

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God

LOOK AT THESE MILLIONS OF STARS! This is a Spiral Nebula in the Constellation of Ursa Major—or the “big dipper.” Can you imagine the fathomless POWER of the Great God who PUT IT THERE? He RULES the universe—and HE RULES HIS CHURCH!



More About Our Cover . . .

When you look into the Northern skies you would not begin to think such a group of stars as this existed. But through the powerful 200-inch Hale Telescope inspiring pictures such as these reveal the ALMIGHTY POWER of the God who rules supreme. The stars in the center appear very close together—forming a bright image—while the outer stars appear more faint. They are not really that dim, but appear to be because they are 2,500,000 light years away. (One light year is 6 million million miles.) Such majesty ought to make all of God's People know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God cares about and rules over His Church of whom He is making sons to rule in The WORLD TOMORROW!

What our READERS SAY . . .

The Incurable Is Healed

"Received your booklet 'Does God Heal Today?' I'll say He does for I've been healed of sinus and double pneumonia instantly, when three doctors gave me two or three hours to live."

Woman, New Mexico

Still Part of Team

"I like the way you start your letters 'Dear Co-workers.' It reminds me of the days when we used five or six head of horses on a gang plow; if you didn't watch, one would get slow and let his singletree drag under the evener. Well, I'm probably letting my singletree drag too, but I'm still in the team, and that is something to feel good about."

Man, Nebraska

• *Being on the winning side always feels good.*

Healing Astounds Doctor

"My youngest son fell backwards off a chicken house, putting a big lump on his head and a nasty gash in his back. We rang North Sydney for an anointed cloth. Then we took him to the doctor to have six stitches put into it. When I said to the doctor I did not wish him to use antibiotics he looked at me as if I was some rare specimen

but did not argue when I said I'd take the risk. However, he was quite confident that the wound would fester. Ten days later when he uncovered the wound to remove the stitches, much to his surprise, and also the nurse's, the wound had healed except for one place where the wound was cut deep. That is now completely healed, for which we thank God and you for your help."

Member, Australia

Finds World Is Deceived!

"I was baptized in a Baptist church, and have been a Sunday school teacher, but since I have been reading my Bible and getting your booklets, I can no longer teach. I do not think it is right to teach things that you do not believe yourself. Am I wrong? What should I do about it—stop going to Sunday school, and stop sending my little ones, and teach them at home?"

Man from Missouri

• *One more among thousands on the right track at last!*

Finds Letters Column Amusing

"If any part of your magazine could be said to be amusing, aside from the excellent 'Autobiography,' it has to be
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The Good News

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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

SEVEN PROOFS

of the *TRUE CHURCH* of God

Are YOU an "Armstrongite"? Were you "baptized into ARMSTRONG"? Do you KNOW what you believe? Have you really PROVED, beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

CAN YOU PROVE this is God's Church? Even if you feel you would have difficulty proving it to others—have you proved it to yourself?

There IS PROOF!

Beginning with this article, you are going to be given SEVEN major proofs—each made up of different parts, which will PROVE TO YOU, beyond the remotest shadow of a doubt, this is God's one, and ONLY True Church! PROVE these things to yourself—and be able to prove them to others.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), wrote the Apostle Paul. Have you OBEYED this command?

Many Counterfeits

Remember, Jesus warned of *deception*. He knew a *great conspiracy* was soon to arise, which was actually only continuation of the great Babylonian Mystery conspiracy which had had its root beginnings in the lives of Semiramis and Nimrod! Jesus said, "I will build MY CHURCH" (Matt. 16:18), and promised He would be WITH that Church, ALWAYS! (Matt. 28:20).

Jesus DID begin *that literal Church!* Think. If I had never been born, and if my father had never lived—if there WERE no WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, no PLAIN TRUTH magazine and no Ambassador College—can you KNOW, and *absolutely realize* that somewhere, somehow, on this earth, at *this precise moment* the Church we are now discussing—the Church which JESUS BUILT—would be active, ALIVE, performing the *Work of God?*

You need to come to KNOW *where that True Church is working!*

In the confused, conflicting, counterfeit world of "Churchianity," the hue and cry of the many and varying "brands" of religion is something not altogether unlike a steady stream of television commercials advertising cigarettes, cosmetics or alcoholic beverages!

Have you ever noticed the *tremendous similarity* between the radio, newspaper and TV "soap" commercials and the claims of various of this world's false religions? EACH soap, almost without fail, claims to have GREATER CLEANING POWER! It will get *your clothes* (while the religions claim to do this to your "soul") WHITER!

If any ONE of these claims over TV were true—then ALL OTHERS would be false!

Yet each pursues its own blatant and noisy course—loudly belying to the public that its product is "cleaner than clean—WHITER THAN WHITE!" Whether or not these superlatives even *make sense* never seems to enter the *minds* of the gullible American housewives who rush blindly from one glittering supermarket shelf to the other—buying their soaps in flakes, granules, powders, or tablets!

And neither does it seem to enter the minds of most of the peoples of this world today, as they gullibly pursue the religion of their youth, that there really COULD be only one *True religion*—and that ALL OTHERS are false!

There is one distinct *difference*, however, between soaps and false religions. ALL soaps will at least clean your

Thousands attend special religious services in a well known church of this world. If you could see this throng of people close up you PROBABLY WOULD NOT FIND ONE BIBLE IN SIGHT! Are teeming crowds and massive buildings proof of God's True Church?



clothes "in *measure*." But NOT ONE of the *false religions* will "cleanse your soul" even *one degree!*

Think again! If you had a whole ROOM full of crisp, new, counterfeit, one-hundred-dollar bills—such perfect counterfeits that perhaps only a very *special* investigator in the Treasury Department in Washington, D. C. would be able to tell the difference—and you had, in your pocket, a dirty, crumpled one-dollar bill—WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Would you take the *counterfeit*—REGARDLESS as to "*how close*" it might appear alongside the original—or would you take the *real article*?

Jesus said, "Take *heed* that no man *deceive* you. For MANY shall come in my name, SAYING, I am Christ [saying that JESUS is the Christ—not that "*they*" are Christ]; and shall *deceive many!*" (Matt. 24:4-5).

Jesus said it was going to get so bad that, "IF it were possible, they shall deceive the *very elect!*" (Verse 24).

Brethren in God's Church—YOU are the "*elect*" of whom Jesus spoke! That is, you *are* this elect—IF you have been truly and completely CONVERTED, have been CONQUERED of God, *given* yourself to Him TOTALLY as a living sacrifice—and are now letting Him RULE in your own life!

If you are one of these *very elect*—then it is IMPOSSIBLE to "deceive" you any more! You may finally become disgruntled—unsettled because of some "thing" which bothers you. You may get "mad" at some other brother, or become upset AGAINST one of God's ministers—but you CANNOT ever be *deceived* about *where God's True Church is working!*

The Church EXISTS!

Remember, before we begin these *major proofs* about the True Church of God—that God's Church DOES EXIST!

Almost NEVER do you hear any of the large, "respectable" Protestant bodies claiming to be the ONE, the ONLY *True Church*, to the *exclusion of all others!* This, they know, would

OFFEND their "sister organizations" in the rest of American and British Protestantism. So, rather than make such a claim outwardly, or in any evangelistic sense—they may PRIVATELY "believe" this to be true—but keep it quiet among themselves. In this way, they can all reason in their own minds that perhaps EVERY "Christian," REGARDLESS of his beliefs and practices, can somehow be a member of the "True Church."

But this reasoning is *totally false!*

God's True Church EXISTS! Jesus said He would build it. He DID build it—and REGARDLESS as to whether *The WORLD TOMORROW* program had ever begun, that True Church WOULD STILL EXIST today!

So now, sweeping your mind free from all preconceived opinions, prejudices, or "ideas" you may have had in the past—let's realize some concrete facts.

My father did not write the Bible! I did not write the Bible! Yet, in *your Bible* are the plain, IMPOSSIBLE-TO-MISUNDERSTAND statements *IDENTIFYING* the True Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head!

Let's READ these *many scriptures*, and come to thoroughly and totally *understand them*—and let's PROVE whether this is the True Church of God!

PROOF No. 1 GOD IS THE RULER!

Almost NO religious organization on this earth really BELIEVES that God is the absolute RULER! Vast percentages of organized "Churchianity" try to straddle the fence between belief in a *Creator*—and belief in evolution! Others, while claiming to believe in God as the Creator, believe in Him more as a "first cause," or a vague, unreal, ethereal "force" which may have had something or other to do with the creation of matter—but which did not actually bring LIFE, as we know it today, into existence!

But God's *True Church* knows Him to be the CREATOR! "I am the *Almighty God*; walk before me, and be

thou perfect!" (Gen. 17:1), God said to Abraham.

God revealed Himself as the Creator, and the RULER of His creation to Adam! God revealed Himself as the RULER of all the universe, the Great, Divine One who *interferes* in the course of petty, human nations of ancient kings! The ancient nations of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Syria, and Phoenicia knew of the "God of the Hebrews" as a great RULER who directly *interfered* in the affairs of human kingdoms, on behalf of His people!

When God expelled Adam from the Garden of Eden—God was *in charge*—He was the RULER! God had to INTERVENE in the course of the WHOLE WORLD at the time of the Flood—interrupting the course of humankind and the earth itself with the most truly Gargantuan, awesome, monstrous, unimaginable and fantastic miracle—the great, world-wide FLOOD of the time of Noah!

God *came down* to this earth, shortly after the Flood, to INTERFERE in the course of human affairs—*scattering* the peoples and *confusing* the tongues at the Tower of Babel! *In spite* of petty, human plans, of noble and lofty human aspirations, of the grandiose plotting or the ferret-like chicanery of carnal man—God, who is the RULER, *interfered!*

God *intervened* in the personal life of Abraham—*saved* Joseph from death, and MET Moses "face to face" in the wilderness!

He *divided* the Red Sea, led His people into the promised land—and revealed Himself to them as their Lord, their Master, their Boss—their RULER!

Nebuchadnezzar Learned God Rules!

Notice! "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever," wrote Daniel, on the occasion of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar being revealed to him, "for wisdom and *might* are his: And he *changeth the times and the seasons*: he removeth kings, and SETTETH UP KINGS: he giveth wisdom unto the

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God's Work Grows-- *How About You?*

Is this a summer of increased activity in your life? Are you growing rapidly in your spiritual life— even getting the physical things in order, becoming more efficient in EVERY way? God's Work is! To continue being a part of this Work, you too must grow!

by David Jon Hill

THE GROWTH in God's Work is phenomenal!

Remembering past summers over the twelve years that I have been intimately associated with God's Work, I recall that they were usually periods of slack time which were used to lay the groundwork for furious effort in the fall, winter and spring! I certainly don't mean to say that the Work of God ground to a halt during the summer—but compared to previous summers this summer is one filled with throbbing activity.

Bad News First

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, who usually writes this news column for *The GOOD NEWS*, is presently in Joplin, Missouri. His father had recently suffered a heart attack and as a result of a second heart attack died. Dr. C. Paul Meredith is also in Missouri as Mr. Meredith's father was his brother. Neither of Mr. Meredith's parents are members of the Church of God. Mr. Meredith will remain with his mother, helping in every way he can until his scheduled departure on an around-the-world tour beginning on July 12.

Summer's Summary

Three full summer Baptizing Tours are crisscrossing the nation as usual, counseling with the hundreds who have requested baptism. But *this* summer that activity is *in addition* to other

hundreds' being counseled in dozens of local church areas. An unprecedented over-one-hundred-page booklet—advertised in the semi-annual letter to the entire mailing list—*The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*—is being produced at Ambassador Press. Another very large booklet will follow immediately on the heels of this—a booklet being prepared by Mr. Roderick C. Meredith covering the

story behind the Work—*The Inside Story of The WORLD TOMORROW Broadcast*.

Both these booklets, and in fact all printed material produced by Ambassador College and the Radio Church of God with the exception of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, is being produced *entirely by our own staff and equipment!*

Many additional issues of *The GOOD NEWS* have been caught up

Mr. Dibar Apartian—broadcasts *The WORLD TOMORROW* in the French language. Mr. Apartian is the supervisor of the French Work, and will oversee activities—from Headquarters—the new Geneva office.



during these summer months—and you will notice that this GOOD NEWS and also the July GOOD NEWS have been *increased from sixteen to twenty-four pages!*

At the very beginning of the summer the first PLAIN TRUTH in the French language was sent to 5000 Frenchmen—and already the list has risen to about 6000. Mr. Apartian has

local pastors were also unprecedented in number. New churches have been raised up! New Bible studies established!

Most Important Advance

Perhaps the single most important activity in God's Work has been carried on behind the scenes. That activ-

growth and expansion of the Work as a whole! Your individual burden *must increase* so that God's Work as a whole can increase!

New Church Established

Here is Mr. Dale Hampton's report of the new church in Boise. "On June 8, 1963, God established a Church of God in Boise, Idaho. It was a time of GREAT rejoicing for some who had been waiting and praying for nearly ten years for just such an event to take place.

"There were 92 on hand for the very first Sabbath services. Some of these zealous brethren had driven from as far away as Rupert, Idaho, which is about 180 miles south and east of Boise. Also some came from as far north as Kamiah, Idaho, which is about 250 miles away. Of course, these brethren will not be able to come every Sabbath, but will come as often as possible.

"This is one of the last strongholds of the Sardis era of the Church, where there has been no church of the Philadelphia era established heretofore.

"The church in Boise has good potential and should grow into a church with an attendance of 150 to 200 very rapidly."

South Dakota Bible Study

Mr. Burk McNair sends in the following report of a new Bible study established in a sparsely populated area that has not been reached in any way except by radio so far.

"Rapid City has been marvelously blessed with rain this year; however, the greatest blessings came with the establishing of a Bible study in the area, Sunday, June 9th, at 2:00 p.m. Fifty-eight people were present at this meeting held in the Silver Dome in Rapid City. There were only 14 children present.

"At first letters of encouragement were read from the Mail Receiving Department. The people were then instructed about their responsibility of how to be a light in the community
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The Summer Educational Program in full swing! The children of many of God's People have the privilege to enjoy the time of their lives—as well as develop character this summer.

made a whirlwind trip to Europe to establish offices for the French Work.

The Summer Educational Program in Gladewater is in full swing with twice as many children as last year enjoying the opportunities presented by this fine addition to the activities in God's Church.

A *third area* for the observance of the Festival of Tabernacles has been selected and details are being completed as I write this article. You should all have received the letter about the Feasts from Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. If you did not, be sure to write for it immediately. It gives detailed information about how you should prepare for the Feast this fall.

In addition to all these activities there has also been an unprecedented number of men ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ. Graduates and undergraduates being sent out into the field to assist with the increasing burden on

ity has been the *careful evaluation and readjustment* of nearly every activity carried on by the Work of God both in college and Church—the *Austerity Program!* This "tightening of the belt" and "cocking of the gun" is proving to be one of the *major steps FORWARD* in the recent history of God's Work on earth!

With these things in mind, and with remembering the *comparative* inactivity of previous summers the prospects for this fall stagger me! If THIS is the "inactivity" of summer—then *WHAT will be the furious pace that God is anticipating for His Work for this fall?*

The answer is all too obvious!

God is showing us all by the fruits produced by His Work that He *expects each and every member of the Body of Christ to be growing his own thirty per cent each year*—so that each member can contribute to the over-all

How DO You HONOR Your PARENTS?

Disobedience is rampant—a symbol of this age. Disrespect is universal! Even among God's People it is a severe problem. Your prayer life—your personal relationship with God is in jeopardy. Learn how you can prevent YOUR children from suffering THE RESULTS OF DISRESPECT TO PARENTS—D E A T H !

by Selmer L. Hegvold

HOW MUCH have you unwittingly conformed to the ways of this world?

Can you *know* whether or not your conduct—your attitude—is pleasing to God?

To many of the brethren in God's Church there is *one of the commandments that still remains an enigma*. Failure to understand and to observe the fifth commandment has blocked many from fervent, heartfelt prayer to God. Are *you* one of them? Don't say, *no*, too quickly—you *may never have REALIZED this as your problem!*

One person—and she speaks for many of you—wrote, "Every time I prayed to God, the words, 'Our Father,' were only phonetic sounds!" *The very first words out of her mouth were meaningless, empty*. This fact has brought many to the brink of despair. Let's understand and rejoice in the answers *God has for you*—the answers on *how* to obey the commandment to "*honor your father and your mother.*"

A Tragic Situation Exists

"I prayed, I cried, 'My father in Heaven!' But I didn't have the sincerity in the word; I couldn't understand! I wanted to speak *to* Him, as a Father, but found *it impossible!* I strained my ears during every sermon about prayer, and the advice from them was, 'If you want to know God, go to Him as a Father!' **THIS I WANTED TO DO!**"

DO HER WORDS APPLY TO YOU? Have *you* lost the knowledge of

how to honor *your* parents—how to keep the fifth commandment? Ours is an upside-down society—a world gone mad—leaving hideous scars on our personalities.

Let's understand the problem through the experience of this newly enlightened woman.

She continued, "I cried and cried over this, but it seemed to no avail—*now I know why!* And since I know *WHY*, I can finally say, after much mental anguish, 'My Father,' and **REALLY, TRULY** mean it!

"*My mother and father were divorced* when I was about six years old—I saw him only two or three days out of a month. Though I loved him very much, it was *impossible for a normal father-child relationship* to exist between us.

"My mother remarried—not because she loved this man—she needed his help. He treated her very badly—I could never look to him as someone to go to for 'help in time of need,' although I truly had love for him."

The Crux of the Problem

The core of the problem stemmed straight out of *abnormal childhood* induced under an *abnormal family relationship*, and deadly to spiritual growth unless recognized in time, and corrected.

Many of you, as in the case of this woman, were under similar strained pressure in childhood—"fatherless."

"So you see," she writes, "although

I had **TWO FATHERS**, I really had **NONE AT ALL!** *So how could I approach God and think of Him as my Father when I didn't even know what a father was?*

"But, now, rejoice with me, the **BARRIER IS GONE!** I was forced by trials to seek Him out, not only as the Almighty and Powerful Being that He is, but as a **FATHER**, someone to whom I 'can go in time of need,' someone on whom I can 'cast all **MY** burdens, because He cares for me'—as a **FATHER!**

"Now my prayer life is improving because I have more to talk with Him about. I don't have to keep everything to myself all the time."

Here is the *kind* of contact you have desired to have with your Heavenly Father! *You should be having that loving contact day in and day out!* But **ARE YOU?**

She exclaims joyfully, "He gave me strength to bear what I would not have been able to do alone! I just want to keep saying, 'Father' *now that I know WHAT IT MEANS!* I was always worried I was taking His name *in vain!* I feel like I've had a cool drink of water in a hot desert now that this is off my mind!

"I'm **SURE** that I am not the only one who felt this way. I know there are others who will be just as happy as I am when they really **LEARN** to look upon Him as a warm and loving Father, and not just as our Creator and Supreme Ruler!"

A wretched home life for a long

time deterred this woman from having heartfelt and fervent communication with God!

Could this be the reason behind your ineffective prayer life? But notice! She, through all her trials, had deep love and concern for her father, her stepfather and her mother. Because of her love and concern, her solution was made easier. This is not true of some of you! In all too many cases, there is disrespect, even *hatred*, toward one or both of your parents because of *imaginary* or *REAL* abuses suffered as a child. It is in your power to correct this feeling—God expects you to do so—most have failed this most important step. The way is open.

Don't make it necessary for God to bring upon you severe trials to bring you to the realization of what you should do. *You can take positive steps NOW!*

Why Such Deep Unhappiness?

While much of the responsibility for strained relations between parents and children must be shouldered by the fathers and the mothers themselves, God holds YOU responsible if you fail to do your utmost to dwell in warm harmony with the family unit.

In some *few* cases this may not be possible. But can you truthfully say so unless first you have tried every avenue?

All too often there are proven cases of gross neglect on the part of grown children. Have you written home to the folks in the last six months? There are reports that some have cut themselves off completely—made no effort to communicate in any manner whatsoever since coming to a knowledge of God's Way of life.

Unconverted relatives have felt this isolation! They feel that a great, yawning chasm has suddenly appeared to split the family in two at the same time your own religious conversion blossomed. They do not understand, as yet, God's Purpose for you or for themselves, but *the coincidence* is clear to them.

God may leave it up to YOU to help them to understand!

This definitely does not mean *preach* to your relatives! "Be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation" (Jas. 3:1).

Rather, it means you are to conduct every aspect of your relationship with them so that they will come to admire and respect the way you look, the things you do and the happiness they see in you, to long to be as you are. This is what Christ meant when He said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see *your good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Notice! It is "*your good works*," not *words*! There is a vast difference. Most have said too many words already, and it is this unwise behavior which has been responsible for much deep unhappiness in family relationships.

Parents Held Accountable

True, not *all* of the blame for strained coolness between a parent and his child falls upon the offspring. The first contact that a child has, your first contact with the world, is through your father and mother.

Adam and Eve had as their only Parent, God. God established the pattern for all succeeding generations, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God *commanded* the man" (Gen. 2:15).

God created, and then established a close relationship between Himself as the Father-Creator, and Adam and Eve. He *instructed*, He *commanded*, and He *walked with them* in the fabulous garden. In disobeying their only Parent, they caused this closeness to their God to slip away! They came to *fear* to communicate with Him as formerly. *They hid themselves!* (Gen. 3:1-10). Adam and Eve were exiled from His beautiful garden because they rebelled—*they dishonored their Father!* (Verses 23 and 24).

Tendencies of Youth

The multiple woes today in family relationships are a direct result of chil-

dren's not following the sound advice of parents. Youth never profits from the *valuable experiences* of its elders. It is common everywhere for the fledgling adult to *think* of his parents as from another bygone age—inexperienced in the contingencies of the present generation! This disregard in all too many cases has degenerated into utter contempt, and the family ties are *painfully broken!*

Little consideration is given to the fact that life's lessons are much the same in any age. TRUE VALUES do not change, *but are eternal!* Parents who have learned this lesson themselves late in life suffer heart-wrenching grief when witnessing their children stubbornly refusing to learn those same lessons out of their own painful experiences, and reaping permanent scars and warped personalities that sometimes mar generation after generation.

It is *rare* to find a youth who seeks his father's personality and love; who loves, respects and honors his wise counsel; who drinks in the father's years of experience of learning the hard way which can be the key to abundant living.

The most frequently heard expression of regret among men and women everywhere has been, "Why, oh WHY didn't I listen! If I could only live my life over I would do as my parents begged me so many times to do!" Experience is an *expensive*—also a very *painful*—teacher. *Few* seem able to realize! Are you able?

The Inspired Educational System

The original way of God for man to receive instruction was through the *family*, through the aged patriarchs, old in wisdom—father to son; mother to daughter.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6)! Notice how often we are admonished to listen to our fathers!

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy
(Please continue on page 15)

To Fight or Not To Fight-- PROTESTANTS CONFUSED!

*Over four hundred differing opinions come from the ranks of
the Protestants. How can you know which is right?*

by L. Leroy Neff

A FAMOUS LEADER in the Protestant Reformation wrote the startling statement that it is "God who hangs, breaks on the wheel, beheads, strangles and WAGES WAR!"

How different, how opposite, from the plain, SIMPLE teachings of Jesus and the Apostles that we have already seen.

Did the Protestant leaders get back to the faith once delivered?

Protestants Teach War

It is plain even from a superficial inquiry that they did not! Today most Protestant sects teach that fighting is the duty of a Christian. The usual teaching to a young man in these churches is to fight for his country in time of war.

It is evident that the Protestant Churches as a whole have followed the "Mother Church" in regard to warfare and fighting.

There have been only a relatively few denominations who have had the courage to go against popular church and public opinion, and to teach that it is wrong to fight and participate in war. Even those who have taught against fighting have a great variety of opinion of what the Bible really teaches about warfare and killing. As a result of all the many varieties of teachings, pro and con, there is CONFUSION in Protestant ranks.

Luther's Teaching

The most famous of the Protestant reformers was Martin Luther. In spiritual matters he taught that the Christian must be subject only to Christ.

However, he taught that in ALL physical matters concerning the state, the Christian must be subject to the state.

Luther apparently wished to avoid the issue of fighting but it became necessary for him to face the issue and state his belief one way or the other. Here is his statement which has already been partially quoted:

"The hand which bears such a sword (the sword of government) is as such no longer man's hand but God's; and not man it is, but God, who hangs, breaks on the wheel, beheads, strangles and wages war. . . It is not I that smites, thrusts and kills, but God and my Prince, whose servants are my hand and life" (*Ob Kreigsleute*, page 626, as quoted in *The New Testament Basis of Pacifism*, Macgregor, page 130). The apparent reasoning behind this statement of Luther is that God has ordained all human government, and therefore man must be subject to that government—even if it means disobedience to God's other commands. This WRONG reasoning is based on Romans 13, but disregards Peter's instruction of Acts 5:29. These scriptures will be discussed fully in a later installment.

If God bears the sword of war for each government, as Luther reasons, then God fights against HIMSELF in every war! This is the faulty reasoning of human men CONTRARY to, and in DEFIANCE of God's true revelation, the Bible!

Protestant Church Teaching

This belief of Luther is accepted by the overwhelming majority of Protestantism. Very few if any churches

who have held this belief have ever changed to the opposite view.

There have only been a few sects and divisions of the Protestant Church that have been founded with the belief that fighting is wrong.

Principal among those few who have started with nonviolent teachings are those of the "historic peace churches." Most of these churches have always taught that war was wrong and that the Christian should have no participation in war. Or they have taught that if a Christian is engaged in war it must be in a noncombatant capacity.

A noncombatant is a person in mili-

"God wages war," Luther claimed! But the Bible reveals that MAN has been the cause of envy, strife and war—that God has allowed man to go his way, to learn that he gets nowhere by violence.

—Wide World Photo



tary service who does not carry any weapons and who will not directly engage in an action that will take the life of other human beings. Such men usually work in special assignments such as the medical corps, or other positions not requiring the carrying of weapons.

Of the churches of this group, the *Society of Friends*, often called Quakers, is most widely known. This society (it has never really called itself a church) arose as a result of the teachings of George Fox in the middle of the 17th century. This was a *whole century* after the time of Luther and the Reformation.

The Friends had considerable persecution in England, so many of them migrated to America. In Massachusetts they had about as much persecution from the Puritans, another Protestant sect, as they had previously experienced in England from the Anglicans. So, they moved to other areas such as Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. William Penn was one of the leaders of this organization. Here they finally found *freedom* from religious persecution.

Here is a portion of the statement on warfare by George Fox, the founder of the society, in a declaration made in 1660.

The battle of Fort Donelson at its height. Federal troops (foreground) are forcing the Confederates back in furious hand-to-hand fighting. Probably, most of these men claimed to be Christian. Yet, here we have — supposedly — "Christian" fighting "Christian." How can this be?

"We utterly deny *all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatever*; this is our Spirit of Christ . . . which leads us into all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, or for the kingdoms of this world . . . Therefore we cannot learn war anymore" (*Statements of Religious Bodies*, compiled by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, edited by C. Leroy Doty, page 27).

A second organization that has historically spoken against participation in war is the *Mennonite* and *Brethren in Christ Churches*. Here is a portion of their statement:

"We cannot compromise with war in any form . . . We cannot have any part in financing war operations or preparations through war bonds. We cannot knowingly participate in the manufacture of munitions weapons, and instruments of war or destruction. We cannot take part in scientific, educational, or cultural programs designed to contribute to war, or in any propaganda or activity that tends to promote ill will or hatred among men or nations."

The Jehovah's Witnesses are known

to many people as *conscientious objectors* to war. However, their approach to this subject is slightly different from most other organizations. They believe themselves to be a *society of ministers* who are already in an army (spiritual) and therefore cannot participate in the military activities of the nations of this world. Here are portions of a statement prepared by the General Counsel for the Jehovah's Witnesses.

"Jehovah's Witnesses are conscientiously opposed to war as prosecuted by nations and to the participation in such war in any form. Jehovah's Witnesses are a *society of ministers* . . . We are *Christian soldiers*, and as such we are in an army" (*Ibid.*, page 31).

The Church of the Brethren is another church which has taken a stand against military service. Here is a portion of their official statement concerning war.

"All war is sin. We, therefore cannot encourage, engage in or willingly profit from armed conflict at home or abroad. We cannot, in the event of a war, accept military service or support the military machine in any capacity" (*Ibid.*, page 11).

These are just a few of the various smaller sects who have taught against participation in the wars between nations. There are fifty-seven churches recorded in the work just quoted who have made statements concerning this subject. Some of these church statements teach that it is the Christian duty to fight in war, however most of them teach that it is wrong.

Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide?

Some of the Protestant Churches are "on the fence" about this issue. They permit their members to be *pacifists*, *conscientious objectors* of various sorts, OR to participate in war according to their own CONSCIENCE. But, they will not come out against war and fighting! They will not take a firm and resolute stand because their congregations would not permit it. The truth is not popular and many clergymen are well aware that it is not!

Even in those churches which teach



—Wide World Photo



—Wide World Photo

Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, during the Civil War. If God wages war—ON WHOSE SIDE WAS HE—on the side of the North or the

South? Those who believe God sanctions war cannot answer this question.

against Christian participation in war and fighting there is a great variation in the *belief* and practice of the membership. Even in some sects that teach against fighting, the member may enter military service in a combatant or non-combatant capacity if "his conscience" so permits. Some members do not even follow the teaching of their own church in regard to fighting.

In some of these denominations one man may refuse "for conscience sake" to register with selective service. Another may register but refuse any kind of military service for "conscience sake." Another may accept non-combatant service.

From these comments it is apparent that there is a great deal of CONFUSION among the sects on this subject. Any observant person, especially during the time of war, such as World War II, will notice that the overwhelming majority of the Protestant Churches either permit their members to go to war, or actively teach that they should as a *patriotic duty*.

Thus we have many extremes. One church teaches that the member must fight for his country. Another church teaches that it is wrong under any circumstances to have anything to do with the military, or for that matter to even assist in a civilian capacity in the war

effort. Between these extremes is every shade of difference in belief.

Here are churches which purport to be the Churches of Jesus Christ. Christ was not divided! Yet these churches are! This is BABYLON. It is *confusion*.

Conscience Is not Enough!

The basis of teaching for most of these churches is a matter of *conscience*. "Do what your conscience tells you." "Let your conscience be your guide." From this has come the common term "conscientious objectors." In other words, people who object to war for *conscience sake*.

In following the CONSCIENCE, a person does what seems right in his own mind. That is the way most religions follow today. In the final analysis each man is usually PERMITTED to make up his OWN MIND as to what is right or wrong, whether he should fight or not fight. This wrong way of life of doing what seems right is condemned many times in the Bible. In the book of Judges almost continual wars and violence are described. There were famines, times of slavery, and times of temporary deliverance. What brought all this trouble and hardship to Israel? The reason is given at the very end of

the book. "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25).

The nation of Israel followed its CONSCIENCE. But, disaster and suffering resulted!

Today the story is the same. We are in a time of wars and rumors of wars. Why? Because people are still doing what seems right to them instead of what "Thus SAITH THE LORD!"

Most of these churches say: "Do what seems right to you (your conscience); God will understand. He will not care if you go fight and kill and war or if you do not." This same way is also mentioned in Proverbs. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Here again is the false way of *conscience*.

Why is it that the way of conscience is wrong? "The heart (mind, or conscience) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

From these scriptures it is plain why we cannot use our conscience as our guide. Something MORE SURE and certain is needed. We must know GOD'S WAYS and HIS LAWS, not our own ways! Then we must act according to these laws of Almighty God.

By doing this we will *be sure* that we are right.

"Christian 'Fights' Christian"

By following CONSCIENCE, we may end up *fighting against men of our own faith and doctrine*. That is exactly what has happened in most of the wars of the last millennium and a half. Catholic fighting Catholic. Lutheran fighting Lutheran. Methodist fighting Methodist. Almost all major denominations have been *fighting each other* in the wars of mankind. Witness both World Wars. Witness the Civil War in the United States where even "Christian" brother *fought to the death* against "Christian" brother.

THIS IS NOT OF GOD! *This is of Satan the Devil*. Satan is trying to completely DESTROY the *works and creation of God*. One way he is attempting to do this is to get the churches to teach that it is *right* to fight. Then, when war is stirred up, many people who have been taught this *wrong way of conscience*, will fight and kill each other. Satan is trying to bring a complete end to all mankind by trying to *influence man to destroy himself* in world cosmocide with the awesome and fearful atomic weapons now stockpiled. God will restrain man from such a terrible end and *thwart* Satan's plan (Matt. 24:22).

What we and all mankind need to learn is that there is a God in heaven who has set certain *physical and spiritual laws* in motion. It is these laws, *as revealed in Holy Scripture*, that are to regulate our behavior and bring happiness and everything good—*not our own conscience*. Our conscience is only a reflection of our *training*, our *environment*, and what we have *learned* through the *five physical senses*. *This is not enough*. We need to have better facts and information on which to base our actions.

Bible Has Only Sure Answer

We must go to the Bible to find God's divine revelation for man. Throughout its pages we will find the right way to live. We will *not* find it by following our *conscience*.

We need to be steadfast in our be-

lief, based on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ and His teachings throughout the Bible. We should not sit on the fence as most churches are doing today. We must understand, and teach that fighting and warring between nations is *sin!* From such sin *we must turn away* and not fight.

We have seen a few of the teachings and statements from Catholic and Protestant sources and how they have changed through the years. Now, *what saith the Lord?*

Your Bible Questions Answered

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

Matthew 15:17 ". . . whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught," seems to indicate that there is *no difference* between clean and unclean meats—that all meat is clean to eat. Would you explain this?

Notice the context—and the subject. The KEY to this question is revealed in verse two: "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they WASH NOT THEIR HANDS when they eat bread."

Here was the problem. The Pharisees were accusing—and judging Christ and His disciples because they did not laboriously scrub and wash their hands ceremonially before they ate!

There is NOT *one word* in this chapter about unclean meats.

The Pharisees—legalistic as they were—had many traditions and minute points of law which they scrupulously observed. Included among these rituals was the constant washing of their hands before eating.

They had thrown away GOD'S LAW and were observing *their OWN traditions*. "For *laying aside* the commandment of God, ye hold the *tradition* of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do" (Mark 7:8).

Notice again—the problem. The Pharisees were *washing cups, pots,*

In Installments Two and Three we read from a *historical* point of view what Jesus and the Apostles taught concerning fighting. Now we must examine again more closely some of these same teachings from a *doctrinal* point of view. First we need to examine carefully the teachings of the New Testament. Instead of following conscience, *let us follow Christ*.

The next installment will begin to give His inspired teachings and those of the Apostles.

their hands—thinking THIS kept them from being *spiritually defiled*.

So Christ explained. Whatever small amount of *soil* or *dirt* consumed does not harm the body nor defile the person. Ordinarily inorganic dirt is not assimilated by the body. It is *rejected* through the intestinal tract.

As Christ told them: ". . . to eat with *unwashed hands* DEFILETH NOT a man" (Matt. 15:20). Again, the problem was EATING with *unwashed hands*. NOTHING has been said about clean or unclean meats! There is *no contradiction* to other scriptures which deal with clean or unclean meats—because this chapter deals with the *ritual* of the Pharisees and NOT with the health laws of God. We must go to OTHER scriptures to find what God says concerning clean and unclean meats. These laws are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14—and in no way conflict with Matthew 15.

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

the letters column. The naive complacency many Americans seem to have gotten themselves into is almost unbelievable! Maybe ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand to escape trouble, but people sure do."

Man from California

Would a *MIRACLE* Strengthen Your Faith?

How would you react to a miracle in your life? Would the effect be good or bad? Do you recognize all the miracles God has already performed for you?

by Ronald L. Dart

A PERSON WOULD certainly expect a miracle to strengthen his faith. Webster defines the word "miracle" as, "An event or effect in the physical world deviating from the known laws of nature or transcending our knowledge of these laws; an extraordinary, anomalous, or abnormal event, brought about by superhuman agency."

Certainly any occurrence fitting this definition would strengthen our conviction that there is a God who is able to intervene in the lives of men. However, of the many people who have witnessed or experienced a miracle in their lives, some seem to be strengthened by them while others, in disbelief, explain away the miracle as mere coincidence—and some just *forget!*

The Historical Record

Look at what has happened in the past. Have miracles actually caused people to believe in God or strengthened their faith in God?

Surely there have been no people on the face of the earth before or since who have witnessed more powerful miracles than the children of Israel just before God brought them out of Egypt. They actually saw an *entire river* turned into blood, along with all the water in all the vessels throughout Egypt. They saw Egypt virtually *filled* with frogs; they saw the very dust turned into lice at the word of a prophet of God.

They heard with their own ears the great cry that went up in the land of Egypt in the night when God killed *all* the first-born children in the families of Egypt. With amazement, they received gold and silver from the hands

of the Egyptians as they were *thrust out* of the land of Egypt.

However, this was only the beginning. They saw the Red Sea standing like a wall on their right and on their left as they walked dry-shod across the *bottom* of the sea. They then saw the same waters close upon the Egyptian army. They followed a cloud leading them by day and a pillar of fire by night. They witnessed a fantastic miracle when they received the manna in the wilderness which would breed worms and stink if kept overnight for six days of the week, but *would not* on the seventh day.

On top of all this, God even *spoke* to them. They heard His voice, trembled in fear, and asked Moses to keep God from speaking to them.

Not Quite Convinced

Surely, after seeing all these things, you would *think* that they would know and believe in the God who brought them out of Egypt. But did they? God called Moses up to Mount Sinai where He gave him two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments. However, he was gone a little too long to suit the people who were waiting for him. In Exodus 32:1, we read, "When the people saw that Moses was long in coming down the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, saying, 'Come on, *make us some god* to go in front of us; as for this Moses, the *man* who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what has become of him!'" (Moffatt Trans.).

Moses had been gone but a few weeks and the people were ready to

turn away from God completely, to make idols and to corrupt themselves.

Then, God led the people of Israel north to enter the Promised Land. Men were sent to spy out the land and they brought back an evil report, saying that they would not be able to take it. How did the people who had seen all these mighty miracles of God react?

How much faith did they gain from walking on the bottom of the Red Sea? "And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and *let us return into Egypt!*" (Num. 14:1-4).

There were *our* forefathers!

The Miracles of Christ

How could it possibly be that people who had seen so much could believe so little? And yet, we find the same situation during the ministry of Christ. His disciples unquestionably saw the many miracles He performed. They were present in Cana of Galilee when He changed the water in six great stone waterpots into good wine. We are told in John 2:23, that *many believed* in His name when they saw the *miracles* He did. Yet, in John 4:48, when a

man came to Him asking Him to heal his son, Jesus said: "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."

In John 5, His disciples witnessed the miracle when Christ healed the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda. In John 6, they not only *saw* what happened but also *ate the food* when He miraculously fed five thousand people with only five loaves and two fishes.

In spite of this, Jesus told some of them: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled" (John 6:26). Then, a little later in the same chapter, after He had given them some strong spiritual food, we are told: "From that time *many of his disciples WENT BACK*, and walked no more with him" (Verse 66).

Religious pilgrims mass at the entrance to a cave—looking for and hoping to find a miracle. If many people saw a miracle, they would assume it was from God. Most people would accept a miracle as the proof that a particular church is the true one. But God repeatedly warns us to TRY THE SPIRITS!

Miracles Are Not Enough

By this time, it should be obvious that miracles will *not* necessarily cause a person to believe in and follow God.

But should you FOLLOW anyone because of miracles? In Acts 8, we have an example of a man who used actual miracles to draw people after *himself*. We are told that in Samaria there was a certain man called Simon, "Which beforetime in the same city used *sorcery*, and *bewitched* the people of Samaria, giving out that *himself* was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God." Historical sources show that people actually considered this Simon to be a *god*. He was leading people into *idolatry* by performing sorcery—demoniacal miracles.

Christ prophesied of the endtime in Matthew 24:23-24: "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise *false Christs*, and *false prophets*, and shall shew *great signs and wonders*; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." If you trust that *miracles* are a proof of a prophet of God, how can you be sure that someone like this would not come along and deceive you?

Paul also warned that there would be a *great falling away* when *many* would follow the "Man of Sin." He warned that his coming would be after *the working of Satan*, "with all *power and signs and lying wonders*" (II Thes. 2:9).

Would *you* believe him and follow him? Would *you* mistake him for Christ; or would you think that a servant of Christ was the *man of sin*? *How can you be sure?*

The Bible Test

Happily, God gives us very clear instructions showing us how to discern whether or not a man performing miracles is of God. In Deuteronomy 13:1, we read: "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And *the sign or the wonder come to pass*, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: *for the Lord your God proveth you*, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." God goes on to say that that prophet shall be put to death because he has tried to *turn you away* from the Lord your God.

God here tells us very clearly that even though a man performs miracles, that does not necessarily prove that God has sent him. God may be *permitting* Satan to perform miracles
(Please continue on page 17)

—Wide World Photo



How To Honor Your Parents

(Continued from page 8)

mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck" (Prov. 1:8, 9). Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, was inspired further, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Prov. 2:1-5). All through his writings, wise King Solomon stated *a wise son* hears his father's instruction and words of wisdom.

There were no radios, television sets, movies and telephones in the days of Solomon. The *God-inspired system* to educate succeeding generations was that of *father-to-son-to-grandson teaching*. It was a *PERFECT APPRENTICESHIP* and love-bond.

In the modern age of gadgetry, we have lost sight of God's ways and have turned to man's degenerative ways—ways contrary to the teachings of the Father. This system is an inspired system—Satan-inspired—to break up the only sound basis of a firm society, *the home!* We need to get back "to the faith which was once delivered" (Jude 3).

Chaos in Two Worlds Resulted

The Bible reveals a *remarkable truth* that *few* have taken into account. An important statute of God's was broken. Note it! "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and *they* took them wives of all which *they chose*" (Gen. 6:1,2). Numerous Biblical accounts prove that God-inspired parents selected the wives for their sons.

However, in this account we find the men (these are *men*, not *angels*, Matt. 22:30) taking or *choosing for themselves* wives. The result was emotional upheaval and physical violence to all other life and to the earth within the space of only a few short years.

God brought this to an abrupt end. "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence *through them*; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth" (Gen. 6:13)! The Flood at the time of Noah was that abrupt end. It was brought about because men had broken free of the *God-inspired means of selecting husbands and wives*. Sons had rebelled! They "*knew better*" than their parents. They had broken the fifth commandment and dishonored the advice and counsel of their parents! They reaped the full final penalty along with their fathers.

Today continuing rebellion to this principle is apparent in "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4) all around us. It's time we repented of our part of it.

A Natural Tendency

Men continue to disregard the counsel of their elders. It is *natural* for them to do so! The results have been far-reaching. Disobedience and disrespect for the views, the wisdom, the advice, the love and the concern of their parents is a growing "right" among even the educated, learned leaders of the world—and among people of God's own Church. Adam and Eve began the fatal trend of following the dictates of an evil and *deceitful heart*. Disrespect for parents has been an abiding principle of man through the ages. It is popular! Why?

You need to know, as Satan knows, this trait was *instilled* in every man *at birth*. Man has *closed his mind* to this profound truth. Here are some of the proofs: "And God saw . . . that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [man's heart] was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Also, "for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21). David became more specific, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother

conceive me" (Ps. 51:5)! (David did not say that it was a sin to be conceived, but that from the very moment of his conception in his mother's womb he had instilled within him an evil, vile and sinful nature!) Yes, from the moment of our conception, before ever we are *born* to our parents, *we are bent toward evil*. We need desperately to understand that fact! If we understand it, we can shape our tactics in our battle to overcome ourselves and yield to God in real, deep conversion.

Paul wrote, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23)! "We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and WERE BY NATURE the *children of wrath*, even as others" (Eph. 2:3, Phillip's Translation). Solomon summed it up with the words, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

God's Desire for Us

God intends us to *use our minds*, and to use them *properly* in evaluating right and wrong, and *choosing the right!* "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever" (Deut. 5:29)! God has set a stiff and difficult way before us (Matt. 7:14), but the *desire of His heart* is for us to choose the rich, joyous and abundant way to *real happiness*. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)! Again God declares, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you *life* and death, *blessing* and cursing: therefore *CHOOSE LIFE*" (Deut. 30:19)!! His desire, His command is for you to *choose the way to life!*

The fifth commandment is the *first commandment with promise*. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. *Honor thy father and mother*; (which is *the first commandment with promise*;) That it may be

well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3).

To honor means to esteem or hold in high regard; to prize; reverence; to have profound respect mingled with love or devotion. That is a large order! Yet it is one that will bring to you undreamed-of blessings and happiness. Are you depriving yourself of these riches?

Clarification Is Important

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man *leave* father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matt. 19:4, 5). *Some ignore this injunction!* One man put it this way, "When my children are grown to adulthood and marry, I'd just like to build on a lean-to to the house and keep them all under one roof with me!" This man's heart was deceitful, playing tricks on him. The scriptures just quoted command just the opposite! He could never be happy disobeying that injunction. His intentions were of the best, but by *his own way of thinking*.

No, God says young people are to *leave* father and mother and set up housekeeping apart from them. *But He did not intend for parents to be cut off from all social contact!* There is a happy medium. We all should seek *right balance* in parental relationship.

God exhorts, and warns, "Ye shall *fear* [hold in reverential love and respect] every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:3)! "Cursed be he that *setteth light* by his father or his mother" (Deut. 27:16); "Children, *obey* your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Col. 3:20).

Here is a circumstance *common* in God's Church!

Some have wrapped themselves up too thoroughly in *their own private* study habits; some in working too much overtime; and some in personal and family recreational programs. Others are holding down more than one job in order that their contributions to sup-

port this endtime Work of God might be increased. At first sight this appears very commendable. But a second look reveals that the elderly, the parents are suffering from lack of fellowship with such. These have unwittingly reared up an impenetrable barrier between themselves and normal associations with the older ones of the family. Such individuals maintain, usually, self-righteous airs when advised of this shortcoming.

Failure to see the parallel between self and the Pharisees and the scribes whom Christ reviled can be dangerous. "For Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is *Corban*, that is to say, a gift, . . . And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; *Making the word of God of none effect* through your tradition" (Mark 7:10-13).

No matter how much one does to benefit God's Work, he is still required to honor his parents—even more so than before, wherever possible!

Difficult Situations Require Wisdom

If yours is an *unusually* difficult parental circumstance you should seek wise counsel before stirring up old fires. Impossible entanglements could bring tragic results.

One man recently said, "God somehow broke through to me the realization of just how wretchedly I have treated my mother all of these years!" His mother had been forced into the role of being father *and* mother to the family due to a tragedy that had occurred. She had risen to her responsibilities, becoming provider, counselor—slaving, asking nothing in return. She received little in the way of appreciation for her enormous sacrifices. She never complained, only sacrificed the more!

In the misery of remorse this man told me how he had deliberately gone out of his way to be tough, to make his friends realize he was no "mamma's boy"; how he never attempted to conceal his escapades from "Mom,"

even taking pleasure in getting back at her for "dominating" a fatherless home!

Today, this man is attempting to undo years of evil works. The battle is hard. He has made a total about-face in a desperate attempt to make up to her for her lifetime of loneliness and heartache, before it is too late. He will succeed, but he needs your prayers. How about you? Will you succeed?

Many of you could put that shoe on and find that it fits to a "T." Are you aware of what your true relationship to your parents—father and mother should be? God has not left you in doubt. Study into what he says on the subject even more thoroughly than has been possible in this article.

To carelessly assume you are on your way into God's soon-coming Kingdom, when, in reality, you have shut out your own parents, and are therefore yourselves shut out as well, is deadly!

Christ's Example!

Christ displayed *tremendously, and* publicly, His great love for His own mother. Many have callously read right over the terrible agony Christ suffered as He hung on the cross gasping out His very life for us. Some have missed entirely His last words.

Our Saviour, as He was about to gasp out His last breath, indicated many facets of real, Godly love. He forgave His tormentors through tearing pain when He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He said to the malefactor suffering with Him, "Verily I say unto thee today, Thou shalt be with me in paradise" (Verse 43). But the Bible records still another facet of Christ's personality—His love for His *two* parents.

Christ's earthly ministry was at an end. He knew His mother was both grief-stricken and destitute. He was *concerned!* "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved [John], he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

"Then saith he to the disciple, Be-

hold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:26, 27).

Here was a love-provision for the care of His mother. Even in agony He mustered the strength to provide for her. Undoubtedly this apparent show of strength angered His Roman executors, for "one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side" (Verse 34). Crying out with a loud voice and knowing that life was now rapidly pouring away from His body, Christ turned to His Father and said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost [breath of life]" (Luke 23:46).

Here is our perfect example of selfless concern for others and *REAL LOVE FOR PARENTS!!*

Another Example!

Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am [a follower] of Christ." A right principle inspired by the Holy Spirit! It applies today in our relationship with the ministers God has ordained and placed in office. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is one of these ministers. Become followers of him *as he follows Christ!!*

To those who know personally Mr. Armstrong, his love and regard for his mother in her great age (95½ years old at the time she died) was an outstanding example of a son's honoring and respecting his mother in a way well-pleasing to God. He was *not too busy* to shower her with love and attention.

He publicly gave her credit for teaching him many of the right principles that guided and affected his life powerfully in both the business world and in God's service as His minister. Before over 2000 of God's people gathered together for the Days of Unleavened Bread in the Civic Auditorium he introduced her personally. She received a grand ovation of appreciation and love just six months before her death. He was a real joy to his mother. How about you?

You, as a son or a daughter, can make known your love and concern in countless *little ways*. Flowers, cards, a

visit, or a telephone call can transform these waning years of your parents' lives. If close by, taking them for a ride through the countryside is a marvelous way to re-establish damaged ties. Often, family get-togethers and picnics are enjoyable.

Certainly, regular letters to distant parents, whether or not they are answered, can bear much fruit towards improving the love-bond that rightfully should exist.

Because most of this world's customs have been proven wrong, many in God's Church have given up honoring mother on Mother's Day and reserving something special for father on Father's Day. These practices are nowhere condemned in your Bible. They are based on Biblical practices and are carryovers from the observance of the fifth commandment whether the participants recognize it or not today.

If Dad is accustomed to taking the back seat in affairs of the family *you* can help set matters right. Directing your questions—your conversation—more and more to him. Become reacquainted with the man bearing the title, "Father." Let it become known in the family that you hold his advice in high regard.

Listen respectfully and patiently to his accounts of activities of bygone days. Glean carefully the many noteworthy items that will prove blessings to your store of knowledge.

Never Too Late to Change

In many instances these changes in your relationship will be difficult. God has not promised an easy way of life. It takes character to turn about and go the right way—it is character God wants you to develop. Desirable, acceptable character will not be the only asset you will reap—but many thrilling rewards in improved family life as well.

If diligently applied—if earnest preparation in prayer to God, your *ETERNAL FATHER*, for divine help and guidance is your first step—you shall see a remarkable transition in your

parents' lives. There will be new dash and verve in their personalities.

The final result will be the sense of real love, and a stirring realization that *together* you are preparing to enter into *God's very Family as His Sons!* May God inspire *you* to take these very necessary steps.

Would Miracles Strengthen Faith?

(Continued from page 14)

through a false prophet in order to draw you away from the Truth. The key is that we are to *walk* after God and *keep His commandments* in absolute obedience and service. Anyone who tries to lead us away from obedience to those commandments cannot be of God no matter how many miracles he may perform!

Satan can counterfeit signs, wonders and miracles. If you are following after these things, then you can be deceived by Satan. On the other hand, the elect, who are obeying God's laws, *will NOT be deceived!*

Isaiah adds to the warning! "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? [Seek] To the law and to the testimony: *if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them*" (Isa. 8:19, 20).

A Real Miracle

Nevertheless, we must not discount the power of God in the miracles which He does perform. *You* have experienced a miracle which cannot be explained away as mere coincidence, and which is obviously not a counterfeit of Satan. You may not have even realized that it was a miracle. *The miracle is your understanding of the Truth.*

Think for a moment. If you are like most, there was a time when the Bible was a closed book to you. You may have read it many times without *really* understanding it, or you may have understood parts of it, without under-

standing the real message of the Bible. Suddenly, however, the Bible began to make sense to you, and *for the first time in your life!*

What made the difference? Is it just that you had never heard the Truth before? No, if you have read your Bible before, you have come into contact with the Truth. Is it just because you never had it explained clearly before? If that is the reason, why is it that everyone who *has heard it explained* in the same way does *not understand it* in the same way?

One of our readers from Oklahoma, wrote and said:

"I have checked out some of the books from my local library that were used as references in some of your articles, and was shocked and dumbfounded to find that these books completely reversed a lot of things I have believed most of my life. A much bigger shock was in store for me when I tried to tell people what I had found. Here is the standard reaction, 'So what?' 'I don't believe it,' or 'You're nuts!' It is really ironical that these very reactions are more proof that the Bible is really the Word of Almighty God."

The person who wrote this letter is beginning to understand the Truth clearly. Yet he presented *the same information he had received* to others who didn't understand it at all! Read the following letter from Rosebush, Michigan:

"Your program and works are a *great controversy* in this area. When one speaks about listening to your programs, he immediately stirs the hornet's nest and people assure me that you don't know what you're talking about. People can say all they want to against your programs, but I know that your programs are based on truth, and when I see these prophecies come to pass, then I know without a doubt who are the true prophets."

These letters are *typical* of many letters we receive which show some people understand the Truth clearly while others cannot understand it at all. Notice the striking contrast between the following two letters:

"I sure was disappointed when I

read what you said about hell. In the 20th chapter of Revelation, the 10th Verse, it is as plain as the day that you are tormented day and night forever. If there is no hell, what is there to get saved from?" (Man from Roopville, Georgia).

"I especially liked your article on "Hell" in the August issue. This settled once and for all the contradicting superstitions of an everlasting and burning hell.

"This is the best literature I have ever read. If I could have had access to them before, I wouldn't be in jail today" (Man from St. Cloud, Minnesota).

How can two people read *the same article*, and come to such contrasting opinions?

Another man wrote complaining that Mr. Armstrong did not take what he wrote from the Bible. Then, we received this letter from Bremerhaven, West Germany:

"What you write in your magazine is so overpowering! I have never heard such things before. I can hardly wait until each new issue comes. *I have compared all you write with my Bible and it agrees exactly.*"

What a paradox! And yet, you yourself have probably experienced much the same thing. In fact, you may have had both reactions in your *own* life!

The change from confusion to crystal-clear understanding of God's Word is a notable miracle!

The Reason Why

Why is it, though, that some people seem to understand so clearly while others do not understand at all? The Bible gives us the answer to this paradox. In Matthew 13, Christ explains why He spoke in parables. Most people seem to assume that Christ spoke in parables to make the meaning clear, but He explained that He did *not* intend for *all* to understand. He said to His disciples: "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." He intended to reveal the meaning to His disciples while hiding it from others. As a matter of fact, His discip-

les did not understand the meaning at the time. More than once they came to Him and asked Him to explain the meaning of a parable.

Paul wrote in I Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things. . . ." Christ's disciples had not received His Spirit—they were not "spiritual." Therefore, there were many things they did not understand *until they received the Spirit of God.*

Christ told them in John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. . . ." There was a *real change* in the mind and understanding of Christ's Apostles after they received the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. *The Spirit of God is what makes the difference between one man's understanding the Truth and another's not.*

If you have received the knowledge of the Truth, it is *God's Spirit* which is responsible for the sudden *change* in your understanding.

Why Some Don't Understand

But why isn't everyone who *bears* the Truth led by the Spirit of God into an *understanding* of that Truth? The answer is given by Peter in Acts 5:32 when he says that God gives His Spirit to those who *obey* Him. Without that Spirit, it is *impossible* to understand all Truth.

The answer was also given to Daniel in a very striking prophecy found in Daniel 12:10, ". . . *none* of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

David sums it up in Psalm 111:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: *a good understanding have all they that DO his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*"

You have been blessed with a certain amount of understanding of God's Word. How much more understanding will you have tomorrow, next week or

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next month? That depends on how you *act upon* the knowledge you are receiving now. As God opens your mind to understand more truth, He places *increased responsibility* upon you to *act* according to your understanding.

He gives you a stern warning in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

If you fail to act upon and live by the knowledge you are receiving from God, then *you are rejecting that knowledge* of the Eternal.

True Church

(Continued from page 4)

wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him" (Dan. 2:20-22).

Later, Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "But there is a GOD in heaven that *revealeth secrets*, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar *what shall be in the latter days*" (Verse 28).

Nebuchadnezzar, the KING of the greatest nation of that time, had to understand that "the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory!" (Verse 37).

Later, when Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up in his pompous, human vanity, REFUSED to acknowledge God, Daniel revealed to him that he would be *driven* from among men, to live like a BEAST, "to the intent that the living may know that the MOST HIGH RULETH in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men!" (Dan. 4:17).

Still later, Daniel *repeated* this tremendous revelation to Nebuchadnezzar—saying, "And they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and *seven times* shall pass over thee, TILL THOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULETH IN THE KINGDOM OF



—Wide World Photo

Here we see the Salvation Army feeding derelicts on the Bowery Skid Row. This group has accepted this as their calling from God—to set up soup lines. But the feeding of the underprivileged is neither the calling nor the proof of the True Church of God.

MEN, AND GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL" (Dan. 4:25).

The God of the Old Testament, who IS the Jesus Christ of the New (Heb. 1; John 1; I Cor. 10:4; Col. 1:16-17), revealed Himself as the RULER to humankind!

Amazing, isn't it? Ancient "ignorant" Nebuchadnezzar—the man who was the king over the supposed "ancient" Babylonian Empire—knew FAR MORE about the true nature of GOD than MOST "learned" theologians of today! He knew God was the RULER!

If there is one member of this Church who has not yet read and thoroughly STUDIED the booklet, "Does God Exist," and the article, "Seven Proofs God Exists," then you need to write for them IMMEDIATELY—and not let one more week go by before you thoroughly study, research, and come to understand the great and awesome fact that *our* God—the God who looks into, supervises, leads, guides and directs THIS CHURCH, is the CREATOR of heaven and earth, the RULER of the entirety of the universe!

Most "Christians" DON'T KNOW God as RULER!

MANY of the false churches of this world—even though proclaiming to believe in a God who is in at least SOME way, "authoritative," believe God has gone 'way off somewhere—either *unable* to intervene in their personal lives, or else totally disinterested and *unconcerned* with this present world, and people in it! The average churchgoing professor of modern "Churchianity" sees God as a type of "divinized father-figure" into whose arms they may creep in times of duress and peril!

They visualize the "grandfather-like figure" painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo, or a vague *figment of their own imagination*!

It is ONLY those who have been truly BEGOTTEN of the very SPIRIT of Almighty God—and who have become members of HIS True Church who really KNOW God!

What if an individual came to you and said that your name was NOT your name? Would you be shocked? What if a researcher, in nattily attired busi-

nesslike respectability, complete with portfolio—arrived at your door, came into your living room, and proceeded to unfold from his portfolio the remarkable, *fantastic story* that YOU are *not really who you think you are*—but someone else! Wouldn't it be *incredible*?

Think of it! What if your name HAD been confused at the hospital when you were born? What if you had been "mixed up" with some other mother's baby? What if—all these years—you had gone through life *thinking* yourself to be the offspring of *one* family—but ACTUALLY the offspring of another?

This would certainly be one of the most overwhelming and remarkable SHOCKS to ever *come* to a person in human experience—wouldn't it?

Think again! Multiple MILLIONS of professing Christians have heard, pronounced, sung, talked of, or even used in profanity the name "God." And yet these *same millions* have never even KNOWN that God!

They have not known WHO He is, WHAT He is, WHAT He is *doing*—have not known His qualities, His attributes, His character, or His great PLAN! YOU had not really *known* the RULER of this universe until you *came* to know Him through His ONLY Church!

Think of it!

Professing Christians have not known His intent and Purpose in *their* lives—His great Plan and Purpose in this earth and the universe—have not known of His unlimited POWER, and His ability to intervene in the course of human affairs!

They have not known how He *appears*—how He *speaks*—have not known His *expressed will!*

They have NOT, in short, KNOWN GOD!

God Is Known to the Elect

It is ONLY the MEMBERS of the True CHURCH of God who truly *KNOW GOD!* Almighty God inspired Isaiah to describe those individuals who make in "their own images" a "god" according to the figment of their own imaginations!

Speaking of the devices of the carpenter, or the goldsmith, God says, "he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they CANNOT SEE; and their hearts, that they cannot understand!" (Isa. 44:17-18).

God says man is a *worm* (Isa. 41:14) and says, "All nations before him are as NOTHING; and they are counted to him *less* than nothing, and vanity. To WHOM then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isa. 40:17-18).

Can we come to understand, brethren?

It is only a very FEW of us, upon whom the great Creator has somehow had *mercy*—who really KNOW Him!

Unless a person has TRULY been CALLED (I Cor. 1:26) of God, has REPENTED, and been *begotten* of Him—he has *not known Him!*

We, of the True Church of God, KNOW God to be the Creator, the Designer, Author, Architect, Beginner, of the WHOLE UNIVERSE! We know God to be the RULER *over all!*

God Rules His Church

KNOWING, as Job said, "My redeemer *liveth*" (Job 19:25), I know, and YOU KNOW GOD has set *His* own Government in His True Church! "And HE gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the *perfecting* of the saints, for the WORK of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).

REMEMBER, Christ is the HEAD of the Church (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18), and it is HE who ordains His true ministers, appointing them to the offices and responsibilities of HIS choosing!

NEVER, brethren, in seeking the guidance of Jesus Christ in deciding upon *any* ordination are the wishes, desires, choices or preferences of laymembers EVER remotely considered!

God's True Church will NEVER follow the practice of the false

churches of this world who, ". . . will not endure sound doctrine; but after their *own lusts* [selfish preferences, favoritisms, and personal choices] shall they heap to THEMSELVES teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables!" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

God says, through the pen of the Apostle Paul, "And GOD hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that *miracles*, then gifts of healings, helps, GOVERNMENTS, diversities of tongues" (I Cor. 12:28).

Never forget that "GOD set the members every one of them in the body, as it HATH PLEASSED HIM!" (I Cor. 12:18). Brethren of the Church of God, it MAY NOT always *please each one of you* when GOD directly ordains and sets apart an individual for an office in His Church!

AUTHORITY, Not Agreeable "Suggestions"!

BUT, what is the *use and purpose of authority*—if you would ALWAYS AGREE WITH IT??

The only use and purpose in AUTHORITY is simply because there MUST be government, *rule*, order even when it is NOT always "acceptable" to the majority!

Think! If each lay member would just always, automatically, "go along with" every decision of Christ's servants, each ordination, each new step in whatever direction of the Work in the Church of God; if each member would ALWAYS just "automatically" *go the way* that Christ leads His servants—then why have any organization, any Church, any ordained ministers *in the first place?*

The REASON God gives His true ministers AUTHORITY—the REASON God *RULES through* His true ministers—is that He knew that rule, that *authority* would NOT always be agreed with!

The Apostle Paul said, "For though I should boast somewhat more of our AUTHORITY, which the Lord hath given us for *edification*, and not for

your destruction, I should not be ashamed: . . . For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that *commend themselves* [think themselves to be of greater capacity and responsibility than they actually are]: but they measuring themselves BY themselves, and comparing themselves *among* themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things *without* our measure, but according to the measure of the RULE which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you!" (II Cor. 10:8-13).

Notice it. The Apostle Paul said he had AUTHORITY given him directly of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, for the express purpose of the upbuilding, the *edification* of the True Church of God! He called it a definite RULE — position of *government*!

Was it then Paul's *personal* rule? Was it Paul, acting *on his own*, without real authority directly from Jesus Christ?

Decidedly not! He said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Christ lived IN the Apostle Paul!

It was CHRIST ruling *through* the Apostle Paul—not Paul doing something "on his own"!

There is no clearer proof, no more concrete demonstration of the FACT of the RULERSHIP of God in and through His human servants in His Church than the letters of the Apostle Paul to the young Evangelist Timothy, and to Titus!

These epistles are called the "Pastoral Epistles." Had the Holy Spirit not inspired them to be written, the direct QUALIFICATIONS (I Tim. 3) for deacons and elders would not have been contained *directly* in the Bible! These letters, by the very fact of their *existence*, PROVE God RULES in His True Church!

What if You Can't "Find it in the Bible"?

But some might say, "I will obey

your rule all right—just as long as I can find it in my Bible!"

This, they feel, to be sincerely "Christian"! But is it, really?

Is a belligerent, rebellious, hard-hearted attestation to so-called "b'lief" in the Bible—and rejection of any and all statements, orders, directions, exhortations, suggestions, or teachings of the true ministers of Jesus Christ *in the light of the Bible, and based, in principle, UPON the Bible*—is this attitude *really* Christian?

NO, it is NOT!

Many decisions Christ's ministers must make cannot be found directly quoted in the Bible!

Did the Apostle Paul ever order his congregations, or those serving directly under him to do certain things, follow certain orders or admonitions, for which he had NO DIRECT SCRIPTURE in the Old Testament?

CERTAINLY! Read I Corinthians 7, where Paul plainly *said* he had *no* direct commandment from Christ, but that he, inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT, *gave his judgment* in the matter. Remember, brethren, the "letters" of the Apostle Paul were regarded by lay members of that time as just exactly THAT! They were "*letters*"—personal, friendly, warm, oftentimes filled with rebukes and admonitions—but LETTERS, nevertheless!

We now know that the Holy Spirit INSPIRED *every word*! MANY of the lay members of that time did NOT look upon these letters as being directly INSPIRED of God's Holy Spirit!

If they HAD, they would have OBEYED more implicitly! The Apostle Paul proved he had written MANY additional letters which are *not* a part of the Bible! His FIRST letter to the church at Thessalonica was totally *misunderstood* by many. Had they stood in fear, trembling in AWE of this letter as if it were directly from the *Holy Spirit of God*—they would have FEARED to misinterpret, or misunderstand!

Peter, the spokesman of the twelve, showed how MANY *oftentimes* misunderstood the letters of the Apostle Paul (II Pet. 3:15-16).

Notice how the Apostle Paul encouraged the members in his care to OBEY the RULE of Almighty God—*through* His human instruments!

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always *obeyed*, not as in *my presence only*, but now MUCH MORE in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling!" (Phil. 2:12).

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are OVER you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them *very highly* in love for their work's sake!" (I Thess. 5:12-13).

The Apostle Paul referred BACK to *verbal commands* he had given to the church at Thessalonica, and the Holy Spirit inspired him to write, "For even when we were *with you*, this we COMMANDED you, that if any *would not work*, neither should he eat!" (II Thess. 3:10).

Paul got really STRONG with these people at Thessalonica! He said, "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are *busybodies*. Now them that are such we COMMAND and EXHORT by our *Lord Jesus Christ*, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread . . . And if any man OBEY NOT *our word* [notice, this was a direct COMMAND from Paul, in the form of a PERSONAL LETTER, directed to *one specific church*] by *this epistle*, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed!" (II Thess. 3:11-14).

There are MANY other scriptures PROVING, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the rule, authority and the GOVERNMENT which Almighty God HIMSELF, and JESUS CHRIST, who is the direct HEAD of this Church, exercise THROUGH their chosen and called human instruments!

Yes, brethren, God does *literally* RULE in His True Church!

And how *thankful*—how joyously thankful, grateful, and happy we should be that He does!

It is the ONLY way for preserving unity, for keeping God's True Church TOGETHER, for keeping it protected from the wolves without, or from the

insidious roots of bitterness which creep up from within!

Our God is the RULER of the whole universe! He is Ruler on earth, interfering and intervening in the course of human governments and affairs whenever necessary! He RULES—GOVERNERS—guides and leads in His True Church!

God RULES in our Individual Lives!

Members of God's TRUE Church not only recognize these *prime* factors, not only have they *proved* these MAJOR points, directly from the inspired Word of God, but they *know* God as their direct, PERSONAL Ruler!

They have come to KNOW it is GOD who has set definite offices, authority and GOVERNMENT in the *home*! (If any of you members have not yet read the articles on how to have a happy marriage, and how to solve family arguments, then be sure to write for them immediately.)

Each member of God's True Church recognizes that God's Rule comes directly from God the Father, through Jesus Christ, to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and right on down through all the Evangelists and other Ministers in God's True Church to each lay member!

But, further, and even *beyond* recognizing the rule and the authority of God *in the Church*—each member thoroughly realizes and understands that God RULES in his own private heart, his own private *moments*, his very thoughts, *impulses*, and his *whole being*!

"For ye are *bought with a price*: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which *are God's!*" (I Cor. 6:20). God says, "Ye are *bought with a price*" (I Cor. 7:23)—that you are OWNED, body, soul and spirit. That is, you are OWNED in your fleshly *body*, your very LIFE (soul), and your SPIRIT (attitude, *will*, volition).

IF you *have truly* repented, and GIVEN yourself to God as a *living sacrifice* (Rom. 12:1-2) then you are literally OWNED—just like a *slave* of God. You will be saying, just as

Jesus Christ did, "Nevertheless not MY WILL be done, but *thine!*" You will be saying, "CORRECT ME!" just as Jeremiah did. You will be saying, "SEARCH me and TRY me, O God," as David did.

You will *realize*—and realize it *thoroughly*—that your God is your personal, private, direct RULER—your *Boss*, your *Lord*, your *Master*, who tells you what to do!

The TRUE Christian knows he has been literally CONQUERED of God! He has *surrendered* to a CONQUEROR—to a RULER!

INSTEAD of the insipid, effeminate, tremulous, spineless and utterly crass "way of the world" of "RECEIVING" Christ, APPROPRIATING Christ, TAKING Christ to be "yours"—the TRUE Christian has ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT CHRIST DIED FOR HIS SINS—and along with it, the FACT that CHRIST'S DEATH PAID FOR THE REPENTANT SINNER IN FULL!

Does Christ Rule You?

The TRUE Christian knows Christ PURCHASED HIM! *He* doesn't "take Christ" to be HIS VERY OWN—as a private, selfish, INWARD something which is NOT true Christianity—but he GIVES HIMSELF—*UTTERLY*, to Christ!

Have *you* done this?

Are you so totally BOUGHT, so PURCHASED, so completely CONQUERED, so absolutely GIVEN to Christ that you are His literal SLAVE? Do *you* look on YOUR Saviour as your personal RULER? Does He rule you? Does HE order you around? Does HE direct your energies, actions, thoughts? Does HE DEMAND certain things of you?

Do you ALWAYS *LIKE* HIS DEMANDS? Do YOU ALWAYS AGREE WITH CHRIST?

You would be a PERFECT Christian if you did—but most are NOT perfect! THAT is why Christ RULES in His Church, and in our individual lives!

Notice *again* the scripture we read in Ephesians the fourth chapter, "And

he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists . . . For the *perfecting* of the saints (because we are NOT yet perfect), for the *work* of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: TILL we all come in the unity of the faith . . ."

Yes, UNTIL we are ALL willing to obey implicitly, immediately, PERFECTLY!

It is *because* WE WILL NOT ALWAYS AUTOMATICALLY AGREE WITH AUTHORITY that God HAS PUT AUTHORITY OVER US!

That's so we will be MADE to do what is GOOD for us—even when we DON'T WANT to! Even when we "can't see it that way," or don't "look at it" that way, or don't agree! Even when we have gotten it into our heads the HUMAN INSTRUMENT, *through* whom God rules, is in some way wrong, GOD STILL SAYS WE MUST OBEY!

THESE, then, brethren, are the real PROOFS!

GOD RULES in the universe. He RULES in nations. He RULES His Church! He GOVERNS in the home and family, and He RULES in our own personal lives.

These are the PROOFS of a Christian! Paul said, "For to this end also did I write, that I might know the PROOF of *you* (the PROOF of *their conversion*, their OBEDIENCE), whether YE BE OBEDIENT IN ALL THINGS!" (II Cor. 2:9).

That's what makes us so DIFFERENT from *any* false and counterfeit church in this world. That's what MAKES us the very CHURCH OF GOD!

God is OUR RULER!

Work Grows

(Continued from page 6)

where they live. Emphasis was placed on the need for more faith for salvation, stressing the point of how their faith would be tried in the days and years to come. Scriptures were read from James, Galatians and Hebrews explaining how to develop faith—*what*

it is and *how* it must have its complete work to be fruitful.

"The warmth among the brethren was worthy of note. Although several left immediately after the service due to long distances they must travel to their homes, there was one family who drove 360 miles to attend and over half of the people drove well over 100 miles.

"It was a help to have Mrs. McNair and Mr. and Mrs. White present for this first study. This made it possible for more people to be counseled and encouraged. . . .

"Perhaps the way to describe my emotion about this Bible study and future prospects is 'well-pleased and elated.' I am well-pleased with the beginning and elated with future prospects!"

Omaha and Amarillo Bible Studies

As we go to press with this August

for the first Bible study before the church was started. If that is any indication of the growth we can expect, Omaha will really grow because we have over 400 every Sabbath in Kansas City."

And from Mr. Roger Foster, pastor of the Wichita and Liberal, Kansas, churches comes this enthusiastic report on the establishment of a monthly Bible study in Amarillo: "The Bible study in Amarillo began Thursday night, June 20, with 104 in attendance (66 adults and 38 children). People came from eastern New Mexico and from south of Lubbock, Texas. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the Bible study. Some people in this area have been in the church for many years and this was their first opportunity to attend any regular service of any type. We did not have time to get a letter out to all the members announcing the new Bible study, so the 104 who came for the first Bible study

does not represent all who can attend. I expect attendance at the next Bible study to be even higher. There is certainly plenty of potential for a church in Amarillo.

Baptizing Tours

A more thorough report can be given at the end of the summer when the tours are completed—but just a comment or two from the men on tour presently will give you an idea of how things are going. Mr. McCrady and Mr. Paul Flatt report: "We have completed Louisiana and Mississippi of our tour without any problem. But there is really a pressure in that area especially toward strangers. We had two Negroes meet us in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and when we talked to them at the post office there were about six men on the corner who, if we had gone ahead and visited with these Negroes, I believe would have caused us some trouble. We have sent all of the letters from Negro visits to Mr. Jackson."

Mr. Dave Albert and Mr. Walter Sharp report: "Once again we have been given a boost by some who weren't ready last year but are now. God certainly has prepared them for baptism during this last year. What a change there is in some! It is very encouraging to see, and it shows the power of God's Spirit in action. In



issue of *The GOOD NEWS*, reports have just come in from two new areas where Bible studies have been established—Omaha, Nebraska, and Amarillo, Texas.

Mr. Bryce Clark, pastor of the Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri, churches and district superintendent of the central United States churches writes from Omaha after the first Bible study:

"There was a fine turnout for the first meeting—128 attended! There were 16 from Kansas City, so the actual Omaha count was 112.

"Looking back to our beginning in Kansas City two years ago we had 112



Upper Left: Newly established Bible study at Omaha, Nebraska. Center: Another Bible study recently begun at Rapid City, South Dakota. Lower Right: New church at Boise, Idaho.



Minneapolis we baptized thirteen of the nearly two dozen scheduled—last year there was only one baptized. Others we counseled should be ready before long."

Mr. Sherwin McMichael and Mr. Roy Page report: "*The WORLD TOMORROW* is really covering some areas. This past week we were way back in the hills of Kentucky and stopped at a rickety, old, one-pump gas station. When the attendant saw our California license plate he said, 'California, hmmm. Well that's where Armstrong preaches from.' It seemed to be about the only thing he knew about California, at least it was foremost in his mind after seeing the license tag.

"Seeing the poverty and sickness and misery so prevalent in Kentucky, it makes one really desire to see God's Kingdom come. West Virginia and Kentucky are in a worse condition than all other areas I've seen. One gets a feeling of hopelessness and misery. Some entire towns in West Virginia are deserted, as the coal mines there have ceased operating."

As of July 21, Mr. McCrady's tour met 196 and baptized 85. Mr. McMichael's tour baptized 71 out of 162 who met them. And Mr. Albert's tour met 254, baptizing 147 of those. Mr. Harold Jackson, visiting all of the Negro Brethren, has baptized 8 out of the 42 he has met. Continue to pray for these tours as they travel across the U. S. A. and Canada.

The PLAIN TRUTH in any Language!

A letter from a reader of the French PLAIN TRUTH (*La PURE VERITE*) illustrates the warmth and heartfelt gratitude with which this new publication of the Church of God is received. "Yes, I received *La PURE VERITE* in most perfect condition and was amazed to see that striking, all-lit-up, beautiful cover of the Eiffel Tower. That picture alone is bound to make anyone read every word under that cover, which I did until I was all tired out and started to read again. I am your French pupil for a good long time. I was taken to France when I was only one from Germany and lived there

seven years and went to kindergarten there where the nuns taught me the French language. In 1893 we came to see the great Chicago World's Fair and stayed right here. I forgot the French language, but the French always stuck by me somehow and your wonderful French magazine is bringing back the language."

Report from the Northwest

Mr. J. L. Friddle, the minister in charge of the Seattle-Tacoma Churches, writes concerning growth in his area. Actually all of the churches are showing unprecedented growth—with attendance records being broken nearly every week. We do not have the space to write comments from each area, but perhaps Mr. Friddle's brief explanation of the situation in the Northwest will give you a sample of the general growth in all areas.

Mr. Jim Lichtenstein, a graduate of Ambassador College and his wife, the former Charlene Douglas, were just recently sent to the Northwest to assist Mr. Friddle in his ministry there.

Mr. Friddle writes: "We have at least 50 letters from prospectives east of the mountains and are looking forward to the trips over there. There are several around Spokane. . . .

"Our attendance in Seattle reaches 400 and over at times but is most generally between 385 and 395. If all of the people come it puts it well over 400, but it seems everyone can't be there every Sabbath. Some of our members in Richland, Washington, have been *flying* over for Sabbath services. Mr. Lyle Christopherson has a Cessna four-passenger and when the weather is nice and clear he can fly from Richland to Seattle in an hour and 20 minutes. This last weekend, he, along with Mrs. Kloster and her children and Mr. Richard Russell, drove over from Richland. They come as often as they can even though it is quite a drive. It is not bad to fly but this cannot always be done due to weather conditions.

"The Tacoma Church is GROWING! It seemed that Tacoma grew so slowly for awhile and now it is almost up to 275. We have had over

250 in attendance there several times and I believe our record has been 272! We are thrilled with the growth in this church. There are many more young people now in the church which is an asset. Three families—all with small children—have recently moved from the Seattle area to the Tacoma area. We are certainly thankful for the growth there. Spiritually, most seem to be growing."

Another sample of growing church areas is illustrated by the report from Harrisburg by Mr. Hal Baird showing an attendance of 194 on June 29—attendance in the Church of God in Harrisburg has broken its own record each succeeding week for four weeks! Saint Louis also reports a record attendance of 369 on the same Sabbath. Many other areas could be mentioned but this certainly illustrates the point!

Around the World in 40 Days!

My passport and Mr. Meredith's are before me as I write this article. They have visas stamped on them from fifteen countries that we're planning to visit in the next few weeks! Our tour will take us on a thorough visit to the Near East—even going to Petra! We hope to visit Dr. Hoeh in Jerusalem where he is attending a university this summer!

There is an explosive situation in these Near Eastern countries at present, which we will be able to cover with firsthand and eyewitness reporting. Our tour also takes us to India—another hot spot—and Singapore where Indonesia is causing problems in that section of the world—and also to our own offices in the Philippines and Australia before we return home via Hawaii.

Both Mr. Meredith and I will of course be writing articles for *The PLAIN TRUTH*—and we will also have opportunity to report to you the more intimate details, and things which we're not able to tell our PLAIN TRUTH readers, in the pages of *The GOOD NEWS*.

Please do remember us in your prayers for our safety—and remember all of the *many facets* of God's Work *daily—in this way you too will continue to grow!* (Luke 21:36).