

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



More About Our Cover...

The Ambassador College Library Building. This building now serves many functions. On the new third level are the penthouse offices of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. On the second level are the modern studios of *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast. From here originate the programs that carry the Gospel of the Kingdom of God—around the world.

What our READERS SAY...

New Life in *The GOOD NEWS*

"This is to say a resounding 'well done,' and 'bravo' for the new cover of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine. With the addition of the color, the magazine has taken on new life. This is an additional step forward. I particularly like the articles about the Work overseas and around the world. It brings it much closer to home, and can enhance the fervency of our prayers as we see things take shape in the affairs of the world toward the return of Christ to this earth."

John A., California

Badly in Need

"The attached are badly in need of *The PLAIN TRUTH*." (69 names were submitted to be placed on our mailing list.)

A pastor of Methodist Church,
West Virginia

● *We can see exactly why they would be badly in need of it!*

Perplexed About the Sabbath

"We discovered *The WORLD TOMORROW* radio program merely by accident one day while listening to music. It was a dynamic sermon that day, but my husband and I had no intention of hearing it again. Strange as it may seem, I hadn't opened the Bible my husband bought us when we were married almost two years ago, or

any Bible, until we read our first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. It was startling and very hard to believe after years of observance that Christmas practices and Easter are pagan. After confirmation at the local library here, we were still astonished. But now we are anxious to learn more of the truth. I have a question which has perplexed me for some time. The Bible states that the seventh day is the Sabbath, now we Christians observe Sunday which I believe is the first day of the week. Nowhere have I found that Christ changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. What are we to do in this case?"

Mrs. Richard S., Hawaii

● *Obey Christ—who is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), and still keeps it today! (Heb. 13:8).*

Growth Gone

"I am truly thankful for what the Lord can do and for His healing power. That growth on my side is gone, and I want to thank you for taking part in asking God to remove it."

C. M., Texas

SDA-ism Not the Answer

"What religious denomination do you actually represent? I was a Protestant at one time, my wife Catholic—both of us have been expelled from
(Please continue on page 20)

The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY of any
change in your address. Please include both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

BLESSINGS During Our "Austere" Year!

Our own huge PRESS will soon be printing The PLAIN TRUTH! At last, Ambassador is to build a full-sized GYMNASIUM. And more NEW churches and Bible studies are being started!

by Roderick C. Meredith

MR. HERBERT W. Armstrong has directed that God's Work undertake a financial "austerity" year. That year is nearing completion—and the results show that God has tremendously BLESSED His Work even though expenses were generally curtailed.

It seemed that almost from the very month we put a *converted* man in as Business Manager—and almost simultaneously began an austerity year—God began to cause many factors to work out to BLESS the Work in a most unusual manner. We have improved the financial position of God's Work even more than hoped for. Now the very *Work* of Jesus Christ is in a more sound, solid and STABLE financial position than *ever before*.

We have much over which to REJOICE! Yet we must KEEP UP the good work—for tremendous GROWTH lies ahead in the few remaining years of this inspired CRUSADE preparing the way for *Christ's second coming!*

Building Expansion Ahead

After hearing the facts, Mr. Herbert Armstrong recently made the decision that God's Work can now afford—and possibly even *save money*—to go ahead and buy a huge web-fed press and print *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine OURSELVES! This huge press will be almost as large as an ordinary house, and will total an investment of nearly one-third of a million dollars! Yet it will save *outside* printing bills of multiple thousands of dollars every month—and we hope that it will more than pay

for itself within a few years. By printing *The PLAIN TRUTH ourselves*, we will have the advantages of internal control and security, more convenient scheduling for our writers, and actually *superior* printing!

Witness the new improved GOOD NEWS as an example of what our *own* men in God's Work can produce!

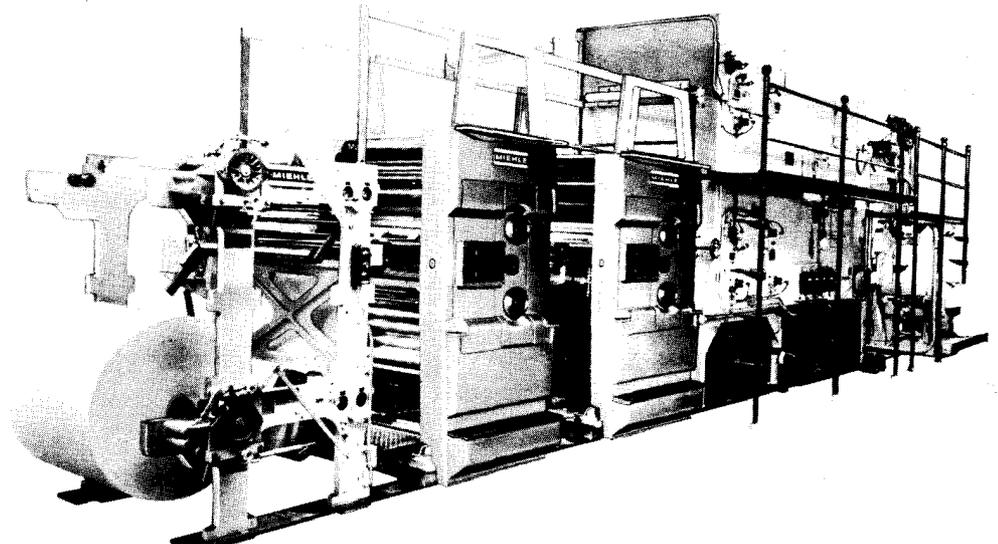
Even before the factors became apparent that we should print *The PLAIN TRUTH* ourselves, God had directed Mr. Armstrong and our Business Department to purchase the property of a former lumber company which now appears as the *ideal site* in which to establish our own printing shops. In fact, the extra electrical wiring, the extra water pressure available, and even our own railroad siding are available as necessary items in any printing estab-

lishment—the railroad siding making possible the *wholesale* purchase of our own paper in order to save additional thousands of dollars each year!

Things like this make all of us realize more deeply WHO is really running this Work—*Christ's Work!*

Also, if a building permit can be obtained, Mr. Armstrong has definitely approved plans for us to go ahead *immediately* and build, finally, our own Ambassador College *gymnasium!* This will be a full-sized gymnasium with a regulation basketball court and many other facilities. The floor will be of such a nature as to permit assemblies and forums to be held there without damaging it until our new dining hall can be built. The building of this gymnasium will *not delay* the plans for our much-needed dining hall since the

The Work of God has just ordered a web-offset press very similar to this one. It's purchase is a major move forward in God's Work!



architectural drawings for this fine building will take much longer for completion anyway.

A Third Ambassador College— NEXT FALL!

Another *tremendous* decision—or at least a re-confirmation of a previous one—was made in a recent meeting of the top executives here at God's Headquarters. Mr. Armstrong and several others had questioned whether we really *should*, after all, start a third Ambassador College on our own acreage near Big Sandy, Texas. In this meeting, ALL the factors on both sides were weighed and considered and Mr. Armstrong made the definite and "absolute" decision that we will *definitely* start the third Ambassador College—NEXT FALL!

This will, I know, be cause for great rejoicing among *thousands* of you brethren!

It will mean that additional *hundreds* of applicants for Ambassador College will be accepted in the coming years and have an opportunity to be trained at one of GOD's own colleges. So let's all APPRECIATE this opportunity which God is affording! Let us be willing to *work*, to *pray* and to *sacrifice*—when necessary—that this third Ambassador College may be started as a tremendous additional BLESSING to *hundreds* of young people associated with God's Church and Work—and to thousands of their friends and relatives who have prayed that they might attend one of God's colleges.

We now own over sixteen hundred acres at our Tabernacle site near Big Sandy, Texas. Nearly all of this land is *already* paid for. So land costs—and *building costs*—will be much cheaper there on our own property. And the atmosphere should be TREMENDOUS—right out in nature, near the beautiful Lake Loma which our own men have constructed, and with a small but beautiful little stream running right through the center of the campus grounds!

Let us all *give thanks* to our Living HEAD and SAVIOUR that He has enabled His Work to be in such a position that these BLESSINGS may be afforded to His people, and their children, and their children's children!

New Churches Established— New Deacons Ordained

Just before or just after the Feast of Tabernacles, *three* NEW CHURCHES were established here in the United States! And in Australia, the Bible study in Brisbane has been converted into a full-time church, meeting regularly every Sabbath!

Starting just before the Feast of Tabernacles, our new local church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been a real success. God's minister there, Mr. Sherwin McMichael, reports that it is a warm and growing church with very fine potential. The Sabbath of November 30 saw a new record being made in attendance with 194 present for the Minneapolis services! This is certainly a *fine start* in a new area for God's Church.

In the Southeast, new churches were started in Richmond, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, by Mr. Raymond C. Cole, District Superintendent, and Mr. Richard Plache as local minister. Recent attendance in the Richmond church stood at 124 brethren on the Sabbath of December 7. And on the same Sabbath, the Greensboro church had 244 in attendance! So God is certainly BLESSING scores of our brethren in the Southeast with the opportunity now to attend Sabbath services *regularly*.

In the "Land Down Under," the attendance for December 7 in the Bris-

bane church stood at 103—with 60 adults and 43 children there to hear Mr. C. Wayne Cole, God's Evangelist, telling them about the growth of God's world-wide Work and exhorting each one to fulfill his individual responsibility in the Body of Christ.

More good news comes from Mr. Arthur Craig, our minister in Alabama and Georgia, who reports that three new Deacons were ordained in the churches there on the Sabbath of October 26. In Birmingham, Mr. Robert Collins and Mr. Marvin Moody were ordained as Deacons. In Atlanta, Mr. Craig ordained Mr. James Kidd as the Deacon in that area. Let us *rejoice* and PRAY that God will continue to add more laborers—Deacons, Deaconesses and Elders—to the Body of Christ. Certainly they are MUCH NEEDED!

From Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse reports continued growth among the people of GOD in that far-off land: "You will recall that we started the church on March 23 with 33 in attendance. Three weeks ago, we had 90 in attendance. Since then 88 and 85 have attended. The Bible study on Friday evenings runs between 67 and 77. My biweekly Bible study in Durban has been coming along pretty well with from 35 to 38 in attendance."

So even in South Africa, God's
(Please continue on page 19)

Zion Hall in Johannesburg, South Africa. Here Mr. Gerald Waterhouse conducts Bible studies and Sabbath services for the brethren in this part of the world.



SEVEN PROOFS *of God's True Church*

*Are you SURE you're a member of the ONE TRUE CHURCH?
Are you really in the ONLY CHURCH ON EARTH Jesus
Christ RULES? Have you thoroughly and carefully PROVED
it? Your LIFE—your future—your SALVATION depend on it!*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

FAMILIARITY breeds contempt. A simple principle. And yet a *great pitfall*, if you should ever allow familiarity with the true Church of GOD, with the *living Jesus Christ*, with the precious TRUTH you've been given, to lead you into an attitude of carelessly taking it all for granted!

If you are a TRUE member of the TRUE Church—you can, and should, PROVE it!

We have already seen two great proofs of the true Church of God. The first proof is one of the greatest principles of the Bible—that God is the RULER in heaven and in earth, and that He actually RULES in His own Church.

We saw the *three-fold* second proof of the great SIGN God made between Himself and His own people—the sign of His NAME, and His WEEKLY and ANNUAL SABBATHS!

Now you need to study, and carefully PROVE to yourself—the THIRD major proof of the true Church of the only true God!

A Plethora of Paganism

Look at the darkened superstitions around you! In the "modern" world, we seemingly *take for granted* the various "doctrines" and "beliefs" of the many religions. We are *not* usually frightened—*scared*—when we see several apparitions approaching, dressed in large, loose, flapping, black robes, with crisp, white, wing-like hoods about their heads. We're not especially startled to see men wearing skirts, or with collars on "backwards" or with bald spots on their heads.

We're not especially alarmed to understand the almost FANTASTIC varieties of "belief" held by the average passers-by on the streets of our modern cities.

Some believe in "going to heaven." Others believe there *is* no God—that evolution is true. Still others believe in various interpretations of pantheism, polytheism, deism, dualism, theistic evolution, modernism, fundamentalism, mormonism, adventism, and, give or take a few hundred, about a *thousand more* shades and colorings of "belief."

Fast friends in many social circles believe WIDELY different things about religion!

Sitting across from each other at the bridge table may be one person fully expecting to be "raptured" away *secretly* some day—while another believes there is no living Christ. One thinks only his *body* dies, and his "*soul*" goes off to heaven, while another believes he will reappear in the form of a gnat, or a mosquito.

Still another believes he isn't even there! He is only a transitory thought, progressively coming into cosmic consciousness, or some empty, and totally meaningless phraseology.

What CONFUSION! What a total MESS! What DARKNESS! What IGNORANCE!

Called Out of Babylon

The true Church of God *firmly believes* God when He says, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his

angels were cast out with him" (Rev. 12:9), and shows that *Satan* is the god of this present world, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4).

All nations HAVE been deceived. They are in spiritual *darkness*. God said, through Isaiah, "Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Eternal hath poured out upon you the spirit of *deep sleep*, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, 'Read this, I pray thee' and he saith, 'I cannot, for it is sealed!'" (Isa. 29:9-11).

The great *false* religion, the great WHORE of Revelation, described in the 17th and 18th chapters, has made the nations *spiritually drunk* on the false doctrines of Simon Magus! ". . . the inhabitants of the earth have been made *drunk* with the wine [false doctrines] of her fornication . . . and upon her forehead was a name written, 'MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH!'"

Think, for a moment, of the almost FANTASTIC superstitions YOU used to believe!

You probably thought you had a SOUL that was immortal, that you were destined to go to an ever-burning HELL

because of what *Adam* did. You probably thought of God as a vague, nebulous sort of "trinity" way off somewhere—not much concerned about HERE and NOW—THIS earth!

You probably believed you might someday go to "heaven" and sprout wings—to shuffle endlessly through pipe organ music, or play on a harp, as you strolled down streets of gold and silver!

To you, the Devil had horns and a pitchfork, Adam "fell," angels had wings, and all "good" Christians went to church on Sunday.

Christmas and Easter were two of the *most* important "holidays" (watered down from HOLY-days), and any Christian had a perfect right to kill any other Christian, just so the two nations were at war!

Does it sound familiar?

And yet—how CONFUSING! HOW UTTERLY EMPTY AND SENSELESS are the pagan "doctrines" held to be true by the blinded peoples of this present world!

The third great PROOF of the true Church of God is knowing the TRUTH! Knowing the TRUTH about the *pagan* origins of the "doctrines" of THIS WORLD—and knowing the REAL TRUTH of GOD!

What Is a "Doctrine?"

Think again!

Did you actually LEARN anything from the various "doctrines" you used to believe? Was there any actual *sense*, any continuity, any theme or PLAN to them? Did you learn something VITAL-ly IMPORTANT about YOUR OWN SALVATION, for example, at Christmas time? Did you understand thoroughly and DEEPLY about the definite, provable, practical, workable SOLUTIONS to this world's problems?

Did you really KNOW what the world would be like in the 20 hundreds, in Century Twenty-One? Did you really UNDERSTAND what man is, WHY he is, WHERE he is going?

Were you taught the TRUTH about the very *nature* of man—the PURPOSE in that nature—and its ultimate DESTINY?

No! You most certainly were not!

A *doctrine* is just ONE MORE POINT OF TRUTH ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND PLAN OF GOD!

A "doctrine" is NOT an utterly disconnected "idea" or philosophy about some completely irrelevant and vague-sounding sanctimonious something!

A doctrine is NOT a cherished ARGUMENT—a WEAPON you use with which to FIGHT against some OTHER doctrine!

A doctrine is a simple TRUTH from GOD'S WORD!

It is a FACT, a *truth*, which *further explains* the WHOLE purpose of God, and the great PLAN He is using to work out that purpose here below!

John wrote, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the *doctrine* of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the *doctrine of Christ*, he hath both the Father and the Son.

"If there come any unto you, and *bring not this DOCTRINE*, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed . . ." (II John 9-10).

"THIS doctrine" is the doctrine OF Christ; it is *not* various doctrines *about* Christ—quaint little "stories" and traditions about His birth, or sentimental teachings using His name for window dressing—but the very TRUTH which HE BROUGHT!

Christ is the *Word*, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us *by His Son*, . . . BY WHOM HE MADE THE WORLDS . . ." (Heb. 1:1).

He is the Bible, PERSONIFIED!

The real TRUTH, then, the *true* doctrine of Christ, is the truth which He reveals through His Word—NOT a pagan superstition, ancient tradition, or "idea" ABOUT Christ or the Bible manufactured by MEN!

God says, "There is one body, one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, *one faith* . . ." (Eph. 4:4-5).

ONE FAITH—meaning one body of beliefs, *one* DOCTRINE, one perfectly harmonious TRUTH believed and practiced by the true Church of God! Unless EVERY point of TRUTH you may believe fits perfectly and harmoniously into the WHOLE of the doctrine of

Christ—unless each truth you have learned only further serves to elucidate, clarify and further explain the WHOLE of the Plan of God—then it may *not* be a "truth," but error!

The TRUTH About The Pagan Doctrines

The great third PROOF of the true Church of God is knowing the TRUTH about the PAGAN doctrines masquerading as truth in *this world*, and knowing the REAL TRUTH about the TRUE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST!

This proof is a HUGE proof—embodying every scrap and shred, every bit and fiber of understanding concerning the rank PAGANISM that has crept into every nook and cranny of the great fallen church and her defiled daughters! It is a proof with literally *hundreds* of parts!

God's people are continually *growing* in *more and more* knowledge about the rank PAGAN origins of all of what is called "Christianity" by this present world! Even in what might seem "insignificant" things, the knowledge of God's people about the purely *pagan* origin of the teachings and customs in this world has grown and grown.

Look at the MAJOR doctrines of the professing Christian world!

Heaven

Millions fully expect to "get to heaven" someday. Having been *told* about heaven as the reward of the saved since they were *little children*, they have come, without any shred of real PROOF whatever, to really BELIEVE this pagan doctrine! Perhaps they actually saw and *heard* a "death-bed repentance" of a departed loved one. Perhaps, just as their grandmother died, she claimed to have seen a "vision" of heaven! And, whether they had ever seen any real *Biblical proof* or not, thousands of deceived human beings would take such an experience as this as absolute PROOF POSITIVE that the loved one "went to heaven."

Notice how professing Christians *cling* to this vague hope of heaven with a fervent tenacity—just as Satan the Devil became finally *obsessed* with the same idea. Lucifer, the great archangel
(Please continue on page 17)

WHAT Will Each Church Member's Duty Be?

*You were born to rule. Only those who learn to rule now —
in this life — will be saved! Understand why!*

by Herman L. Hoeh

HAVE you ever thought about what YOUR JOB will be in the Kingdom? About what Christ will have you do in the millennium? About how you *qualify* for that responsibility?

What Christ Expects of Every Church Member

Salvation is a gift from God. It is absolutely free. You cannot earn it.

But you can lose it!

Since salvation is something you can *lose*, then God must have set terms or conditions upon which He grants it. It's time you understood what those terms or conditions are.

First, notice how one may lose salvation—why some are thrust out of the Kingdom of God, while others are saved. Jesus said of those who perish: "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30).

What made this man unprofitable? Why did Christ refuse him admission into the Kingdom of God? Wherein had he failed?

The answer is found in verses 21 and 23. To those who are to receive salvation, who will inherit the Kingdom of God, Jesus said: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been *faithful over a few things*, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Do you grasp it? Do you see the difference? The unprofitable servant *was not faithful* in carrying out the few duties given him in this life!

He had not learned to *govern* his time, he had not learned to *master* his human nature, he had not learned to *rule* his family—or, if a woman, to *rule* her children. He hadn't improved his mind or put his income to work—even

though he knew better! All he could say to his Lord was—"I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: and I was afraid, and went and hid my talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine" (verses 24-25).

He buried his talent. He was careless about life's responsibilities. He didn't call upon God for the help he needed. He lacked faith, which is a gift of the Spirit of God. He had not overcome. His Judge condemned him: "Thou wicked and slothful servant . . ." (v. 26).

Too many members in God's Church today are like the unprofitable servant. An **AWFUL** fate awaits them unless they wake up! They are failing the **ONE CONDITION** Jesus Christ set for every church member: "To him that **OVER-COMETH**."

But what does it mean to overcome? The dictionary defines it as: "to master, prevail over, surmount, overwhelm, be victorious over, to win, to get the better of, to conquer."

How many of you are mastering your job, your children, your human nature with God's help? Are you surmounting obstacles? Gaining the victory over bad habits? Conquering your weaknesses?

In short—are you overcoming like Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel? Israel means, in Hebrew, "prevailer with God"—or, "ruler with God."

Do you know what Jacob will be doing in the Kingdom of God? What this Philadelphia Era of the Church will be doing? What your individual responsibility will be? Everyone of us

will be *ruling under Christ!*—IF we have first, in this life, here and now, surrendered our wills to Him, and have let Him rule in and through us. No one will be there who has not come under Christ's authority, or who has not learned to rule with Christ in the little duties and jobs we have in this life.

Different Degrees of Authority

But just as we do not all exercise the same kind of rule and authority now, so there are different kinds of responsibility in the Kingdom of God. Not all will have the same office. Not all will face the same duties.

Notice the second and third chapters of the Book of Revelation. You have read them probably many times. But have you *understood* the message?

Have you considered what the responsibility of *this Church* is to be when the Kingdom of God rules this world? We are the Church that has been used to *restore* the truth and the pattern of God's Government. Not since apostolic days has there been a **HEADQUARTERS** Church until *now*. And *this Church*—the Philadelphia Era of the Church of God—is promised in Revelation 3:12 a responsibility in Jerusalem **AT THE HEADQUARTERS** of the Government of God. Because we have *restored* the **TRUTH** we are also to be made spiritual "pillars" in the Kingdom—in a veritable Supreme Court of God's Kingdom at Headquarters.

What the Seven Churches Are Promised

Open your Bibles to the Book of Revelation. In these two chapters is condensed almost 2000 years of history!

Here are listed five past epochs of the Church of God, together with the vital description of *our Church today*, and that of the very next Laodicean period climaxing this age.

Notice that at the end of each of the seven stages in the history of God's Church there is a definite promise for the Church which carries on God's WORK during that particular period. You will find these seven promises recorded in Rev. 2:7, 10 and 11, 17, 26 to 28; 3:4 and 5, 12, 21.

The only ones who have a right to these promises are OVERCOMERS—those who, through the power of the Spirit of God, overcome themselves, overcome the world about them, and overcome the temptations of wicked spirits who influence the present world.

To each Church epoch DIFFERENT PROMISES are granted! That is, those who overcome are NOT ALL CALLED TO PERFORM THE SAME FUNCTION IN THE KINGDOM. Some Churches are promised a *special duty*.

Consider an example from the Old Testament. God created the office of "king" over the nation Israel. God first selected Saul for that office. The people approved him. Had he been a conqueror of his human nature, he could have qualified to exercise that same office in the Kingdom. But Saul failed!

Then God chose David—a man whom the people would not have chosen. David qualified. He admitted his sins and finally overcame them. *He* will occupy the office of king over Israel in the millennium (Ezek. 37:24).

But notice! Once David qualified for that office *no others can ever occupy it!*

When Jesus called the Apostles, *He did not call them to the same office as David*. He called them to occupy *offices under David*. Here are Jesus' own words to the apostles: "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel*" (Luke 22:28-30).

In Matthew 19:28 Jesus is quoted as saying to the apostles, "Ye also shall sit

upon *twelve thrones*, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Of the fourteen who accompanied Jesus, twelve were ultimately chosen to rule over the twelve tribes. (See Acts 1:15-26.)

Other Offices Yet To Be Filled!

These offices constitute only the nucleus of God's Government. *Upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets*, Jesus has built His Church (Ephesians 2:20). The apostles and the prophets are therefore *in superior authority* to the remainder of the Church built on them.

That Church has existed these nearly 20 centuries. During these centuries God divided the Church into seven epochs—or periods of time. Each Church has its *work* to perform. Jesus says of each Church "I know thy works."

Some have performed their work better than others. They overcame more. They are therefore able to handle greater responsibilities in the Kingdom of God and are deserving of greater blessings.

All who overcome are to inherit the Kingdom of God—they will constitute the Kingdom. But they will not all occupy the same position in the Kingdom. Jesus Christ does not occupy the same position as the Father. Yet both of them have eternally constituted the Kingdom of God.

The "saints shall judge the world" (I Corinthians 6:2), but some will be qualified to judge greater matters than others. "We shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10), but we shall not all reign over the same territory or people.

We shall all be priests—Peter calls us even now "a royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9)—but some will minister in greater capacity than others. *It all depends on how we overcome—how we strive against the attractions of the world and the pull of human nature.*

When Christ comes to judge us, He will "give reward unto . . . *small and great*" (Rev. 11:18). Some of us are smaller than others in God's sight. Some have not yielded to the law of God as much as others. Some have not worked as hard on uprooting the power of human nature as others—they have

not let God's law govern their lives to the same degree as others. Remember what Jesus said to the disciples?—"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called *the least in the Kingdom of heaven*: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called *great in the Kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:19).

In the history of the Church of God, some periods have been characterized by *great zeal*, great works, great knowledge of God's law. Other periods have been characterized with flagging zeal, incomplete or diminishing works, a partial neglect of God's law.

In the Kingdom or Family of God there will be individuals of different degree. But for each individual there will be a responsibility, a job. Not the same job, of course!—for we are not all called to the same office. But every office is needed. An entire CIVILIZATION, God's kind of civilization, God's way and not man's way. It will take literally millions of different jobs to create civilization as it ought to be. YOUR JOB will be what you will find the most pleasure in doing. We do not all get the same pleasure out of the same thing. That is why God has not called us all to the same office.

Notice, now, what the Church today is promised—and this includes *you* if you continue as an overcomer and resist temptation and end up as victor in your trials.

What This Church Is Promised

Open your Bible to Revelation 3:10-12. Here is what it says: "Because thou [this Church] hast kept the word of My patience"—we *have* patiently kept God's word in a gainsaying world—"I," responds Jesus, "also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

If we hold fast to the end, notice what the reward of this Church will be in the Kingdom of God: "Him that overcometh [this includes anyone, not just the ministry] will I make a *pillar* [or main support] in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of

my God, New Jerusalem; and . . . my new name."

In Galatians 2:9 you will read that James and Peter and John seemed to be "pillars" in the early Church. They were leaders! That responsibility is what God promises to us in God's Church today. We are to qualify—not for David's office, not for the apostles' offices—but as *spiritual pillars or leaders—the main supports in God's House* [symbolically called "temple" in Rev. 3:12] *for all eternity*. A pillar is the main support in a temple!

Think of it! Being able to judge at Headquarters in Jerusalem, all the varied problems of the whole world! No human court could begin to do what God promises we shall be qualified to perform.

Notice, too, the Scripture: "He shall go out no more." We are never to be removed from that reward and responsibility. Think of that! We are to be at Headquarters—setting policies—determining those decisions that need to come to Headquarters. (Compare Acts 15 with this.)

Never has a Church had to "restore all things" as has this Church. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong found that the truth had almost died from the earth during the Sardis epoch of the Church. And it is not yet all restored. But we have been willing to grow in the revealed knowledge of God and to keep what has been revealed. Yes, we are becoming fit—if we develop ourselves now—to be pillars in the Kingdom of God. Not every pillar is the same size or serves the same purpose, of course; not all of us will be exactly alike either.

But more than that, this Church—the Philadelphia era—is to have the name of the capital city of the universe—the Headquarters of the world. That is where we are to be centered. The pillars of the Church ought always to be at Headquarters so that all may appeal to it for decisions. All of you are being trained for this job now—even if it is only by learning to pray for the work at Headquarters and by sending to Headquarters your tithes for the conduct of the work of this Church. Never since apostolic days has the work of God been conducted from one central-

ized location as it is today. Always through the past centuries it has been a scattered work.

Moreover, we are to have the name of God the Father and of the Son. God always places His name where He is. He will be dwelling in the New Jerusalem. So will we! That is why *we* will have His name!

Maybe your responsibility in this age seems small. Maybe others seem so much more important than you do now. Let us *not* feel inferior—*nor* "let us . . . be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:26).

Just Around the Corner!

Time is very short! In probably less than 12 years you will be in another world—the *World Tomorrow*—and the present will have gone forever. Those who *seem* to be great now will have to give account of themselves as much as those who *seem* to be small. Let us all be comparing ourselves to Christ—and not to one another—seeking to do our job the very best. Wouldn't you rather do your part in the work of God well than have the job of the greatest man on earth and fail it!

"He that is faithful in that which is least," Jesus said, "is also faithful in much" (Luke 16:10).

So *let us all hold fast* to the responsibility given us and do it the very best we can. We are all to be judged according to what we have. Many who seem to be small now will become great spiritual pillars tomorrow—and for all eternity. And some who seem to be so great today may not appear to be so great tomorrow. God is no respecter of persons.

Now compare the goal of this Church with that of the "Church of Thyatira"—the persecuted Church of the Middle Ages.

A Different Promise Altogether

That church was a great body. Jesus says of it: "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy last works are more than the first" (Rev. 2:19).

What a contrast to our Church. Jesus said we today "have little strength" (Rev. 3:8). Never has the Church been

smaller than today—yet we have the greatest door ever opened to any Church. But in the Middle Ages the Church of God was a powerful Church—its last works were even greater than its first. It grew. It overcame. True, there were certain serious faults allowed from time to time. The symbolic "Jezebel"—another picture of the fallen woman of Rev. 17—was sometimes allowed to teach in the local assemblies. And Jezebel's children—those *who came out of her in protest*—were there, too. In other words, the false teachers were sometimes fellowshipped, instead of being excommunicated!

Those who overcame the teaching of the false ministers who crept into the local churches achieved a great reward. "And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers; even as I received of my Father," says Jesus. "And I will give him the morning star" (Rev. 2:26-28).

Those in that Church age are *not* to rule over Israel, but over the nations—*ethnos* in Greek, meaning "nations" or "tribes." In the millennium the Kingdom of God will inherit the Gentiles (Psalm 2:8). Under David and Paul will be those in that Church who will exercise dominion over the great Gentile families—Russia, China, Germany, the Latin American countries, African tribes—just as today Gentile nations such as Pakistan, India and Ceylon recognize the authority of the House of David ruling today from London, England in the person of Queen Elizabeth II.

That Church will not exercise the same responsibility as we will have. They will be in authority out in the field. They are not to be at Headquarters as we shall be. If there are major problems among the nations under their authority, the case will come to us for decision—as in the example recorded in Acts 15.

Those who constitute that Church will shine in glory with the radiance of "the morning star" (Rev. 2:28). The brightest heavenly body next to

the sun and moon—as we view the heavens.

The Church in Laodicea

We are all familiar with the graphic description of the lukewarmness which will climax the close of this age. This church body is not this work—it is the work of another body of believers already beginning to be influenced by *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast and *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. They will be heirs to the riches of spiritual understanding which God is making known to the world through this Church—but they are spiritually smug. Nothing good can be said about them.

Though they may have been begotten, they have not allowed Christ to live His life through them. Jesus pictures himself as having stood at the door of their hearts knocking. They may have been lukewarm co-workers. But they never did come all the way with Christ to have a living active part in this work. When they do come to see that *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast has been right, it will be too late! The tribulation will be upon them! There is no promise of deliverance from the coming time of trouble and religious persecution—whereas *we* are promised deliverance.

If they become zealous and repent, if they "love not their lives unto death," then they will receive a good responsibility. But they have first a great period of trial and test to meet. Jesus will send the punishment on them because He loves them. If they change their ways, He will not figuratively spue them out of His mouth as one who spues out nauseating lukewarm water.

To them Jesus says: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). Notice that they are not called spiritual "pillars"; *neither do they have their own thrones* as do those of the Church of Thyatira. Those who do qualify through much tribulation will sit with Christ on His throne—*assisting Him directly in the personal administration of His office.*

Here you see yet a different responsibility in the Kingdom of God!

Now contrast these overcomers with

those of the other Church epochs. Notice the rewards of the remaining Churches.

What Is Their Responsibility?

Consider the Sardis era of the Church of God. Jesus said of that Church—the one which immediately preceded this present Philadelphia era—"thou hast a name that thou livest," but thou "art DEAD" (Rev. 3:1). Their works have not been perfected. Their ministry failed to proclaim the gospel as it ought to have been preached.

Only a few individuals—"a few names"—were overcomers in that era. As a Church they have no special responsibility! Only a few individuals within the Church will walk with Christ in white—a symbol of righteousness (Rev. 19:8). God merely promises each of them that He "will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" (Rev. 3:5).

There is no responsibility—no definite office mentioned here—only a promise of eternal life. Even the overcomers of that era barely escape with their lives. Indeed, sometimes the righteous scarcely are saved! (I Peter 4:18). But remember, the saints shall *rule* or judge the world—and that includes these individuals of the Sardis era. They, as individuals in that Church, will have their responsibility (*mentioned elsewhere in the Scripture*), but as an organized Church they receive no joint responsibility!

The same thing is true of the other Church eras.

In the Church era typified by the Pergamos Church, there were no small number who tolerated the erroneous doctrines of the "Nicolaitanes."

Who Were the Nicolaitanes?

Church historians have always imagined that the Nicolaitanes were a small sect which separated from the great worldly body of professing Christians. It has never occurred to these scholars that the Nicolaitanes might be that great body of professing Christians which sprang from those conspirators who entered the true Church of God to devour the flock!

First, what does the word "Nicolaitane" mean?

It has *no* connection with the deacon Nicolas (Acts 6:5), as some have assumed. The original Greek word "Nicolaitane" means one who is "*a follower of Nicolas.*" Who was *that* Nicolas of whom they were followers? God hates the doctrine of that man (Rev. 2:15).

But what does the name "Nicholas" come from? It comes from two Greek words—*nikos* and *laos*. *Nikos* means "conqueror" or "destroyer" and *laos* means "people." The original Nicolas was the conqueror or destroyer of the people! That was merely the Greek word for Nimrod—the original arch-rebel who conquered the people and founded man-made civilization within two centuries after the flood! And is it a strange thing that even today the followers of the Nicolaitans still hallow the name of "St. Nicolas" on December 25?

Yes, Santa Claus—just a shortened form of Nicolas, the Greek name for Nimrod—is Nimrod deified. It is *he*—and not Jesus Christ—whom the professing Christians serve to this day, and whom they honor at Christmas! In the apostles' time, the chief spokesman for the mysteries of Babylon was Simon Magus. He surreptitiously introduced the religion of Nimrod in the Name of Christ! But God calls them what they were—the doctrines of Nimrod!

There were individuals in the Church of God in those days who, tragically, tolerated such practices and even indulged in them!

Is it any wonder that no special responsibility was given to that Church? Notice the promise: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna" (see John 6:48-63), "and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saveth he that receiveth it" (Rev. 2:17).

Here is no promise of a special office—such as the one to which we are called—but only a promise of eternal life to individuals.

The white stone (Rev. 2:17) was the tessera of ancient times, "well known in Asia Minor as a passport to
(Please continue on page 24)

The WORLD TOMORROW Is Produced!

This intimate report in picture and fact of each step in the production of The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast will help you in your prayer for and understanding of this VITAL phase of this VITAL WORK!

by John Edward Portune

VERY OFTEN a listener will write a letter to our offices in Pasadena asking, "How is it that I hear your program so well down here in southern Georgia, when you broadcast from Pasadena, California?"

We live in a fantastic age! It amazes even the well-informed. It is little wonder then that so few seem to understand how *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast reaches their small corner of the world.

What miraculous process brings the voices of God's servants speaking in Pasadena booming from your radio speaker? What goes on behind the scenes of a *WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast? Many have wondered.

Early Days of *The WORLD TOMORROW*

When Mr. Armstrong first stepped behind the microphone in 1934 a new age of God's True Church was born. In those days the familiar name "WORLD TOMORROW" did not begin the fledgling broadcasts. Instead, the listeners of the 100-watt station KORE in Eugene, Oregon, heard "The Radio Church of God." It was a radio church service, complete with favorite hymns.

Much has changed since those days—God's Church has grown. And so has the behind-the-scenes phase as well. Let's look at how it was done then. It will make today's broadcasting much simpler to picture.

All that was needed in the early days was a microphone, a small radio station, and a few listeners with their radios tuned to the right spot. Today we would call it "live broadcasting."

It was not distinguished from any other form then—because *there wasn't any!* The days of "transcribed" or "pre-recorded" broadcasting were many years in the future. But they did eventually come. No longer do you hear Mr. Armstrong's voice directly from a radio station—except a few listeners in the Los Angeles area over KBLA.

All Done by Tape

Today when Mr. Armstrong speaks a *tape recorder* represents the vast majority of the audience. On it is a small reel of magnetic recording tape. This tape, called the *MASTER TAPE*, was the link missing in the 1934 chain. Its absence today would stop *The WORLD TOMORROW* dead in its tracks.

Now let's make a visit to the studio in Pasadena, California, for a first-hand view of its birth and life. The *miracle of tape recording* is the core of *The WORLD TOMORROW*—1964.

Our tour begins most any weekday on the second floor of the Library Building of Ambassador College in Pasadena. Here the radio studio is located. It is about 11:30 and preparations are being made for 12:00 noon—"Recording Time." Professional recording and editing equipment which has been busy all morning is being readied for Mr. Armstrong's arrival. Recorders are loaded with tapes, timing clocks are set, and a complex of electronic devices warm up.

About five minutes before "Recording Time" final adjustments are completed and Mr. Armstrong hurries in—notes in hand. In front of him on the desk is placed an up-to-the-minute

compilation of current news and comments prepared and delivered within the last few minutes by the Ambassador College News Bureau. Located on the campus in Pasadena, this department is vital to the broadcast and provides much of the scintillating news material used on *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

In the *CONTROL ROOM* Mr. Norman Smith, Evangelist in charge of the radio studio, flips a switch on the master recording console. Warning lights flash on, a dozen professional Ampex recorders spin into action, and from a master tape the voice of Art Gilmore thunders, "*The WORLD TOMORROW*." Then with a cue sign from Mr. Smith it is Mr. Ted Armstrong's turn—28 minutes and 30 seconds to pour God's Message into a microphone. But from the microphone to your home is yet a *long way*.

At this point *The WORLD TOMORROW* is only a series of invisible electrical impulses passing down a cable from the recording microphone into the *CONTROL ROOM*.

In the *CONTROL ROOM*, the electronic nerve center of the whole operation, the program is regulated and recorded on the *MASTER TAPE*. All of what will change the lives of scores of people is wound up on this insignificant spool of tape. Yet unimpressive as it may be, it and hundreds like it do a job which could not *otherwise* be done.

The Miracle of Tape Recording

But do you realize how *vital* and *well-timed* the development of the tape

*(Please continue on page 14—
see pictures on pages 12, 13)*

"And Greetings Friends--

--around the world...

... and here you see Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong broadcasting *The WORLD TOMORROW*. In this photographic sequence you go *BEHIND THE SCENES*—for the *INSIDE* story of a *WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast production.

The News Bureau

Mr. Hogberg receives a call from Mr. Ted Armstrong for the latest, up-to-the-minute news reports. Mr. Hogberg sifts top information from news sources around the world. A brief "idea sheet" is prepared for each broadcast. Latest news is blended into each program.



The Broadcast Begins

"And greetings friends—around the world . . ." With these familiar words the dynamic and captivating *WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast gets under way.



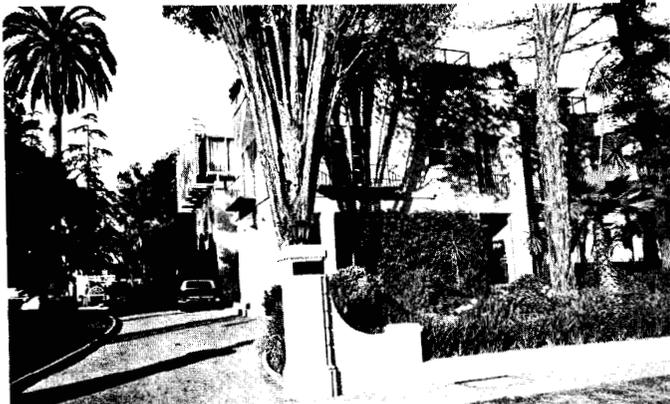
The Control Panel

It's almost "broadcast time!" Inside the control studio, Mr. Norman Smith makes final, last-second adjustments.



The Library Building

The *WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast emanates from the second floor studios of this stately building. Members and visitors are urged to see a "live broadcast" when they visit the Ambassador College campus.



The Program Under Way

A tremendous amount of energy is poured into every broadcast, as vital points are driven home.



725
... With these
big WORLD TO-
day.

Time to Close

Mr. Ted Armstrong checks the clock! It is time to "wrap it up" until the same time tomorrow.



Master Tape Edited

Mr. Frank Inglima, assisting Mr. Norman Smith, edits the broadcast tape you just saw recorded. All imperfections are taken out to create an "almost perfect" technical masterpiece.



Many Copies Made

Many copies of this broadcast are made from the edited master tape. Here you see part of the process.

Tapes Mailed to Stations

Mr. Roger Clark sorts the copies according to each radio station. The copies are then wrapped and mailed. The stations play these tapes—and you hear **The WORLD TOMORROW!**



recorder was to this era of God's True Church? How significant is it that tape recording was not adequately perfected till 1947? Is it *coincidence only* that this was the year Ambassador College opened? This was the year when the radio industry *leaped* ahead at an unheard of rate. This was the time in the history of the Philadelphia age of God's Church when radio power had just begun to burgeon forth. No longer at that date could Mr. Armstrong broadcast "live" from every radio station carrying *The WORLD TOMORROW*. Neither could the electrical disc transcription of that day do the job of mass broadcasting. The *need* for the tape recorder was vital and God knew it.

But even for several years, *The WORLD TOMORROW* continued to use imperfect electrical disc transcriptions. Once made these cumbersome phonograph disc recordings could not be reused. Their quality was not good. And worst of all they **COULD NOT BE EDITED**. Often, errors in speaking or a small slip of the tongue would require *the entire program* to be re-recorded. And when Ambassador College first purchased some of the new Ampex tape recorders it was *just in time*.

It would sound preposterous to an outsider to say this, but the history of science and technology has been *geared to the yet tiny Work of the Almighty God*. We can thank Him for the tape recorder.

The Master is Edited

But now as we continue our tour, the next phase of the operation swings into action. Mr. Armstrong has finished his part, but the work is not done. One **MASTER TAPE** in Pasadena is not yet a voice thundering from *twenty-two million radio speakers around the world!*

At about 12:45 p.m., the studio having been cleared of visitors and all the equipment reconnected, the job of **EDITING** the **MASTER TAPE** begins.

So many have commented, "How can Mr. Armstrong speak for so long and yet not make mistakes: he doesn't even stumble over words." One man from Tennessee wrote recently, "I like to hear you talk about the Bible because

you don't *sing it* and don't say "ah" between each word."

This perfection is mostly Mr. Armstrong's, but some of it is due to the trained hands of the men in the radio studio. You would probably be surprised just how much can be done with *a pair of scissors* to improve the overall effectiveness of one of the programs. It is one of the little things you are totally unaware of when you hear the program, but one which *contributes immeasurably* to the high quality of God's Message. Whole sentences, words, syllables and even breaths are cut out or transferred from entirely different programs at various times. The result is a smooth yet natural recording which has maximum effect on the listening audience. **EDITING** is a vital phase in the production of *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

Another phase of editing is **TIMING**. Every single program must be kept within very rigid time limits. Only *five seconds* of variation is allowed over an entire half-hour. So few seconds would seem rather unimportant to most people, but it can be worth several hours of work to the radio studio staff. The world over, *The WORLD TOMORROW* is known for its technical quality. This is why the extreme concern over a matter seemingly so unimportant as a few seconds.

With training, Mr. Armstrong has learned to regulate his own speaking very closely. Carefully watching the timing clocks as he records, he adeptly judges when to wrap things up. But for the rigid time standards maintained by the radio industry and exceeded by the production staff of *The WORLD TOMORROW*, this is not sufficient. The small difference must be accurately adjusted by editing and brought within limits. The result—a smooth, fast moving program of 28 minutes 30 seconds.

When some learn the precise length of the program they ask, "Well I thought it was a whole *half-hour*. Why the minute - and - thirty - second deficiency?" Again this is an additional mark of the quality and experience behind *The WORLD TOMORROW*. Small-time operators and those new to the radio industry try to stretch every

last second out of the time they buy. This results in the cutting off of their program by the station giving announcements and spot commercials. Experience has shown that quantity is not quality —*and God wants QUALITY!*

Accent on Quality

You should understand *why* the key note of *The WORLD TOMORROW* is *quality*. First of all, it is a Bible principle. Solomon said whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might (Eccl. 9:10). This means high quality. Jesus Himself, even though He had little in life, **HAD THE FINEST**. We, as God's people, must realize this principle in our own lives as well as appreciate it in God's Work.

Recently one of our top 50,000-watt radio stations was looking for an *excuse* to discontinue our broadcast contract. They could find no real grounds to do so, but because of a program manager who disliked what was said, the station was trying to find fault. But lacking any tangible complaint to offer about the *content* of the programs they concentrated on the *technical aspects*. Here also they could find none. Had *The WORLD TOMORROW* been produced *even on the standards of scores of nonreligious programs* they could have found fault, but the quality of the tapes was beyond reproach. Quality helps *gain new* radio stations and *hold* the ones we are on.

Most important of all, high quality programs *produce more* in listener response. Countless little details, totally unnoticed by the listeners must be fastidiously attended to on each and every copy of *The WORLD TOMORROW*. And many hundreds of tape recordings leave Pasadena every week.

QUALITY IS A MUST!

On to the Dubbing Room

The **MASTER TAPE** once completed ends its brief stay in the **CONTROL ROOM** and makes its way into the next phase of the process — **DUBBING**. In another room of the studio sits a row of identical Ampex recorders similar to the ones used to record the **MASTER TAPE**. Fifteen hours a day these machines tirelessly copy master tapes. This
(Please continue on page 20)

Should You Be A MILITARY SLAVE?

Suppose you are already in the military—what should you do? Can you be in the medical corp? Does the Church of God have a "stand" on military service? These vital questions—and many others—are clearly answered for you in this installment.

by L. Leroy Neff

MANY PEOPLE are already in military service when they come to a knowledge of God's Truth and do not know what to do. They want to obey God in all things so it is only a matter of learning what God commands them to do.

Instruction From God's Word

In the time of John the Baptist, soldiers came to him and asked him what to do. "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him saying, And *what shall we do?* And he said unto them, *Do violence to no man*, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages" (Luke 3:14).

This makes it plain that when a person who is in the military service becomes a true Christian, he is not to harm or do violence to anyone. The meaning of the original Greek word here translated "violence" means "to intimidate." That would include violence or any action where *advantage* is taken over any other person. This makes it obvious that a Christian should not continue, *under any circumstances*, to have an active part in killing or harming others.

He should serve his superiors to the very best of his ability according to the instruction in Ephesians 6:5-8 and Titus 2:9-14. But he should not disobey God's commandments *in any way*. If his superiors demand that he disobey God and fight, or violate any of the Sabbath days he must obey God and submit to whatever penalty is imposed.

Other examples of soldiers in the New Testament are those of Cornelius

(Acts 10), and the centurion who met Christ (Matt. 8). Did God expect these men to continue on in their military careers? Since the Bible does not instruct us about every subject in one place, we must look elsewhere in the Bible to find out what a person should do in such circumstances.

The answer to what a *new* Christian who is already in military service should do, is very plainly explained by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. "Were you a slave when called? Never mind. But if you can GAIN YOUR FREEDOM, *avail yourself of the opportunity*" (I Cor. 7:21, RSV).

A Military Slave

A man in military service is in the same status as a *slave*. He is not free to decide what his own activities will be for himself. He has sold himself as a slave to the military for the term of his enlistment. A serviceman is governed by different laws from civilians. He has fewer rights, and comes entirely under the jurisdiction of military authorities. He is the *slave* of the military. He cannot remove himself from under that authority, unless the military authorities release him. Until his enlistment expires, and he is discharged, *he is not a FREE MAN!*

Since we have this instruction by the Apostle Paul, a serviceman who comes to the knowledge of the Truth should diligently try to gain his freedom.

If a person is a *free man*, in the sense that he is not in military service, he is forbidden to become a *slave* of the military by entering service. "You

were bought with a price; *do not become slaves of men*" (Verse 23). *This one verse alone*, coupled with the fact that a soldier is not a free man, PROHIBITS A CHRISTIAN FROM ENTERING INTO MILITARY SERVICE IN ANY CAPACITY, COMBATANT OR NONCOMBATANT! This point is not understood by many people in the church and many Selective Service officials do not understand it. In case you are called in question for your belief remember this scripture *well* and use it.

Is Noncombatant Service Wrong?

Noncombatant status is that of a serviceman who will not engage in actual shooting or killing. Such a person may be in the medical corps. He may help the wounded, but he does not carry or use weapons. Or, he may work behind the lines in support work.

Men drafted to this particular capacity are selected from the group who are classified I-A-O by the Selective Service System.

Some people reason that such a position is not wrong since it does not require active participation in killing others. We have already seen that it is wrong by Paul's statement in I Corinthians 7:23.

Another important principle about noncombatant service concerns the possibility of being partakers (and therefore guilty) of other men's sins. If a person brings a different doctrine from the true doctrine of Christ we should not receive him into our house. Nor should we bid him "God-speed." Otherwise, we become a *partaker of his*

evil deeds (II John 10-11). A person who participates in a military organization, or who produces weapons for the military, becomes a *partaker* of the *evil deeds* of men and machines that *take life*.

Paul told Timothy that *he should not be a partaker of other men's sins*, but should keep himself pure (I Tim. 5:22). A person in service cannot keep himself *pure*, since he is a member of a killing organization. Participation either in a *combatant* or a *noncombatant* status is *equally wrong* in God's sight. You make yourself the *slave* of the military, which you are forbidden to do (I Cor. 7:23).

If a Christian is forced into military conscription, he cannot serve. He must obey God rather than man, and accept whatever *penalty* or imprisonment man might impose.

The Church Stand on Military Service

It has become necessary for the Radio Church of God to have an official stand in the matter of military service. Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Radio Church of God states: "It is the conviction and firm belief of this Church and its membership that Christian disciples of Christ are forbidden by Him and the commandments of God to kill, or in any manner directly or indirectly to take human life, by whatsoever means; we believe that bearing arms is directly contrary to this fundamental doctrine of our belief; we therefore conscientiously refuse to bear arms *or to come under the military authority*." That is the true Bible teaching, and the teaching of God's Church.

You as an individual are responsible to God for obeying what He commands. You should be totally sincere about your belief. Know what you do believe, and be able to back up your belief with *PROOF from your own life, and the Scriptures*.

What Can You Do?

If a person is already in military service, he may not know what to do in order to receive a discharge. Such an individual needs *specialized help* and instruction from counselors who are



Statue at Russian War Memorial in East Berlin. Soldier kneels with machine gun in hand—praying to HIS god!

skilled in such advice. The church has counselors to help men who are sincere in their belief, and who are determined to obey God in this and in all things. If you are in military service and wish to be discharged, do not act hastily or unwisely *without proper counsel*.

Practical experience has taught that men who have taken a strong and persistent stand and who have purposed to obey God, have usually been able to receive discharges in due time from military service.

There are also provisions in Selective Service laws concerning men who are termed by the world *conscientious objectors*, or *pacifists*. The law recognizes such beliefs. But each registrant must prove satisfactorily to the Selective Service officials that he is sincere in his belief, and that he is in actuality a conscientious objector and not just a "draft-dodger."

Special Work Programs

For such men, who are called "*conscientious objectors*," the United States Government has a special Work Program. A man who is eligible for military service because of age and physical condition, but is a conscientious objector, may be assigned to special civilian work for a 24-month period. This work is for an *approved* agency or nonprofit organization. Such a firm is primarily engaged either in a charitable activity, conducted for the benefit of the general public, or in carrying out a program for the improvement of the public health or welfare.

Even though it is sometimes difficult to find suitable employment with such

an organization, it is possible for a Christian to serve with clear conscience under this program.

A person in military service, a young man under Selective Service, or a young man approaching the age of registering for Selective Service should seek counsel. There are many important things that are not included in this series of articles that such a person needs to know.

These things involve military and Selective Service *law* and *procedure*. They also involve other points of Bible doctrine not included here.

If you are such a person you may write to the Radio Church of God, S. S. Department, P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California. Prompt action is needed by such young men before they find themselves in very unfavorable situations from which they may be unable to extricate themselves. Most of the problems are caused by men who have not had the proper knowledge soon enough, or have not acted on that knowledge, or were not sincere and steadfast in their belief.

We have now seen many of the teachings in the New Testament on the subject of fighting. The *Old Testament* also has much to say on this important subject. We will now find the surprising answers to many questions you may have concerning the teachings and practices of the nation Israel *before Christ came* to this earth to bring the true Gospel.

Mankind Is Learning War

It is a paradox that many "New Testament Churches" go to the Old Testament to *excuse* their beliefs or activities in war. In other Bible questions, they *disregard* the Old Testament entirely. They claim it was abolished, but when it suits their own purposes, they wrest and twist the Old Testament scriptures to *justify* their own *wicked actions*.

They have gone to *such extremes* that one modern Protestant clergyman has stated, "*I believe the only people that should go out and do the fighting are Christians!*" People like this modern religionist are behind the terrible horrors in war of "Christian" fighting
(Please continue on page 21)

Seven Proofs of True Church

(Continued from page 6)

who had been given *this earth* to rule, *wasn't willing* to "settle" for just *this earth*! He wanted to *get to heaven*! He wanted to *LEAVE* this earth, and get up to heaven—usurping the very throne of God.

Satan's desire was a *SELFISH* desire to *GET* for the self. He has instilled this same tenacious, grasping, *selfish* desire to "*get to heaven*" in the minds and hearts of millions of people.

One independent preacher, in attacking this great Work of God, and Mr. Armstrong personally, said, "Dear Reader—Are you willing to *SETTLE* for *EARTH*?" This minister was trying to *attack* the plain *TRUTH* of God about *this earth* being the inheritance promised to all Christians.

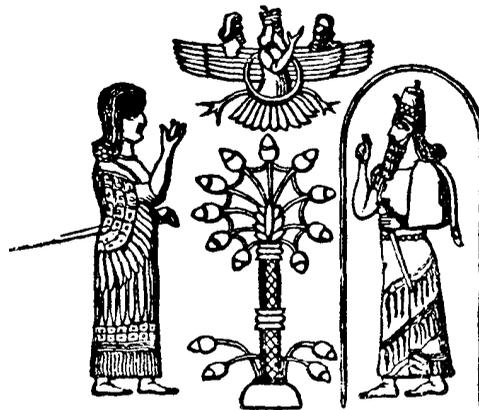
Do you see? Do you understand his attitude? Millions of people who *THINK* they are "Christian" are absolutely *filled* with the *selfish* concept of *GETTING* for the *SELF*! They have a *belligerent*, set-jawed, steely-eyed, *DETERMI-*

Birs Nimrud—traditional site of "Tower of Babel." It was Nimrod who built the tower "to reach unto heaven." The idea of "getting to heaven" isn't new. Matson Photo



NATION to *have their own way*—in *SPITE* of what God says in the Bible!

But heaven is *NOT* the reward of the saved! God's *TRUTH* is that the saints shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:10)



Left: Here is the trinity—worshipped centuries before Christ in Assyria. Right: Here is the trinity—worshipped by sheer pagans in Siberia. The trinity is quite *UN-Christian*!

ERATELY inserted totally and completely spurious words *into the Bible*, attempting to "prove" this major doctrine of paganism!

Turn, in your own Bible (*King James Authorized Version*), to I John 5:7. Notice, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these



and shall *RULE here below*, with Christ, for one thousand years! (Rev. 20:4).

Jesus said, "Blessed are the *meeek*, for they shall inherit the *EARTH*!" (Matt. 5:5). He said those who are overcomers will *rule the nations on this earth* with Him (Rev. 2:26; 3:21).

And these are only a small *FEW* of the literally *DOZENS* of plain scriptures, and sometimes *whole chapters* in the sacred Word of God which absolutely *PROVE* that the "get-to-heaven" idea of this darkened and pagan world is of purely *Satanic* origin! If you have not read the article "Is Heaven The Reward of The Saved?" then you need to write for it, and any other literature on heaven immediately! You need to really *PROVE* God's *truth*—and *prove* the error of the pagan doctrines of this world.

The Trinity

God's true Church knows the *FACT* of the *DUALITY* of the Godhead!

But the world believes in the trinity. So deliberate has been the pagan attempt to foist this doctrine upon the world that a lying, conniving, cheating copyist in the eighth century A.D. *DELIB-*

three are one." But do you know not a *ONE* of these words are in *ANY* of the original manuscripts? Did you know not *ONE* of these words ever *APPEARED* in the manuscripts until *after the invention of printing*?

What a deliberate *HOAX*! What shameless *LIES*! Comparison with many of the more modern texts, and simple research will absolutely *PROVE* this important point to you. Verse seven *should* be the last half of verse six! The seventh verse of I John 5 *originally* read, "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth."

WHO is a member of a great "trinity?" Lucifer—who became Satan the Devil! There are only *THREE* archangels mentioned in the Bible: Lucifer, Michael and Gabriel. *Lucifer fell* (Luke 18:10), not Adam!

But God is *DUAL*! There is the Father, and the Son. In all Creation, God made *PAIRS* of humans, *PAIRS* of sexes. A man has *TWO* eyes, *TWO* ears, *TWO* nostrils, *TWO* hands, *TWO* feet, *TWO* legs, *TWO* arms.

There was the first man Adam, and the second man Adam, or Christ. There

is the Old Covenant and the New Covenant; the OLD Testament and the NEW Testament, the FORMER prophets and the LATTER prophets. *All prophecy is DUAL! God is ONE, in TWO PERSONS—not three!*

Jesus said, "I and my Father [just the TWO of us!] are ONE" (John 10:30).

The Soul

God's true Church knows the real TRUTH about the physical, mortal, fleshly, material soul!

God says "the soul that sinneth IT shall die!" (Ezek. 18:4, 20).

Solomon wrote, "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts—even one thing befalleth them: *as the one dieth, so dieth the other*; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast" (Eccl. 3:19). God's true Church KNOWS that the wages of sin is *death* (Rom. 6:23) NOT eternal life in a different location—an ever-burning hell! SATAN is immortal—and will be *tormented forever!* He has the world believing doctrines *about himself.*

Belief in the "immortality" of the soul is one of the basic and BEGINNING errors of all modern professing Christianity. Have you really PROVED the truth about the soul to yourself? Do you have many proof texts on this subject underlined and carefully marked, in your own Bible? Could you PROVE it to someone else? We have several articles on the subject, if you need them.

Hell-Fire

God's true Church knows the real TRUTH about the GEHENNA FIRE of the Bible—the one of which Jesus Christ solemnly warned. He said, ". . . fear Him which is able to DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY in hell [Gehenna]" (Matt. 10:28).

The incorrigible sinner shall be BURNT UP (Mal. 4:1), and shall become *ashes* under the feet of the righteous (Mal. 4:3).

Totally ignoring the many PLAIN scriptures of the Bible, which even get scientifically and physically detailed, such as those in Malachi which I just

mentioned, describing how human beings, when burnt, become *as ashes*, the pagan philosophers have seized upon a *vague* (to them) parable in Luke the sixteenth chapter.

Undoubtedly, *thousands* of lurid, frightening, raving and shouting sermons have been based on the account of Lazarus and the rich man!

God's Church knows the real TRUTH about God's punishment for the wicked—and about a hell-fire which is *a lot hotter* than the pagan concept of this world. This, too, is something you should have carefully *proved* to yourself—and have thoroughly marked and noted in your Bible! If you have not *carefully studied* our articles about hell, and the booklet on Lazarus and the rich man—then write in for them immediately.

And Dozens More

God's true Church knows the TRUTH about Creation, about the *purpose* of God, and the great PLAN by which He is working out that purpose. God's true Church knows the real truth about human nature—about the NATURE of God, of angels, and of man!

God has revealed the almost INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRUTH of JUST WHAT SALVATION IS to His true Church—while the world simply doesn't know! They don't know what it is, how to GET it, *why they need it!*

God's Church knows the identity of the major nations in prophecy—that we are the people of Israel! We know what WILL happen in the future, even down to smaller details of alliances between nations, the wars of the future, and their outcome!

And these are only a FEW of the really BIG points!

Should this make us spiritually proud? Most emphatically not! God has called us out of the *same spiritual darkness* that still grips this world—WE did not study to uncover these wonderful truths for ourselves—God GAVE them to us!

We are NOT any "better" than other people as a result of God having given us understanding of His precious truths—but we should be striving to

become better than we used to be! God's true Philadelphia Church will NOT become exalted, thinking it is spiritually rich, thinking it "has need of nothing," and that it "knows it all."

NEITHER will the TRUE Philadelphia Church of God believe it is a wrong kind of "spiritual pride" to plainly SAY SO when we KNOW THE TRUTH!

Jesus Christ said, "You *shall* KNOW the truth—and the TRUTH shall make you free!"

He promised to send the Holy Spirit which *would* LEAD us into all truth!

God has revealed more of His truth to this era of His true Church than at any other time in all history!

Truth Mixed With Error

Don't forget that EVERY religion, whether the weird, twisted, incomprehensible mysteries of the Orient, or the "modern" ideas of Mary Baker Eddy; whether the comic-like ideas of Mrs. Ellen G. White, or the superstitious mutterings of African aborigines; whether the science-fiction doctrines of the Book of Mormon, or the witchery of spiritism; EVERY religion could be *some* small part truth—but MIXED with a Gargantuan amount of error!

SOME churches appear to be just a "little bit closer" to the truth than others. But the Devil is happy. If you're only one tenth of one per cent WRONG—that's enough to make you MISS THE MARK! The Devil is a great believer in the old adage that a "miss is as good as a mile!"

Don't be deceived!

There is NO church on the *face of this earth* that is ANYWHERE NEAR the real Truth of God as believed and practiced by His true Church! There is a great, inseparable, yawning, huge, bottomless maw—a gaping pit—a great gulf—between the one true Church of God, and ALL pagan organizations of men!

You need to be so thoroughly GROUNDED and ROOTED in these great truths that you have not only *proved them to yourself*—but you can completely and irrevocably PROVE them to others!



Windsor Gardens, Johannesburg, South Africa. In these 17th-floor penthouse offices, the Work of God in South Africa is carried on.

Austere Year

(Continued from page 4)

Word is going out as a powerful WITNESS and many dozens of converted brethren are being personally fed much needed spiritual food from God's Word by one of His own Evangelists.

God's Churches everywhere continue to grow, and new attendance records are constantly being made. Perhaps one of the most outstanding and encouraging is the recent new record attendance in our relatively new church in Cincinnati, Ohio. On the Sabbath of December 7, a record number of 438 brethren were in attendance in the Cincinnati Church of God! And *many* of our churches here in the United States—such as New York, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Big Sandy, Los Angeles, and of course, Pasadena—are averaging 500 or MORE in attendance nearly every Sabbath. So even though we are still relatively small as a church—just as Jesus prophesied—there is certainly GROWTH of a very encouraging nature nevertheless!

Growth in Bible Studies

The relatively new Bible study being conducted in Fort Wayne, Indiana, had a recent attendance of 80—with 54 adults and 26 children present on December 10.

Mr. Jim Friddle, pastor of our churches in Seattle and Tacoma, has

started a monthly Bible study at Spokane for many of the scattered brethren in Eastern Washington. The attendance for the first study was very encouraging—with 80 present for this first meeting.

From far-off Glasgow, Scotland, comes the encouraging news that on the 24th of November the first Bible study was conducted in this city by Mr. Raymond McNair—with 45 brethren in attendance.

Grand Junction, Colorado, Bible Study

Mr. Burk McNair reports on our most recently begun Bible study for the brethren on the Western slope of the Rockies in Colorado: "What a satisfying experience it is to witness a group of people who have waited so long and prayed so earnestly for a Bible study as they assemble for the first time!

"The Grand Junction, Colorado, Bible study was begun December 15, 1963, with 58 eager participants. Forty-four of these were adults. Several families from Utah, two families from New Mexico and most of the 'salt of the earth' of the Western slope of the Rockies were present.

"Subjects discussed were:

1. How to make the best use of the Bible study.
2. Healing and faith.
3. The prophecies in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 relating to Israel's

blessings and curses, and how this applies to us personally.

"Many personally expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for this opportunity to study and fellowship; their warm smiles and obvious enjoyment were evidence of that fact.

"Only ten of those present felt that they would not be able to attend regularly, so I am anticipating a fairly consistent attendance and looking forward to the spiritual growth of all of us involved."

News of this type should be *most encouraging*, brethren, when you stop to realize that as a result of new churches and also *these Bible studies* there are VERY FEW large areas left in the United States where God's people are not able to meet at least once a month with others of like faith. Truly, we are beginning to reach many of the "cities of Israel" before Christ's coming!

Let us REJOICE in the *tremendous* physical and spiritual growth which Almighty God is making possible even in what is supposed to be an "austere year"!

At this time, especially, let us also pray EARNESTLY that God will directly BLESS and INSPIRE Mr. Armstrong and all of His ministers in the coming Ministerial Conference to begin soon after the first of January. Here, God's ministers will be convening from all over the earth to discuss *most important spiritual matters*, organizational problems, and the projected GROWTH of the Work of Jesus Christ—WORLD-WIDE.

The eyes and attention of *Jesus Christ* will be on these meetings! So should YOURS be in *vital interest, personal concern* and *earnest prayer*.

Mr. Friddle talks to members after a much-appreciated Bible study.



World Tomorrow Broadcast

(Continued from page 14)

process is called DUBBING. Every single MASTER TAPE via these machines produces nearly a hundred copies virtually identical to itself. It is one of these "dubbed" copies which you will hear over your local radio station.

Each week over 500 "dubbed" tapes make their way thru the mail to the 100 or more radio stations around the world carrying *The WORLD TOMORROW*. It is this never-ending flow of tapes, travelling to and from radio stations, which keeps alive *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

Yet, as you sit listening to Mr. Armstrong's voice flowing into your living room, the behind-the-scenes work is not yet done. Countless millions in foreign countries would never hear the program were this the end. What we have seen so far is only the work necessary to reach the United States and Canada. Overseas tapes get *special additional handling*.

Foreign Tapes

Foreign tapes live a similar life to domestic ones but encounter two main differences: *subject editing* and *address change*. In the United States and Canada tapes of each particular daily program can be rushed by efficient mailing systems to their destinations within hours of dubbing. But this is not true in out-of-the-way places. Besides this, other peoples do not respond in the same way as does the American listening audience. Therefore, foreign tapes receive, first of all, special *additional EDITING*.

To begin with, a special copy of the MASTER TAPE is dubbed and labeled FOREIGN MASTER. It is, at this point, identical to the program as played in the United States. Next it must be *subject edited*.

Most of the foreign stations carrying *The WORLD TOMORROW* play the programs one to six months behind. As anyone familiar with *The WORLD TOMORROW* would see, *dated material must be removed*. If this were not done properly, listeners would immediately recognize the program as out-

dated and consider it *poor quality*.

Most commonly it is the announcements for the current PLAIN TRUTH magazine and specific news headlines which become outdated. Almost any day will find Mr. Norman Smith in the editing room listening to and marking portions to be removed from scores of FOREIGN MASTERS. Following him will be one of the studio technicians who will make the actual deletions and insert other footage (announcements of booklets and other literature) to bring the time back within the critical limits. With this operation the FOREIGN MASTER takes on, once more, an up-to-the-minute appearance.

As the final step the *address* for listeners to send their letters to must be changed. Again the technician does

this by *removing* the Pasadena address and *dubbing on* the correct foreign one. Finally then, a copy of the FOREIGN MASTER tape is made and shipped off to its foreign destination.

Visit the Studio!

Our thumbnail tour of *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast is over. Much has of necessity been omitted and simplified. The whole process takes the full-time efforts of many men around the clock. Best of all, the way to come to understand the scope of the *biggest program in radio* is to actually see it first-hand. Any of you who have the opportunity on a trip or vacation should plan to stop in at the recording studio in Pasadena and see a program made. Visitors are always welcomed. If you plan to actually be on hand at "Recording Time," the listening room is open for visitors at 11:30 a.m. It is well worth your time.

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

the respective churches since we began studying God's laws. My wife was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and also keeps the Sabbath. I, myself, have not been baptized as yet. Marital arguments and strife in front of our 6 children have caused them to lose all respect for me since my wife insists on having her own way, and I cannot go to church with my wife under such circumstances. My own wife has a number of not very pretty characteristics, such as marital faithlessness, which may result ultimately in divorce. She is argumentative, self-righteous and striving; this has been a stumbling block to me and has kept me out of her church. What do you have about military service? Over here it is the right and accepted thing! It is well known that the Seventh-day Adventists during the past two world wars approved, among other works of the Devil, the war machines. I also condemn this action. When it states, You shall not kill, then I don't kill. We must obey God more than man. What do you say? What about baptism? Do you also baptize?"

Man from West Germany

No Payment Accepted

"A few weeks ago I requested a photostatic copy of an article that appeared in an old PLAIN TRUTH magazine. To cover the costs of making the copy I enclosed a money order. A few days ago I received the photostatic copy requested and by separate mail the money order was returned to me with a note explaining that you could not accept payment for the literature. This really drove home to me the fact that you are God's True Church. Please accept this money order, this time not sent as payment, but sent with gratitude as a free will offering to the very Work of God."

Co-Worker from West Coburg,
Victoria

• *The policies Christ put in His Church do show where His True Church is working.*

Will We Accept Check?

"You returned the \$3 we sent before. Will you accept this check for \$5 as a freewill offering to your work if you won't accept it as payment for your magazine?"

Couple, Ohio

• *We will—with thanks!*

Military Slave

(Continued from page 16)

"Christian" to the death! What *false reasoning* this is, which leads to *ever increasing* carnage and destruction! Such a belief as this is not based on the Holy Word of God!

God has not taught His Church to participate in the wars and politics of man. *God's Church is different.* God's Church is composed of the "called out ones." We are not a part of this world, but of the Kingdom of God—the World Tomorrow.

What Would Happen if No One Would Fight?

When one of God's servants obeys God and will not fight, he may be asked: "If everyone believed like you do *wouldn't we be overrun by our enemies?* We could not defend ourselves; our land would be overrun and we would be slaves!"

Surprisingly enough the plain and simple answer to this question is found in the *Old Testament.*

We will now see GOD'S *answer* to this and many other perplexing questions.

A person asking this question does not show any faith and trust whatever in the Creator God. He does not believe that God intervenes in the affairs of men!

God knows the needs of his servants even before they ask of Him (Matt. 6:8). God intervenes for His *true servants* when they call on Him! Those who do not serve the True God have no trust whatever in the Creator.

What would happen if all the people in our land did turn to God and would trust him completely and explicitly?

"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them . . . I will give PEACE in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid" (Lev. 26:3, 6).

That is the answer. God would give our nation peace *if we obeyed Him!* We would not fear other nations. *They would fear us instead!* The God that a *real* Christian trusts is *great* and *powerful!* If all people who call themselves Christians would really *trust* the

True God, they would not need to go out and fight to bring peace.

Occasionally for a few years the nation of Israel did temporarily *obey* and *trust* God. Look at the miraculous results! God even sent *hornets* to drive out the enemies (Josh. 24:12). Hornets may not seem like much of a weapon,

If a whole nation *refuses to obey* and *trust* God, there is only one other thing to do—*trust in armaments.* Since the nations today do not trust and obey God, the only protection they have are their military weapons. The problem is that this way to *preserve* or bring *peace* does not lead to peace. It is



Wide World Photo

What would happen if no one would fight? There would BE PEACE. No scenes like the one above would ever be experienced by anyone.

but when God used them against the enemy there was *no defense!*

Obedience Brought Protection

When the children of Israel went over the Jordan River and marched around Jericho for seven days, God caused the walls to fall down miraculously. *The enemy was destroyed completely.*

In the time of Gideon, God used a very simple thing to rout the enemy. Three hundred men with pitchers, lamps, and trumpets caused the hordes of the Midianites to be put to flight! And not only that, but the enemy was so much in *fear* and *confusion* that every man's sword was against his fellow (Judg. 7:22).

necessary to ever *increase* the number of weapons. An arms race continually increases the burden of cost on a government. Rumors of war, *fear* and *distrust increase*, and finally the fearful weapons are used in a terrible, destructive war.

There were many other examples of divine intervention by God for His people when they *obeyed* and *trusted* in Him. The same would be true today. If our nation really repented and obeyed God, we would have *real peace* and all other countries would *fear* to attack us.

Some people cannot understand why men in Old Testament times like David were involved in war. Nor can they understand why ancient Israel fought. Have you wondered about this?

Warfare in the Old Testament

Surprising as it may be, *the answer* to this question is found in the New Testament. Jesus said, "If my *kingdom* were of this world, then *would my servants fight*" (John 18:36). For many centuries God had a *kingdom* on this earth, a kingdom which was *entirely* physical. That kingdom, the Kingdom of Israel, was originally ruled by God, by His laws and by His chosen rulers.

But the nation Israel was one of the kingdoms of *this world*. Its people had no *spiritual* citizenship in the *Heavenly Kingdom*. They were not ambassadors of Christ. Jesus said that if His Kingdom were of *this world*, then His servants would fight. Israel was a kingdom of *this world*. *It did fight!*

God did not offer them salvation! He only gave them temporary physical, temporal or earthly promises. They were carnal people without the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit. They were obligated to obey the letter, and not the spirit and intent of God's law. Since they were not offered salvation at that time, and did not have God's Holy Spirit, they had not been begotten *by* God's Spirit. They were not *heirs* to the Kingdom of God.

God Has Right to Take Life

Since the Canaanites that Israel destroyed were so *terribly wicked*, God commanded His servants, His *earthly* kingdom, to *exterminate* them completely. God had been *patient* in times past, because their *iniquity* was not yet "*full*" (Gen. 15:16). The Canaanites were committing the most evil deeds that man could imagine, even sacrificing their own children to gods of wood and stone. They practiced every conceivable wicked and perverted act. God waited until *all physical hope* for them was lost, before commanding that they should be destroyed.

As the Creator and Giver of life, God has the authority to take away life. But God has not given *man* that authority.

God had previously taken away many lives by use of *supernatural* force on nature.

He took away the life of all men except Noah and his immediate family. Later, it became necessary for God to *exterminate* the debauched cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their extreme wickedness (Gen. 19). God destroyed all these people by *supernaturally* intervening in the course of nature. God did not work through a kingdom of this earth at that time, nor was any kingdom on this earth *His Kingdom* then.

Later, God established the nation of Israel. God then used this physical nation to carry out His punishment on wicked nations. They acted in the official capacity of a *state executioner* *having the responsibility of executing the death penalty!*

God has the right and privilege to decide in any way He pleases, how to deal with mankind. He can decide who should die, and when, if that becomes necessary. God says, "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I *kill*, and I make alive; I *wound*, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand" (Deut. 32:39).

God Deals Through His Church

After Israel rebelled and would no longer listen to God, His prophets, or His teachers, *God rejected them*. They are not carrying out *His Work* today.

Since that time, God doesn't have any of the kingdoms of this world as His own Kingdom. Today He may use various nations to accomplish His will. But they are of this world and of this time, and not of the *world tomorrow*.

Today God is dealing with mankind through His Church. Notice I Peter 2:9, "But ye (Christians) are a chosen generation, a *royal priesthood*, an *holy nation* (but not a *worldly* nation), a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

God is using His Church to preach the good news (Gospel) of the soon-coming Kingdom of God as a witness to the whole world. When that Work is completed, the end of this age will come. A new age of peace will dawn.

God Has Final Authority to Decide About War

Only God, as Creator and Giver of life, has *all authority* to destroy, or to command that nations be slain. Since God is Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, these things were created for *His own Purpose*. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure [purpose] they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11).

Since God has made all things, including all mankind, all governments and authorities, He is also Supreme Ruler. He is over and above all (Eph. 4:6). He is the Lord—meaning *Ruler* or *Master*—of heaven and earth (Matt. 11:25). God is Ruler and Master of heaven and earth and He has made all spiritual and natural (physical) laws.

In addition to ruling over all, *God* is also the *Judge of all* (Heb. 12:23). It is God who will judge all mankind. He will pass final *sentence*, depending on whether a person's deeds are good or evil. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were *judged* out of those things which were written in the books, *according to their works*" (Rev. 20:12). The wars of this world are *evil works*, and the participants will some day learn that they must repent of this *sin* or be judged and then cast into Gehenna fire.

God alone is able to destroy both the *soul* (life) and the *body* (flesh) of man in the final Gehenna fire (Matt. 10:28). The incorrigible wicked and rebellious will be *utterly destroyed* in that fire.

God Decides if Man Should War

Since God alone has such *supreme authority*, only He can tell man what to do about warfare. Only He can say whether man should or should not make war.

He has also revealed to man, through His Word—*The Holy Bible*—those laws by which man should live. He has NOT given man the *authority* to establish any *contrary* laws.



Wide World Photo

War doesn't bring peace—it brings suffering, destruction and MORE WAR. Above, you see what was left of Hiroshima after the atomic

bomb blast! An example of what war accomplishes. Man is about to learn once and for all that the way of peace is NOT through war.

Only God can judge when a nation must be destroyed or punished. When a nation itself decides to make war against another, whether it be an aggressor or a nation attacked, that nation takes upon itself this *prerogative* of God. Unless God *personally* commands a war, in which a nation of *this world* acts as an OFFICIAL EXECUTIONER, as He did to ancient Israel, any man who takes up arms against his neighbor takes the authority of God upon himself. *This is in direct disobedience to God!* Any person who takes part in such a war is in defiance of God and His laws and is guilty before Him!

Lessons Are Being Written

God is letting man go his own way for a period of six thousand years. That time is almost up. When it is over, God will intervene in the affairs of man. Until that time, God is letting mankind *write important lessons* in suffering and misery. But man has not yet *learned* the lessons that he has been writing in human misery and woe.

God is permitting man to try every conceivable form of government in his

effort to see what is the best kind. All of these various kinds of governments have brought wrong results. They have led to all kinds of trouble for mankind. God is permitting man to try every possible way to bring peace. They have all failed. He has permitted man to try any and everything to bring happiness. Happiness has eluded man. In the time to come, God will rule man. There will be *no more* governments of men. The whole world will be ruled by the *Government or Kingdom of God*. Men will then be living according to God's ways. Happiness will result.

But for now, God is permitting *man to go his own way*. *The result is that all generations since Adam have had war and fighting!*

"Now these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; Only *that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war*, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof" (Judg. 3:1-2).

Yes, all of the generations have learned the *horrors of war* but they have still *not learned the lesson* that war does not bring peace.

Here It Is in a "Nutshell"

One verse in your Bible explains why ancient Israel *did* make war with other nations and also explains why the Christian *cannot* participate in the wars of this world now. It also explains why Jesus Christ, at His return (with the holy angels, and with those saints who are then made immortal), *will wage righteous war*. That scripture is found in John 18:36.

"Jesus answered, *My kingdom is not of this world [this order or age]: if my kingdom were of this world [age], then would my servants fight*, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence [this time]."

Ancient Israel was a kingdom of this world. *It did fight!* Christians are ambassadors of the *soon-coming Kingdom of God*. Therefore, we, as the servants of Christ, do not fight for one nation against the people of another nation of this world. When Jesus Christ does return, Christians will then be immortal, spirit beings, born into the Family of God. They will then, with Christ, finally BRING PEACE TO THIS EARTH.

Your Bible Questions Answered

Please address any questions YOU would like answered in this column to the Editor.

Heb. 2:14 says, "That through death he might **DESTROY** him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." How can the devil be destroyed if spirit can't die?

Satan is an *angel*. Turning over to Hebrews 1:13-14, you will see that angels are *spirits*. So Satan is an *evil* angel, composed of spirit. To prove that it is utterly impossible for angels or spirits to die turn to Luke 20:36, which says "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto angels." So you see from God's own word that *spirit cannot die!* Yet Hebrews 2:14 says God is going to "*destroy*" the devil. We know the Bible does *not* contradict itself; what we have is a translation error here.

To get the true meaning we must go to the original Greek from which the

English was translated. Here the word in question, "destroy," does not mean destroy in the sense of doing away with or making nonexistent. It is the Greek word *KATARGEO* which means to *render entirely useless, to restrain or make void*. You can prove this by looking into any Greek lexicon or concordance.

This is precisely the fate that awaits Satan the devil. Since he is composed of spirit, he himself cannot be destroyed. But he is to be *made useless* by being restrained. To understand when he will be restrained, how and why, write immediately for the articles entitled "Satan's Fate," and "Did God Create a Devil?"

When you put all the scriptures together and let the Bible interpret the Bible, the meaning of Heb. 2:14 is plain.

Christian's Duty in the Kingdom

(Continued from page 10)

heathen banquets. To each guest invited to the idol feasts, a stone was given with the name of the person written on it; and specimens . . . are to be now seen among the Greek antiquities of the British Museum" (*The Messages to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor*, by Andrew Tait, p. 252).

The promise to Christians of that epoch, symbolized by the Church in Pergamos, is to attend the "marriage supper" of Jesus Christ symbolized by the "hidden manna." The overcomers will be in the Kingdom, but they did not qualify, as a group, for any special function. The same is true of Ephesus and of Smyrna. The faithful poor of Smyrna are promised a "crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). They "shall not be hurt of the second death" (verse 11).

The Church of Ephesus is given the promise: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which

is in the paradise of God" (verse 7).

In none of these cases are there any particular offices to which that Church age was being called.

They may not have been called to be pillars in the Kingdom of God; they may not have been called to rule over whole nations; they will not be in the place of the apostles and of David, or in the place of the prophets teaching the world. But there is a place for them, under the apostles, an office which Jesus mentioned in His parable in Luke 19:11-27. Here it is!

Who Will Rule Over Cities?

The great parable of Luke 19 is dual. The ten servants represent the ten tribes of Israel—the citizens represent the House of Judah. In accordance with what the tribes of Israel have done during these past centuries, so will they be given power over the Gentile cities—

just as some of them now exercise power over primitive people.

But the prophecy is *DUAL*. Christians are also now the bondservants of Jesus Christ. Some overcome more than others—some develop their spiritual ability more than others. Some are to be given rule over many cities during the millennium in the Kingdom of God. Others will have qualified to rule over only a few cities—or perhaps only over one!

Who are those who rule over these cities? Not the prophets or the apostles—or the Churches of Philadelphia, or of Thyatira. The answer seems very plain. The responsibility to guide and control, under the supervision of the apostles, the development of civilization in every city on earth will be vested in those Christians who have not been assigned other duties. Here, then, is the responsibility—the office—open to those who overcome in the Churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos and Sardis.

Some of the individuals in those Churches may have grown immensely—they may even exercise immense authority over many mighty cities, whereas some in the other Churches—Thyatira, for example—may rule over only minor nations or tribes. Some in those Churches may do greater works over giant metropolitan areas than will some in our Church who will be small pillars in the Headquarters of the world. That depends on YOU! That depends on whether you willingly let God make you into His image, or whether you tend to resist His corrections!

God will not make of you what you are not willing to become!

What wonderful truth about the Government of God which lies hidden within these seven small letters!

What wonderful promises are open to us—undreamed-of powers to remake the world and to be happy doing it! And to think that God extends to this Church as a body the positions of "PILLARS" in His Work.

Not everyone called to be an apostle was an overcomer—Judas departed from the faith. And not every one of you will succeed. But God's promise stands firm. We CAN—if we overcome ourselves—**STAND TOGETHER AS PILLARS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**