

# The Good News

International Magazine of  
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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## God's Church *Leaps Ahead!*

*More God-called ministers have been ordained! And this year has seen the growth of God's true Church to include brethren in MANY parts of the world. Let us REJOICE in what God is doing!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

**T**HIS is the "Philadelphia" age of God's Church! He describes us as having "little power" and yet He has set before us a *most powerful* "door" through which we are to proclaim God's last warning message to this world (Rev. 3:8).

Brethren, it seems that we often *take for granted* the amazing *knowledge* and *power* Christ has given to His "little flock" in this age. This is a *living* and *DYNAMIC* age of His Church!

Compared to us, the churches of this world—and the "dead" remnant of the Sardis age of God's Church (Rev. 3:1)—are truly *DEAD*, lifeless, insipid. They are lacking in spiritual *understanding*, in *faith*, in *POWER*.

They do *not* grow in grace and knowledge. The wonderful new truths God continues to reveal through His Church are apparently *hidden* from their eyes. They do *NOT* understand *prophecy*. They do *not* understand the great *PURPOSE* being worked out here below!

Therefore, their sermons, their articles and their church services are *DEAD*—totally lacking in the real *POWER* of God's Spirit.

We constantly receive letters to this effect from people all over the world. And, occasionally, even *MINISTERS* in these lifeless churches write to us these same things.

Now, within the past few months, we have received the joyous news that *entire congregations*—headed by their ministers—have accepted the precious *TRUTH* and are beginning to walk in

new light as God reveals it! In these closing days, God's Spirit is moving *MIGHTILY* throughout the world!

### Exciting News from the Philippines

For several months now, Mr. Ted Armstrong has been corresponding regularly with a minister in the Philippine Islands. This man had heard of our work through our broadcast there, and realized that we are preaching much truth that his denomination would not accept.

He was a member of a group that is one of the many fragments of the now split-up "Sardis" era of God's Church described in Revelation 3. After coming into contact with us, he realized that *that church was not growing* spiritually, and that its leaders *REFUSED* to grow.

So he became more and more interested in *The World Tomorrow* program, and in the activities of the Radio Church of God.

After months of *studying* many of our booklets and the *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, and continuing to hear the broadcast, he was fully persuaded that this was the *LIVING* branch of God's true Church today.

At this point, he wrote Mr. Ted Armstrong the following letter, which we quote below. This letter shows how one minister was honest enough to *CHANGE* when he saw he was wrong, and to *GROW* into new Truth from God!

"Dear brother Ted:

"Thank you very much for the fine Hallicrafters Radio. I am thankful I

have not paid much in obtaining it from the Post Office.

"We heard 'The World Tomorrow' broadcast last Sunday (Dec. 29) at the right time scheduled in the daily news and in the Plain Truth magazine. Though I have a little difficulty locating the right number of the broadcast we are able to hear most of it. I understand the theme was the kind of faith required for salvation. Exposition of the ten commandment was heard. We enjoyed the broadcast very much. We appreciated how Mr. Armstrong delivered his message. He is a wonderful speaker. The message is very clear and very direct. Mr. Armstrong spoke very convincing. Beside this the truth is wonderfully exposed.

"I wish also to thank you for the many envelopes of literatures. Every copy is very valuable to me. I am spending much time reading and studying them. I am satisfied my questions were answered mostly in these booklets. My mind has changed and though I have not known all of your teachings I feel I am likely being drawn by a strong current to believe and accept the truth newly found in God's word. It is not only this time I have read your teachings. I have been pondering on them since 1953, when I was listed in your roll to receive the Plain Truth magazine. I have been corresponding with brother Meeker Jr. in your London office for sometimes in the past years who also help me much. There is no other things  
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International magazine of  
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ministering to its members  
scattered abroad

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By the Radio Church of God

## Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

I FEEL I must immediately have a real heart to heart talk with my growing family of members and co-workers, sharing with you thoughts that came to my mind—while they are still fresh and vivid.

It concerns the *most important* thing in life and eternity for you. But at the moment, I was thinking about myself. Every person—yes, even you—is his own worst enemy. All my life I have been impelled to fight my worst enemy—that troublesome inner *self*, which by nature is desperately wicked. I was not born with a mild, submissive, weak-willed inner *self*. Had I been, I probably never could have been used as God's instrument in bearing His message to you. My mother, now ninety-two, will tell you I was a very strong-willed boy; and while I was still young enough to be under parental discipline, I caused her and my father no end of trouble. Since growing into the age of self-discipline, this same evil, determined inner self has caused me no end of trouble. And I should add that since I gave that self over to God, it surely must have tried His patience!

That brings us to the point. The thought that came to my mind concerned this very troublesome inner self. How, came the question, can I myself ever become finally *saved*, and inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, with such a powerful, seemingly irresistible inner force of evil constantly pulling the other way? When God says "there shall in no wise enter into it (the Kingdom of God) anything that defileth, neither

whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie" (Rev. 21:27), it surely seemed impossible that I should be able to "overcome," and "endure unto the end."

But the same instant the answer flashed to mind—GOD will save me! I can't save myself. When I look at this troublesome, naturally evil self, so human and full of faults and weaknesses, so beset by temptations of pride and the flesh, with all its limitations and shortcomings; knowing that to be finally saved I must GROW in grace and God's knowledge—must develop in righteous holy character—must overcome this *self* and temptations and weaknesses—and must *endure* thru trial and test and opposition and discouragement unto the end—well, when I look at it that way, it seems utterly HOPELESS to expect ever to be saved.

And I wondered, as this thought flashed thru my mind, how many of my members and co-workers are tempted to look at it the same way—to feel a sense of futility and helplessness—perhaps to become discouraged and lose faith?

Ah, that's the key word—FAITH!  
Our plight isn't hopeless at all!

Of course, of ourselves it is impossible to be saved. But with GOD *it is certain*—if we yield to Him and TRUST Him. We shall be saved, *not* by our own power to overcome and develop perfect characters, but thru FAITH IN GOD'S POWER!

But right here is where 999 out of 1,000 become deceived by the fables of this time. And when the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch!

Because we *can't* save ourselves—we *can't* master the evil inner self—we *can't* always resist every temptation—we *can't* keep God's holy Law perfectly—and, of ourselves we would fail to overcome, to grow in spiritual character, and to endure to the end; the false teaching is going out that JESUS DID THESE THINGS FOR US—that we don't need to do them. Millions today believe that God imputes Jesus' righteousness to us, counting us as righteous when we are *not*!

There couldn't be a more soul-damning delusion of the devil!

No, Jesus didn't live a good life for you, in your stead! You are not excused from keeping God's commandments, living a righteous holy life, overcoming, growing in spiritual character, and enduring in spite of all opposition, persecution, trial and test unto the end. YOU and I must actually *do* these things in order to be saved!

Here is the great mystery! Since we *must* do these things to be saved, yet are utterly *unable* to do them, it is natural to conclude either that God sent Jesus to do it for us and excuse us

from accomplishing it, or else to become discouraged and be tempted to quit trying.

The true answer is the KEY to salvation!

We can't save ourselves. GOD will save us! But how?

Not by saving us *in* our sins—not by deceiving Himself into counting us righteous by imputing Jesus' righteousness to us while we remain *unrighteous*—BUT BY SAVING US FROM OUR SINS, by giving us His very own Spirit—His POWER to overcome these cantankerous selves, His LOVE to actually fulfill His law, His PEACE to avoid strife with enemies and resentment and bitterness at their injustices, His PATIENCE to endure!

We can't save ourselves—GOD must save us! But He does it by *changing* us, thru His indwelling divine supernatural power, from what we have been into the holy, righteous characters He wills to make of us! He does it by forgiving past sins not only, but *cleansing* us from sinning now and in the future!

God does not look upon our hopeless plight—our evil natures, our weaknesses and disabilities—and say, "Poor, helpless humans! Since they are unable to master and overcome their evil natures, to keep my Law, to endure trial and test and temptation, and to grow into holy characters; I'll be merciful and have my Son do it for them, and save them just as they are in all their sins."

Instead, God who knows our every weakness, and who Himself is *responsible* for this human nature in every one of us, sent His Son into the world to proclaim HIS MESSAGE to us that we must yield to GOD's government over our lives—that we must REPENT and turn *from* our filth of the flesh and pride of mind and heart. He sent His Son into the world to be tempted in all points as we are—human as we are—to prove that a human *can*, with the help of the Spirit of God, live without sin—TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS and live also without sinning! He sent His Son into the world to die for us,—not living a good life in our stead, but paying the penalty of our past sins in our stead—that we might be reconciled to God, so that we might receive His Spirit, begetting us as His SONS, so that God thru the power of His Spirit may CHANGE us from mortal sinners into immortal holy sons of God!

Some hotels and restaurants, catering to tourists who may be in old clothes and dirty from traveling, post a sign, "COME AS YOU ARE!"

The favorite "invitation" or "altar-call" hymn sung by the popular denominations in revival or evangelistic services

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# What Must Christians *Give Up* to be Saved?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**D**O YOU know why the majority of American people turn up their noses at "religion" and refuse to have anything to do with it?

You have probably been taught most of your life that it is necessary to GIVE UP everything that is GOOD, everything that is FUN, in order to become "saved." This is the common conception of salvation—and most people take it for granted without ever questioning it.

The churches paint Christianity as a morbid religion with a God who demands penance and suffering from poor helpless mortals. Life, to many professing Christians, is *unhappy, uncomfortable, drab, poverty-stricken*. Salvation is looked upon as the reward for enduring all this *misery* that the Father imposes on us.

What kind of God is it that this common teaching portrays? Is it any wonder that most people don't want to turn to God?

If people could only understand that conversion is *not* a matter of "just how much do I have to give up"! Jesus came that we might have life, of course, *but He also came that we might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10).

## What Conversion Really Is

Jesus came to call us *out* of this world's troubled conditions—to bring us a life just FILLED with interest, with ZEAL, and with USEFULNESS. He did not tell us to bend our backs under a mountain of human woe and suffering! Or to do penance and live in poverty and misery!

Conversion does not mean to cast all material things aside. Instead, conversion makes possible for the first time our intelligent use of the material creation. Jesus Christ did not say: Throw material wealth and all physical pleasures away and seek only the Kingdom of God. Notice what He *did* say: "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be ADDED unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

So it is *not* the giving up of these things that is so important—it is the attitude *toward* them! Seek FIRST the kingdom of God, and THEN (secondarily in importance) shall these things be added to you! We are here to learn how to *use* the material world, not to *abuse* it. We are here to learn how to be *happy* and how to make others happy, too.

The only true way to happiness is set

forth in God's revelation to man—the Bible. And the very first step to finding real happiness is described by Paul in his letter to the Romans, when he said: "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed *by the renewing of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Notice. Here is the very STARTING POINT on the way to salvation! *To come out of this world!* Not to be conformed to its way, but to become like God by learning and practicing His will.

## How to Do the Will of God

Everywhere in the Bible the newly converted person is compared to a little *baby* who is completely dependent on its parents for life and protection. For the protection, then, of each newly begotten member in God's family, the Heavenly Father intended that each of us should be "set apart" and separated from the ways of this present world. It keeps us from the dangerous influences that are hidden everywhere. God knows it is the only way that we can "put on the new man"—develop spiritually—CHANGE *from one person to another* in CHARACTER (Eph. 4:24).

But does this mean that we are to abolish all contact with the "outside world"? How are we to come out of this world's society and customs and still live *in* the world?

The process of conversion is not an easy task! Jesus said that he came to bring a SWORD on earth—not peace! (Matt. 10:34.) The sword is the sharp two-edged cutting WORD OF GOD—His *truth!* This word, this sword, HURTS *the* carnal mind. It causes discomfort to those who are following their natural desires, and who want to do what *seems* right to them.

And who are those usually MOST CONCERNED when they discover that you have turned away from this present world? Why, it is *your own family and relatives*, of course! Jesus prophesied it! He said the truth would set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and that a man's foes would be those of his own household! (Matt. 10:35-36.)

*That* is the real meaning behind the command to come out of this world. The very *purpose* which God has in this command to be separate from the world is to TEST OUR STRENGTH AND OUR

FAITH. If other people in the outside world begin to persecute you, and berate you for your religion, would you be troubled too much? Somewhat, perhaps, but not very much. But—when your own FAMILY begins to accuse, to malign and to persecute you for your "crazy" religion—don't you sometimes begin to weaken just a little?

Yes, it is more difficult than it sounds. We may refuse to work at our jobs on the sabbath, we may discontinue our associations with former friends insofar as those associations disobey God's law, we may quit keeping the worldly holidays; but when it comes to the very members of our families—we sometimes begin to weaken to temptations. How much do we have to give up? Jesus said, "He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37).

Yes, sometimes we must give up the former fellowship, *even with our own families*. If we are of *the world*, the world will love its own. But because God has called us out of this world, it will HATE US (John 15:19).

The problem that confronts each of us, then, is how can we be SEPARATE from this world, and still have CHARITY and LOVE for it? Can we LOVE other people *as ourselves*? We know that the carnal mind is the attitude of ENMITY against God's law, God's rule (Rom. 8:7). The *converted* mind is the *changed* mind—of LOVE directed *away* from self and toward others. "This is my *commandment*, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

## Love ONLY Church Members?

The true Christian attitude is one of LOVE and CHARITABLENESS toward others. We can love others and still not fellowship them. Love and fellowship are not the same! Many, of course, will ask: did not Christ say we are to fellowship the unconverted when he said, "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others"? Doesn't this mean that we are to associate with the world, mingle with the unconverted, go out and fellowship worldly people?

It most certainly does not!

It means exactly what it says! We are to "salute," to greet in a FRIENDLY AND LOVING MANNER, *all* those with whom

we come in contact. We are to be an EXAMPLE of God's character before others, but we are not to fellowship the world. The very purpose of the Christian calling hinges on our understanding of this principle. We are called to become co-rulers with Jesus Christ—to JUDGE

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## Heart to Heart Talk

(Continued from page 2)

is "JUST AS I AM."

But *be not deceived*—GOD WON'T RECEIVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE! You can't sit down at His immaculate holy table with your wrinkled, soiled clothes and dirty hands, which symbolically represent the human sinning condition. No, you must be first WASHED in the blood of the Lamb Jesus Christ—and before Jesus as your Saviour and Mediator with God can wash you of the filth of your sins, YOU MUST FIRST REPENT OF TRANSGRESSING GOD'S HOLY LAW, WHICH MEANS TO BE SO SORRY THAT YOU FORSAKE YOUR WAY AND THE WORLD'S WAY, AND TURN TO A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS AND WAYS!

Of course, you'll have to come *as you are* to Christ for CLEANSING from the filth of your past life—but *confessing* your filthy, sinful condition, asking *Him* to cleanse you and wash you in His blood, because you can't cleanse yourself—so that He may present you chaste and pure and spiritually clean to His Father, that you may then receive the indwelling POWER of God *which will enable you to overcome*, and keep God's law, and live as His sons ought to live!

Jesus showed by his life that we *can*, if we rely upon God in faith for the power to do, live the way of God's will as expressed in His Spiritual Law! Of Himself, even Jesus said He could not do it—"the Father that dwelleth in me," He said, "HE doeth the works." And again: "The works that I do shall ye do also."

And so it was that, almost the same instant the temptation to doubt the final result came to my mind as I thought of my own weaknesses, faults, and limitations; the answer flashed strong and firm: "GOD WON'T LET ME FALL!"

"He may punish me more yet to chasten and teach me and to make me righteous, but He won't let me fail—He will impute His very own righteousness *by implanting it into my life* until, thru His power energizing me, I'm really living it—ETERNALLY!"

And that comforting and definite ASSURANCE of the final result, based on God's own unbreakable PROMISES, just warmed my heart and made me feel

good clear thru—and so I had to come out here immediately to the typewriter

to share this glorious assurance with all of YOU! Read Jude 24, and II Peter 1:10.

## God's Church Leaps Ahead!

(Continued from page 1)

to do brother Ted but to accept and surrender to the will of God and to His truth. The Bible says, 'And ye shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make YOU free.' (John 8:32).

"Herewith I am surrendering my ministerial credential given by the Church of God at Salem and if you feel I am qualified to represent the Radio Church of God in Philippines, I am very much thankful. I am always ready all the time. May God help me in this new stand. In order that we may not waste much time brother Ted any action you can make to advance the progress of the work in the part of this earth is greatly appreciated. We need someone there to come and incorporate the Radio Church of God here in the Philippine that it will be protected by the government.

"I do feel how sad might be the brethren in my former affiliation when they may learn of my new stand. I hope they will not. I hope we can be all together in this God's newly revealed truth. I pray God will bless them and will come to unity in all God's truth.

"The Lord's work have been going on. Three (3) new converts were found as a result of my weekly evangelistic campaign last month and they are ready to be baptized on Saturday (Jan. 4). I have to go to them tonight and prepare them for baptism.

"I received calls from different part of the island of Luzon, but I have can-

celled them yet due to my unfinished work here at home.

"Thank you very much of your prayers in behalf of us and the work. May God bless each and everyone is my prayer.

Your brother in Jesus' Service,  
P. S. Ortiguero"

Let us REJOICE, brethren, that this minister was willing to swallow his pride, overcome human feelings, and SURRENDER to follow the course Almighty God revealed to him was right. His entire local church has accepted the TRUTH!

And now we have word that two or three other ministers in the Philippines in similar situations are beginning to accept new *truth* from God's Word and their *entire congregations with them*. God's work is *leaping ahead* in the Philippine Islands!

It is HIS doing—and we can be *thankful!*

### Future Plans

In order to fulfill spiritual needs in many parts of the world, it is presently planned that Mr. Dick Armstrong and Mr. Gerald Waterhouse will take a *world-wide baptizing tour* next spring or summer. They will visit scores of people in *many nations* of the world whom God has brought to real *repentance* and *surrender* to His will through *The World Tomorrow* broadcast—now



A part of the Philippine Congregation who have accepted God's TRUTH. They live in the barrio of San Felipe, San Nicolas. "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation" is God's promise to the Philadelphia Era of His Church, no matter where they may be found (Rev. 3:10).

heard around the world.

One of their important stops will be on the island of Formosa where, you remember, a converted Lutheran minister led his flock of Chinese Christians in observing the *true* Passover this spring! They will also spend some time in the Philippine Islands, in Formosa, and in Australia. In *all* of these places, people are hearing and HEEDING *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. Many should be ready for baptism.

Heading west toward our London office and church, they will probably stop over in such places as Bangkok, Ceylon, Karachi, and then proceed to South Africa—where *The World Tomorrow* is rated as having an even bigger listening audience when it is on than the national network of stations there! God is calling *many* people in South Africa through this great "door" of radio He has opened.

From South Africa, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Waterhouse will proceed to London, and spend some time with the church there, and possibly visit other cities in Britain as well.

We should give God THANKS in the realization that He is beginning to call people all over the earth to a knowledge of His precious *truth*! Let us PRAY for this coming tour and for these people—and let us REJOICE in the knowledge that God has used *us*, working together as a "team," to reach these people with His message!

#### Growth in London Church and Office

In our London office, the influx of mail is rapidly increasing from all parts of the world. The local church in London is also increasing in strength and numbers.

This summer, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse is scheduled to return from his duties in the London church and office. Mr. Frank Longuskie, the assistant manager in the London office, is also returning for a visit in the states and a tour of duty here.

These men are being replaced by Mr. Raymond McNair, as pastor of the London church, and Mr. George Meeker and Mr. Ernest Martin, as manager and assistant manager of our London office. This arrangement will free Mr. McNair to devote himself fully to the pastoral duties in the London church and, within a year probably, to raise up a church for our members and co-workers in the Birmingham area.

The additional manpower in the office is badly needed too. Since we are now on Radio Luxembourg *twice* a week, the receipt of mail has been increasing a great deal. Our London office has been completely redecorated, and is now a fitting place to represent God's great work in Britain and Europe.

#### More Ministers Ordained

Perhaps many of you brethren have not fully realized it, but one of the most *tremendous* needs in God's Church today is for more *consecrated*, fully qualified ministers. This need is URGENT and worthy of your *constant prayers*!

Therefore, it was a most happy occasion on Sabbath, June 7, when we were able to ordain *six more men* into the ministry of Jesus Christ. This ceremony took place at the headquarter's church here in Pasadena. The men involved had been *tried* and *tested*. After counsel, prayer and fasting, Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers here at headquarters knew this was GOD'S decision—and that their "fruits" proved that these men had been called by God to His ministry.

With prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 13:3), Mr. Bryce Clark, Mr. Benjamin Rca, Mr. Allen Manteufel and Mr. Charles Dorothy were all ordained as *preaching elders*—with all the authority of the full ministry of Jesus Christ. All except Mr. Rea were graduating seniors of Ambassador College and had all been on nation-wide baptizing tours and preached in our churches here in California.

Mr. Rea, as many of you know, is now broadcasting over much of South America in the Spanish language. He is the professor of Spanish, Geography and International Relations in Ambassador College, and has been a zealous member of God's Church for many years. He has been preaching in our California churches for some time now, and his many abilities, his experience and wisdom, have all now been dedicated to the service and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Rea is devoting his full time this summer to the ministry in the Pasadena and San Diego areas, and is scheduled to take a baptizing tour later in the summer. In addition, he is continuing his work in recording the Spanish programs and in translating our booklets and articles into Spanish. In the fall, he will resume his teaching duties in addition to the ministry.

Mr. Bryce Clark is now directing a nationwide baptizing tour, and at the end of the summer he is engaged to be married to one of our charming Ambassador coeds, Miss Helen Murray. Then he will take over as minister of the three churches in the Kansas-Colorado area.

Mr. Allen Manteufel has already assumed his responsibility as pastor of God's churches in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Charles Dorothy has also assumed his post as pastor of our churches in Eugene and Salem, Oregon.

You can expect to see much "fruit" produced as a result of the training and

ordination of these God-called men.

After ordaining these four men as full ministers and *preaching elders*, Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers then layed hands on and ordained Mr. Don Billingsley and Mr. Leroy Neff as *local elders* in God's Church. They will be used a great deal in counselling, anointing and visiting people in the large Los Angeles area.

#### Rejoice, But Press On!

We should all REJOICE over these ordinations! These men were *sorely needed* in God's ministry.

But as hundreds more are converted in this nation and *around the world* to God's TRUTH, we certainly find that Jesus was prophetic when He said: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (Mat. 9:37).

Just as this goes to press, Mr. Jon Hill reports that the latest attendance at the twice-monthly Bible study now being held in Oklahoma City was 55 adults and 33 children! We sorely need a local church here and in MANY such places.

Also, the nationwide baptizing tours headed by Mr. Carlton Smith and Mr. Bryce Clark have already met and baptized well *over* one hundred persons as this goes to press. Between now and the Feast of Tabernacles we expect over four hundred will be baptized by these tours alone—plus other hundreds in the local church areas and at the Feast itself!

And, as you all should know by now, another new local church has been raised up by Mr. Wayne Cole in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The attendance there is now reported to be nearly *forty* adults, plus many children. As all of our churches, it will *grow*.

Last, but far from least, we should remind you of the full-scale *evangelistic campaign* now being held in Springfield, Missouri, by Mr. Ted Armstrong. The campaign is just beginning as this goes to press—so we will give you a more complete report on it next month. But remember to keep PRAYING for the success of this campaign.

Pray that *hundreds* will be helped, and that at least many scores of people will be brought to *real* repentance and conversion. And pray that a *strong* local church may be raised up in Springfield as a result of this campaign.

As you rejoice over the tremendous growth God is granting His Church, don't forget the equally tremendous NEED of more *trained, qualified* and *God-called ministers and helpers*. Please PRAY for this need! And remember that more co-workers, tithe payers and prayer warriors are also needed. We ALL have an important part in this Divine *mission* to which God has called us!

# WHO Should Perform the Marriage Ceremony?

*Does it make any difference who performs the marriage ceremony? Is it right that our young people should go to a justice of the peace or a minister of any denomination? Here is what young people NEED to know!*

by Herman L. Hoeh

A WEDDING is undoubtedly the most delightful event young people experience. It is the moment for which they have waited, perhaps months, or maybe years. You parents experienced the same joys when you were married, didn't you?

Mothers, especially, can't keep from the natural desire to live over again their marriages in their daughters. Just ask any husband!

Yet with all the joys, anticipations and hopes—as God intended marriage to be—there is also the SERIOUS side of marriage. Responsibility comes with it—financial, emotional, parental and spiritual problems present themselves. Marriage is indeed the most *serious* physical union in which human beings can be united. But how few understand what is involved *before* they are married!

## World in Confusion

As our church is growing constantly each year, we are confronted with young people who inevitably do as God intended—they want to marry. It thus is becoming one of our great responsibilities to teach and train and prepare our young people who are anticipating marriage. How many of you wish *now* that you had understood what marriage and life were all about when you were young!

The very first principle which all children, and especially young couples planning to marry, should realize is that GOD ORDAINED MARRIAGE. He is the Author of this physical union. It is to Him that we should ultimately look for advice and counsel. He is the One who has explained WHY marriage has been ordained, WHAT its duties are. It is to God that we must go if we are to understand the truth about marriage ceremonies and WHO should perform them.

Let's understand what the Bible *reveals* about this most important union.

The world is in confusion. Each State has its own marriage laws. Every denomination has its opinion about what constitutes marriage. But almost no one seems to *understand* the significance of the Biblical revelation that *God* is the Author of marriage. Human beings go to human courts of law, they go to rep-

resentatives of *this world*—justices of the peace and worldly ministers—to have the marriage ceremony performed. Most everyone believes that some official of this world "binds" husband and wife.

Isn't that exactly how most of you were married? Of course, *God*, recognizing your hearts, *did bind you*. You were married, but it was God and not man, by the authority of a sovereign State, who bound you till death.

But is this the *way* God intended marriage to be solemnized? Now that you know the TRUTH, would you have the marriage ceremony performed in that manner—contrary to God's will?

God has overlooked our past mistakes, but let us teach our children the right way so they won't make the same mistakes.

## Is a Ceremony Wrong?

Some people who carelessly read the Bible have arrived at the mistaken notion that all ceremony is wrong.

Jesus attended a wedding at which he performed his first miracle—turning water into *wine*. The church is to be married to Christ at a "marriage supper"—a ceremony. It is a matter of the *kind* of ceremony that is important. *God approves and sanctions ceremony*, but not the ritualistic practices that attend worldly social ceremonies which have no other purpose than exciting pride and vanity.

## The TRUE Marriage Ceremony

Not every detail in the marriage ceremony is revealed, but we *can* understand the principles. God was present at the first marriage—He brought Eve to Adam and gave her to be his wife. There was a time of festive rejoicing at the marriage of Jacob (Gen. 29:22).

A simple ceremony is absolutely necessary to avoid the evils of fornication, adultery, bigamy and kindred practices that would result without a ceremony.

Marriage is a union, involving vows, which is BOUND BY GOD *through prayer* (Matt. 19:6). It is a *setting apart* of two young people to become husband and wife. In Bible ceremonies there is the constant example of setting apart for special purpose by PRAYER TO GOD

and LAYING ON OF HANDS (Num. 27:18-23; Acts 6:6; 8:18).

How plain it is, then, that the marriage ceremony ought to be performed by one who stands as *God's representative*, since it is God who binds.

The ceremony ought to be performed by one whom God hears—one of God's ministers whose prayers God will answer. How foolish to go to someone whom God doesn't hear to have the ceremony performed, and then go to God's minister to ask him for God's blessing.

The true ceremony should be performed by laying on of the minister's hands on the clasped hands of the couple and, through prayer to God, asking God to bind the couple according to His Word (Matt. 19:6). Of course, all legal requirements of the State should be attended to also.

## Young People Need Counsel

Before marriage, more than any other time, young people need advice. Most of you who are parents have come to realize this by hard experience. You probably didn't have the kind of counsel you really needed. God did not intend that young people should go to this world's ministers, who do not even know the law of God, for advice on problems which involve some of the most important spiritual and physical laws which God ordained.

Our young people can have this advice by counselling with our ministers in the local churches or with Mr. Armstrong during the Feast of Tabernacles.

## What Must We Give Up?

(Continued from page 4)

THIS WORLD WITH HIM! Yes—even to *judge* angels! (I Cor. 6:3.) *Do the judges and jurors fellowship with the ones who are awaiting trial?* No.

But can we find the right balance?

Can we fully understand that we must remain unspotted from the world and yet love those who are ensnared in it? Whoever will be a friend of the world is the *enemy of God!* (James 4:4.)

So let's realize that while we must remain *in* this world, we cannot be *of* it!

# JUDGING and DISCIPLINE in God's Church

*What is Christ's way of protecting His church from troublemakers?  
Is there a way we can "judge" evildoers who creep into local  
congregations?*

by Roderick C. Meredith

**M**ILLIONS of sincere but misguided people are *mixed-up* about the meaning of Jesus' words recorded in Matt. 7:1-5.

How often have you heard someone reprimanded for stating his belief that someone else had done wrong by the exclamation, "Judge not, brother. Jesus said we shouldn't judge other people, you know."

What about this? Is it wrong, for example, to warn your friends about a certain youth in the neighborhood who is a thief and who you *know* is a thief because you have caught him in the very act of stealing?

The Bible commands us *not* to bear false witness against another (Exodus 20:16). A talebearer is condemned in God's word (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 18:8). You should always try to help others overcome their sins, and not expose them *unnecessarily*. But is warning your neighbors about a persistent thief "talebearing"?

Of course not! What, then, did Jesus mean when He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged"?

## Read Entire Passage

The way this passage of scripture has been misapplied is a good example of how most professing Bible students often *pervert* the intended meaning of God's word. Their principal trouble is that they *stop too soon*. They read just part of a passage of scripture, and then they interpret it.

This leads to *confusion* and *differing human ideas*. You should *let the Bible interpret the Bible*. Read ALL the passage in which a verse is contained, and then read the *other* places in the Bible which further explain the subject. This way you will get *God's* interpretation—not somebody's human opinion.

Using this "key" to unlock the meaning of scripture, we find that Jesus was referring primarily to people like the hypocritical Pharisees who were accusing others of the very things they themselves were doing (verses 3-5). Jesus said that such people should not "judge" or "condemn" others.

The Fenton translation renders this phrase "condemn not" instead of "judge not."

In the Old Testament, God gave civil

statutes to Israel, and the judges had the authority to condemn evildoers to a death sentence. Later, God sent Christ to bring "grace and truth" (John 1:17). "Grace" is the free, unmerited pardon extended by God to sinners.

Jesus showed that instead of pronouncing sentence upon sinners, as Israel's judges had in the past, it was now the duty of God's representatives to teach them the *right* way and command them to repent of the *wrong* way.

In the case of the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-10), Jesus showed the Pharisees that they were not fit to condemn anyone (verse 7). He was ushering in the dispensation when God's people would no longer be fleshly Israel, but Spirit-begotten sons who would be held accountable by God for obeying even the *spirit* of the law (Matt. 5:28).

Jesus did not "judge" or *pronounce sentence* upon the woman at that moment. But He commanded, "Go, and sin no more."

Human beings are not capable of reading another's mind and heart. But by first *overcoming* your own major faults, and acquiring spiritual wisdom and experience, you *can* become qualified to help others recognize and overcome their sins.

Speaking of one still laden with faults, Jesus said, "Thou hypocrite, *first* cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and *then* shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matt. 7:5).

*First*, overcome your own major faults and grow spiritually. *Then* you will be able to *rightly discern other people's sins* and *help cast them out*. Christ—the living Head of the true church (Col. 1:18)—expected His children to help each other *overcome sin*. When you read *all* of this passage where Jesus spoke about "judging," you get a far different meaning than those who just read and then *humanly interpret* the first verse.

The real meaning of this passage, then, is that Christians must first grow in the character of God before they are qualified to discern the sins of others and help them to be overcomers as well. But mature Christians *should* help their weaker brethren overcome their sins. This will naturally involve *pointing out*

*sins* in others and giving advice and help in overcoming them. Jesus *meant* what He said. But this must all be done God's way.

## Old Testament Examples

If you study the subject of "judging" throughout the entire Bible, you will see clearly why Jesus said what He did on this subject.

Glancing back into the Old Testament, you will find that one of Moses' principal duties was to "judge" the children of Israel (Exodus 18:13-27). He became so over-burdened with this responsibility that he was forced to appoint other God-fearing men to judge the minor cases (verses 17-22).

After Moses died, Joshua acted as a judge in Israel. But later (Judges 2:10-17), a generation arose which rebelled against the judges God set over them. The result was the bloodshed and national suffering described all through the book of Judges. Twice God gives us the major *cause* of all this suffering: "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own sight" (Judges 17:6; 22:21).

Since they *refused* to hearken to God's judges, Israel *suffered* because every man acted on human reason—doing what he thought was right. Relying on human reason instead of on God's chosen representatives always leads to *disaster*. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25).

The congregation of Israel is a fleshly type of the spirit-begotten church of God today. The leaders in Israel *judged* the people, but *trouble* came when the people refused to hearken unto those whom God had set in authority. Speaking of the children of Israel, the apostle Paul was inspired to write, "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for *our* admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11).

## A Look Ahead

Looking toward the future, you will find that the reward of the Christian is a position of *ruling* and *judging* the nations. In Rev. 2:26-27, Christ says that those who *overcome* will be given *rule* over the nations. The scene depicted in

Rev. 20:4-6 shows that the resurrected saints will be given positions of *judgment* and *rule* under Christ during the millennium. This thousand year rule of Christ and the saints will take place *on the earth* (Rev. 5:10).

A brief glance at I Cor. 6:1-7 reveals that the saints will not only judge the world, but *we will even judge angels!* If this be so, "how much more things pertaining to this life?" wrote Paul.

Both the example of ancient Israel and the promises of our future reward clearly reveal that God's servants *in all times* are called on to "judge" and to direct those under their charge. Our whole Christian life is to prepare us to make wise decisions when we are called on to help *judge* and *rule* the world under Christ. Our willingness to accept God's judgments and directions in our personal lives—and, when called on, to render them wisely and justly—will be one of the deciding factors which will determine our position in the kingdom of God.

How does God's judgment work at this present time? How does it function in His church?

### Church Discipline

Jesus said, "I will build MY church" (Matt. 16:18). Christ is the living, active *head* of God's church (Col. 1:18). He rules the church through His called servants to whom He has committed the keys of the kingdom of heaven. He has given them authority to "bind" or forbid certain things, and to "loose" or permit certain things. This "binding" or "loosing" may also be applied to permitting or forbidding the admission of persons into the fellowship of the church.

Christ gave himself for the church and is cleansing it "that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). Jesus is going to purge sin *out* of his church that it may be spotless before God.

How?

The answer reveals the process of judgment or discipline which God has instituted in His church.

Jesus taught the disciples how to keep sin out of the church in Matt. 18:15-20. Read these verses carefully.

Verse 15 contains an error in translation. Instead of "if thy brother shall trespass against thee," the verse should read "if your brother sins, go and tell him his fault . . ." Thorough investigation into the Greek text *proves* that the words "against thee" should be left out.

Jesus was simply teaching his disciples how to bring back a brother who was *sinning*—whether against them, or someone else, or God only. Notice the three steps Jesus said to take in such a case.

### Jesus' Instructions

First, tell the other person his fault between you and him *alone*. *Don't* gossip or tell others. Don't become upset or bitter over your brother's sin. Just *go and tell him about it privately*. Don't pick at your brother or pester him about trivial matters. But if he *sins*, go and tell him about it with the attitude of *helping* him. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

*Secondly*, if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two other brethren and rehearse the matter again in their presence. Be sure they are mature Christians—men of understanding who will be able to make your sinning brother realize the seriousness of his mistake.

*Thirdly*, if he will not heed their warning to repent, then tell the matter to the church. Since there is order and government in God's true church, you should take the matter up with the pastor. He will carefully review the case, probably have a long talk with the party in error, and will then bring the matter before the entire congregation if he deems this wise.

If, after all this, the sinning party still refuses to repent, Christ said that you are to treat him as an unbeliever. Does this mean you are to hate him or to hold him in contempt? *It certainly does not*. It simply means that you are to treat him as an unconverted outsider and have *no fellowship* with him.

Naturally, you should continue to *love* your erring brother and *pray* that God will bring him to repentance. But you are *not* to talk to him about it or fellowship with him any more until he acknowledges his error and gives evidence that he has *repented*. If your brother finally does repent and turn from his error, we will find later that he may then be readmitted into church fellowship. So his expulsion from the congregation is simply to *wake him up* before it is too late.

### Bound in Heaven

Notice that in this same passage about church discipline, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be *bound in heaven*: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 18:18). Jesus gave His called servants the *authority* to make binding decisions in such cases. But he went on to say, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (verse 20).

Speaking of exercising church discipline, Jesus *promised* that He would *be with* His servants in carrying out this function. Christ himself will *inspire* and *direct* His chosen ministers in all such decisions. It is really Christ who is

governing and judging God's church.

Even the judges in the Old Testament were promised divine guidance in rendering their decisions. In II Chronicles 19:1-7 is an account of how righteous King Jehosaphat appointed judges over the land. He was inspired to instruct them, "Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, *who is with you in the judgment*." Seeing this example of how God directed his fleshly people, how much more will He *direct* and *inspire* His servants today in directing and judging matters within His Spirit-begotten church? Christ will certainly guide His ministers in judging His people today. He intends to present the church *holy* and *blameless* before God. The Bible form of church discipline is one of the means Christ is using to keep His church free from corruption. All such judgments by God's servants will be *bound in heaven*. Christ directs His ministers in governing His church. Then *He backs them up* with His divine authority and power.

Are there further instructions on exactly how this should be carried out?

### Paul's Instructions

The apostle Paul was inspired to write further instructions about church discipline to the churches under his care. He instructed the Galatians. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of *meekness*; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

Notice that Paul admonished them to be *meek* or *humble* when helping a brother to see and overcome a sin. We must never be overbearing or self-righteous in such a case, but should humbly try to help our brother correct his error—realizing that we ourselves may be tempted in the same manner.

Paul gave inspired instructions to the Thessalonian Christians in his epistles. Knowing that some obstinate persons in the congregation might refuse to recognize his authority and instructions, he wrote, "if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and *have no company with him*, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (II Thess. 3:14-15).

If a person gets in a *wrong spirit* and refuses to heed the instructions of God's called servants, Paul showed that they are to be disfellowshipped *that they may be ashamed*.

Learning to obey the *government of God* is the very basis of true Christianity. People *must* be taught to respect and fear the authority God wields through His ministers. If a person refuses to obey God's government now,

how can he be expected to obey it in the kingdom?

In Romans 16:17-18, Paul warned the saints: "Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*" Troublemakers and false teachers are to be marked, and, if they persist, to be *put out of God's church and avoided.* How much trouble and anguish can be avoided if God's people will *heed this warning!*

### An Example

In the third and fourth chapters of I Corinthians, Paul was warning the saints against following any individual instead of Christ and pointing out some of the fruits of a true apostle. He warned them not to take his authority as God's servant lightly.

Paul had undoubtedly heard that some of them had become followers of men and were denying his apostolic authority. They were refusing to recognize God's government through him. So Paul wrote, "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" (I Cor. 4:18-21).

Do you see that Paul was calling attention to the fact that God grants *authority* and *power* to His true servants? Paul knew he had the authority to come "with a rod"—to chasten or *put out* stubborn sinners from their midst. The *POWER* of Almighty God would back him up in this! Any who resisted would be *struck dead* as Ananias and Sapphira if necessary. God's government is with *divine power* and it is well for all of us to realize this!

Paul continued in his letter (I Cor. 5:1-7) to note that a kind of abominable fornication was being practiced among the Corinthians. He commanded them to *put out of their midst* the one who was committing this sin. He said they should "Deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (verse 5).

The clear implication of this passage is that once an obstinate sinner is put out of the church, God will permit Satan to afflict him until he repents—if he will repent. How *fearful* is the judgment of God on those who know the truth and then let themselves be led into *sin* and *rebellion* against God's government!

But strict discipline is *necessary* to *preserve the church.* Tolerating a small

amount of sin will only lead to more. "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (Verse 6).

Paul commanded, "*Purge out* therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump" (verse 7). Out and out *SIN must not* be tolerated within God's church! Our human reason might tell us otherwise, but *God knows best.*

### Reinstatement

Some churches of this world have forms of "excommunication" whereby the object seems to be to hurt and defame the one who has been put out of church fellowship. This is *not* God's way.

As we have seen before, a sinning brother is to be disfellowshipped in order "that he may be ashamed" and come to repentance. The object is to *help* these people—to *wake them up*—not to hurt them.

In II Corinthians 2:1-11, we find that Paul asked the brethren at Corinth to accept the repentance of the fornicator he had commanded them to put out. "Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow" (verses 6-7).

These verses indicate that the man had now repented and was sorrowing greatly over his error. He had learned his lesson. So now he was to be brought back into the fellowship of the church and completely forgiven—just as God forgave him.

Paul said they must forgive him "lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (verse 11). If God's people continued to shun this man, he might have committed suicide or perhaps yielded himself to a demon. In either case it would only work harm to the man and bring reproach on the work of God.

Here we have found in God's word a complete example of how church discipline should be carried out. It must be *strict* with persistent sinners or troublemakers, but mercy and complete forgiveness must be extended to those who learn their lesson and repent.

### Purpose of Discipline

The *purpose* of this form of church discipline is to *prevent* God's children from becoming careless and lukewarm about *SIN*—which God *hates*—and to *protect* God's church from becoming infiltrated with sinners or false teachers who will lead others into *sin.* The *object* of church discipline should be *LOVE*—the desire to protect any of God's children from being led astray.

Jesus—the living *Head* of God's

Church—gave the over-all principles of church discipline to *protect* the church He was beginning to build. If God's ministers and people today love one another and the *truth,* they will want to carry out God's form of judgment in His church to mutually protect each other from falling into the snare of Satan.

No true Christian has anything to fear from this command of God. It is a procedure designed to protect God's children and keep them bound together in *truth* and *love.*

### Scope of Discipline

In I Corinthians 6:1-7, the apostle Paul commanded the saints *not* to go to law before unbelievers, but to bring any disputes before the saints for judgment. This would include disputes over material matters as well as the spiritual problems which we have already discussed. Paul wrote, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? *how much more things that pertain to this life*" (verse 3).

Paul is *not* writing about cases involving outsiders who are unconverted. This chapter deals with converts only.

So when two converted brethren have a disagreement over some material matters—even converted people are still *human* you know—they should bring the matter before the leaders in God's church. Verse 4 of this passage is incorrectly translated, and most modern translations show that it should be in the form of a question. Paul was asking them *why* they were bringing their disputes before those who were little esteemed by the church. He continues, "I speak to your shame" (because they were doing this). "Is it so, that there is not a *wise man* among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?" (verse 5).

It is the *wise men,* then, the ministers and elders in the church, to whom these problems should be brought. Instead of going before worldly courts, Christians should want to have their disputes settled God's way, according to the principles of God's righteous laws. They are commanded to bring all such disputes before the church for judgment.

God's judgment will ensure full justice for everyone concerned, and will save the church from bearing any reproach over such matters in the outside world.

The apostle Paul specifically states that Christian leaders should be best qualified to judge these matters because they are training to judge the *world*—to judge *angels.* Don't you see the great wisdom of God's government and judgment in His church? He is preparing us to *rule the world* by giving us  
(Please continue on page 12)

## Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have discussed those problems pertaining directly to members of God's Church.

### Should You Spend Your Second Tithe at Home?

If for some unforeseen circumstance you are unable to attend the Feast of Tabernacles, what should you do with your second tithe? Many that we have met on the baptizing tours, and others by letters, have asked about this problem.

First, let us understand the purpose of the second tithe. God, in His Word, commands us to assemble at His set feasts. In order to make our attendance possible, God ordained that we set aside a second tithe to cover expense to and from the festival (Deut. 14:23-26; 16:13-15).

In ancient times, when travel expenses were of little consequence, the tithe was used to cover food expenses primarily. But today, since the purpose of the second tithe is to enable us to attend the festivals, much more of it has to be spent for transportation than for food.

Now let us notice *where* the second tithe was to be spent:

"Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there . . . that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into money . . . and shalt GO unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose . . . and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice" (Deut. 14:22-27).

The second tithe—the tenth that God wants us to use, which is another and separate tenth from the first tithe that He reserves for Himself for the carrying out of the gospel—the second tithe we are to use to attend the festivals. But let us read further:

"Thou mayest NOT eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine . . . but thou MUST eat them before the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter" (Deut. 12:17-18).

Here is a positive command *not* to use the second tithe at home if you are

unable to attend. You *must* use it to enable you to attend the festivals at the place which God chooses. If the money is spent for any other purpose, then you are breaking a command of God—you are not learning to fear His authority—and you are cheating yourself of the wonderful blessing of fellowship with others of like faith.

If for unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend the festivals, and if you are prosperous, it would be the right and brotherly duty to enable others to use your tithe. It can be sent to Pasadena, with an explanation that it is to enable others to attend the festival.

But if you are like most of the brethren, not having many worldly goods, and a small income or none at all, and if you are unable to come to the festival, you should save it until the next year or for two years, if necessary, when you will then have enough to assemble where God has chosen to place His name. Meantime, you will be observing the festivals at home just as you would at the feast.

In many cases we try to aid the poorer brethren through the extra second tithe of those few who have more than enough. But only those who have faithfully saved their insufficient second tithe deserve the extra help. If you have not tried to save your little, God can not deem you worthy of His extra assistance.

The Feast begins this year at sunset Sept. 28 and ends sunset Oct. 6. The annual sabbaths are Sept. 29 and Oct. 6, beginning previous evening.

### Should a Christian Woman Obey Her Unconverted Husband?

This question has troubled many women who have been called to a knowledge of the truth before their husbands have been called. They are faced with a tremendous problem which may cause much needless worry and anxiety until the plain teaching of the Bible concerning this subject is understood.

In Ephesians 5:22-23, we read: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: . . ."

Does this apply to you if your husband is *unconverted*?

Here is the Biblical answer. "Likewise, ye wives, be in *subjection* to your own husbands; that, IF ANY OBEY NOT THE

WORD, they also may *without the word* be won by the conversation of the wives" (I Pet. 3:1).

If your husband doesn't understand the truth, you shouldn't try to convert him by constantly repeating your belief and by insisting that he listen to the broadcast or read the literature. That will only drive him further away from the truth.

Rather, you should wait until he questions you concerning a certain truth. Then you should be prepared to give a convincing Biblical explanation.

Peter further instructs Christian women:

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted God, adorned themselves, being in *subjection* unto their own husbands" (I Pet. 3:3-5).

Certainly, controversies will come up in families if they disagree on religion. In such a case, the wife should obey God rather than her husband. For example, if the husband wishes his wife to break the Sabbath day by doing the family shopping on Saturday, or by attending a football game or movie with him, she should refuse to do so.

However, she should explain in a very kind way that the Sabbath is the day God commanded her to keep holy. She should, in such a case, obey God rather than man. Yet, she should always obey her husband when his authority does not conflict with the higher authority or law of God.

The wife should be in subjection to her husband *even though he may not be converted*. Though he may never be converted in this life (I Cor. 7:12-16), yet if she is in subjection to him and respects him as the Bible commands, he will love and respect her. As a result, he may very possibly be won by her good example. He may be inspired to want to obey the truth when he sees what a godly and righteous life she is living (I Pet. 3:1).

In any event, her constant love and respect, and her cheerful recognition of her husband's rightful place as head of the house will result in them both living a happier and fuller life together at this present time.

All of you wives need to respect and submit to your husbands as the Bible commands. This is God's way—the Christian way. Most women have not understood this subject, and much unhappiness has resulted. Ask God to help you honor your husband as you should.

# You Are NOT an "Armstrongite"

*Some of our members need to learn to what Church they belong!*

by Richard D. Armstrong

**D**O YOU know what Church you belong to? When your friends ask you, "What is your church? What denomination do you belong to?"—what is your answer? Do you tell them you are an "Armstrongite?"—or a member of the "Armstrong Movement"—the man that preaches over the radio on the World Tomorrow program?

JUST WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM?

First, let's look at the meaning of the word "church."

As it was originally used, the word "church" meant a *group of people*, no more, no less. It did not mean a holy group or a Christian group—merely a *group of people*. That is the meaning of the original Greek word, *ekklesia*.

If you call yourself solely "a follower of Herbert W. Armstrong" or any other *man*, then you are *not* a follower of Christ—hence not a Christian! The word *Christian* implies one who is a *follower of Jesus Christ*, who patterns his life after the life Christ led, who believes His teachings and follows His precepts.

As popularly applied, the word "church" is taken to mean a group of people bound together by a common creed or religious belief. There are many different churches of this world, each with its own name, each with the name of the particular person, creed or custom it follows.

What, then, is *our* creed and whom do we follow? Whose group are we and to whom do we belong?

## Is Christ Divided?

Notice I Corinthians 1:12-13 where Paul says, "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Herbert W. Armstrong crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Armstrong?

We are not to follow *men*, but we must follow Christ even as He followed the Father.

The true and correct name for the church (group of people) that is God's, that belongs to him—keeps his commands—is "The CHURCH OF GOD." Its members pattern their lives after His Son who lived perfectly. It is GOD'S group, or GOD'S Church! This name implies that we have given ourselves to God—recognize Him as the *supreme*

*authority* on this earth at the present time and have come to be able to be chastized by him, to accept correction and reproof where we are wrong and follow God's true WAY!

Every *other* Church does what it feels is right. Or follows what some human being (or board of men) has set down as his precept of what is right by his own private interpretation of the Bible.

Let us look now at Isaiah 55. Beginning with the sixth verse, we read: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Notice that we must *forsake* OUR ways and turn to the ways of GOD. Thus we KNOW HIM IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS (I John 2:4, 6). So God's true church is a church or group of scattered individuals who recognize God as RULER—as the SUPREME AUTHORITY REIGNING ON EARTH AT THE PRESENT TIME—recognizing that it is God who is working out His PURPOSE here below!

## True Church Receives Correction

Notice Hebrews 12:5-13. We find here that everyone who is a true child of God is being chastened—rebuked by God. That means that he is having to be shown where he is wrong and is willing to admit it and do what is right—go the other way, as God commands!

Notice what it says in the eighth verse: "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye BASTARDS, and NOT sons." Read it! Now we know that we are the children of God if He chastens us and is our constant guide in life, not just an empty belief that we think about a few hours a day or a week!

In II Peter 3:18 we find another sign of God's true church. True Christians are those who *grow* in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Here is another way of knowing which is GOD'S true church. It is NOT a stagnant group, but a group that *grows spiritually* in GRACE and KNOWLEDGE.

A third means by which we know that we are God's True Church is the way we recognize the *authority* of the

Bible. Look at II Timothy 3:16. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God [God's own way of speaking to us directly], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Brethren, *there* is the sign of those who are God's true people! Those who are overcoming, being chastened, recognize God as Supreme Authority, and know that the Bible is his inspired Word whereby He corrects us.

There is only one church or group of people on this earth that is doing this! If these things are true of you, then you are a member of GOD'S CHURCH—a Christian—and should call yourself such, NOT an "Armstrongite," or a follower of any other human being.

NOW, if you are being led by God, chastened and rebuked by Him, daily acknowledging where you are wrong and turning from YOUR ways, and learning and living HIS ways, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH and not an "Armstrongite" or a member of "the Armstrong Movement." You should boldly tell people to whom you belong. Notice Paul's teaching in Acts 20:28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the CHURCH OF GOD, which he hath PURCHASED with his own blood!" We belong to God! You are a member of the Church of God!

## The NAME of the Church

The Bible gives us the true NAME of the Church in *twelve* different places. Twelve is God's COMPLETE number.

In five passages where the true NAME of the Church appears, the entire Body of Christ—the Church as a whole—is indicated. Thus, when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is "The CHURCH OF GOD."

1) Acts 20:28, the admonition to elders to "feed THE CHURCH OF GOD."

2) I Cor. 10:32: "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to THE CHURCH OF GOD."

3) I Cor. 11:22: ". . . or despise ye THE CHURCH OF GOD, and shame them that have not?"

4) Gal. 1:13: Paul writes, "I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD."

5) I Cor. 15:9, "I persecuted the

## CHURCH OF GOD."

Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, it is called "The CHURCH OF GOD," often in connection with the PLACE of location.

6) I Cor. 1:2: "The CHURCH OF GOD, which is at Corinth."

7) II Cor. 1:1: "The CHURCH OF GOD, which is at Corinth."

8) Speaking of a local elder of a local church: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of THE CHURCH OF GOD?"

9) Here the name applies to the *building*, or *house* of meeting. I Tim. 3:15: "... that thou mayest know how thou ought to behave thyself in the *house* of God, which is THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD." Here it is the Church of the Living God.

And, finally, in speaking of the local church congregations collectively, not as one general body so much as all the single organized local churches collectively, the Bible name is THE CHURCHES OF GOD.

10) I Cor. 11:16: "... we have no such custom, neither THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

11) I Thes. 2:14: "For ye, brethren, became followers of THE CHURCHES OF GOD which IN JUDAEA are in Christ Jesus."

12) II Thes. 1:4: "So that we ourselves glory in you in THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

Our members should realize that there are several religious denominations who claim the name "Church of God." We should bear in mind that *all* sects of this world have *some* truth, though mixed with error. Several have found the truth about the true NAME, and use it. As long as God allows this, we can have nothing to do with it.

It is *because* of this fact, and BECAUSE it is Scriptural to include with the name the designation of PLACE, such as "The Church of God at Corinth," that we incorporated under the name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD." The broadcast started in 1934 as "The Radio Church of God." By the time we were forced to incorporate in order to be subject to the powers of human government as the Bible instructs us to be, this name had become nationally known. Because others already were incorporated in the state as "The Church of God," we were not allowed to incorporate under that name alone. Since the radio work was the main function of the church—and at the time it was, primarily, a church over the radio, rather than in any one or several church buildings—and since it was entirely Scriptural, we incorporated under the name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD." We may, someday, be able to alter this to "The Churches of God."

But, regardless of technical names of

the incorporated work, the name of the CHURCH to which you belong—that general body of all the individuals in the world who collectively form the true Body of Christ—IS THE CHURCH OF GOD.

Tell your friends and acquaintances the TRUTH—*do not be ashamed of God!* Tell them you are a member of *God's Church!* You may say that Herbert W. Armstrong is your pastor, but NEVER say you are his follower. You must follow CHRIST, even as HE followed the Father!

Finally, when anyone asks you what Church you belong to, tell them "THE CHURCH OF GOD." The world-wide evangelistic *work* of the Church is incorporated under the legal name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD"—but the TRUE CHURCH is *not* merely a legally incorporated society, but a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM entirely separate from human political jurisdiction or control. It is GOD'S Church, ruled by GOD'S GOVERNMENT, as God Himself governs through those of His choosing. Although our world-wide activity in carrying out Christ's Great Commission must conform to legal requirements of organized human government of THIS WORLD, and, therefore, is legally named for purposes of dealing with men's political power the "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD," that great over-all SPIRITUAL ORGANISM which is God's true Church on earth, SEPARATE from this world though *in* it, is named THE CHURCH OF GOD. That is the Church to which we belong!

## Judging and Discipline

(Continued from page 9)

practical *experience* in administering and obeying God's government now.

The scope of God's judgment includes physical as well as spiritual matters. It is designed to promote and preserve harmony and righteousness among God's people, and to prepare us by experience to become kings and priests in the kingdom of God.

### The Reward

Up until recently most of us didn't fully understand the necessity of purging the evil out of God's church. We thought that perhaps God would take care of it without us doing anything. And it *seemed* like it would be showing more love if we just tried to tolerate evildoers in our midst and hoped for the best.

But can we show more love than God? Are our ideas wiser than God's plan? The answer is obviously "no."

In his early ministry among God's people, Mr. Armstrong found by hard experience that if sinners are not *put out* of God's church as Christ command-

ed, a little leaven does leaven the whole lump. Sin spreads like wildfire if it is tolerated. We *must* obey Jesus' command to disfellowship those who persist in an outright violation of God's law after they have been warned.

False teachers must be "marked" and refused further admittance and association in God's church. This is the command of Almighty God. People who rely on human reason may think this is a lack of love. But this is God's way—and God *is* love.

Each of you brethren will have a part in carrying out God's judgment and discipline in the church as He directs. You must be very careful to do it *God's way*. Be sure to follow all the steps Jesus gave when you warn a brother of a sin he is committing.

Church discipline must be exercised in LOVE. In any such matter, always try to *help* the other party—not injure him. Ask God to give you *wisdom* and to help you do everything His way.

*Study carefully* all the scriptures in this article. Realize that you have *no excuse* for continually criticizing or "picking at" anyone in God's church. You are only to go to them in love and point out their mistake if they are literally and definitely *breaking God's law*.

In material disputes, you are to go directly to God's ministers instead of a worldly court. If you love God, this will always be to *your best interests*. This is God's way—God's *command*.

In all cases, remember that the final *responsibility* for all decisions rests with God's ministers whom He has called. Christ has promised to "be with" and guide them in every judgment. The judgment is of *God*. It will be "bound" in heaven.

You may be tempted to criticize or disagree with some decision that God's ministers will bind. *Be very careful* lest you let this turn you against God. You may not understand all the facts. But God's called ministers probably do and they are responsible to Him—not some human—for their actions in directing His church.

It is human nature to disagree with God. When the children of Israel rejected Samuel as their judge and leader (I Sam. 8:1-9), God told Samuel, "They have not rejected thee, but *they have rejected ME*, that I should not reign over them." Be fearful lest you reject God by rebelling against His called servants.

God holds His ministers responsible for teaching you His word, and for directing His church and carrying out *church discipline*. By following *God's way* of church discipline and judgment, the church of God may go forward in peace and love—and will be purged of all sin to be presented "holy and without blemish" to Christ at His coming.