the constant threat of world suicide.

Why has our Christianity failed to halt the mounting wave of personal problems among individuals — and international upheaval and violence among nations? Why do the organized church denominations have no real answer to these problems?

## **Does God care?**

Many are asking, "Has God forsaken us?"

The answer is that we have forsaken God — far more than most of us even begin to realize.

Nearly 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ came to this earth with a message from God the Father. He preached the good news of the Kingdom — or government — of God (Mark 1:14-15). He also came to found His Church.

Jesus said, "I will build my

Photo by Hal Finch

church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, Authorized Version). Notice that Jesus did not say "churches" but "church" — one Church. He called it a "little flock" (Luke 12:32).

Jesus taught His followers to obey God's spiritual law contained in the Ten Commandments (Matthew 5:19). Setting an example of perfect obedience to God's laws, Jesus told His disciples to become perfect in character as is God Himself (verse 48). Be sure to read the article entitled "Are All Ten Commandments in Force Today?" beginning on page 14 of this issue.

Later, Jesus warned His followers of ill-treatment and persecution by the world: "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service" (John 16:2).

What most people fail to realize is that the true servants of God were persecuted and killed down through the ages for preaching Christ's message. God's truth was never accepted by the world as a whole.

Jesus warned, "If they kept My word [they crucified Him instead!], they will keep yours also" (John 15:20). Rather than believing and obeying Christ's message, this world has persecuted His servants and His true Church down to this day.

### Early apostasy

A startling change took place in Christianity soon after the deaths of the original apostles. Ancient pagan beliefs and practices were introduced into an apostate church, and God's truth was suppressed by clever argument and political pressure and, when necessary, by physical force.

Notice the historian Wharey's comment: "Christianity began already to wear the garb of heathenism" (*Church history*, page 39). Hurlbut states: "The forms

and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and worship" (*The Story of the Christian Church*, page 79).

You should realize that these same false practices are still being observed by churches throughout the Christian world.

Describing the development of this system, the historian Hurlbut comments: "The church gradually usurped power over the state, and the result was not Christianity but a more or less corrupt hierarchy controlling the nations . . . making the church mainly a political machine" (*The Story of the*



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**beliefs and practices were introduced into an apostate church. God's truth was suppressed by clever argument and physical force.**

*Christian Church*, page 80). In spite of these startling admissions by church historians, most ministers still attempt to prove their historical descent from Christ and His apostles through this false system. Yet this apostate system had departed about as far from the teaching and practice of Jesus Christ and His apostles as it would seem possible to imagine!

The historian Plummer directly acknowledges this fact: "And as soon as the revival of letters caused the contents of the New Testament and the teachings of the fathers to be known, it was seen that what passed for Christianity at the close of the 15th century was scarcely recognized as such, when placed side by side

of what we know of Christianity at the close of the apostolic age" (*The Continental Reformation*, page 11).

Remember that Jesus said, "I will build my church." In Ephesians 1:22 and other scriptures, Christ is described as the living Head of the true Church.

Do you imagine that Jesus was the Head of a system that had utterly departed from almost every remnant of His true teaching and practice? Would He allow His faithful, commandment-keeping Church to descend into such a state?

### Failure of the Reformation

The early church reformers and their later followers completely failed to recapture the faith and practice of Jesus and His apostles. It seems that they found a few truths, only to introduce other peculiar errors of their own devising. And abundant historical records show how the early reformers cruelly persecuted those who disagreed with their teachings — even to the point of taking their lives.

Perhaps the most basic reason why these teachers have not been able to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible, and to believe and practice the literal teachings of Jesus, is one false concept they have persistently maintained.

These religious leaders knew that Jesus said He would build His Church, and that it would not perish. But they mistakenly felt that it would be a big, organized, denominational body, and jumped to the conclusion that the great counterfeit church ruling the nations must be the connecting link between them and Jesus.

Therefore, much of their reasoning was based upon the early traditions and practices of that church, which they assumed to have been untainted by human reason. They continually looked to the "early fathers" for guidance on doctrinal questions.

Thus these teachers have failed to restore the true message of

Jesus Christ. They have only introduced more religious confusion than already existed.

God labels the whole system “Babylon the great” — or great confusion (Revelation 18:2).

Today’s world, sad to say, remains in almost total ignorance of Christ’s real message — of the purpose of God, of the laws of God, of the meaning of the prophesied events that are being rapidly fulfilled now.

But could this fantastic, worldwide deception be possible? Could this be God’s will?

### **Counterfeit Christianity prophesied**

The Bible itself, believe it or not, prophesied this modern religious confusion.

Jesus Christ warned that many false preachers would come in His name and would deceive the people with a false message. He said, “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:5, AV).

Yes, hundreds of differing denominations have appropriated to themselves the name of Jesus Christ, but they have denied His message, and they have substituted paganism with its beliefs and practices for His way of life. And they have deceived the many — not the few.

The apostle Paul was inspired to warn of this great falling away from the truth: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (II Timothy 4:3-4). Paul knew that after his death and that of the other apostles, the false ministers would come in with all of their heathen practices, religious festivals and philosophies. He knew that the world would be turned from the truth to fables — fairy tales.

He warned of men in the last

days “having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (II Timothy 3:5).

Paul knew that at the end of this age people would cease to recognize God as a power to be reckoned with in world affairs, and that they would deny His authority in their individual lives.

The modern form of Christianity is a corrupted form inherited from ancient pagan mystery religions. On the outside of the package it is labeled “Christianity.” But inside are contained the old pagan philosophies, traditions, heathen festivals, practices and false concepts of God and the way of God. To-



**R**eformers like Luther (facing page) and Calvin (left) based

*much of their teaching and practice on early traditions of the great false church. They failed to recapture the true faith of Jesus Christ.*

day’s Christianity is totally different from the Christianity of Jesus Christ! Church historians admit this fact — seemingly oblivious to the tremendous import of what they are saying.

### **A deceived world**

Scholar Rufus Jones states: “If by any chance Christ Himself had been taken by His later followers as a model and a pattern of the new way, and a serious attempt had been made to set up His life and teaching as the standard and norm for the church, Christianity would have been something vastly different from what it became” (*The Churches’ Debt to Heretics*, page 16).

Dr. Jones recognizes that Jesus’ kind of Christianity is not

being practiced in our modern world today.

Let us candidly inquire: What is wrong with Jesus’ kind of Christianity? Did Jesus Christ know what Christianity ought to be like? Just who has the authority to set the standards for Christianity? The real answer to this dilemma is that Christ Himself prophesied that the world would be deceived by Satan the devil and his false ministers. We find Satan described as “that old serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9).

It seems hard to believe, but the Bible says this whole world has been deceived!

Speaking of the Babylonish false religious system that developed during the Middle Ages, the apostle John says in Revelation, “The inhabitants of the world were made drunk with the wine of her fornications” (Revelation 17:2).

Because of this spiritual confusion — this spiritual drunkenness — most people today are not able to see spiritual truths clearly. They are like a drunken man with blurry vision when they try to read the Bible. It doesn’t make sense. They get confused. They may ask their ministers — but usually only get an evasive answer or pretty platitude that doesn’t really answer the deep spiritual question in their hearts.

The Bible just doesn’t seem to make sense to people. They don’t understand it. They don’t understand the theme in its laws and teachings, and they certainly don’t understand its prophecies.

### **Satan’s counterfeit of the truth**

Almighty God has permitted Satan the devil to implant his religion in the minds of people. He started doing that clear back at the Tower of Babel. He continued it through the ancient Chaldean mystery system developed by Nimrod and his harlot-wife, Semiramis. That system has

spread over all the world, so that many of the same customs and practices of our Western Christianity today are found in varying forms among the Eastern religions and the idolators of many far-flung tropical islands.

This same Chaldean mystery system — with its pagan philosophies, religious holidays and symbols — was brought in by stealth into many of the early Christian church congregations. Carnal-

church.” He did not say many churches — but only indicated one Church — His Church! He called that Church a “little flock.” He said they would be scattered and persecuted. Recall that in John 15:20, He said that most people would not keep to the truth of His Church or accept it any more than they had accepted Jesus’ own teachings. And they crucified Jesus Christ.

Remember that Jesus taught

using today to preach His Gospel to the world?

Yes. There has been and is. But first you need to prove this — and then you need to do something about it.

### Proofs of God’s Church

The Bible identifies the true Church as those people “who keep the commandments of God” (Revelation 12:17).

Another thing to bear in mind in regard to the true Church being scattered and persecuted is that you can’t join that Church like you would some social club. In New Testament times, people were only considered members of God’s Church after they had obeyed the inspired command: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

So you have to repent of your sins and of your self-willed way of life before God will put you into His Church.

After repentance and baptism, you are to practice, as we have seen, obedience to God’s law as a way of life. You are to live by every word of God and to follow the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.

In addition, the true Church has the name God intended His Church to bear as one of its identifying signs. God’s true Church was never named after some religious leader, or some particular doctrine, or some type of church government or method of doing things. The scriptural teaching shows that it was always named after God Himself! It is His Church. He owns it. He possesses it. He rules it through His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, in 12 places in the New Testament it is called, “The Church of God.”

Another outstanding characteristic of God’s Church is its willingness to admit error and to change. Each human is commanded to change — to grow in grace and in knowledge (II Peter 3:18).

Since the Church is only the sum-total of its members, it, too,

## If you want to know the truth — if you want to be protected from the cataclysmic times ahead — then you need to find the Church Jesus built — the Church of which He is the living Head!

minded church leaders promoted this system, which the natural mind of man seems to love so much.

They pretended it was Christianity — and forced it into an apostate body they were beginning to develop out of those congregations and individuals who did not wish to keep intact the way and truth of God.

Now, in this age, you have grown up supposing that all these churches are God’s churches. You have probably thought, How can all these churches be wrong? They can be wrong, because God says, “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (Revelation 18:3).

Truly, Satan has deceived the whole world. The Bible means exactly what it says. Traditional Christianity is nothing more than the ancient Babylonian mystery religion!

### What you should do

May God help you see this truth! You are not going to have long to debate about it, frankly, because we are nearing the end of this age of man going his own ways on earth.

Jesus said, “I will build my

obedience to God’s law based on the Ten Commandments (Matthew 5:17-19, 19:17). He told His servants to continue preaching that same message.

Jesus commanded His servants to go into all nations, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

In His revelation to John, Christ described the last generation remnant of His Church as those people “who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

He described His persecuted saints this way: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

If you want to know the truth — if you want to be protected from the cataclysmic times that lie just ahead — then you had better seek for and find that Church — the true Church of God — the only Church Jesus built — the Church of which He is the living Head!

Has there been a small, scattered, persecuted Church that keeps all of God’s commandments and that Jesus Christ is

must continually be willing to repent if God has permitted some error to creep in, and to grow in grace and knowledge.

Therefore, the true Church will be a Church continually growing into new truth and knowledge and understanding. Its members will “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matthew 5:6).

Because of this humble, repentant, yielded attitude, God’s Church will be filled with love and zeal and a continually deeper understanding of God’s will and of the meaning of Bible prophecies in relation to the times in which we live.

These things are so because God’s Church is yielded to and led by God’s Spirit. Jesus said, “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13, AV).

Only God’s true Church really has these characteristics. And therefore only God’s true Church is filled with the knowledge, the understanding and the love of His Spirit.

### Find out where God is working

The true Church must be doing the work of God on earth today!

It must be preaching Christ’s true message — His commandments — His way of life. It must be preparing the way for God’s Kingdom — or government — to come and rule this earth before man destroys himself. It must be warning the world of the coming punishments for its wicked ways.

Do you know where to find that Church?

We offer, free, several booklets that explain in much more detail how this world’s religious confusion developed, where the true Church is today and what Bible prophecy says about the times we are living in. They are *Your Awesome Future — How Religion Deceives You*, *Where is the True Church?* and *Are We Living in the Last Days?* You may have these booklets without obligation by mailing the request card in

this issue or by writing to our address nearest you.

Scoffers will not have long to scoff! The prophesied events that this Church alone proclaims will soon be reality. There will be no reasoning or argument about it. You will see and feel these things happen.

The reason God has allowed today’s religious confusion is so that after 6,000 years of human misrule — bringing us now to the verge of world suicide — man might at last have enough of his own ways, his own political schemes, his own religious theories. After a time of great punishment that he has brought on himself, man will at last be really willing to learn of God’s ways and laws, and to accept God’s rule through Jesus Christ so the world can at last have peace.

God’s Church has never had many different names, doctrines

and practices. God has only permitted this Babylon of religious confusion to develop so that man might be able, under Satan’s deceiving influence, to try every conceivable type of religious theory he might lust after.

This is so that man might — in plain language — once and for all “get his belly full” of the foolish ideas and reasonings of human, erring men. Then he will be willing to obey God!

Now you know why there exists such religious confusion. Now you know which is the true Church of God! This is your life. May the Almighty give you an open mind to further prove and believe His truth. Pray for understanding, and for a willing heart. Be sure to obey the truth as you prove each point.

This is the most important business of your life! The end of this age is very near! □

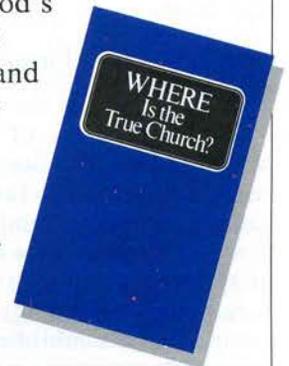


# Where Is the True Church?

**Y**our life depends on the answer! God’s true Church holds “the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:19), and without those keys there is no hope for anyone beyond this physical existence.

Where is the Church Jesus founded?  
How does one become a member?

Now, a startling booklet answers. For a free copy, mail the request envelope or write to our address nearest you.



# The Resurrections

Upon the whitewashed crosses standing over the seemingly endless graves of “unknown” soldiers who died in the great world wars of this century, these words are engraved: “Here lies in glory and honor . . .” or “A comrade in arms . . .” or “Known but to God . . .”

Certainly no one can read those words and look upon the graves of those fallen men without being sobered.

Yet, to those who understand the biblical doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, these same graves are a sure sign of the incredible power of the living God, who will one day make all these men stand upon their feet and live again!

### The basic doctrine

Briefly stated, the doctrine of the resurrection is the truth that the God who resurrected Jesus Christ will also raise to life again (resurrect) all the dead. For some that resurrection will be to eternal life; for others it will be to physical life with an opportunity for eternal life; for some few it will be a resurrection to the second death.

### The usual teachings of this world

The religionists of this world rarely address the doctrine of the resurrection. The few who do usually misunderstand either the time, purpose, nature or numbers of the resurrections.

Some, in a feeble attempt to reconcile the nonbiblical doctrine

of the immortal soul with the resurrection, contrive a vague theory that the resurrection is not a resurrection at all, but merely a reuniting of the body of a deceased person with his immortal soul, which had been liberated at death and has been living without the body since.

Certainly such a theory is in no way supported by the Bible, but it is a good place to begin a study of this important subject.

### The Bible teaching

The resurrection is one good proof that man does not have an immortal soul. If man had an immortal soul (which today’s religionists would say lives after death), why would a resurrection from the dead be needed in the first place?

Numerous utterly dogmatic Bible statements promise the dead the hope of life again after death!

Notice the words of Paul in his defense before Felix: “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and the Prophets. I have hope in God, which they themselves also

accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:14-15).

To those who doubted that a resurrection for all would occur, Jesus Christ proclaimed: “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

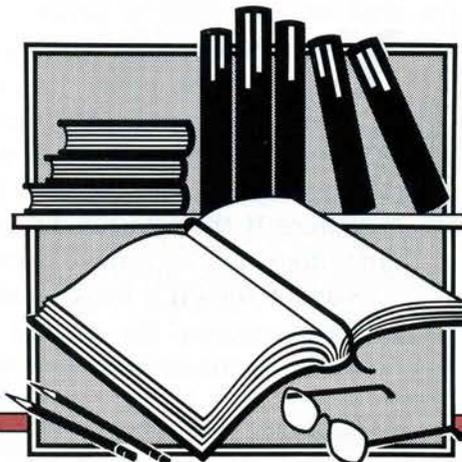
Further, even Old Testament writers like righteous Job and Daniel knew and spoke of the resurrection from the dead (Job 14:14-15, Daniel 12:2).

In addition to the wonderful promises of God Himself, we have an actual example we can look to as visible proof positive that God can and will resurrect the dead. That example is the resurrection of Jesus Christ our elder brother.

The fact of the resurrection is clearly shown from the biblical eyewitness records and informed testimony (Romans 1:4, I Peter 1:3). But many have overlooked that while Christ’s *death* pays for our sins, nonetheless “we shall be saved by His *life*” (Romans 5:10) — a life He is still living in us daily (since His resurrection, which brought Him back to life) through the power of His Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20).

Further, His resurrection is incredibly important to us for another reason. It proves by example that God can and will resurrect us. Since Christ was resurrected, we can be, too. He was not to be the only one resurrected, just the first!

Notice: “But if there be no res-



urrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. . . . But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits [not only one] of them that slept [died]. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:13-14, 20, 22, Authorized Version).

Yes, the promise of the resurrection is indeed the very hope of us all, since we all are only mortal and, unless resurrected, will die and remain dead without hope of eternal life.

Nonetheless, the time and nature of this resurrection will not be the same for all. For, as Paul stressed: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order" (verses 22-23). This passage of scripture goes on to say that Christ was first ("Christ the firstfruits"), and then "afterward those who are Christ's at His coming" (verse 23).

Hence we see that, besides Christ, the first group to be resurrected from the dead are those who are the true called and chosen of God — those who "are Christ's" (that is, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells as a result of repentance and proper baptism — see Romans 8:9). I Thessalonians 4:16 speaks of the same time.

Revelation 20:4-6 confirms the same event. Those who are resurrected then will be resurrected as spirit beings who cannot die (verse 6). They "shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years [i.e., during the Millennium]." And this is not the only resurrection — verses 5 and 6 refer specifically to this resurrection as the "first resurrection."

Further, verse 5 even tells us when the next — the second — general resurrection will occur in God's plan when it states, "The rest of the dead did not live again

until the thousand years [the Millennium] were finished." This resurrection will be of all those who lived and died and, for one reason or another, have not had a chance for salvation.

Obviously, this group comprises the bulk of humanity, for only relatively few have ever heard the name of Jesus, let alone truly received God's Holy Spirit. Therefore this resurrection is not of the spirit to eternal life (these, of course, have not yet qualified for God's Kingdom), but to physical life with, finally, a chance to learn of God's truth and qualify for His Kingdom.

Note for proof verses 11 and 12 of Revelation 20, which find the rest of the dead (at a time after the Millennium) resurrected before God, not to be condemned, but to have the Word of God opened to their understanding so they can learn of God and qualify for His Kingdom. This is the second resurrection.

The second resurrection is spoken of more fully in Ezekiel 37:1-14 where the physical nature of the resurrection is clearly seen, and where it is evident that the resurrected ones will finally know God.

In an earlier issue we covered the subject of eternal judgment and explained at length about when each person will receive his or her calling and chance for salvation, and why. It is enough to say now that the three resurrections explained here form the dividing lines between the judgment eras God is using to deal with different people in different ways at different times.

Finally, the Bible speaks of yet one more resurrection for the group not dealt with in either of the other two. This is the third resurrection. It is a resurrection to the second death, since those resurrected will be cast into the lake of fire and burned up.

Daniel spoke of this resurrection in Daniel 12:2, where he

said some would be resurrected to life and some to "shame." Christ also spoke of this resurrection in John 5:29 and called it the resurrection of "condemnation."

Revelation 20:14 says this: "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." It is actually a type of mercy killing, because those who die in the lake of fire, because of the twisted thinking that led them to become worthy of such a fate in the first place, would, if given eternal life, live out immortality in misery.

Yes, in these three resurrections are contained the hope of all humanity. That hope is the promise of life after death in the resurrection from the dead.

### Key verses

With any doctrinal subject such as this one, it is good to remember, or even mark in one's Bible, the most important scriptures on a subject. Here are some on the resurrections:

John 5:28-29, Acts 24:14-15 — both Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul predicted the resurrections. I Corinthians 15:12-24 — since Christ was resurrected, we will be also. I Thessalonians 4:16, Revelation 20:4-6 — the first resurrection is here explained. Revelation 20:5-6, 12, Ezekiel 37:1-14 — the second resurrection is described. Revelation 20:13-14, John 5:29 — the third resurrection is described.

Yes, to some, those who died over the years, like the fallen soldiers mentioned at the start of this article, may indeed be "unknown" or, though perhaps known, unremembered. But God knows them all and will not forget them.

For to them — and to all of us mortals who know we shall die but know not the hour — God offers the blessed hope we may all long for — the resurrection of the dead to life again with the hope of eternal glory! □

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