

The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Mar/Apr 2007



Dedicated to the memory of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to the FAITHFUL
Philadelphia Remnant of The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD Scattered Worldwide



“...I [will] seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places
where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.
I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was
driven away...” Ezekiel 34:12,16 KJV

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VOL. I, No. 2

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Cover: The flock of sheep pictured on the cover of this magazine are representative of the scattered brethren of God's true Church. The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly present this new magazine, *The Philadelphia Remnant*. The *Philadelphia Remnant* magazine continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon coming Kingdom of God through the preserved writings, recorded telecasts and sermons, and Bible Study messages that Jesus Christ used him to do in his human ministry!

(Photo courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>)

The Philadelphia Remnant has no subscription price. This magazine is provided free of charge. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Church of God Faithful Flock and others. Contributions however are welcomed and are tax deductible in the United States. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as coworkers in this effort.

Printed in the U.S.A.

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www.cog-ff.com

Passover Examination

A Sermon by

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

The following is a transcript of a sermon Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong gave in on March 4, 1982. The sub-titles are not part of the original sermon, but have been added for clarity. Alton (Don) Billingsley

In just two weeks and three days will come the Passover once again. What, after all, is the real meaning of the Passover? We take it every year. I forgot to count the number of years that this will be for me. I think it's about fifty-six at least, maybe fifty-seven. I'll have to count it again. (Probably longer than any of you.) And it seems that we just take it year after year; and, if we're not careful, we'll just take it for granted like so many other things, as routine, without thinking of the meaning of it. But it's one of the most important occasions in our lives. And it comes every year to remind us of the meaning of it every year. And I wonder: Are we all really ready for it? Well, we have two weeks and three days to get ready, if we're not.



WE MUST EXAMINE OURSELVES

I'd like to read to you from I Corinthians 11:27: *Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread [at the time of the Passover], and drink of the cup of the Lord, UNWORTHILY, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.* Now, "unworthily" doesn't mean that you are worthy to take it. It's referring to the manner in which you do it, and the condition in which you are when you do it, as to whether you do it worthily or not. But then it continues in I Corinthians 11:28. *But let a man EXAMINE himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.* Now verses 29 on to 30, the next two verses, refer to the meaning of the bread—the broken body of Jesus Christ. You and

I have **sinned**. Every one of you has sinned. The trouble is a lot of people don't stop to really confess and admit that. We seem to take it for granted; we're just pretty 'good'. We don't realize how **unworthy** we really are ourselves. But it's talking here about both the blood and the body of the Lord.

Now, Jesus' body was broken for us—for our healing. So we read in the next two verses here, the twenty-ninth and thirtieth: *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily [that is, the manner in which you do it], eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body** [which was broken for us, and for our healing when we're physically sick]. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.* Many have had some kind of a sickness or disease, that they have died, and they "sleep." That

is the Bible language for the fact that they are dead. It really represents death as being in a type of sleep. When you're asleep, unless you have a dream, you're unconscious until you wake up; and even in a dream you seem to be in some crazy circumstance. You wonder why and how it ever happened, and we dream some very funny and foolish things sometimes.

SICKNESS AND PHYSICAL SIN

But Jesus' blood was shed because of our spiritual sins—the transgressions of His spiritual law. ALL sickness and disease is the result of sin, and a lot of you don't realize that. It doesn't always mean that you have deliberately had a wrong attitude or wrong intention, and have deliberately sinned and caused it by your own wrong thoughts, motivations, and actions. It could be an accident. It could be a germ in some water you drank. It could be a contagious disease I suppose, or something of that sort. But nevertheless, it is something that disrupted the natural rhythm of the **laws** of your body. The body was made to function in a certain way. Sometimes I wonder how the heart keeps on beating so long. I know sometimes, if I turn in my bed in sleeping over on the left side, on the pillow I will hear my heart thumping; and I sometimes have to turn over on the other side to get away from hearing it. And it's strange that that heart just keeps going, going, going. Now, of course, we have to fuel ourselves with food and water from the ground; and we came from the ground ourselves. But nevertheless, as long as we have the fuel and we breathe the air... We breathe the air automatically, and you don't even think about it when you're sleeping. It just, I guess, the condition of the heart just keeps you automatically breathing. Something does. But it's a remarkable thing.

I often think, when we're flying in the G2 across the ocean, what if something happened that the engine stopped? There's no place to land out there, absolutely no place! Sometimes I think of that funny record that came out several years ago about the, let's see, it was Mrs. Ferguson's Airplane & Storm Door Company I believe it was. It's just a comic thing. It was a little small plane, a little small prop plane, economy class going to Hawaii. And the captain gave an

announcement after they had taken off. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking." (This is not a case where he says, "We have both good news and bad news." It sounded to me like it was mostly bad news, but it was funny.) And he said, "Of course, we believe that what the people want is economy. So, he said, "Now we do have just one little bit of luxury. You people traveling first class have straps to hang on to. The rest of you don't have any straps." Everybody had to stand. There were no seats. And someone then asked the captain... He asked for questions. Someone asked him, "Well, what if we should have to ditch. How long would we remain afloat?" "Oh, well," he said, "Lady, that's hard to tell; but some of them just go down like a rock!" I have to think- I hope that that engine keeps going just like the human heart does. And yet you don't know what second your heart's going to stop. You just don't know. Did you ever think to be thankful to God that He keeps your heart just going, going, going, and going? And it just goes automatically. You don't have to wind it up or anything, except by eating food and drinking water.

DOES CHRIST'S BLOOD SAVE YOU?

But the thing is that "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" So there's one thing I'd like to get straight. I often think of this, and I think this is the time of year when we need to be thinking about it. Does the **blood** of Christ alone **save** you? Does that get you into the Kingdom of God? Now, Catholics and Protestants believe that, if you are "saved," that you go to heaven when you die. Otherwise, I think that Catholics believe you go to purgatory; and after that you'll go to hell, if they don't pray you out of it. But Protestants believe you go straight to hell (a fire that is burning, burning, burning); and you keep burning forever and ever, but you never burn up. You'll have to go through that torture continuously forever. That'll keep going just like your heart does for a lifetime. But this heart only pumps for a lifetime. The average age is about seventy. Some of us live about twenty years longer, as I have now; but not many. And no one that we have any record of ever lived the first thousand years. Methuselah lived nine hundred and sixty something. Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years. But they don't live that long any more; and they

haven't, not since the time of Abraham, shortly after the Flood. But they believe that all you have to do is accept Jesus Christ, and the blood of Christ saves you. Now, the blood of Christ **does not save anybody!** You read of that in the fifth chapter of the book of Romans. But you will find there that we'll be saved by Christ, but not by His shed blood. And we're **not saved** by the death of Christ. We are **reconciled** to God the Father by the death of Christ. But we are to be **SAVED** by His resurrection—and through our own resurrection, made possible by His resurrection.

Now again, a lot of people think if they're baptized, they're saved. And I'm afraid too many of us in this Church have believed that; and that's one thing I hope to correct now, today. "O yes, I'm a baptized member." Well, if you're baptized, that means you're a Christian—you're in the Church? **OH, NO, IT DOES NOT**, BRETHREN. I don't care how many times you've been soused in water (and I don't mean to ridicule the very sacred ordinance of baptism); but for many that's all it is—just a sousing in water. I'd like to read just a few scriptures along that line right now, before we pass on. In Mark 7:6-9, Jesus said: *This people honoureth me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Howbeit **in vain** do they worship me* [They not only accept Christ, they not only BELIEVE in Christ; but they WORSHIP Him, and they do it **in vain**. "In vain do they worship Me..."], *teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold to the tradition of men... And he said unto them, Full well do you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.*

WE MUST REPENT

Notice in Luke 13 now: Jesus said: *I tell you, Nay: but, except you **REPENT**, you shall all likewise perish.* Now, He repeated that for emphasis in verse five. *I tell you NAY: but, except you **REPENT**, you shall all likewise perish.* Regardless of how many times you've been baptized, if **you** have not REPENTED, **you** shall also likewise perish. *John 8:30-31 As [Jesus] spake these words, many believed on him. [Now here are people that believed on Christ.] Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples*

indeed. And they began to dispute Him right away. They didn't believe what He said. And so later Jesus said in John 8:43-45: *Why do you not understand my speech?* [That is, what I'm saying: "My speech."] *Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar; and the father of it. (45) And because I tell you the truth, you believe me not.* They believed ON Christ, but they did not BELIEVE Christ. They did not believe what He said. So just accepting Christ, just believing on Christ, doesn't save you. You have to believe what He says, and **YOU HAVE TO REPENT**. There are the two conditions: One is **repentance**, and the other is **faith**.

Now, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. You read in Mark, verse one, chapter one, *"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ."* Then Mark 1:14-15: *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the GOSPEL* [What gospel? "The gospel..."] *of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and believe the gospel.* Repent and believe. *"And except you **REPENT**."* And I think a lot of people don't fully know what that means. They say, "Oh, I've repented. Yes, I know I've sinned." They haven't really repented, because I think we do not understand what we mean by the word REPENT. Very few seem to understand it.

REPENT – IF TO RECEIVE SPIRIT

You are not Christ's until you have the Holy Spirit of God, and you cannot have the Holy Spirit of God until you have repented. Turn now to Romans 8:9, which you ought to have memorized anyway: *Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man [or woman, either] have not the SPIRIT of Christ, he is none of his.* Without the Holy Spirit in you; and more than being in you, it must be leading you, and you must be following—must be **led by** the Spirit of God. Because then you will read beginning in verse 11: *But*

if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [or make immortal] your mortal bodies BY his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Holy Spirit of God is **the impregnation of ETERNAL life**, which you don't have. You were not born with LIFE. You were only born with a chemical temporary existence, just to exist a little while and then die. A lot of people die long before they're seventy years of age. Many people are facing death all of the time; and people come and go. A generation comes, and passes on; and another generation comes along. But notice verse fourteen: *For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God.* Now, the Holy Spirit of God won't get hold of you and pull you. It won't get behind you and push you. It doesn't force you. It **leads** by opening your mind to understand the Word of God. The Holy Spirit itself does not teach you. It opens your mind to comprehend what IS taught. Jesus came and taught people who didn't understand. They didn't have the Holy Spirit. They didn't understand. Actually, the disciples were with Him three and a half years; and they didn't comprehend and understand what He told them—not all of it, not the spiritual part. And He said that, when the Holy Spirit came upon them (which it did on the day of Pentecost), then He said that the Spirit of God would remind them. And, of course, even the spirit of man too would bring to their remembrance what things He had taught them. Then they would come to understand it, after the Holy Spirit came. You see, it is God who must teach you. And He teaches through Christ, who is the Word of God. And Christ teaches through His apostles and others under them. But it all comes **from God**.

SPIRIT NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND

Now when Jesus was here, He said he'd spoken nothing of Himself. He only spoke what the Father told Him to speak. And so all the teaching emanates originally from God Almighty, God the Father—NOT from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in you will open your mind to comprehend the spiritual truth, the spiritual knowledge. So you read in I Corinthians 2:9: *"Eye has not seen nor ear heard,"* that is, *"neither has it entered into the [mind] of man"* [the spiritual

truths] *"the things that God has prepared for [us]."* Then the next verse says, the 10th verse, *"But GOD has revealed them unto us."* See, it comes from God. But He reveals it **by** and **through** His SPIRIT, if you have the Holy Spirit. Otherwise you WILL NOT comprehend the real spiritual Truth.

Now, many people will understand a certain amount of the Bible because there's so much of the Bible that is, well, relating to ordinary materialistic or physical knowledge (as well as the spiritual portion of it). And much of it is history, and they can understand a great deal of the history. But when it comes to the real deeper spiritual teaching, the natural mind of man CANNOT comprehend. It takes the words of the Bible that came from Christ, though, to teach—and not the Spirit. Without the Bible and just having the Holy Spirit, you will never know any more. It is the Holy Spirit that OPENS THE MIND to comprehend.

Now, it's just like **the spirit in man**. I've talked to you so much about the spirit in man. We're all born with a spirit—a human spirit. But that's quite a different spirit than the Spirit of God. That is, the spirit that is in humans; and I know of no way to designate it than just to call it "a human spirit" because it is not flesh, as we are. But it is IN US who are flesh. It is in our flesh, and it does empower the physical brain with comprehension of materialistic knowledge. For example, a cow has a brain just like you do. You can take it apart and look at it. It's composed of the same thing your brain is, formed and shaped just like your brain. Now your brain might be a little bigger. But an elephant's brain is bigger than yours is. And it's just as good as yours, and bigger, and shaped and formed exactly like it. And yet even an elephant can't think; can't reason; can't come to comprehend physical knowledge. You stand by an elephant and try to teach the elephant some scientific facts about physics, chemistry, some of the laws of physics, some scientific knowledge; he doesn't know what you're talking about. He can't! His brain won't comprehend it, even though you teach him.

You see it is **a spirit in us** that causes our brain to comprehend materialistic knowledge. Still that knowledge has to come either through the eye into the brain; or the brain hears through the ear; or it tastes through the mouth; smells through the nose; and then

the nervous [system] through the sense of feel or touch, or through the nerves, knowledge is transmitted. But the spirit itself doesn't transmit any knowledge to you. The knowledge has to come through sight or hearing, smelling, tasting or feeling. No other way knowledge comes into your mind. Spiritual knowledge comes by teaching from God, but it can't be COMPREHENDED, and it can't be UNDERSTOOD, except by **THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN YOU**. With the spirit of man—the human spirit—YOU CAN understand physical materialistic knowledge that a dog, a cow, a horse, an elephant cannot understand, cannot comprehend, IF you are taught. Still, someone must teach you. And the knowledge must come through the senses of sight, or hearing, or smelling, or tasting, or feeling.

TAUGHT BY CHRIST – VIA AN APOSTLE

Likewise, the Holy Spirit does not teach you. You must be taught by God—by the Word of God. And Christ is the Word of God. And that's the only way we have any knowledge, even the apostles. If I'm an apostle, I can teach you. But where did I get the knowledge? Where did Paul get the knowledge? Where did Peter? James? Andrew? Where did the early apostles get the knowledge? **FROM CHRIST!** Well, I get it from the same Source because Christ is the Word of God **in person**. The Bible is the SAME Word of God **in writing**. So, I got it from the Word of God; but I got it in writing. And they got it through the ear, from what they heard, by His teaching. But it all came through Christ. He was the one who taught, not the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit OPENED THEIR MINDS TO COMPREHEND. Brethren, we have not understood that until within the last year. It's a marvelous teaching that God has opened to us within the past year or so, and I hope that we can all come to understand it. I certainly thank and praise God for giving us that wonderful knowledge.

REPENT – BELIEVE – BE BAPTIZED

Now, the conditions to receiving the Spirit: As Jesus said, REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the gospel (the

message, the truth). And the message comes from God. Believe what He says, in other words. Believe what He says! Turn now to Acts, the second chapter. On the day of Pentecost, after Christ had ascended to heaven, He had been crucified. He had lived without sin. He **never** sinned. He did not have to repent because He had never sinned. But He paid the price of sin, even though He didn't pay it for Himself. He paid it for you and me. And He took your sins and mine on Himself, and paid the penalty for us. It's just like God is a great banker, and you owe the bank a lot of money. And Christ is the banker's son. And you can't pay what you owe the bank. But His Son, the son of the banker, pays it for you and says, "Well, I paid that off for you. So you don't have to worry anymore about it. It's all paid." That is, you don't have to worry about the past sin. But you'd better worry about whether you sin anymore in the future, from now on; because then, then you bring the penalty right back on yourself again, IF you do go on sinning any more.

Well, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came on those that been taught by Christ, and on a total of 120 people (more than just the original twelve). There were about ten times that many, a total of 120. And Peter preached the first really Spirit-inspired sermon by a human man on that day. And there were thousands there who heard him. And after Peter had finished his speech, it says in Acts 2:37: *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart.* It touched their hearts, emotions. They were really hit. It wasn't just any old common ordinary thing. It was something that really hit them emotionally. They were touched in their hearts. *Acts 2:37-38 And said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* [What are we going to do now, now that we've heard what we did and heard how Christ had been crucified.] *Then Peter said unto them, REPENT* [But so many people don't know what he meant when he said repent. "Repent..." **and be baptized** [Now, that follows repentance.] *every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy [Spirit].* Now, there is no promise in the Bible that anyone will receive the Holy Spirit until after he has repented and been baptized. And being baptized is only an outward physical form or ceremony typifying, picturing, representing your real repentance and belief. You go **down** into the water. It's a picture of

death—the death of the old self and, as a type, of the death of Christ. Coming back **up** out of the water is a picture of the resurrection of Christ and your coming up to live a new and a different, a much-changed type of life, a different life-style. You're going a different direction from this time on. You're not going to be like the same person any longer.

SOME HAVE NOT CHANGED DIRECTION

But some people haven't ever undergone any change. They're still just the same. They've just accepted a few additional instructions, or teachings, or doctrines that they've heard. And they're so, they're really so 'good' that they said, "Well, you know, I want to be good. I want to do what's right; and that, I see that's true and that's right. So I'm so good I'm just going to accept it." **HOW MANY OF YOU ARE LIKE THAT, BRETHREN?** You've just heard the truth. And you're so 'good' that you say, "Yes I—I, in my goodness—I'm certainly going to accept that, because I'm so 'good' I want to believe what's right. I don't want to do what's wrong." **THAT WON'T SAVE YOU AND WON'T GET YOU THE HOLY SPIRIT!** I don't think that many of us have ever quite understood that yet, and we need to before we take the Passover. I sometimes have to wonder, and I've had to all through these years, if many of us understand just what it really means to repent.

I read of a story of a Methodist preacher. In fact, he was the bishop that visited a church. He was a bishop, you see; and he was quite a celebrity, coming to this small church. He'd come from a bigger city and was over a good many churches. And he was preaching on repentance; but, somehow, the people couldn't understand. He wasn't able to make them understand what he meant. (And I think many of us perhaps do not understand just what we mean by **repentance**.) So there was a black gentleman in the back of the church building, and he finally raised up his hand. "If you please, sir," he said, "I believe I can explain what you mean, if I might." Well the bishop said, "Certainly, certainly. Go ahead, if you can make it more plain or clear to the people." "Well sir," he said, "I, this is what I think you mean." And he started walking right down the aisle, down towards the platform. And he says,

"I'm going to hell. I'm going to hell. I'm going to hell. I'm going to hell, I'm going to hell." And he got down to just in front of the platform, and then he turned around. And he started and he walked rapidly back, even a little faster now. And he said, "I'm going to heaven. I'm going to heaven. I'm going to heaven. I'm going to heaven." And when he got back up there; he said, "I think what you meant, sir, is we must **TURN AROUND AND GO THE OTHER WAY.**" And some of them began to understand it. It meant you have to **ADMIT** you've been going in the **WRONG DIRECTION**. You have to **ADMIT YOU'VE BEEN WRONG. YOU'VE BELIEVED WRONG! YOU'VE LIVED WRONG! YOU'VE DONE WRONG! YOU ARE WRONG, THROUGH AND THROUGH.** And many of you have **NEVER** admitted that!

I've come to **KNOW** even **MEN THAT HAVE RISEN UP IN THIS CHURCH** to the rank of apostle—well, not apostle but of **EVANGELIST**. And they apparently have **NEVER ADMITTED THEY HAD BEEN WRONG. THEY ARE JUST SO 'GOOD.'** **THEY ACCEPTED THE TRUTH,** and they've **BEEN ACCEPTING** it. They **BELIEVE** and **ACCEPT** the **DOCTRINE**, in **THEIR OWN 'goodness' and THEIR OWN 'righteousness'—SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!** And they haven't got any more **real salvation** than a cat, a dog, or a cow. A lot of people have come into this Church, and a lot have become ministers and have gone through Ambassador College. They've been taught. But they never had **the Spirit of God**, and they **NEVER REALLY COMPREHENDED THE SPIRITUAL TRUTH**. Now, the Holy Spirit doesn't teach you spiritual truth. It must be taught to you. But the Holy Spirit enables your mind to understand it **WHEN YOU ARE TAUGHT**. And I'm afraid some have not received the Holy Spirit even. Well, **you'd better be sure**, brethren, before you take the Passover. Now, we are commanded to **repent** and **believe before** we are **baptized** because baptism is only the outward ceremony picturing your belief and picturing the fact that you have repented—that the old life is gone, you've admitted how wrong you are, and now you're starting a totally new type of life.

EVEN SIMON MAGUS BELIEVED AND WAS BAPTIZED

I would like to show you how the founder of the false church was **baptized**. And he wasn't converted! I hope that you're more converted than he was, because he was just **not converted**. That's in the eighth chapter of the book of Acts. Acts 8, beginning with verse 13. This was Simon the sorcerer. And this was the time when Phillip had gone up to Samaria, you know; and preached the Kingdom of God up there—preached Christ to them and the Kingdom of God. And so, well in verse 12: *When they believed Phillip [Now, they believed.] preaching the things of the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.* [Well, I think it's given to us to assume that they had repented. It does say they believed.] Now, he was the head of the Babylonian Mystery religion there. And they ALL looked up to him as a man of God, from the least of them to the greatest, in Samaria there.

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed [Now HE BELIEVED. He BELIEVED Christ. He BELIEVED the truth. I want you to notice that. He believed.] *also: and when he was BAPTIZED...* And he was baptized! How many of YOU have BELIEVED, you've accepted the doctrine, YOU'VE BEEN BAPTIZED? Well, that happened to the founder of what the Bible calls "Babylon" and tells us to **come out** of it! *And when he was baptized, he continued with Phillip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and the signs which were done.* Now then, beginning with verse twenty to verse twenty-two. Peter and John came down. And they didn't understand that they should lay hands on them for receiving the Holy Spirit. They did not receive the Holy Spirit when they were baptized—UNTIL the apostles came down, and laid their hands on them, and prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:20- 21: But Peter said unto him... Now, this Simon came and offered Peter money for the Holy Spirit. He had BELIEVED and he had been BAPTIZED, and I want you to notice that. And now he came to Peter and said "I will pay money so you will give me the Holy Spirit" because he didn't get the Holy Spirit. *But Peter said unto him, Thy money*

*perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the GIFT of God [the Holy Spirit, the gift of God] may be purchased with money. (21) Thou hast **neither part nor lot** in this matter.* You know after Judas had dropped out and there were only eleven of the apostles left, they let THE LOT (which meant it was God's choice) fall on Matthias; and he became one of them, so he could have part in that apostleship. The **part and lot** referred to being an apostle. And Peter said to him, "*You have neither part nor lot.*" You see he wanted to be AN APOSTLE. And he made himself an apostle—pretended he was anyway—afterward. Verses twenty-one through twenty-two: *You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. REPENT therefore* [Peter said to him].

HE HAD **NOT** REPENTED! BUT HE HAD BELIEVED. HE HAD BEEN BAPTIZED. **Brethren, how about YOU? HOW ABOUT YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHAT REPENTANCE REALLY MEANS?** Too many say, "Yeah, yeah, I guess I was a sinner. So I'm just gonna believe now." And, in your own goodness, you do. I don't believe that you...I don't believe that is repentance, brethren. I know it wasn't for me. I didn't get it that way. I didn't receive God's Spirit that way. I had to go through something that meant the DEATH of this old self. It was already dead, and I, didn't know it. But I had to let it DIE, and let Christ put **LIFE** in me through His Holy Spirit. I'll come to that a little later. But Peter said to [Simon Magus] in Acts 8:22: *Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.* He had a **wrong motive of heart**. He had NOT repented! But he had believed, and he had been baptized.

Well, who are the followers of that Simon today? He went out anyway, and he organized what became finally the biggest religion in this world, what is known today as "Christianity." He was the real founder of what the world looks on as "Christianity" today. And you find it described in Revelation 17:5 (and it's in capital letters in my Bible, and probably is in yours). *And upon HER*—she's pictured as a great whore, a great mamma whore- *And upon her forehead...* And a church is always regarded in the female sense, because the true Church of God is the affianced Bride of Christ, to marry Christ at His

Second Coming. But here was a **false church**. And she is a harlot, a WHORE; and she's a mother of harlots. *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT*, or, the Babylonian Mystery religion having become great, *THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*. Her daughters came out of her IN PROTEST, as a daughter comes out of her mother at birth. And the Protestants came out of the Roman Catholic Church in protest. And that is called "Christianity" and that was started by that same Simon. And he had the title of "Peter." And he is the Simon "Peter" of the Roman Catholic Church. PETER is often called—because "e" is often pronounced as "a" and it would be pronounced—"PATER." (Now "mater" means mother. And alumni graduates of the university look on their university as their alma mater, or mother.) Now wait, not Peter but **Simon** [Simon Peter, John 21:15]. His name originally was Simon too, "Simon Barjona," or "the son of Jonas." Jesus **surnamed** him. And "surnamed" means gave him a TITLE. You'll find twice in the Bible it says that he was surnamed "Peter." (Look in the dictionary for surname.) And surname is a **title** to designate your occupation. And that was the title that designated religious head, religious leader. And that's what they call the papacy, the Pope, today.

CONVERSION OF APOSTLE PAUL

Well, now let's take a case history or two. Let's take the apostle Paul. And if I could turn to Acts 9:1, I'd like to read the first sixteen verses. I want you to get this experience that Paul went through, and I want to give you some case histories and see if you had an experience anything like this. His name originally was Saul, from the city or town of Tarsus. *Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest. He had hatred. He was energized by it, and he was emotionally wrought up with hatred and vengeance against the Christians. He wanted to destroy them. He wanted to have them killed. So he: ...went up to the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way...* Now you see, "this way" is a **Way of Life**. You repent of your old way of life and turn to

GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. And what is **God's Way of Life**? It's the way God has always lived.

You read of the first beginning of God in John 1: 1-5 and so on, where God and the Word: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God.*" The Word was a personage. "*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*" and became Jesus Christ (verse fourteen). But the Word was with another personage, called GOD; and the WORD also was GOD. Well, John can be with Smith; but John is also Smith. Maybe John is Smith's son or Smith's father, one or the other. But Smith is the family name. And, in this case, "God" is **the Family name**. That's why **we** coming into His Family are **begotten children**, if we have really been begotten and received the Holy Spirit. We're begotten into the Family of God, and that's why we're called the CHURCH of God.

Now, in the Old Testament they were **not** the children of God. They were the children of Israel. They weren't called the congregation or church of God. They were called the congregation of **Israel**, and Israel was Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. And that was the name of Jacob—Israel, a human man. They were his physical descendants. But we are **ALREADY**; if we have the Spirit of God, His Spirit witnesses with our spirit. We are now already begotten as the CHILDREN OF GOD. So we bear the Family name—**Church of God**. We're not Methodists. We're not Presbyterians. We're not Congregationalists. We're not Roman Catholics. We're the **PEOPLE OF GOD**. Brethren, do you realize this?

Now notice: He, Saul, or Paul, wanted letters going up to the city of Damascus, which is today the oldest city in the world still existing. In Acts 9:2-6: *To the synagogues, that if he found any in this way* [That is, God's Way of Life, the Christian Way that Christ had taught.], *whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.* [to be punished. They were going to imprison them.] *And as he journeyed* [Now he's breathing slaughter, wanting to kill them. "As he journeyed...], *he came near Damascus:* [Now he must have gotten close to the outskirts of Damascus.] *And suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and*

heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, Why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord what wilt thou have me do? Something happened to him. He knew GOD had struck him down, and he was hit emotionally. He, all of a sudden, realized that he was actually persecuting GOD. And he was struck down blind. This was an emotional thing with him. But just emotion alone isn't enough. It wasn't really an emotion thing. It was a spiritual, mental thing. But I mean it had an emotional context, content, because he really... It was a very serious thing with him.

Acts 9:6-9: He trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. [Now he was given an order, to see if he was going to obey.] And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened [You see he had been blind.], he saw no man: [He was blind.] but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did he eat nor drink. Now, he went through quite an experience that shook him up. Believe me, this shook him up! This was no just easy thing. He just heard something. "Yeah, I'm so 'good.' I guess I'll accept that." I wonder how many of **YOU** got into the Church that way? How many of **you** were struck down until it really shook you to the root—realizing how **WRONG** you had been, admitting how **WRONG** you were through and through?

Acts 9:10-13 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias [who Christ was now talking to] coming in, and putting his hands on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he has done to the saints at Jerusalem. You know we've ALL been doing evil, but have we recognized it? Have we

realized how **EVIL** we have been? Some of us have been so 'good' we've never had to **REPENT**. Some of **YOU** have been so 'good' you never had to repent. Well, brethren, **I DID!** Or I wouldn't be up here teaching you today.

Acts 9:14-17: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. (15) But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me... Oh, [Paul] didn't volunteer at all! He wanted to go the other way. **GOD CALLED HIM.** God knocked him down. God **CHOSE** him. If **YOU** have been called, it's because **God called** you. But some of **YOU** weren't knocked down quite that bad. And some of **YOU** haven't undergone any such experience that really shook **YOU** up like this. ... *to bear my name before the Gentiles, and before kings, and the children of Israel: [He had to go before kings.] For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.* Paul had to **suffer** many things for Christ. Brethren, I have had to suffer many things for Christ. And when I gave myself to Him, fifty-five, fifty-six years ago, back in the very spring of 1927, I knew that Jesus said if they persecuted Him, they would persecute us. And I knew I would be persecuted! I counted the cost. And when I gave myself over to Him, I did it knowing what I was going to have to suffer. And I have suffered it. And I'm suffering it right now, this minute, in ways that most of you don't understand at all. And I'm not going to reveal a lot of it to you. Verse seventeen: *And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house.*

I just wanted to read that far to you, to show you that experience that Paul went through. It was **AN EXPERIENCE**—this conversion that he went through. Now, Paul wasn't tortured physically. But the very knowledge it was God striking him down shook him up, and shook him in his mind spiritually. And, suddenly, he realized that he was **WRONG**. He was going the wrong way. He was doing the wrong things. He was **EVIL**, and he was doing an evil thing; and he suddenly realized that. And his whole attitude and his intent in life changed. He had been persecuting in dynamic **ZEAL**! He was. You know some people are just, oh, I don't know, so insipid that there's no life in them, it seems. They're not dynamic. They're not forceful. They just go along so easily. Paul was **NOT** like that! He was a real, vigorous, man. And now,

when God turned him around the other way, he became a vigorous crusader for Christ. Maybe “crusader” is the wrong way because he wasn’t going out trying to get people saved, anymore than Christ was. But his life was wrong. He was going the wrong way. And he made A SURRENDER. Notice Acts 9:6: *“He trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”* And he began to obey from that minute on, and his whole life changed. He turned around and started to go the other way, started to live a different kind of life altogether. So, Paul didn’t become a Christian just in his own goodness. He was so ‘good’ that he said, “Well, I’m going to accept Christ.” **No!** In his goodness, he was breathing out slaughter to the Christians. He wanted to see them slaughtered, if he could. He had to realize how wrong he was.

MR. ARMSTRONG’S CONVERSION

Now, how was I struck down? I’ve often said, “I was struck down in an entirely different way than Paul was.” Well, I was. I was struck down! The course I was living in was altogether different. When I was just a kid, sixteen years of age, I was suddenly inspired with ambition. A man that employed me on a summer vacation job told me that I was going to just do great things in life. I was going to go places. He flattered me; but he encouraged me, and he gave me pats on the back and told me I was really going to do things. And I began to almost believe it. I never believed anything like that before. And then I became ambitious, at age sixteen. But I knew that ambition meant a desire, plus the hard effort and the work to accomplish that desire; and I knew it meant putting forth a great effort.

Now, what I became desirous of was all carnal and physical, in this world. I began to want to be considered when I was mature, and I was only sixteen then, but I wanted to be considered successful **by** successful men. It wasn’t that I wanted a lot of money. I wanted some of the things money would buy. That’s true. But I wasn’t thinking about just hoarding money, anything like that. But I wanted to be looked on as successful **by** successful men. And I became filled with self-confidence. And I began, while I was still in high school, spending a lot of time in the public

library—studying other books besides the high school assignment (in philosophy, and in business administration, and other things of that sort that I’d find in the library), not fiction. I had been reading a lot of fiction. I read about Dick Merriwell and Frank Merriwell and all of those things, and even Mick Carter. I don’t think any of you remember that far back. That was before I was sixteen. But now I began to read serious things. I was filled with ambition, and I became quite successful. I made a self-analysis, an examination, to avoid fitting the proverbial “square peg in a round hole,” to find where I belonged, where I could be a success in life. I chose the profession I was succeeding in. And, by the time I was twenty-eight, I was making what in today’s dollar value would be at least a quarter of a million dollars a year. Not very many young men of twenty-eight have gone that far. And I had been quite successful.

And then in 1920, I was struck down. In 1920, there was a temporary flash Depression. It was a very serious Depression—following the end of World War I, which ended in 1918. In 1920, it struck this country. And all of my clients, that were responsible for my income, were firms like the J. I. Case people, and farm implement people, and like John Deere & Company, the Moline Plow Works, the Avery Company, a great adding machine company, and other companies like that. And EVERY ONE of them went into the receivership and lost everything they had! Goodyear Tire and Rubber was another one of my clients at that time. They also failed. Now, the company name was continued, but new management was put in. New, well, new stocks were offered; and new capital came in. New management was installed. And the companies came back up again, but the same people that were in it lost everything they had. And my business was totally swept away from under my feet. And it wasn’t my fault. I didn’t bring on that Depression.

In 1924, I took a trip that took eighteen days—from Des Moines, Iowa out to Salem, Oregon. There were no cross-country highways in those days. It was just either mud roads in Iowa, dirt roads, or some gravel roads when we got farther west. And we had blow out of tires, and everything else, in a Ford. But we finally arrived out in Oregon in, well, we were eighteen days through that summer of 1924. Well, I had begun to

build another business in the advertising field, and I was doubling the business of all my clients. My work was eminently successful. And it had been hard to come back. I'd been struck down. Now I was regaining confidence again. And then all of a sudden something happened that all of my clients were stricken and could not expend money for local advertising any further. My business was suddenly swept away from me! And I had every client, all through Oregon and Washington, in my field. It took the life out of me.

I'd been ambitious. I wanted to succeed. Everything, and it just seemed... I said I was King Midas IN REVERSE. You know everything King Midas touched turned into gold. Everything I touched turned into nothing. I just thought "I'm King Midas in reverse." And all the confidence had gone out of me. I was a whipped, beaten man. I was reduced to poverty. That's the time when you've heard me say that I had been making a quarter of a million dollars a year before that. I had those "righteous" shoes you've heard me talk about—they had "holey" soles. One pair, that's all I had, with holes in the soles. Yes, and I had a suit for every day in the week—the one I wore was it—the only one I had; and it was threadbare, hardly presentable any longer. It was winter up in Oregon. I had a hole that big in the hip of the only overcoat I had, and it was only a topcoat; and it was a cold winter.

But I had finally been **converted**. And then, when I was in that condition, I was CHALLENGED; and I had to begin studying the Bible. And I began to realize that everything I had been taught was wrong! And I let God erase everything I'd ever believed out of my mind. I turned around, and started to go the other way. I had been whipped, I had been beaten, and finally I was CONQUERED BY GOD. I didn't just 'get' and 'receive' and 'accept' Christ. **I gave myself to Him!** Of course, I accepted Him; but you know what I mean. It was more than just getting something. It was giving my whole life to Him! And I did it in poverty. I was beaten down. I had gone through an emotional BEATING, a terrible beating. And now I began to have a new kind of confidence, totally different. It was not self-confidence. I began to have the faith of Christ. I began to have a confidence that Christ... I knew I wouldn't have to walk alone—that Christ

would be with me—if I would be with Him. But I had to go His Way. I had to be CONQUERED by Him. I don't believe anyone receives the Holy Spirit until the human spirit has been conquered by God and His Spirit.

BREAKING OUR WILL

I often think of a spirited young colt. You try to get on him, and he'll try to throw you. You can't do a thing with him. You've got to break him. He's got to be CONQUERED; and then you do have a still spirited horse, but he becomes of great value. But he has to be broken. Do you know God has to break our wills and break us? And we have to be brought to the place of surrender to Him. How many of you have gone through such an experience? Or have you just, in your own goodness, seen the truth; and said, "Oh yes, that's true, I'm going to accept it. I'm so 'good' that I just want to accept it. And I'm going to be a Christian from here on." I wonder if you have really received the Spirit of God? I wonder if you get it that easily? I didn't. The apostle Paul didn't. I didn't, and Paul didn't. I had to be whipped. I had to be conquered. Well, I had to confess and admit how wrong I had been. Not only that I had done wrong, but that I WAS WRONG; and I was wrong through and through. I had to come to **a new attitude** in life, **a new purpose** in life, altogether something new and something altogether different.

Now, I'd like to show you something about David. You know a lot of people would never understand how David could ever be called "a man after God's own heart." Well, how could he be called "a man after God's own heart"? Look at the things he did. God wouldn't let him build the Temple in Jerusalem when he asked God. God thought it was a good idea all right, and wanted it built; but He said he wouldn't let David build it because David was a man of war. He'd shed so much blood, in killing people in battle. And not only that; but, when God told him not to take a census of His nation, he went ahead and did it anyway, and disobeyed God deliberately. And God really whip-laid him and punished him for that.

And another time he saw a woman taking a bath out of his window. I guess her window was open. She must have been next door somewhere from his palace.

Well, he was the king; so he told some of his servants, "Bring that woman over here." And she became pregnant. And her husband was away from home in the war, in the battle. And now David was in trouble. He'd got this other man's wife pregnant. And David didn't know what to do. So he got word to the General of the Army and said, "Send this man back home." And when he got there, he said, "You can stay home for a couple of nights with your wife before you go back." But he said, "No." He said, "I'm not going to enjoy going to bed with my wife when all the rest of my buddies down there are out there fighting. And they don't get to be in a nice shelter, or a beautiful home, or anything like that." So he, he just slept outside. He didn't even go in the house. Now, David was really up against it. He didn't know what to do. He was like a rat in a corner, trapped. And he tried anyway to get out of it. He did a worse thing yet. After he had committed adultery with another man's wife, now he sent a note **BY THIS SAME MAN** to the General of the Army and said, "Put him up in the forefront of the battle where he'll get killed himself." And he was killed. David now became a murderer. And God sent Nathan, the prophet, to tell him what he had done.

I want to show you what David went through. In the 51st Psalm, here was a prayer of David when he woke up and finally realized what had happened. Most people would say, "Any man that's done those things, he's no good. God couldn't use a man like that." And yet I think they must sit in judgment of God's calling a man like David a man after His own heart. Well, here's why David's "a man after God's own heart." Look at this prayer. He was crying out to God. He said in Psalm 51:1-3: *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.* [Now he's beginning to admit his transgressions. He's admitting how wrong he was.] *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity* [MY iniquity], *and cleanse me from MY sin.* [Now he's confessing it.] *For I acknowledge my transgression: and my sin is ever before me.* And then, notice verse 10. I won't read all of it, but just notice in this prayer. In Psalm 51:10 it says: *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in me.* He confessed his sins, and David never did it again.

HAVE WE REALLY TURNED TO OBEDIENCE?

Brethren, every one of you has sinned. You may think you haven't sinned as bad as someone else. And most people think if other people haven't found it out, they're all right just as long as nobody knows it. Well, let me tell you, **GOD KNOWS** every sin you've made. Every one of you has sinned, and God knows all about it. Every one! And you'd better be sure they're forgiven before you take the Passover! Now, maybe they already are forgiven. I don't mean asking a million times over to forgive it. Once they're forgiven, they're forgiven. But you'd better be sure they have been. And if they have, that's wonderful. And I hope they have been already. Notice now from Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, or made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.* Every one of us has been spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. Trespasses against God and God's Law. We were **SPIRITUALLY DEAD!** But now, IF we have the Holy Spirit, IF we have repented, IF we have been conquered and received the Holy Spirit of God, that changes every thing. *Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air* [who is Satan, and he's a prince of the power of the air], *the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.* And every one of us is a child of disobedience, and has been; and the Spirit of God has worked in us.

TWO MUST BE AGREED – BE OF ONE MIND

In I John 1:3: *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.* Here we are, having fellowship. Here we are, in a Church service. Do you know that in spirit both God the Father and Jesus Christ are right here in this auditorium this afternoon with us? And we're having **FELLOWSHIP and COMMUNION WITH THEM** this afternoon, right now!

I love that beautiful song "You'll Never Walk Alone." But two cannot **WALK TOGETHER** except they be agreed. And once we have really repented, once we have been conquered, you can't walk with Christ if

you don't agree with Him. You can't walk with God the Father until you've repented because, in your sins, you aren't agreeing with Him. You've got to make a **surrender!** I mean a **real** surrender—and that's a changed life, a changed attitude, a changed goal in life, a changed purpose altogether. But then you're going to sin again, even after that; and you all have. Since you've been converted I mean, every one of you has sinned more or less. So we read here in I John 1:9: *If we [We Christians. This is talking about Christians.] If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.* We've sinned, but we have not disagreed with Him. We didn't mean to sin, but we slipped up. We forgot, or maybe we got careless. Maybe we hadn't continued in prayer as often as we should. Maybe we slipped up a little while. Maybe you've sinned since you were converted. But if we confess those sins, He's faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Now it goes right on in the next chapter:

I John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you [those in the Church], that you sin not. And if any man [That is, a believer], sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not ours only, but also for the whole world. It shows that he meant, if we in the Church sin, He will forgive us. But you don't change your main attitude and your main purpose, and you may still have the Holy Spirit. But if you do NOT repent, if you do NOT acknowledge it, and then you continue on, pretty soon you'll just be lost entirely.

HOW WE GO ASTRAY

I like to picture it this way: You're in a thick wooded forest. Trees are so thick you can't see even ten feet ahead of you. Not as far as from me to the front row down there. Over in the Big Sandy campus, it used to be just that thick in woods and brush. You couldn't even see ten or fifteen feet. But, if you're in a big forest on a dark moonless night (no light, no moon), and there's only one way out; and there is a light there and that light is going out, and you follow that light—it'll lead you right out. But if you don't follow that light, and you go any other way; you're not going to see very far. And, I tell you; inside of a little time that

light is lost. You won't find it again. You don't know which way to go now, to find it. And you can't tell which is east, west, north, or south. Not at least until the next day. You'll be lost in the woods.

Now, the Bible is a **lamp** under our feet, but that lamp must have oil in it. You read of that in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, where just before Christ's coming, it's really speaking of the Laodicean Church then. And half of the virgins, who had been Christians, had let the oil go out of their lamps. Their "lamps" are the Bible. But THE OIL is the Holy Spirit within them, speaking, of course, in figurative or in symbolic language. And I've noticed those who go out from among us, they go off on some one point, or maybe two points. And ALWAYS, if they don't repent, it is not long till they've gone off on another doctrine, and then another. And then, pretty soon, they've just gone all together; and it's too late. Now, if you make a mistake—if you sin—and you CONFESS your SINS, YOU'D BETTER DO IT QUICK AND DO IT IMMEDIATELY, and it isn't too late. And He will be faithful and just to forgive you your sins, and to cleanse you of all unrighteous. But, brethren, some have gone out from this Body and this Church; and they didn't confess their sins right away. And then they began to make another sin, and then another; and they've just given up altogether. They don't believe any thing any more. They've gone farther, and farther, and farther away.

Now, it's good to have this Passover season come once a year. And it's good to have us CHECK UP once and a while, and to remember that whenever we do make a mistake (maybe it was thoughtlessness, maybe it was deliberate even, but you've come to yourself and you come to realize it), REPENT and repent quick! Don't say, "I'm not worthy to repent." You're never too unworthy to go to God and ask for forgiveness, and ask Him to get you back on the track.

GETTING BACK ON TRACK

This whole Church has been going wrong, and we've had to get back on the track. Brethren, you have to **keep yourself** on the track privately and individually.

(Continued on page 40, "Examination")

Personal

From the Editor

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Recently I viewed an interview by Glenn Beck on CNN with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and was very sobered to hear what he had to say about the shortness of time we have left unless the leader of Iran is dealt with in no uncertain way.

Mr. Netanyahu stated that the leaders of Iraq and Libya were nothing more than big bullies. However the leader of Iran is something else for not only is he getting close to developing nuclear weapons, he is supported by a battalion of suicidal people who are more than willing to give their lives for their conquest of Israel, Europe, and the United States. Further, he said, this man is extremely dangerous, more so than was Hitler!

Israel is called the little Satan, but America is called the big Satan and stands in Iran's way of total conquest. Glenn Beck then asked Mr. Netanyahu how much time did he think we have left? He replied from two to four years, maybe five.

The Vatican and Germany are not Sleeping

As one should well realize, Satan is using the leaders in Europe along with the Pope and his hierarchy in the Vatican to be developing plans to go head to head to meet this major threat to them and all that they represent.

Based on this very serious threat to all of us, we can well believe that very soon the Pope will be given the power of miracles to bring the 10 nations together and

then choose the man (Beast) to head it (Revelation 13:11-18).

They will then bring to naught the radical Muslim world (UAR – a United Arab Republic) by defeating them just as Scripture makes known (Daniel 11:40-45). Brethren, the countdown has begun!

There are the leaders here and elsewhere who are viewing the belly-side-up of this country and therefore very vulnerable to the suicidal threats of the terrorists who will sooner or later bring about mass killings of our people.

As an example, I was looking in my new telephone directory recently and noticed there were two pages devoted to the actions people should take if a *terrorist threat* should become a reality.

Of all people, knowing the prophecies as we all should, it would seem that we as God's people would be on high alert during these very troubling times knowing the Great Tribulation is now close at hand and be taking the needed precautions, both spiritually and physically.

Recent Newspapers reported ***the doomsday clock was reset from seven to five minutes before the midnight hour!*** A news release made known the change was based on **"worsening nuclear, climate threats"** to the world.

"The major new step reflects growing concerns about a 'Second Nuclear Age' marked by grave threats, including: nuclear ambitions in Iran and North



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Korea, unsecured nuclear materials in Russia and elsewhere, the continuing 'launch-ready' status of 2,000 of the 25,000 nuclear weapons held by the U.S. and Russia, escalating terrorism, and new pressure from climate change for expanded civilian nuclear power that could increase proliferation risks," the release reads.

Brethren, just as the time has been reset very close to the midnight hour on *the Doom Day Clock*, the endtime prophecies also make known the countdown has begun that will soon lead the House of Joseph and other nations of Israel into the hardships of the Great Tribulation!

Sorrowfully, the members of the Sardis and the Laodicean Church eras will also find themselves included in those extremely hard and trying times that will lead to their horrible and painful deaths, very similar to what the Jewish people experienced in World War II (Revelation 6:9-11; 12:17).

To all of our sleeping brethren who are living their lives in a self-righteous *denial* of the stark reality of what we will be soon facing, please consider the following writings by renowned men which should be *a wakeup call* to all of us (Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 25:1-13): *"Those who choose to live in denial may eventually be forced to live in fear."*

President George Bush Jr. speaking about the need to confront Iraq (NYPost 10/17/02)

*"Knowing the brief duration of the candle of life and the pains and trials that accompany us on our too-short journey, we cling to the joys and happiness that pass our way along the road and seek to make them a permanent part of our stay on earth. We flee from **pain**, and cleave to whatever pleasures we can find. **We also run from reality and cling to illusion.***

*"We see that which we want to see; we shut our eyes to that which will upset our dreams. We refuse to speak the unspeakable and think the unthinkable and prefer to walk forward with blind determination while rationalizing to ourselves that all is good and will never change. **We strike out** against those who shake*

*our castles in the sky and rail against those who **prick our illusions**. A Jeremiah is never welcome and a Cassandra is shouted down lest their message **penetrate** our minds and **chill** our hearts. We prefer the bearers of good tidings and **do not** question too deeply their veracity. We applaud those who tell us that the **unthinkable** is precisely that and that **the prophet of doom is, in reality, a victim of paranoia and gloomy misreading of events.**"* Rabbi Meir Kahane in his book, 'Time To Go Home' warning Jews about growing anti-semitism.

It is often tempting to avoid facing reality. Patrick Henry expressed this in 1775 in his [speech to the House of Representatives](#) about Britain's intentions to subjugate the colonies. In his speech he said:

*"We are apt to **shut our eyes** against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their **temporal salvation**? For my part, whatever **anguish** of spirit it may cost, **I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.**"*

Robert Baer, in his book, 'Sleeping with the Devil', page 166, wrote about how America refuses to face reality when it comes to Saudi Arabia. He wrote:

*"Washington fiddles and pretends Riyadh won't burn, watching passively as wealthy Saudis channel hundreds of millions of dollars to radical groups in hopes of buying protection. Washington pretends that all the loudspeakers in all the mosques throughout all the kingdom that are blaring out their messages of hate against the West haven't been paid for with contributions from the royal family that America so readily declares to be its best friend and ally in the Middle East. ... Ex-presidents, former prime ministers, onetime senators and members of Congress and Cabinet members walk around with their hands out, rarely slowing **down because most of them know that this charade can go on only so long.** The trick is to get on that last plane loaded with gold before the SAM launchers are set up around Riyadh International."*

(Continued on pg 40, "Personal")

The Vital Passover Service

by

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, UNLESS you EAT the flesh of the Son of Man, and DRINK His blood, you have NO life in you.

(John 6:53)

By the time most of you will have read this letter God's Passover will be at hand. And very probably sermons are already being preached about it in some of the Churches.

When considering the vital necessity of partaking of ***those precious symbols*** during the Passover service, the critical and life saving question needs to be asked -- are you hearing the sermons as the Bible truly teaches -- the way that was also taught by the apostle Paul as found in the teachings of Jesus Christ Himself? (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

The apostle of Jesus Christ for our time, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, both taught and used the very same Scriptural teachings in conducting the Passover service over the many years of his ministry. This same service was also used by the ministry under him during those same years, but *not* since his death.

Sorrowfully most members do not realize this service was changed after his death to reflect the new leadership erroneous beliefs! As the result members will be continuing to participate in a Passover service that is very wrong! I well know this to be a fact from my own personal knowledge. Their ministers will not make this known to them or the origin of it during this most important time! Though they will not tell you, I will!

**Their Passover Service was
Changed by the New Pastor-General**

Shortly after the death of Mr. Armstrong the Passover service was *changed* by the apostate leader who replaced him to fit the deceptive teaching concerning the morsel of bread we partake of each year during the Passover service.

It was said by the newly appointed pastor-general that Mr. Armstrong had told him he had missed something concerning healing and asked him to find what it was. He then told us he had found it: it had to do with the teaching of physical sin!

Further, he said there is *no such thing* as physical sin as previously taught that connects with the symbolic bread we partake of each year that represents physical healing. He then had the true Passover ceremony changed to reflect this new erroneous teaching! Later we were ordered by him as elders in the Church to no longer ask in prayer for the broken body of Jesus Christ to be applied to the individual we were praying for their healing.

Members *Applauded* the Deceptive Teaching

A new booklet on the subject of *Healing* was then written by this leader with the aid of another minister to reflect their new teaching about physical sin and divine healing. Members applauded what they were now being taught about physical sin for they no longer had any hesitation about putting their complete trust in medical science.

Praying for and anointing members then became only *a formality* without any real faith they would be miraculously healed. It had become only a hoped for answer without any real faith God would intervene and heal them.

After the major breakup of the parent Church in 1995 many new corporate churches were formed by ministers who had accepted some of the Protestant teachings but could not all of them. Tragically this same erroneous Passover service was carried over into these newly formed Churches of God by leading ministers of God.

This was another *master stroke by Satan the devil* whose plan it was to continue with the deceptive teachings to further decimate and destroy the remaining true membership of the Church of God by known ministers who claimed to be the true ministers of God and also claimed to be remaining faithful to the true teachings.

To His disciples, Jesus Christ said the true ministers would be recognized from those who are not by their fruits, what they believe and teach (Matthew 7:15-27; II Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15). However this often takes some time.

Physical Sin

“There is NO SUCH THING AS PHYSICAL SIN!”

This is the doctrinal teaching of these Churches! They lump both physical and spiritual sin together by saying *sin is sin* with no separate distinction!

This was said to me by one of the leading evangelists from the United Church of God in the presence of other members some few years ago. To try and explain it to me, he said, “Sin is sin.” And he was right for sin is sin.

However there is *a definite distinction* between physical and Spiritual sin or there would have been no need for the separate parts of the Passover service with the BREAD *first*, and then to be followed by the Wine. This was the exact same pattern with the actual scourging *first* and then was followed by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

To justify their belief of lumping both physical and spiritual laws together with the claim, “*Sin is sin -- there is no difference in sin*”, one could just as easily believe there are no differences in the Spiritual laws of God and the physical or natural laws, such as gravity, inertia, and other similar laws by which the universe is held together with perfect control by Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2-3; Colossians 1:16-17).

To make the point: is it a spiritual or physical transgression when people mistakenly eat toadstools instead of mushrooms and die as the result? This took place in our area a few years ago! Also how about all of the unavoidable automobile accidents that occur all of the time in which many people are killed?

Denying Physical Sin is Ignorance

Mr. Armstrong wrote in his booklet, *The Plain Truth About Healing*, Page 44, 1979 Publication:

“... His beaten body paid in our stead the PENALTY we are suffering when the physical laws in the human body have been transgressed and have brought on the PENALTY of sickness, disease or whatever – sometimes the first death. To say there is no such thing as physical sin, as has been said by self-professing intellectuals, is NOT intellectual – it is rank STUPIDITY, IGNORANCE, or WILLFUL PERVERSION OF PLAIN SIMPLE TRUTH.”

Please consider the following Scriptures that make this subject very plain:

“Surely He has borne our grief (Greek: sicknesses), and carried our sorrows (Greek: pains, grief, affliction, sorrow); ... smitten by God, and afflicted. ... He was bruised (beaten) for our iniquities (physical sins); the chastisement for our peace (welfare) was upon Him, AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED” (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Leaders Do Not Want Members to Read the *Mystery of the Ages*

The plain truth is that none of the corporate Churches want their members to read *THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES* for this book would show where they are wrong in many areas in addition to the one having to do with physical sin.

To the best of my knowledge virtually all of the leading ministers have rejected the *Mystery of the Ages* by saying there are errors in it.

Ask them what the errors were that Mr. Armstrong made in it? They will then hedge around the question for they have no valid answers. There is ample proof he did NOT change any of the restored teachings or the one about PHYSICAL SIN before he died.

One person wrote on a forum, "It is the same when they 'praise' Mr. Armstrong; the first words of any such praise always begins with, "Well, he made mistakes, but . . . " One leader in United told a woman member in the Sacramento, California area Mr. Armstrong wrote this book to make money from it!

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong Changed Before He Died?

Please do *NOT* believe the deceptive lie that Mr. Armstrong changed his mind regarding this subject or any of the other doctrinal teachings before he died! It can easily be proved he did not! And even of he had – the Scriptures are still there, and God does not change!

There are also the leaders who say that Mr. Armstrong said himself before he died that he made mistakes in it. This is another deceptive lie. Ask those leaders to show the proof in Mr. Armstrong's writing or a tape some say they have by him! This they cannot do and they know it; they just want you to take their word for it.

It is true that Mr. Armstrong said at the time he handed out the Book to the student body there were some errors in it such as punctuation and would be corrected later. He said nothing about any doctrinal teachings being in error.

This has to be the tape they make reference to but will not play it for it would prove them wrong.

One evangelist has very skillfully written a booklet with his effort of showing there is no such thing as physical sin. It is very deceptive and misleading to say the least! Sadly this deceptive writing and teaching has been accepted by all those with him!

The apostle Paul warned members about those who would be using **PERSUASIVE WORDS TO DECEIVE THEM** (Colossians 2:4).

Jeremiah the prophet also described all such leaders perfectly:

"How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? Look. *THE FALSE PEN OF THE SCRIBE CERTAINLY WORKS FALSEHOOD*. . . . Behold, they have REJECTED the word of the LORD; so WHAT wisdom do they have?" Jeremiah 8:8-9

Sadly, Scripture makes known all those who hold to the same beliefs and teachings are headed for the **Great Tribulation** -- *unless* repentance comes before then.

Satan's Plan to Destroy the Elect

Though **Satan is invisible**, it should be realized he was in reality the one who was there at the time the change was made from the true Passover service to the false and deceptive one to be used then and now through the apostate leadership that replaced Mr. Armstrong (Ephesians 2:2).

When we consider the fallout from this erroneous teaching regarding the **BREAD** it can be seen this was **a master stroke by Satan** to begin destroying the

relationship between Jesus Christ and the true members of His Church.

To understand this vital point, it is needful we consider the truism of what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about physical healing in a letter that accompanied the anointed cloths that were mailed to ailing members who requested them.

Mr. Armstrong wrote: **“Healing expresses a deeply personal relationship between an individual and his God.”** And for those of us who have been miraculously healed by God can fully agree with what he wrote in that letter.

Proof: **Mr. Armstrong Did Not Change Before He Died?**

Let us now provide the *proof* that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong *did not change* any of the restored doctrinal teachings or state there were errors (meaning erroneous errors in some of the doctrinal teachings) in the *MYSTERY OF THE AGES*.

The evidence of that proof can be found in two of his closing letters, as reprinted in his Autobiography, volume II, pages 637, 640, 641. In both letters, he wrote of the importance of his new book, *MYSTERY OF THE AGES*.

The first letter was dated, September 12, 1985. *This was about 4 full months before he died.* Note an excerpt from that letter: **“Since last December I have been working diligently on the largest and MOST IMPORTANT BOOK o f my life. In real fact I feel I myself did not write it. Rather, I believe God used me in writing it. I candidly feel it may be the MOST IMPORTANT BOOK SINCE THE BIBLE.”**

On page 640, the same letter, he wrote: **“This new book *Mystery of the Ages* unveils all these mysteries. It puts the many different parts of the ‘jig-saw puzzle’ together. It is, in fact, a synopsis of the entire Bible. It is my prayer that you will read it along with your Bible – that it will make your Bible come alive and understandable. And**

with God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in you, I feel sure that it will. I am now in my 94th year and I feel that this book is the most valuable gift I could possibly give you. This book is a partial expression of my thanks and gratitude to you for being a co-laborer with me and Jesus Christ. ...”

The second letter was written November 25, 1985 – *52 days before his death* -- January 16, 1986, and still no change. An excerpt from that letter is as follows: **“With the writing of the new book *Mystery of the Ages* God has helped me this year to do THE BEST WORK OF MY NINETY-THREE YEARS OF LIFE! (Emphasis mine in both letters)**

Those two letters reveal *NO CHANGE* in any of his teachings! Having in mind what he wrote in those two letters, please note what he wrote about *physical sin* in the *Mystery of the Ages*, page 212:

“This indescribable scourging was endured that believers might BE HEALED FROM PHYSICAL TRANSGRESSION, SICKNESSES OR DISEASE (Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24). What a terrible price our own very Maker paid that we might, by believing, be healed. Yet nearly all professing believers totally ignore what their Savior PROVIDED for them, and instead of relying on Him, PUT THEIR FAITH in human doctors, drugs, medicines and knives.” (Emphasis mine)

By coupling the writings from these two books together reveals **PROOF POSITIVE** he had not changed his mind about his teaching of *PHYSICAL SIN OR ANY OF THE OTHER DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS BEFORE HE DIED some few days later!* And even if he had – the Scriptures are still there revealing the truth in all of these areas -- and God does not change! The following Scriptures also make this subject very plain:

“Surely He has borne our grief (Greek: sicknesses), and carried our sorrows (Greek: pains, grief, affliction, sorrow); ... smitten by God, and afflicted. ... He was bruised (beaten) for our iniquities (physical sins); the chastisement for our peace (welfare) was upon Him, **AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED” (Isaiah 53:4-5).**

The prophetic writing by the prophet Isaiah

regarding what Christ would do to make possible the forgiveness of our physical sins by healing was fulfilled by Jesus Christ as recorded by Matthew:

“And when evening had come, they brought to Him (Christ) many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word. And HEALED all who were sick, *THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED* which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, ‘HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES’” (Matthew 8:16 -17; Isaiah 53:3-5).

To emphasize this fact the apostle Paul wrote the following so we might thoroughly understand this teaching must be an essential part of the Passover service:

“... the Lord Jesus on the same night He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He BROKE it and said, ‘Take eat; this is My body which was BROKEN *FOR YOU*; do this IN REMEMBRANCE of Me. ... Therefore whoever EATS this bread OR drinks this cup of the Lord IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER will be guilty of the BODY and BLOOD of the Lord. ... For he who EATS and DRINKS in an unworthy manner eats and drinks JUDGMENT to himself, NOT DISCERNING THE LORD’S BODY. *FOR THIS REASON MANY ARE WEAK AND SICK AMONG YOU, AND MANY SLEEP!*’” (I Corinthians 11:23-24, 27-30).

These Scriptures clearly reveal that Christ’s body was broken for the *forgiveness* of our physical sins. And when we are sick we are then to call upon the elders of the Church and ask them to pray and ask for the application of Christ’s broken body to be applied to us that we might be forgiven and be healed.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer OF FAITH will save the sick, and the Lord will RAISE HIM UP. And IF he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14-15).

“... If he has committed sins ...” This Scripture is

clear that James had physical sin in mind. The context is healing; it is not speaking about repentance. James is speaking in verse 15 about **“IF”** physical sins – because we may have committed those particular sins ourselves. Someone else may be responsible for those sins, and we are the ones who have become sick as the result. Therefore it is proper to include the parameter **“IF”** in what James wrote. Once again: The only possibility for James 5:15 is that he is writing about physically *‘Missing the Mark’* – a definition of sin.

The Promises of God Are Sure

Once these conditions have been fulfilled the healing is sure to come, either in this present life, or in the resurrection, for God does not lie (James 5:14 -15).

And we must have faith in this belief or otherwise we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Brothers and sisters, are we really converted? Do we know when we pray to God there is a *knowing*, a very deep realization that God’s presence is there with us? If so, then we should also realize we have to fully follow in His footsteps in all of the true teachings *if* our relationship with Him is to continue.

Other Areas of False Teachings

It should also be realized virtually all of the Churches have *rejected* Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as God’s apostle due to their *rejecting the use* Christ made of him *by changing* some of the doctrinal teachings Christ used him to *RESTORE* within His Church.

Jeremiah further wrote of what is soon to befall all those who refuse to be corrected: **“... My people do NOT know the *JUDGMENT* of the LORD” (Jeremiah 8:7).** I pray they will repent for I love all of these men.

Please realize there would have been *NO NEED* for the terrible scourging Jesus Christ suffered *if* there

had been no penalty to be paid for having transgressed the physical or natural laws of God, as Scripture makes known: **“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who FORGIVES all your iniquities, who HEALS all your diseases” (Psalm 103:2-3).**

By suffering that terrible beating to the half-way point of His death, Christ made possible our physical healing as represented by the morsel of BREAD which we partake of during the Passover service. And this is so recorded by Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 53:4-6).

More than any other time of the year all of us must be conscientiously thinking about *ALL* the Scriptures that bear on *the horrible price* Jesus Christ paid for us just as we were taught by Mr. Armstrong.

These Scriptures make known the vital importance of the Passover through the *true teachings* regarding that excruciating period of time in the human life of Jesus Christ that led to the horrible death He suffered.

By partaking of those symbols with the true meaning of each in mind we bring back into *our remembrance* His death which we must do if we are to partake of them in a worthy manner during that service.

Passover the Crossroad in Life

God's true Passover is the crossroad that we come to each year when we have to really look inside ourselves – looking deeply into our hearts and minds -- judging ourselves, and then with determination make the necessary corrections in our lives, *lest* God has to do it for us (I Corinthians 11:31-32).

And failing that, we could end up in *the Lake of Fire* (Revelation 20:13-15).

A vital part of that correction is to make doubly sure we are observing the true Passover and not one concocted by Satan the devil through human reasoning!

If we choose to ignore and walk away from the correction that a loving Father gives us, then terrible things are in store for us! (See Hebrews 12:3-17, 25-29.)

Jesus said as His people we must live our lives by every word of God and not by the reasoning of any minister. (See Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3.)

He holds us responsible for coming up with the true answers ourselves based on the teachings of the Bible (II Timothy 3:16 -17; Revelation 2:2). And He also tells us that the wise will understand (Daniel 12:10).

If we have really proved that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was God's apostle, then it behooves all of us to use the last book he wrote, *The Mystery of the Ages* along side our Bibles to enable us to discern the differences in the teachings of these false leaders and Scripture!

When the unrepentant wrong teachings and beliefs are recognized within the Church in which you are a member, God's intention is for you to *LEAVE, IMMEDIATELY!*

Jesus Christ means business and will not compromise with anyone regarding His laws and teachings He used the Elijah to come to RESTORE within His Church in this end time!

Our love for Jesus Christ must grow and be shown by continuing to fully and faithfully believe those restored teachings in God's Church, that also *includes the correct Passover service* (John 14:15; Matthew 4:4).

Brethren, let all of us with love and great concern pray for one another. I, along with others, will be praying earnestly that you will make the right decision by being where you will hear the true Scriptural teaching of the Passover symbols, with the right attitude, preparation, and understanding. Your salvation may very well depend on it. ❖

By His Stripes We Are Healed

by

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley & Ed Tidwell

He was despised, we held Him of no account. Yet it was our sickness that He was bearing, our suffering that He endured. We accounted Him plagued, smitten and afflicted by God; . . . He bore the chastisement that made us whole and by His bruises (stripes) we were healed

(Isaiah 53:3-5, NJPS)

The President of the United States in his weekly radio address (January 20, 2007) proudly boasted of having the best health care system in the world. But we are *sicker* than ever. Though this may be a true statement we also find that disease and sickness of all kinds fill this nation and the world in our day and time with new ones sometimes being reported. Hospitals continue to be built and as soon as they are completed they fill up quickly. They are continually being overfilled beyond their capacity to handle the new patients. Recent news made known that in some places hospitals will turn new patients away while referring them to other hospitals that might have space for them.

All of these patients enter the offices of doctors and hospitals seeking a miracle cure from the doctors who attend to them. And yet an honest doctor will make known he cannot heal anyone. He can only work with his patients by the use of his surgical knife and drugs with the hope the patient will get well. Sometimes it works; and sometimes it does not. It is a well known established fact that patients continue to die at all ages from one problem or another.

The question needs to be asked: Why is it this generation is so ill, sick, and plagued by modern day

disease and sicknesses that too often results in the early death of people of all ages? This same question should also be asked by all of us as members of God Church for many have also died of all ages over the years from the same physical problems. To understand the answer it is necessary for us to review the history of what has primarily taken place in just this past century! This recent history should enable one to understand how these problems have developed and led this nation and other nations into such an accelerated rate of sickness and disease this world has not known until this generation.

From Agrarian to the City

From our agrarian roots, due to various and adverse circumstances, many people moved away from the farms to the cities and sub-cities all around this country. And with the ever expanding population came the enormous task of the smaller farming communities to feed the sprouting cities. To meet this challenge major problems facing the remaining farmers in all areas of the food chain had to be resolved in order to provide the necessary foods for the populace while realizing a very good profit.

Chemical Fertilizers, Insecticides, and Pesticides

During the 1950's and 60's, there was the introduction and wide spread use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides. The purpose was (of course) to grow more food and experience larger harvests. And though the farming community lost most of the little farmers the remaining ones began branching out and began farming much large acreages of land. And in so doing they began using the chemical fertilizers to hot-shot the soil to produce much larger and abundant harvests. It worked!

At the same time they realized the need to use the insecticides and pesticides which were now being made available to kill the bugs and worms. This was with the intent to market beautiful fruit as well as all of the other food goods they were producing. And they were for the most part able to accomplish their goals.

But there appeared another need within the grocery stores. Though the rate of spoilage had slowed for a time it was not long enough. The marketed foods had to have a longer shelf life to give the grocers a greater profit by not having to throw any of it away due to spoilage.

Enter the Preservatives

Innovative chemists and scientists came up with chemically concocted ways and means to make food last longer. The results later spawned another whole new industry, *Processed Foods, and along with them came the Preservatives*. This industry has emerged into a mega billion dollar business that literally drives the economy here in the United States. Not to mention the other businesses that would emerge such as consumable products like paper, cardboard, plastic, distribution, trucks, promoting, advertising, and media, also running into billions of dollars. Processed food is BIG BUSINESS!!

But, Is It Good Business?

There is no question of its profitability, but is it a good business in regard to our good health and well being? After years of research and studies, the facts have come

to be revealed. It has been discovered that the many synthetic, chemical induced additives (with names no one can pronounce) are added to our foods and as the result deprive our bodies of essential nutrients needed for good health. Books have been written and published by knowledgeable authors making known these dangerously harmful additives have been found to be the cause of many modern day ailments in the form of sickness and disease that has led to a life of pain, suffering, and too often an early death.

So What! We Have to Eat

Many people, even after learning and warned by these astounding facts, still pay little or no attention or express any concern. After all, we have to eat, and besides, we have the best health care system in the world. We have more doctors, surgeons, medication for just about everything; and with this in mind people for the most part show no real concern. People do not realize that if it was not for the food industry, as it is now, there would not be as great a need for the health care industry.

What Does This Have To Do with a True Christian?

To understand the answer to this question there is a need to also review a bit of our Church history. During the years of advancing farming and food processing technologies, another phenomenon was taking place; the growth of God's true Church. During these early years, teachings and truths hidden down through the ages were coming to light by Jesus Christ through His end-time Elijah and Apostle of God, Herbert W. Armstrong.

An apostle is one sent forth, not only with the Gospel message, but the revealing of laws, statutes, judgments, rulings, and other principles of living. Mr. Armstrong summed up the messages of God as the "Give" and the "Get" way of life. He also taught us the laws of **CAUSE** and **EFFECT**! As the Church grew in its early stages it was Mr. Armstrong who did all the teaching and counseling until the schooled and trained ministers followed. Many that God was calling were the humble and uneducated (lacking in spiritual and physical understanding) as we all were and had to UN-learn as Mr. Armstrong stated it and began to be

reeducated. There was the need to learn about the right ways to live both spiritually and physically. We learned many of the causes for physical maladies at that time were from the use of white flour and white sugar and eating the wrong meats. Since the breakup of our parent Church and with the members scattered as they now are, many of the doctrines and truths we were taught are not being upheld as they were before by many of the members and too many of them are suffering from the effects of those losses.

Smoking is a Sin

Mr. Armstrong, as an Apostle of God, ruled that smoking is a sin. As the result, members of God's Church do not smoke cigarettes. No one has any problem with that ruling for even medical science has proved it to be detrimental to one's health. The very same identical proofs can be applied to the overuse of processed foods, soft drinks, and fast food. We are learning from well informed writers and through the media these industries are harming us physically. And once we come to realize the harm to us, then it can become a spiritual sin (See Romans 14:23.) One might ask, "How?"

The Addiction of Lust

In very recent times the tobacco industry paid out huge sums of money from lawsuit settlements after they were found guilty of adding cancer and addiction causing agents to the tobacco. The processed food industry has also followed suit by the addition of unhealthy products in soft drinks and food that are designed to addict people to their use of them. In contrast, an uproar or class action lawsuits are not likely because that would KILL our economy. They are also overlooked for commercial and political reasons because we need food to live.

What? Another Industry?

Our modern times are now plagued with a new industry that ties in with the others due to the use of greater amounts of dangerous and harmful chemicals (MSG, BHT) in the food they prepare. All of the foregoing has spawned yet another industry due to the desire of convenience. This industry has become a major means by which this nation as a whole gets it's (for a lack of

a better word) nourishment, the Fast Food Industry.

What Are We As Christians To Do?

The Christians' responsibility should be the same as with dealing with the laws of cause and effect and the spirit of the law. It is Almighty God who tells us what is sin. God does not allow any man to decide what sin is. However, He does allow each individual to CHOOSE for him or herself WHETHER to obey God's revealed and proven laws or to commit sin.

The word of God, the Holy Bible is a book of laws. There are laws of marriage, laws of farming, health sanitation, and diet. There are laws covering every aspect of life. Jesus tells us we are to live by EVERY WORD of God (Matthew 4:4)! He also makes known that whoever breaks even the least of God's commandment is breaking ALL and will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:19). Though this is speaking of Spiritual laws it is also to be applied to the physical laws we knowingly violate.

We have the facts! Scientists have made studies and have concluded the many chemicals added to our food are indeed causing the many ailments we see in our society and in the Church of God today. This is the law of cause and effect. It is with these harmful additives in mind that Mr. Armstrong now and then would caution us to eat foods that will spoil but eat them before they do spoil.

Doesn't Belong in the Temple of God

To try and help us to further understand, consider the example of smoking. The normal function of human lungs is drastically impaired by smoking. It interferes with God's designed purpose and ability of the respiratory system. God designed our lungs to clean, filter, and carry out impurities by exhaling. Sucking in chemically laden smoke filled with tar and nicotine attaches to the lung walls and then absorbs into the blood stream carrying the effects to all parts of the body. This is that *high* that over some little time goes away but the craving to be satisfied from the addiction can take much longer.

The food industries have duplicated the very same process. The addicting additives cause us to want more of what they have to offer. The additives are absorbed into the stomach, and as with exhaling in the lungs, the extraction or repelling come in the form of body odor, whiteheads, pimples, and other skin blemishes. This is the normal. God designed the function of the body to extract what does not belong in our bodies. The body is literally trying to *heal* itself. We *cause* our own ailments by the continued use of consuming these products. This is not to say one is never to eat or drink anything that will have most of the healthy nutrients removed from the whole grains, or to never drink a soft drink, or eat a candy bar, but one should realize that the use of it should be rare for it will begin bringing about health problems in one form or another over time.

It is realized that in some areas one cannot buy the better foods or even grow them in their gardens but God does expect us to do the best we can when the better can be obtained. Even though the better products will usually cost more money to purchase, one should still spend the extra money, if at all possible. Our good health will suffer if we do not. As one medical doctor phrased it, “We will save the pennies by buying the worthless food products and then spend thousands of dollars in the hospitals trying to overcome the health problems that result from them.”

To make a point: many people buy margarine instead of the real butter. There are the writings from the professionals that show the arteries become plugged up by eating this junk and then a heart attack will often follow in time. There are the books that can be purchased written by both medical doctors and others who, in their research in these areas, make known that processed foods are the *direct cause* of our modern day maladies such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney and liver break down, Parkinson’s Disease, Alzheimer’s and the list goes on.

Break The Cycle – Get Back On Track

Mr. Armstrong also proved that with smoking there is the desire to satisfy the craving by the effects of nicotine, the self.....the *lust* of the flesh (1 John 2:16) To *LUST* after anything, food, sex, attention, music,

money, appearance, constitutes sin! And what is sin? “**For sin is the transgression of the law** “(1 John 3:4). As Christians, we were taught and we learned these truths by Jesus Christ through the *one sent* to teach us God’s ways. We were taught and instructed to PROVE all things and to HOLD FAST that which was good. Not prove or hold fast to *some* things, but ALL THINGS. (See I Thessalonians 5:21.)

The laws of God, which HE set in motion, were designed to regulate all aspects of life including our health. When HIS laws are violated or broken, we need to realize a penalty is enacted regardless of who we are. To continue to put into our bodies the wrong foods, when we can do better, means we are sinning against our own bodies and the resulting penalty will follow over time.

Ignorance Does Not Remove the Penalties

Ignorance of these truths, the laws and **knowledge** from them, is not an excuse nor will it annul its effect. God will not compromise with His laws nor will He be a respecter of person. Please know the hospitals are filled to overflowing with patients due to their lack of knowledge in these areas or choosing to ignore them.

With the knowledge of God’s laws also becomes the responsibility of applying them in our lives. And to knowingly and willfully reject the knowledge of God’s laws in any area bring with it a penalty. Sometimes the penalty is exacted immediately and at other times much later depending on circumstances, but it will come.

It is realized God does forgive sin upon godly repentance and turning and going the right way, but sadly, sometimes depending on the nature of the health problems, the effects do not always go away. The conditions are always godly repentance with the desire to make the right and good changes; meaning to stop causing whatever brings on us the penalty and then sin no more. Once this is done the body will then begin to respond by rebuilding itself.

But There Is More!

Mr. Armstrong has proven from the Holy Bible that by satisfying the lust of the flesh (sin of idolatry), you are

(yourself) putting that wrong desire in place of God! It is also breaking the commandment to covet, the desire to have that which is sinning against the body. Further, by the resulting penalties we are bringing on ourselves an early death if one does not repent of the transgression. Remember to break one of God's Holy commandment is breaking them all (James 2:10).

Now What?

The Church of God Faithful Flock, under the leadership of Jesus Christ, has been actively restoring and setting the true church of God BACK ON TRACK; meaning the teachings, doctrines, Jesus Christ restored within HIS Church through His late Apostle Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Obeying all the laws of God including this much neglected one is a major step to get fully back on track. This is our mission for this end time, to get the bride ready to meet her husband. With this in mind, we should be preparing ourselves to be a clean, pure, dressed in white bride for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ bore our sins and was beaten with many stripes to make possible our healing through the forgiveness of the transgression of His physical laws (52:13-15; 53:3-6); Matthew 8:16-17; Psalm 103:3; Matthew 9:2. Sin and sickness are ethically connected as cause and effect. To seek our healing through forgiveness of the transgression of God's physical laws from which we have exacted the penalty, we are to obey the instruction of the apostle James: **"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the PRAYER OF FAITH will SAVE the sick, and the Lord will RAISE HIM UP. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven (James 5:14-15). Note: "... if he has committed sin ..."**

James 5:14-16 is clear that James had physical sin in mind. The context is healing and is not speaking about repentance. However, other Scriptures make known that sickness is due to the transgression of physical laws and therefore the person is seeking healing through forgiveness of those sins. James is speaking in verse 15 about "IF" -- meaning -- we may have committed those particular sins ourselves. At the same time, someone else may be responsible for those sins, but we are the

ones who have become sick as the result. Therefore, it is proper to include the parameter "IF" in this statement. It should be emphasized the only responsibility for James 5:15 is that he was writing about physically "missing the Mark" Yet others may be responsible for the sickness we suffer.

By His Stripes We Are Healed

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price by enduring the most brutal, agonizingly painful scourging imaginable to make it possible for us to come before the very throne of grace and ask to be healed of our infirmities. (See Isaiah 52:4.) It is our responsibility to obey all of His laws and do all we can as if it all depends on us to build and maintain our health. And even though we do the best we can, it is not enough to escape all of the problems in the food chain for we live in a society that has lost its way to good health and well being. Even so, we must do the best we can to search out the better foods to give us the needful nutrients to maintain our health.

Even so, from time to time there will be the need to follow the instructions in that Scripture to call for the elders to pray for us when we become ill. However, obeying these laws will give us a greater depth of faith, through which we will be healed when the application of the sacrifice of Christ's broken body will be asked for by an elder! Though God has not said how or when we will be healed, the promise is there and is sure! And once we come to understand the laws we have violated that has brought about this sickness, or whatever, we are to -- **"... sin no more lest a worse thing come upon us" (John 5:14)**. To willfully continue in what is *causing* our sickness is outright disobedience to God's laws and our Savior has no obligation to intervene UNLESS there is real repentance. Is it any wonder many are weak and sleep? (1 Corinthians 11:30)

(Continued on page 41, "Stripes")

Liberalism, License, & Love

by

Tom Cooper

***“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
and with all your mind”***

(Matthew 22:37)

As the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread approach, our personal sins are something we each consider; well realizing it is the time for a much closer examination of our personal lives. As members of God's Church, we prepare physically by cleaning our homes and vehicles of all leaven before the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Realizing that leaven is a type of sin during that time, we ponder our own path and look for mistakes, sins, or perhaps missed opportunities to make corrections during the preceding months.

Yet there is a glaring error that the Church as a whole has continued in for decades. During his lifetime ministry, Mr. Armstrong did his best to teach us about this error when he repeatedly preached about the two trees. For the most part it was in vain. The error is evident in our time because the fruit from that error is extant in every major and minor group of God's Church. It has also been evident in most eras of the past.

The Fruit is Liberalism

The fruit of liberalism, in its many twisted forms, is like a spiritually poisonous weed, the **root** of

which is the error, or core sin. Have you tasted the fruit lately?

Like any weed you want to remove permanently, you must pull it up and get the roots so as to remove the fruits that come from it.

A quick review of the Liberalism plant, as it began reviving a few decades ago, points to the process of removal that we, as God's people, review from Scriptures during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The apostle Paul makes this very plain to us in his instructions to purge (literally clean out) “**...the old leaven...**” (I Corinthians 5:7). In other words, get to the root and pull it out!

Through the Window of Time

As the Church began to go ‘*off track*,’ the income and the circulation of literature slowed! This happened more than once. Instead of looking for the reason, we were fed rationalization. Radio and television stations were dropped. The rationalization was - streamlining and efficiency. When the then new pastor general decided on his own authority to keep the Big Sandy campus open,

it was said he had that authority to do it. This was only one area among others in which he was beginning to exercise his new authority to indoctrinate the Church with the very liberal doctrinal teachings of Protestantism.

During His ministry, Jesus Christ warned His disciples of the spiritual danger of the doctrinal teachings of the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees that has its parallel with the Church today! Christ's warning to His disciples was to be a warning for the future generations of the Church of God, for Satan would always be using apostates to infiltrate His Church with erroneous doctrinal teachings in an effort to destroy the people of God:

“Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (Matthew 16:6). Due to their lack of understanding of what Christ was warning them about, He made it very plain: **“How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should BEWARE [my emphasis] of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, BUT of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees** (Matthew 16:11-12).

This “license” to use authority has bounds set by God. When the leadership in God's Church is witnessed going beyond their authority, then our faith is tested and so is our love for God's truth. To the ladies in the Church, this point should really come home. Being the promised bride to God the Father's only Son, it is fitting that Christ's bride should love Him above all others.

The apostle Paul wrote of the gravity of this problem to God's Church: **“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish [are perishing]; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved”** (II Thessalonians 2:10). Do we understand the truth spoken of here refers to the Word, or Christ, who was the Word in the flesh?

Notice this scripture refers to some *who did not receive* a love of the truth. This **“love for the truth”** is an emotion granted by God our Father to those who have been given His Holy Spirit. (See Romans 5:5.) This is an attitude of loving the truth and comes from inside the person who has a great awe for God. The apostle John warned us as God's people of the *danger* of loving this world: **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”** (I John 2:15-16).

If we think too highly of the world in which we grew up, then we will have the tendency to rationalize about some point that seems trivial. Thus enters *the seed of liberalism*. This is our carnal side desiring to keep some part of this world in our lives that we have previously enjoyed. To some extent, perhaps all of God's Church has experienced this spiritual poison. The remedy God gives us is to purge out *all* of the old leaven. The reason being is that: **“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump”** (Galatians 5:9). Liberalizing Church doctrine is very definitely spiritual leaven, and our recent history confirms this Scripture is totally accurate. A little leaven (liberalism) did leaven the whole lump of our parent Church.

We should remember our mother Eve was deceived by the very cunning Satan to eat of the fruit of human reasoning and her husband followed suit. The devil deceived them into believing they had to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. (See Genesis 3:1-13.) They sinned.

Rationalizing Leads to Liberalism

We can see the fruit of this in our day and time. One such area is the ruling on makeup. Ladies eagerly accepted the ruling made by the successor to Mr. Armstrong regarding the use of “makeup,” including the use of hair dye or tint. Just as Satan

deceived Eve at that time, he also used this apostate leader to deceive the women in our time today. And just like Adam followed his wife Eve, their husbands (or fathers) followed along, wanting to please their wives. In so doing they have sinned just as did Adam and Eve. Solomon went completely off-track by seeking to please his foreign wives instead of pleasing God (See I Kings 11:1–11.) Sadly, both men and women have forgotten the warning that this is a tool used by Satan as a wedge to liberalize God's Church and we see the fruit of it today. This appeared to be such a small thing with these men and women. But at the same time it should be realized little things lead to bigger things! Satan well knows this and it has worked for him over the millennia by bringing the sin of liberalism within the Church of God, which has led into the liberalizing of the true doctrinal teachings. And this will lead the many into the Great Tribulation – unless they repent!

Rationalizing often seems to be such a little matter as to be of no great importance; but so is a grain of leaven. (See I Corinthians 5:6.) Is this what characterizes the Laodicean attitude? (See Revelation 3:14-22.) It is a self-righteous Church era. The people who choose for themselves what seems to be right in their own eyes is based on their own human reasoning and can lead to death. (See Proverbs 16:25.)

This spiritual poison begins when we start trusting our own ability to decide matters instead of looking to God's Word, or (and this is very important) doubting the rulings and doctrinal teachings God placed in His Church through His human instrument. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was chosen and raised up in this end-time to be the chief human instrument through which all of the members of the original parent Church were called by God and Jesus Christ. All were baptized and had hands laid on them for the receiving of God's Holy Spirit. Mr. Armstrong was the chief human shepherd who was used to teach us the truths of God. By many wanting to believe the apostate pastor general over the true apostle of God, it was

easy for them to rationalize and dismiss the rulings that led to the dismissal of some of the doctrinal teachings that Christ -- through Mr. Armstrong -- restored within His Church. This in turn diminishes our faith! Can we grasp what a *slippery slope* this is spiritually?

Looking back in time, we see God advising Israel to make the right choice regarding their future path. (See Deuteronomy 30:15-20.) Israel was carnal, not spiritual, yet they received advice of pure Godly wisdom, written down for all of mankind to promote a good, happy, and abundant life. Our loving and caring God lamented, for He knew they would not choose His way of life. The following scripture applies to all who have accepted the rationalization that leads to liberalization within the Church of God: **“O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!”** (Deuteronomy 32:29).

Later in the time of Solomon, God instructs His people again the way in which they could gain the needed knowledge that would make possible a good life for them: **“The fear [reverential awe] of the LORD is the beginning [principal beginning] of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”** (Proverbs 1:7). In this Scripture, God instructs all of us as His people to seriously think about where our actions will lead us in the future. He points out how to determine our problems by gaining knowledge and wisdom. God's Word provides guidelines, rules and a way to avoid trouble. We know it as God's Law.

“Freedom or License: Our Choice”

Real freedom does not involve any type of license. License appears to be an invention of man. Perhaps it was inspired by Satan. For license, in any form, involves man's opinion of another person's ability (i.e. driving a car, flying an aircraft) or for monetary purposes (building or hunting). This allows for areas of gray that too often lead to

rationalizing and deciding on our own to determine right from wrong. Yet our lives are indeed a test God places us in to see, and hopefully for us to learn about, the need for developing Godly character through His wonderful love for Him and His way of life.

No Fear in God's Love

A major reason for liberalism to flourish has been the fear members had of being cut off from fellowship, family, brethren, or most of all, God's Church. There is the often the need and great desire to want to be accepted. What kills liberalism is to love the truth of God more than what we may fear.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath [involves] torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (I John 4:18).

When we “stand our ground,” and that ground is supported by God's Truth, whether our name is Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego (Daniel 3:8-25), or Stephen (Acts 7), our persevering act of love for God and His way of life defeats fear, and liberalism dies. And because of our enduring and faithful love for God our Father and Jesus Christ, we will live on into eternity to enjoy all of the wonderful blessings that are being prepared for us. (See I Corinthians 2:9 and Matthew 16:27.)

The Root of Liberalism

The core sin, or root, leading to liberalism is not living by the very first commandment of love one must have for God. Christ demonstrated this when He was tested by a lawyer on what is the great commandment in the law: **“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”** (Matthew 22:37). If taken to heart, this very first commandment repels liberalism better than water off a duck's back and leads to verse 39, loving our fellow man in the right way, like our own self.

It is not just members of God's Church in this end-time that have missed the first commandment by a country mile, but the most of the pastors as well. They are the ones responsible for not standing up for the love of God and Jesus Christ and the true teachings. While God's Church has not been totally blinded, thousands in it have surely gone to sleep (Matthew 25:1-13).

The Remnant of the Philadelphia Era

Scripture teaches us there is yet a viable Philadelphian remnant in God's Church. By its very name, Philadelphia, the members in it must have Godly love (brotherly love) or they would not be of it. Those members must understand the message given to us by God about the “two trees.” As individuals, we must make the commitment to go God's way no matter how uncomfortable it may be, and stand firm with that decision, knowing that it will only be those who do so who will be saved. (See Matthew 24:13.)

As we enter these spring Holy Days we must ponder our own path and consider the connection between the “two trees message,” the first commandment, the way to eternal life! The antidote to liberalism's spiritual poison is to love God so much that fear is banished from our lives, and we are determined to remain faithful to God's way of life. Fear is the opposite of faith. To love our heavenly Father is to believe Him. (See Romans 4:3, 16, 20-24.) Once we do so, faith will follow naturally.

Finally, brethren, keeping the very first commandment to love God above all others will make your ground impervious to the leaven of liberalism. Remember the two trees! ❖

Handwriting of Ordinances

From the Managing Editor

Gary Liebold

Written in last month's Bible Study, under the title of "*The Ten Commandments - Still in Effect?*" was the following paragraph needing further clarification.

Where did the statement, "nailed to the cross," originate? And what, exactly, was "*nailed to the cross*"? Colossians 2:14. (Note, also, that "cross" should more properly be translated as "stake." The apostle Paul terms it a tree, I Peter 2:24.) When we read verse 14 in the context of the entire chapter of Colossians 2, we see that God has an entirely different message from the way Christianity tries to explain this one verse. Starting the beginning of the actual verse, or scripture, in question, we can reference to **"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us..."**

NOTE: These requirements were of human origination. This Scripture **"that was against us"** cannot mean God's Spiritual laws for they are NOT against us (Romans 7:12; Psalms 19:7-11; 119:97, 172; also see Colossians 2:20-22).

The **"handwriting of ordinances"** is simply the penalty, or wages of sin - DEATH. So by understanding this one section of scripture, we can see that it was the death sentence, or ordinance of death, incurred by breaking God's laws (Ten Commandments) that was **"nailed to the stake"** through Christ's sacrifice.

Always Seeking Accuracy

It is always the desire of the staff of the *Philadelphia Remnant* magazine to be accurate in all information provided to our readers. We wish to address the above question to **correct** and **expound upon** the information given in the last issue. In the original Greek, the word

for "handwriting" (verse 14) is 'cheirographon,' meaning "a (hand-written) document...a record of debt or document of indebtedness." It later referred to **"any acknowledgement of debt."** The Greek word for "ordinances" is "dogma" or the plural form would be "dogmasin," meaning "decrees, ordinances, decisions, or commands." The whole Greek expression "cheirographon tois dogmasin" in English could be better translated as "the note of indebtedness in decrees."

In verses 20-22 of Colossians 2, we can see some of the examples (being referred to in verse 20), as a definite PART of the "handwriting of ordinances" ("touch not; taste not; handle not"), but these are not an **all-inclusive** list. Verse 20 also shows that ANY practices of men (contrary to God's law), are "rudiments" (ideas, practices and decrees), or "ordinances" of men. **All** of these types of "ordinances" (Greek: dogmasin - verse 14) are considered as evil practices, pagan doctrines, or "customs of men," contrary to God (Verse 22). Scripture makes known **all** human beings have incurred a spiritual **debt** due to sin, with breaking God's laws, and with following human precepts and traditions which are apart from God (Romans 3:23, 6:16). Upon true repentance, we acknowledge (before the Great God), those spiritual "debts" (sins) that Christ has paid the penalty for (II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:8-11). Through Christ's sacrifice, our own personal "debt-note" (sins), including following any evil practices, human traditions or sinful ordinances of men, are covered by Christ's shed blood and "nailed to the cross," or stake, just as they were also for the Colossians. Thank our good and wonderful Father and His beloved Son Jesus Christ we are no longer under the "death sentence" due to past sins (Romans 6:23) but "walk" in a new spiritual path (Romans 6:4). ❖

THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Prepared by Gary Liebold

God's Spring Holy Days are fast approaching! By the time this is read and studied the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread will be only a short time away. This Passover season, as are all of the Holy Days, are deeply meaningful to God's true people. The entire scope of the Holy Days depict God's great Master Plan for mankind, and with such importance, we should have a thorough grasp of these festivals. To aid us to that end, we should review and rehearse them in our minds often during the year to make sure we more deeply understand their significance. This Bible Study is intended to be used as a tool to help us keep and preserve the knowledge of the Days of Unleavened Bread, which is the second step in God's Master Plan.

The Days of Unleavened Bread

After Passover, we are commanded to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which spiritually pictures "coming out of sin" just as the Israelites came out of, or left, Egypt. In type, we must learn the lessons from the observance of this Feast that Israel failed to learn from their departure from Egypt (Hebrews 4:1-6). Reading their history should impress upon us that we must work hard and strive to avoid returning to the sins Jesus Christ paid for with His shed blood. With this in mind, we will begin to review this very important Festival to more deeply grasp our understanding the lessons Jesus Christ wants us to learn from the observance of these Days. This will enable us to sharpen and clarify our understanding of this very important festival.

1. Passover is the first step in God's plan, as shown in Exodus 12:14, Leviticus 23:5. What Feast did God command Israel to keep

immediately following the Passover? Exodus 12:17, Leviticus 23:6. How often are we supposed to keep this Feast of Unleavened Bread? Exodus 12:17, 13:10, Leviticus 23:4. As God's people, we are told to keep, or observe, these Holy Days from year to year, as an ordinance forever!

2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread continues for how many days? Exodus 12:15, 34:18; Numbers 28:17, and Deuteronomy 16:3-4. Were the first and seventh days of the Festival set apart as holy convocations, or Holy Days? Exodus 12:16, Leviticus 23:7-8. This year, the Days of Unleavened Bread fall during the very first part of April, which corresponds to the first month of the Hebrew calendar. In the Hebrew language, this is the month of Abib. The Feast of Unleavened Bread falls on the 15th day of Abib, right immediately after the Passover. It continues through to the 21st of Abib, with the High Sabbaths, (Holy Days), on the 15th and 21st days of Abib. These days, for the purpose of our personal review, fall this year on April 3 and April 9. Even today, we follow the commandment of God to set these days aside and keep them Holy, as shown us in Leviticus 23:7-8.

3. What were the Israelites to have done with all leavened bread and food products during these special days? Exodus 12:15, 13:7; Deuteronomy 16:4. Leavened breads and other foods are determined by the use of leavening agents within them, which are usually used to puff up the foods by causing fermentation with the result of dough rising during the baking process. Leavening agents would include items such as yeast, baking soda, and baking powder. "Unleavened bread" is flat bread that contains no leavening agent.

4. What is leaven symbolic of? Matthew 16:6, 11-12; Luke 12:1, I Corinthians 5:8. We can see this in the pages of the Bible; leaven is compared in a ‘spiritual type’ to sin. The connection is obviously clear, since leaven ‘puffs up’ and sin does the same. Since the number seven is God’s special number signifying perfection, or completion, God distinctly wants His people to put sin **completely** out of their lives.

5. Does God command His people to eat unleavened bread during this special time of year? Exodus 12:15, 19-20; Leviticus 23:6. If God had not mandated that unleavened bread **also** be eaten in addition to putting away leavened products from our homes and properties (Exodus 13:7,) it would only picture ‘putting away sin’ by the removal, excluding the very important aspect of this Holy Day...obedience to God, which is the opposite of sin. Eating unleavened bread symbolizes obedience to God.

6. What do we also find in the **New Testament** that shows that the Feast of Unleavened Bread should still be observed? I Corinthians 5:8. The apostle Paul, inspired by God’s Holy Spirit, wrote in a letter to the Corinthians that the New Testament Christians should also keep this Feast of Unleavened Bread.

7. In this same chapter of I Corinthians, Paul also wrote concerning a person in the midst of that Church of God who was allowed to continue fellowshiping amongst them, while openly committing sin. I Corinthians 5:1-8. What were his instructions to the Church? I Corinthians 5:3-5, 9-13. Paul commanded that the Corinthian Church members put the sinful, spiritually **“leavened”** member out of the congregation. Why? Verses 6-8.

Paul likened the sinful person to a leavening agent, in that he had caused the Church to

become **“puffed up”** with vanity over their ‘forgiveness’ of his open ongoing sin. As a little leaven can cause a lump of dough to puff up when baked, so one person’s sins, left to continue before other converted Christians in God’s Church, can, in time, allow others to gradually slip back into their former sins. Paul therefore wrote to the Corinthians, commanding them to put the sinful, spiritually **“leavened”** member out of their congregation so, they, the Church, could become spiritually **“UNLEAVENED.”**

8. How can we know the Church in Corinth was, at the very time he wrote this epistle to them, keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Verse 7. Notice Paul wrote to them with the words, **“as ye are unleavened.”** Paul wanted them to address the question of the spiritual leaven (in the form of the man who was openly sinning), in the same manner as they had already removed the physical leaven from their homes in preparing to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They were to keep this Feast with both the physical unleavened flat bread, but also the spiritual unleavened attitude of truth and sincerity (Verse 8).

9. Are the Days of Unleavened Bread clearly mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament? Mark 14:1, 12; Luke 22:1.

10. Did Moses, in his life, face choosing between the sins of Egypt and obeying God? Hebrews 11:24-27. Moses made the conscious choice to turn his back on Egypt and follow the Eternal. He chose not to enjoy the **‘passing pleasures of sin;’** for he knew his spiritual reward (eternal life) through Christ was far greater than all the riches of Egypt (verse 26). He rightly chose to obey God (Verse 27,) forsaking sin (Verse 25).

(Continued on page 41, “Study”)

How To Have A Happy Family

by

Eugene M. Walter and Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Why do families fail? What makes teenagers get involved in drugs, illicit sex, and other life wrecking situations? Here are THREE important ways to prevent such a tragedy from occurring in YOUR home.

The following article was written in 1969 and was published in the *Plain Truth*. Many heart-felt letters were written to the Church by family members who were helped by it.

This was my first article and to make it presentable for publication the finishing touches were made by Eugene M. Walter who was a regular writer for the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines.

The problems within the family structure were serious at that time, as this article makes known. However, over the succeeding years the family structure, as it has been known over the centuries, has virtually ceased to exist, having been fragmented by basically the same underlying problems as mentioned in this article.

The solutions offered in this article, to begin bringing the family back together, are just as important today as they were at that time. And it is for this reason this article, with some necessary edits, is once again being published as an aid for educational purposes for the family and also as a very needful part of the end-time commission of the Elijah, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (See Malachi 4:4-6).

In view of that part of the commission given to Mr. Armstrong, future publications of this magazine will continue to focus on the family with the effort of aiding the restoration of it. Please know this is a most terrible time in which we live that has been exacerbated by Satan the devil who is using human instruments to further destroy the family; and in the process, they are destroying society and mankind. The end-time is fast approaching!

...by Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

The Mother sat looking out her front window. It was late at night and the neighborhood was quiet. There had not been any activity on the street for some time. Yet the mother sat straining her eyes and ears, looking and listening for the familiar sounds of her three children returning home.

As she sat, occasionally dabbing at her tear-filled eyes, she wearily reflected on the past events in her life, wondering where she had failed.

Only a few months ago her family had been complete. Then her older son, a youth in his middle teens, ran away from home. And just a few days ago, her daughter and her other son — both barely in their teens — also ran away from home.

To make things worse, they stole the family savings — several hundred dollars. Now there would not be the exciting vacation they had been looking forward to for such a long time.

Where were her children in this hostile, dog-eat-dog world? Were they safe? What would happen to them when the money was spent — or stolen?

With tears streaming down her face and sobs beginning to shake her body, she cried, “Where, oh where, have I failed?”

Another Sad-but-True Story

A few states away, another father and mother were sitting in the loneliness of their home, and pondering — as they had many times before — where they had failed their children.

Their one and only son was serving a prison sentence of possibly 42 years for being an accomplice to murder and kidnapping. He could have been released in the near future for good behavior, but he keeps getting into trouble in the prison. The parents have very little money. And since the imprisoned son is

many miles away, they rarely get to see him.

Their daughter married a young man who is presently in Vietnam. Prior to his induction they obtained a divorce and the daughter came back to her parents with her two little babies. And as if this weren't enough, the parents were recently stunned to learn their daughter is now in trouble again.

Because the mother's health has deteriorated rapidly, the father is having to carry the brunt of the whole wretched mess — including the rearing of his daughter's little

babies.

Just a few days ago, two officials who had been talking to the father asked, “What kind of relationship did you have with your children as they were growing up? Was there affection shown? Was there communication within the family?”

The father bitterly replied, “No, there was never anything like that. My wife and I didn't know anything about rearing children.”

Millions of Such Cases

Are these two true stories just isolated examples? Rare occurrences? Unusual circumstances? Not at all!

People by the untold millions are this very minute living examples such as these across the length and breadth of many lands around the globe. You personally probably know several examples like this if you stop to think about it. It is even a definite possibility that your family is such an example.

But why? What makes families fail? What goes wrong to cause tragedies like this to happen? Is there a reason?

There is a cause for every effect — a reason for every



result. There are very definite reasons why some families fail and why other families are successful and happy.

This one short article presents three vitally important and basic principles which are the backbone of a stable and happy family. Here they are.

1. Give Yourself to Your Family

“Our parents never have time for us,” said a teenager who was recently being interviewed on *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. “They are always too busy doing the things they want to do.”

How tragic — but how true!

Some time ago, there was a movie in which a father who was dying of cancer was trying to find out why his youngest son did not want to inherit his vast wealth. His son was drunk most of the time, and though married to a beautiful woman who loved him, was not happy. The father kept probing his son with questions as he reminded him of all the gifts he had purchased for him.

Finally he struck a raw nerve and his son brokenheartedly cried out, “True, you gave me all of these things, but I don’t care about them. All I ever wanted was the one thing you didn’t give me — and that is your love.”

His father replied, “Why son, I’ve never seen you cry before, and it is not true that I have not loved you, for I have always loved you in my own way.”

His son answered, “You owned us. You were always so interested in how to make money that you never gave us what we really wanted, and that is, of yourself.”

Then the son asked his father what kind of a father he had had. His father, with a fond look of reflection on his face, said, “You know, my dad did not leave me anything but an old traveling bag — but he always took me with him wherever he would go.”

How often this story could be repeated! How many parents there are in today’s affluent society who give their children everything but themselves! They simply do not take time for their children.

Some parents do see the importance of spending time with their family. But there are far too many parents in all walks of life who feel they are the exception to the rule. They feel that what they are doing is more important than spending time with their family.

But which is worse, letting your family suffer physical hardships or letting them suffer mentally, emotionally and spiritually by denying them those things which only you as a parent can give them?

Private Family Activities a Must

There are many activities in which the whole family can participate. Group activities such as picnics, swimming, hiking, and fishing can be great fun.



However, group activities should never replace private family activities. In group activities the family too often ends up in other groups and away from each other. About the only time they see each other is going to and returning from the group function.

Time spent in private with your family provides an excellent opportunity to teach them the true values of life. There is no substitute for having such family time — with the whole family involved.

A father should rarely let a day go by without seeing

and being with his family — at least for a little while.

With a few exceptions, there should be a planned activity every week which involves the whole family. This will often be difficult. But if you make a way and persist, it will be one of the most gratifying experiences of your life.

Take time to be with your precious family! Make the effort to give them of yourself!

2. Communicate with Your Family

John McKee of the Dallas Crime Commission explained to a newspaper reporter this year how 14 to 16 year-old high school girls are lured into taking drugs by an underworld organization. Once hooked, the girls are forced into prostitution to financially support the habit.

Mr. McKee was asked if as a result of his work he had learned a lesson that other parents should know. Here is his surprising answer:

“Definitely, every one of the girls came from a middle to upper-income family, usually with one or two children. They all had one thing in common: They did not feel they could communicate with their families.

In order to test this out, we interviewed 30 or 40 girls who had been approached by the prostitution gang in the same method. I described, but who did not succumb. They escaped the trap. These girls felt they could talk to their parents and communicate with them. One, for example, said she felt free to talk to her mother about prostitution when she was 9 years old” (*Dallas Morning News*, April 18, 1969).

Yes, in too many homes there is simply no communication. Any number of excuses can be given, but none is really valid.

Your Children Need Your Help

In this generation especially, our children are constantly surrounded by strong immoral influences. Many of their friends will look on anyone who does not succumb to these influences as a square.

Today’s young people need all the help they can get. Many are crying out for help, but there is no one who will listen or show them the way.

Read this pathetic letter written to us by Bonita W. from Baltimore, Maryland:



“I am a very frightened and confused girl of 19. I find that I just can’t communicate with any of my family, and there is really no elder I have faith enough in to talk to. The only real satisfaction I get out of my tension-filled existence is through your radio programs and magazines. This is why I seek your personal assistance with my problems. My family is a major pain to me. There is no real outgoing love and compassion. Each of us is just concerned about himself. My mother says I’m 19 and should be grown enough to handle my own problems, but I’m not. I’m scared of I

don’t know what; life I guess. I have questions that confront me every day. But my mother seems afraid to stay in the same room with me long enough for me to start asking these questions. I tried confiding in friends, but they know really no more than I, telling me to do ‘my own thing,’ stop worrying and get all the fun out of life while I can. I’ve read your publications on how to live, about dating, etc. and they all make good sense. I want very much to do these things, but it’s so hard for one person to stand alone ... I want friends; I can’t stand being alone and defeated, and I want to be told what

to do. I want somebody to try to understand me and give me some advice. You are the only one I have enough faith in to turn to. I will try very hard to abide by what you tell me. Only please tell me.”

“Only please tell me!”

How many of your children have the same anguished, crying questions in their minds — afraid to voice them for fear of perhaps the same answers as given to Bonita?

What a tragedy that so many parents never learn to communicate with their children!

All because many parents have not gotten rid of the wrong teachings, or lack of teaching — they received from their parents and others.

Don’t Be Naïve

Do not be so naïve as to think that your children are not exposed to just about everything. One mother in California said: “My daughters come home from school and ask me, ‘Mother, what does this word and that word mean?’ Believe me, they have heard everything!”

And indeed they have — no matter what part of the world they live in.

Never have the problems of our young people been so great. Never have they been exposed to so much so soon! They desperately need all the help parents can give them. The only way to give them this help is by communicating with them.

Answer Your Children’s Questions

A little child’s problems can be mountainous in his or her little mind. To the parent these are too often

considered trivial. The children are laughed at and shoved away. If you do not take the time to painstakingly discuss your children’s little questions and problems, it could be something (as has been scientifically proved) to affect them the rest of their physical lives.

Parents have to use their minds to stay abreast of the questions that are asked of them. If you do not have the answers, get them. A young person will not be satisfied otherwise.

Communication is absolutely vital to the success of a family. You dare not ignore it!

3. Love Your Family

Six teenage drug users, wearing Halloween masks to protect their anonymity, recently confronted the “straight world” in an American city to ask for “love and understanding.”

These young people sat on a panel to answer questions from about 50 parents at a large church.

“You could try giving a little more love and a little less money,” one young man told the assembled adults who were asking how to discourage drug use.

Some of the parents were puzzled at how to show love and understanding to the young drug users in a way that might help them kick the habit. But the youths seemed to think the parental attitude is more important as a preventive measure.

“What I really needed before I started all this was something you can’t buy or find in a pill. It’s — you know — love,” said one.

The vital importance of love in the lives of every human being cannot be overemphasized. But today we are living in a self-centered, loveless world.



Everyone is basically out for himself.

Love has to be expressed. Yet today real love is ever so rarely expressed. Many today are unbalanced because genuine love has not been expressed in their lives and the lives of their parents before them.

Many of us could count on our fingers the times our parents have kissed and embraced us. How long has it been since you have embraced, kissed, and told each of your children that you love him or her?

When possible, parents should not let their children go to bed — or anywhere of any duration — without embracing and loving.

Be Equal in Your Attention

Often the first and last children are shown more attention and love than the ones in between. New parents usually feel their first baby is so fragile, a great deal of attention had to be devoted to them — and this is only right. But when the second and third children are born, parents realize they are not quite as fragile as they had thought. They, too often, then go to the other extreme of neglect. The last child, however, once again gets special attention because he or she is the “baby.”

Do not let this happen in your family. Make sure you are being equal in the way you express love to your children.

Another problem is that some parents feel that once a child has grown beyond babyhood, love and attention are no longer necessary. This is especially true for children between the oldest and youngest. Parents should realize that there is never a time when all children at all stages of life are not in desperate need of attention and love.

A very heartrending point in a boy's life can be when his father decides he is getting too old to be embraced. To the boy's dismay and perplexity, the father introduces the handshake — love (?) expressed at a distance.

In the September 1969 issue of *Reader's Digest*,

appeared an article, “What is a Father?” One of the author's most outstanding memories with his father, who is now deceased, was when he came home from military service and went out to the field where his father was plowing. The father pulled him into his arms and embraced him.

Children who are neglected tend to become sullen, resentful, and disobedient. When the reason for this behavior is investigated, it is often found that the child is seeking the attention and love that has been denied him.

Parents should never neglect any of their children. They should always exercise caution in whatever is done with any of them. When gifts or attention are given, great care should be taken to make sure that this is equal with all children.

The Awesome Power of Love

It has been proved scientifically that the most important experience in anyone's life is love. It has been found that even in the life of a baby, love is such an essential part of its nourishment that unless a baby is loved, the child will not develop as a healthy organism — psychologically, spiritually or even physically. Though the child may be physically well nurtured, without love a child will WASTE AWAY and DIE.

Because this was not understood, during the first two decades of this century the majority of babies under one year of age who entered hospitals and children's institutions never emerged alive.

Gradually it began to be recognized that it was the lack of love experiences, the emotional deprivation, the absence of mothering, that was causing the tragic ill effect in foundling institutions. It was also found that physical stunting and dwarfism can result from the lack of normal love and affection (see “The Awesome Power of Human Love” in *Reader's Digest*, Feb., 1963).

Dr. Adrian Vonder Veer, in *The Unwanted Child*, says maternal rejection may be seen as the,

“...caustic factor in almost every type and every individual case of neurosis or behavior problem in children. A child learns to love by being loved. When it is not loved it fails to learn to love. Such children grow up to be persons who find it extremely difficult to understand the meaning of love; hence, they enter into all sorts of human relationships in a shallow way.”

Love is creative. It greatly enriches the lives of both the receiver and the giver. Are you enriching your life and the lives of those in your family by continually expressing love to them?

Information Available

These broad principles are the foundation of a happy family. Restoring the family structure and bringing the family back together is an important part of the educational work of *The Plain Truth* staff.

For the express purpose of helping *you* and your family to be a success, we publish free of charge a booklet on *Dating — Key to Success or Failure in Marriage*. And another: *True Womanhood — Is It a Lost Cause?* And also: *Your Marriage Can Be Happy*. These booklets can be read and downloaded from our website: <http://cog-ff.com>

Further, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote and had published a direly needed book on sex understanding and marriage. This book is entitled: *The Missing Dimension in Sex* (it replaced the original book: *God Speaks Out on “The New Morality”*).

If you have not yet read any of these writings, you can find them on our website. It gives us great joy and satisfaction to make this priceless information available to all who desire it. ❖

“Examination”

(...continued from page 13)

I have to keep myself on the track. I know where I was beginning to get off a little bit. And maybe you didn't realize I was getting myself back on the track while I've been getting you all back on it. You thought I was just so 'good'—I was getting you all back. Well, don't

kid yourselves. I'm human too, brethren. Well, I've been trying to get **ME** back on the track too, along with you. Let's all get back because it isn't going to be much longer until Christ is going to come! And I hope we'll all be together—so we can rise and be changed from mortal to immortal in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye; and rise to meet Christ in the air as He comes. What a GLORIOUS time that CAN be, but only IF we really repent, IF we acknowledge when we're wrong, IF we confess it, IF we're willing to CHANGE.

I've had to even confess that I'd mislead the Church on some things. We've had to change. When I found I was wrong, I CHANGED IT. I don't have to prove that I can admit I'm wrong. I've proved that. I've proved it before the whole Church more than once. I want to read one more scripture. *II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is IN you, except you be reprobates?* It's not too late. You wouldn't be here this afternoon if you were already a reprobate. It's not too late! I don't know; maybe some of you have sinned. Maybe you've gotten off the track a little bit. You can get back on. And get back quick, and don't delay! Don't wait for tomorrow. Don't let the sun go down until you're back on. **Examine yourselves** before the Passover. Now, it says, I read to you, “*let a man examine himself,*” and then let him take of that Passover. Of course, there it's speaking of how you take it unworthily, rather than taking it worthily. But we have to examine ourselves, and we should **before** the Passover; and to know that we are **back on the track** ourselves—walking with Christ, as we should be. ❖

“Personal”

(...continued from pg 15)

The consequences of America hiding from reality were summed up by Bob Baer in the same book as follows:

“The years I spent serving my country as a CIA officer in places like Lebanon, the Sudan, northern Iraq, and the Muslim states of Central Asia ... showed me the human carnage and suffering that always seem to follow when America puts its head in the sand or when dollar signs blind us to what's in front of it's nose.”

“Man's tendency to avoid facing reality has a long history and was described by Jeremiah 5:21. He

wrote: *“And they said...evil will not befall us and sword and famine we will not see... they have eyes but do not see, they have ears but do not hear...”*

In view of these sound words of wisdom from renowned men followed by the words from the prophet Jeremiah, we should be thinking more seriously than ever of the need to wake up and face reality or we will perish.

God's Passover is now at hand! One should know from the Holy Scriptures that Jesus Christ intends it to be fully understood by His true people for what it is -- the most important observance of the whole year! *“An Annual Remembrance of Christ's Death”*

Regardless of what era of God's Church we are in, always Scripture makes known we are to go through an internal examination process to prepare ourselves to partake of those precious symbols having the meaning of both physical and eternal life (II Corinthians 13:5; I Corinthians 11:27-32).

Brethren, in view of the little time left before the demise of Israel as nations, and the martyrdom of the saints, we should consider this coming Passover Season more seriously than ever before otherwise we could find ourselves in the *death camps* in Europe and then *martyrdom*. We **MUST WAKEUP** and face reality or we will perish!

“Behold, I stand at the door and KNOCK. If anyone HEARS My voice and OPENS the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20).

The failure to hear the knocking at the door, while there is yet time, is also made known by Jesus Christ:

“Afterward the other virgins (Laodicea) came also, saying, “Lord, Lord, OPEN to us!” But He answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I DO NOT KNOW YOU [anymore]. WATCH therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Lord is coming”

NOTE: The quotes in the above letter and all of the other articles in this publication are intended for educational purposes. ❖

“Stripes”

(...continued from pg 26)

While there is yet some little time before the Passover, at which time we are to eat that morsel of bread, we should be deeply contemplating the real significance of what the bread represents. We must all examine and ask ourselves if we are taking this Passover in an unworthy manner? This is highly possible if we continue to knowingly break the loving laws of God and refuse to repent and change our ways. Our conscience should be clear of any doubt that particular evening. (See James 1:6-7.)

For a better understanding of God's law's of health please read “Seven Laws of Radiant Health” and “Keys to Radiant Health.” Link here to read the booklets: <http://cog-ff.com>

Jesus has said by knowing the truth and having a real love for it would make us free. (See John 8:32.) Though this is primarily speaking about the freedom through the forgiveness of spiritual sin that would lead us to the second death, it can also free us from the penalty of an early physical death brought about by sickness and disease. ❖

“Study”

(...continued from pg 33)

11. Does God want Christians also to forsake the ways of sin in this world, represented as **“leaven”**? Hebrews 12:1-4. We are to continually strive to put sin out of our lives, as pictured by the Days of Unleavened Bread. We must show our willingness to obey God with true diligence in putting out the spiritual leaven of sin from our lives. As we work to clean out the physical leavened products and leavening agents from our homes and properties this spring in preparation for the Days of Unleavened Bread, let us also remember that we are to be working equally as hard to remove sins from our lives and rededicate ourselves to continual spiritual growth (through God's Spirit), living in harmony with God's laws and His way of life.

The Days of Unleavened Bread, which follow the Passover, is a most vital season in the life of a true Christian. And we must learn and live the lessons to be derived from them in order to be accepted by Jesus Christ when He returns to this earth. ❖

Letters To The Editor

the Philadelphia Remnant Magazine

P.O. Box 8819, Modesto, CA. 95357 8819
www.cogff.com

I know you will get a lot of emails today, so I will brief. When I opened up the Philadelphia Remnant magazine, I could not think of anything but being overwhelmed and having great joy to see the work that was done. How beautiful the writings, pictures and other works are throughout. It is for sure a work in harmony and unity, and I believe that it was inspired by God. May we all stay faithful, true and not compromise one iota on the truth, as Mr. Armstrong used to say.
(California)

We would like to comment on how wonderful and beautiful the magazine is. We rushed to the computer first thing this morning to take a look at it and it was simply fabulous!! What a good quality magazine with messages that is good food in due season. We truly see the hand of God in this magazine. No where have we seen a magazine produced so quickly with such good quality...NO WHERE!!! We thank the Almighty God for guiding and providing the production of His Work in the Philadelphia Remnant. May God continue to bless this little group as we all continue to be faithful to Him.
(Texas)



I have just printed off a copy of the first Philadelphia Remnant magazine. How exciting! Finding your site after over a year searching amongst the scattered splinters has filled me with hope. This is going to be a great Sabbath! Please send me a hard copy of the Philadelphia Remnant, though. It would be great to have one, and any other literature that you feel might be appropriate. I look forward to learning more about your Church group by studying your internet site carefully, and any other information you might kindly wish to send, to help me see where Jesus Christ is working so I can get back to directly supporting God's Work as soon as possible. Thank you for the work you are doing, supported by faithful brethren.
(Spain)

A few comments about the new magazine. The beautiful cover was one of the best we have ever seen on a Good News or Plain Truth magazine. The Ezekiel scripture was so timely and prophetic. The perfect one to go with the rest of the cover. We believe the contents will cause those brethren in other groups, who love God's TRUTHS, to wonder if they are in the right place....We thank everyone for the hard work

and the effort of those who made this magazine possible.

(Florida)

I love the magazine The Philadelphia Remnant! The articles are great. I know I'll be looking forward to getting it each time!

(Oregon)

Yesterday we received the inaugural of the Philadelphia Remnant, and it's terrific! Finally, for the first time in years, our tithes and offerings are going where they actually are supposed to go, to the genuine successor to the old Plain Truth magazine, and the only faithful Work I'm aware of behind it! Call the new "PR" magazine the "Authorized" version, and all the others the "unauthorized" versions!

(California)

I just finished reading the magazine. A JOB WELL DONE! The articles were all in harmony. As I was reading, it had a flow to it, like a beginning of a story to be continued. Can't wait to see what Christ has to say on the next issue. The magazine message to the scattered brethren is just what Ezekiel 34:12, 16, says on the cover. God does everything with quality and excellent taste and that's just what this magazine is. I will continue to pray for you and the rest of the brethren that God is using with this magazine.

(Florida)

The magazine looks wonderful. Looking forward to receiving the magazine in the mail. We both can't wait to get it. Has a lot of exciting articles in it. Thank you.

(Oklahoma)

It has been so refreshing coming among a group of God's people that are uncompromisingly staying with the truth once delivered to us through God's apostle. This is either very rare among all the different splinter groups or probably nonexistent. We are anticipating receiving our magazine this week, and will, of course, be watching for it on the website today. Truly if we are faithfully holding fast to the truth, then God will bless us by supplying all our needs and will certainly use us as a tool in "sounding the final warning to Israel and the corporate Churches who are sleeping their way into the Great Tribulation", as you stated in your most recent letter.

(Arkansas)

Congratulations on the magazine. I saw it on the internet today, and I am quite excited and thrilled with how God has brought everyone together to bring about this first issue. I received a call from one of our brethren in New York and he was deeply enthused and excited about this magazine. Through it all, we must continue to remain humble - understanding that this is the work of the Living God and we are His instrument - through which He does this work. All the articles are well written and beautifully coordinated. Thank you Mr. Billingsley and Mr. Liebold for being so dedicated to this work of God; it is truly inspiring. I also offer gratitude to all the others who are engaged in this and to all of our brethren who have been praying and supporting this effort.

(Ohio)

(Note: Though all letters above are genuine, some have been condensed to fit the space allotted by the magazine.) ❖



WEB SITES

Below are the Web sites that are made available by the Church of God Faithful Flock as resource study tools for a better understanding of the Word of God.

Church of God Faithful Flock www.cog-ff.com	Church of God Faithful Flock is a body of believers who follow the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong, the end time Elijah and Apostle of God's Church.
World News Bulletin www.worldnewsbulletin.com	A Weekly Bulletin of World News from a Biblical Perspective based on bible prophecy. Showing the why behind today's news.
The Ten Commandments www.10commandments.ws	Explains the nature of the Ten Commandments, their spiritual intent, and how they are valid for Christians today. Everything you want to know about the Ten Commandments but were told not to ask.
Just What do you Mean...Born Again? www.begotten.net	Many professing Christians sincerely believe they have been "born again" - but do not understand what Jesus meant by those words. The true answer is not only surprising - it is startling! - THE MOST IMPORTANT truth you can know, here made SO PLAIN you will UNDERSTAND!
A Watchman for the House of Israel www.ezekielwatchman.org	Revelation chapters two and three are prophecies about the one true Church Jesus Christ founded in 31 A.D. In the sixth era of Church prophecy (which is Philadelphia) God sent a modern day EZEKIEL WATCHMAN. Let it be firmly stated, that the modern day EZEKIEL WATCHMAN was Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. It was through him, for over 50 years, God did the EZEKIEL WATCHMAN work.
Herbert W. Armstrong - Apostle of God www.herbertarmstrong.net	Teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong and proofs of his Apostleship of the Philadelphia Era of God's Church.
Herbert W. Armstrong - His Life and Work www.herbertwarmstrong.info	FROM BEGINNINGS humble and small without parallel, to the magnitude of today's enterprises and worldwide impact is the story of GROWTH unbelievable! It is the incredible story of something never done before -- never done this way -- a seemingly impossible achievement utterly unique in the world!
Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days Which? www.holy-days.org	Does it make any difference which days we observe or whether we keep them? Does the Bible establish whether we are to keep certain days holy to God?
The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel www.losttribes.org	Millennia ago, this same national greatness, wealth and power was promised by Almighty to Abraham. Yet few have ever noticed this astonishing fact in Scripture. We must realize, if we would understand, a peculiar fact. The Holy Bible is the particular Book of a definite nationality - the children of Israel.
Prophetic Events www.propheticevents.us	It's time to wake up! These are not normal times! After nearly 6,000 years of comparative quiet, the whole world suddenly erupted in world-shaking VIOLENCE beginning in 1914. But we have seen NOTHING yet, compared to what is soon coming!
The Restored Truths of God www.restoredtruths.net	Matthew 17:11, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." [John the Baptist didn't restore anything. And he was already dead when Jesus said this!] Matthew 17:12, "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them."

Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?

www.sabbathcentral.com

Does it make any difference WHICH day we observe -- or whether we keep it? Does the Bible establish SUNDAY as the LORD'S DAY? Was the Sabbath given for the Jewish people only -- while Christians are commanded to keep SUNDAY as the LORD'S DAY? What about the other Holy Days God established are they for us today?

Church of God Faithful Flock - Home School Association

www.coghomeschool.org

An archive site of material that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong produced during his lifetime as our Apostle and the forecasted End Time Elijah who was to restore all things.

Three World Views

- Only One is Going to Happen!

www.newworldahead.org

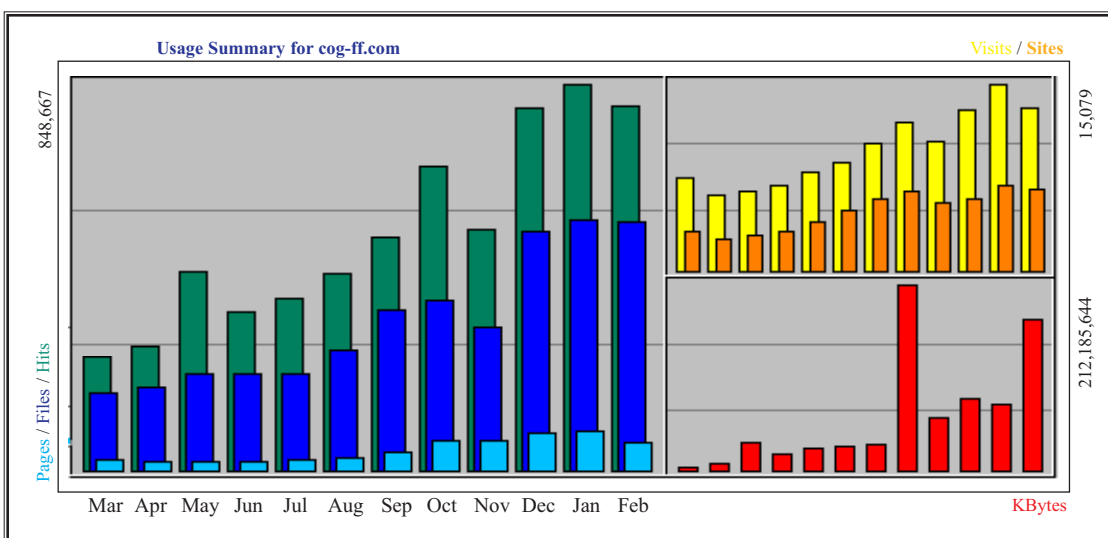
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT! It will happen, regardless. It is sure -- the world's only sure hope. This advance good news of tomorrow is as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun.

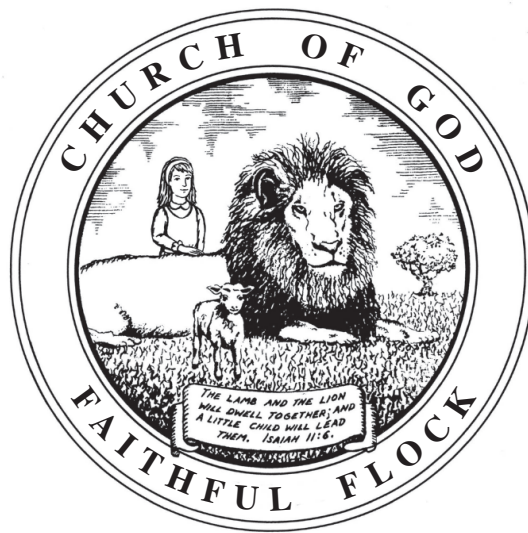
Web Statistics for www.cog-ff.com

(* February 2007 data as of 02/27/07)

This is our primary tool for the Internet and the statistics below show the remarkable and steady growth of the site as indicated by visitors and information downloaded. One of the primary statistics you might want to see is the number of unique visitors that come by the site as shown in the columns with the yellow background.

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Feb-07 *	29,697	20,249	2,208	485	6,476	171,092,679	13,102	59,630	546,745	801,832
Jan-07	27,376	17,703	2,826	486	6,809	74,840,831	15,079	87,613	548,820	848,667
Dec-06	25,736	16,921	2,591	417	5,729	80,632,943	12,929	80,341	524,555	797,824
Nov-06	17,583	10,472	2,140	347	5,457	58,716,021	10,411	64,213	314,177	527,495
Oct-06	21,512	12,115	2,129	383	6,395	212,185,644	11,896	66,005	375,586	666,880
Sep-06	17,104	11,833	1,357	339	5,787	28,923,547	10,199	40,710	355,005	513,143
Aug-06	13,956	8,555	864	279	4,870	26,732,290	8,675	26,796	265,221	432,636
Jul-06	12,230	6,789	785	256	3,986	25,886,806	7,964	24,361	210,465	379,156
Jun-06	11,627	6,983	622	229	3,113	17,433,342	6,884	18,661	209,500	348,833
May-06	14,047	6,871	641	206	2,820	30,973,544	6,397	19,894	213,005	435,484
Apr-06	9,108	5,992	665	200	2,544	8,047,048	6,014	19,976	179,778	273,258
Mar-06	8,077	5,429	684	242	3,099	4,297,809	7,519	21,212	168,321	250,402
Totals						739,762,504	117,069	529,412	3,911,178	6,275,610





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