

The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Jul/Aug 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

The Philadelphia Remnant

JUL / AUG 2007

VOL. I, No. 4

CONTENTS

Why the Church	1
Transcript from a sermon given October 17, 1981 - by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong	
Personal	5
Where is the True Church Today?	7
The Man Named "Diotrephes"	11
That Prophet	14
No Prophet Today	17
The Vital Importance of Godly Family Values	20
Websites and Statistics	40

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.

Entire contents copyrighted. The Church Of God. All Rights Reserved. The copyright subsisting in material quoted in this publication and trademarks appearing in this publication belong to the respective owners thereof and no claim of ownership therein is made by The Church Of God.

Printed in the U.S.A.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

MANAGING EDITOR:

Gary Liebold

WRITERS:

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley
Garfield Gregoire
Gary Liebold
Raymond Mills

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Fotios Bouras
Avery Callenback
Tom Cooper
Richard Smith
Ed Tidwell

GRAPHICS:

Jason Busa
Raymond Mills
Frank Olive

PROOFING:

Donna Bawiec

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

Brian Graves

PUBLISHER:

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

CIRCULATION AND BUSINESS

MANAGER:

Joseph Duncan

SECRETARY:

Will Halsted

Published by:
Church of God Faithful Flock
P.O. Box 8819
Modesto, CA 95357-8819
www.cog-ff.com

Why The Church

A Sermon by

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

The following is a transcript of a sermon Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong gave on October 17, 1981. The sub-titles are not part of the original sermon, but have been added for clarity. Alton (Don) Billingsley

Iwould like to ask this afternoon and also to answer: Why the Church? Why should there be a church? The church is all over the western world. They are attended every Sunday by a good section of the population. Do most people realize why there should be a church, or do they just take it for granted? It's sort of a club, like a social club, but it's the thing to do. For some reason, they don't know why we're supposed to go and attend church, attend services. But I would dare say that most people never stop to think - what is the purpose of the church? Why shouldn't there be a church? Most people would never stop to think about it.



And what is the church? Well most people think of the church as a building with a steeple atop and a cross on its facade in front. It's a building, and people go to the church. Now here we have an auditorium, a building, and here the church comes to the building. It's altogether different. But why? Why should they have the buildings? If the church is a congregation of people (which we believe it is), why should there be such a congregation? God does things as for a reason and is a purpose. I repeated so many, many times, and it always seems to be apropos, how Winston Churchill, said before the U.S. Congress during WWII, **"There is a purpose being worked out here below."** God is doing the working out. If it's being worked out here

below, that certainly signifies that God Almighty above is doing the working out. But what is that purpose, and how's it working out? What is the purpose? Very few ever stop to realize.

What is the Purpose of the Church of God

Now Jesus Christ said in **Matthew 16:18**, **"I will build my church."** But why? What is the purpose? What is the function of the church? Why do we need it? Why should we have the church? Why do we go? Why do you attend? Why are you here this afternoon? Why was this place filled with people this morning? There ought

to be some reason, and I wonder if we realize that God has a purpose in everything He does. You know most people observe certain religious holidays every year and they don't know why, except that they stimulate the sale of merchandise like Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. They all have something to do with the sale of merchandise. But, no real purpose when you get down to it. Christmas does not celebrate the birth of Christ, and even if it did, why should we be celebrating it? In the Bible only pagans ever celebrated birthdays, not God's people, what's the purpose? Why should you celebrate a birthday? They have no reason. Do Catholics know why they have a church? Do they know why they attend mass? Does the Baptist know why they go to church on Sunday? The Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Lutherans? The average person has no idea why they go. He has no idea why the church exists. Whether it's the people or whether it's the building. Why is it and why should we have it? Why did Jesus start to build the church? He **said "I will build my church."** But why? Why did He do that? I'd like to read to you first the prophecy in Malachi. The third chapter beginning in verse one.

Jesus Christ the Messenger

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger [and this is Christ speaking], and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, [which is Christ] shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant....."

Christ was a messenger sent with a message and He was the messenger of the covenant. Now that covenant is the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant established Israel as God's congregation or church. The word congregation is synonymous with the word church. They both mean the same thing. It's a group of people. But that was the congregation of Israel. The church is the Church of God. The Old Testament church was named after a man. His name was Israel; it was his children. The New Testament church is named after those begotten of God, and they're named after their Father, God. They are begotten of Him and He becomes their Father and they are His children. But Jesus came as a messenger of a New Covenant, and that is the kingdom of God, and not

the kingdom of Israel, and the church is the Church of God. **Malachi 3:1 "....even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come says the Lord of Hosts."**

John the Baptist Preparing the Way for the Messenger

Now if you read on in the next four verses, you will see that actually, this prophecy is referring to a messenger coming to *prepare the way* before Christ's coming. Not to build His church, but to set up the kingdom. Because, if you read verses two, three, four and five, it is talking about what He will do when He comes, and He did not do any of those things when He came the first time. And yet, the messenger preparing the way before His first coming was indeed John the Baptist, and that's referred to in a number of places in the New Testament. Now how did Jesus start to build His church? I think its good if we stop again to just notice how, and why He began to build the church, and why there needed to be a church. I think most of us have thought very little about that, and perhaps a lot of us have never really thought about it at all, and have never realized the real purpose of the church, and why there should be one.

Jesus came preaching a gospel, and we're suppose to be preaching the gospel of Christ in the church, in the ministry, and the church is suppose to preach it to the world. Now you find the gospel of Christ and in its very beginning in Mark 1:1, 14- 15. **Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;"**

Now coming on to verse 2, it begins to talk about the messenger, John the Baptist, who prepared the way before His first coming to build the church. His second coming is not to build the church. I'm coming to that later. But in verses 14 and 15, well from beginning with verse 2 and up to the end of verse 13, it is talking about John the Baptist and about Christ coming and being baptized by John. And then in verse 14, **Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God."**

Now if you were here last night, I read a passage in the book of Acts where the gospel was first preached. The first time it was ever preached to the Gentiles, and God

sent Peter to preach it, not Paul. And he said (I gave you a description there), "...that Word you know, which God sent, [it came then from God, it was a word or a message from God] by Jesus Christ [he was the messenger, the messenger of the covenant], began at Galilee [that is the place] preaching peace to the children of Israel..." (Acts 10:36-37) That's to whom it went; he came to his own Judea and His own received him not.

And it began after John was put in prison, and it began from Galilee and not from Jerusalem. So the very first sermon preached to Gentiles, explained just how the church began, and about Christ. So, **"...after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee..."** [There's the right messenger, there's the place where he began preaching the gospel. Now what gospel? What message? The gospel of the kingdom of God], **"...And saying, The time is fulfilled..."** That was a definite time. God does things on time. God has a purpose! He doesn't do anything without a meaning, without a purpose, without a reason. There is a reason for the church. So he said, **"The time is fulfilled....,"** [there was a time for it] **"...and the kingdom of God is at hand..."** Now it hadn't come yet. He was only bringing the message of it. **"...Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).**

Repent and Believe the Gospel

He told people to do two things, the two hardest things in the world for any person to do. *Repent* means acknowledge you're wrong. Not only that you have done wrong, but admit that you have been wrong. You have believed wrong, you have done wrong. ***YOU ARE WRONG ALL THROUGH AND THROUGH!*** Not only in something you did yesterday or last year, but you're just wrong period! You're wrong all the way through. That's pretty hard for people to admit. I've checked up on some people, and people who would have known them for many, many years, and I've said **"Have you ever known that person to ever admit he was wrong about anything?"** And people said **"Why no, I never thought of that, but I never did."** That's the hardest thing for anyone to do. Now it gets back to the same saying that alcoholics anonymous will say; that you can't cure any alcoholic until he admits he is one. He's got to admit he has been wrong and that he is

an alcoholic. And God can't cure any sinner and give us eternal life until we admit we are a sinner – through and through. That we have been wrong, we have done wrong, we have believed wrong, and we got to let God sweep our minds clean. In other words, you've heard about brain washing. We've got to let God wash our brains clean. Not in the sense of inoculating some false teaching into your mind, but sweeping your mind clean of false teachings that's already there. As I often said that's the way God started with me. I first had to admit how wrong I was. Not how wrong I had done, but how wrong I was, how wrong I had been, how wrong I had believed and almost everything I believed was wrong. I had to admit it and get rid of it and get it out of my mind, and I have had to look to God and say ***"You teach me, I have been wrong."*** First he had to sweep my mind clean. It was like going to a blackboard (if you ever thought of it), or a green board as they sometimes use them now in classrooms of schools. And it's all full of a lot of junk that someone has been writing there, and the first thing you have to do before you can put something good on it, is erase everything that's there. You use an eraser and probably you need to take a cloth, with a little dampened cloth, and clean it up real good and then you can begin to put on something that means something, and something that ought to be there. Well that's the way our minds need to be swept clean. ***Repent!*** Admit how wrong you are, how wrong you have been, and the next thing is ***BELIEVE!!*** Here he says, **"Believe the gospel,"** and the gospel was the message that the messenger brought and He's the messenger of the covenant. And that message was the kingdom of God, and He didn't come to set up the kingdom, he only came to announce it the first time. The second time he's coming to set it up. He only came the first time to announce it.

How Did the Church Start?

Now a lot of the things I am going to mention today you already know, scriptures you're already familiar with, but you've never thought of them in this connection. And what they mean as to the real purpose of the church. So now, how did the church then start? Let's go right on, verses 14 and 15 I just read, continue on right here, **"Now as He [Christ], walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea for they were**

The Disciples of Jesus Christ

fishers.” Mark1:16 I think I know the exact spot on the shore where that was. I walked along there myself more than once. But they were fisherman, **“And Jesus said unto them, come ye after me and I will make you fishers of men [instead of fish]. And straightway they forsook their nets and followed him.” Mark 1:17-18**

Another place, it says that Peter forsook all and followed Christ. That's what you have to do. You have to *forsake* everything. Forsake everything you believe and let your mind be washed clean of your former beliefs. You know people will fight for their beliefs. They argue, and they get offended. We heard a sermonette on offense. Well they become offended if anyone contradicts anything they believe, and yet what they believe probably is false. But they will stand up for it right or wrong, and they'll argue for it, and they take offense if anyone questions it. But you have to forsake what you believed, and what you have been, and what you've done - all of that.

“Jesus came unto them and said, follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets and followed him. And when He had gone a little further thence, he saw (two more) James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother who also were in the camp mending their nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father, Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and they went after him. And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine...” Mark 1:17-22

They never heard a message like that before. It was new to them, and it's new to people today. They haven't heard it in this world. They haven't heard it in what is supposed to be the gospel because a false gospel has been preached, merely a gospel...it may have a little truth because the gospel being preached is about the person of Christ. And that far, it is alright, but it's so much more than just the person of Christ. It's the message that Christ as a person taught, **“...And they were astonished at his doctrine, for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.” Mark 1:22**

Now, I was asking, how did the church start? It started by Jesus calling disciples. Now a disciple is a student or a learner; one who is being taught and who is learning. *He's not a graduate.* He's only still learning and he's first, before he called the church, and before the church was started. He didn't start the church for three and a half years after this. But first he called and trained disciples. Now he didn't call just twelve as you probably thought, he called fourteen at least. There might have even been fifteen, but we know of fourteen, because there were two that were alternates. It's just like in a jury, only twelve are official but very often, they will seat two others on a jury, they hear all the testimony, they hear everything all the way through in case one of them becomes sick or is incapacitated in some way, when it comes to actually rendering a verdict. If one has to take out, there's another one who's heard all the information and can take his place. Well Jesus had two more that went with him, they were not official disciples. They did not become apostles, only one of them did when Judas Iscariot did flunk out. So they were called disciples and Jesus trained them for three and one half years. Now, they had to undergo training because Jesus was going to start the church through them. And he had to have a group of men that were trained to teach the others that will be brought into the church and they also will then become students or learners, but they had to have someone teach them. Now Jesus was not going to teach the church. Jesus called disciples and spent three and a half years teaching them. But the church didn't start until ten days after Jesus had descended up to heaven. That followed his crucifixion, his resurrection. He'd been with them for forty days after the resurrection and then he ascended to heaven and it was ten days after that, or fifty days after the Passover time.... that, or after the Sabbath during the Passover, that the church actually began. But when the church began, he had twelve official people who had now graduated from the school of three and a half years. Now that's the same as a four year college course because they took no summer vacation. That was three and a half years, three hundred and sixty-five days a year right straight through, summer and all.

(Continued on page 24, “Why”)

Personal

From the Editor

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Personally, I feel very sad and grieved while seeing the forlorn condition of the Church of God, and looking in vain for *any* reputable minister from earlier years to stand in the gap, while upholding all of the doctrinal teachings God used His late apostle to restore within His Church.

To make the point of where we are now in doctrinal teachings, a question: Is there just one evangelist who did not accept the *satanic* teaching of being *born again, now?* *This is a doctrine of demons* (I Timothy 4:1).

I personally know of three who believed it for I heard two of them give approving sermons on the subject after it had been made a doctrinal teaching in the Worldwide Church of God.

One of them said in his sermon that he had believed this all along. He then added, **“I guess I was ahead of my time.”** He was the head of the Letter Answering Department in headquarters for some years during the life of Mr. Armstrong. The second one was the head of the ministry for some little time under the apostate leader.

The third one I called, about the same time of the accepted ‘new teaching’, and asked what his thoughts were about it. He said he *believed* we had been born again for he had *proved* it. I asked if he had recently read the Booklet: ***Just what do you mean . . . BORN AGAIN***, by Mr. Armstrong. He replied by saying, **“I confess I haven’t.”** He appeared to be a bit upset by

my question and I did not pursue it any further. All three evangelists are now in the United Church of God.

To further make known the problems within that very large corporate Church, the pastor rank minister who was placed in charge of the ministry in UCG by Mr.

Hulme, and continued for some years in that position, *preached* all of the accepted teachings from Protestantism by WCG, in the Churches he pastored as made known to me by members who were there and heard him.

Very recently, I learned of a very longtime evangelist from the very early years who heads his own corporate Church who I thought would never change from the true teaching of this subject, but from what I have learned he did during that time.

To my sorrow I learned that he admitted his belief of this pagan doctrine to an employee of his. Shortly thereafter it was confirmed to me by a minister who also knew that he did. This grieved me for I had known him since 1953 and worked under him for years in the ministry.

Perhaps all have come to see their *error* since that time and no longer believe it. But I ask, why did they believe it in the first place – *if* they had God’s Holy Spirit for it is by that gift of blessing that we are led into the truth, and *not* into error (John 14:26; 16:13)!

On the other hand, possibly they still believe it but are just keeping quiet about it. I am inclined to believe that *if* they proved they are born again ‘*now*’ at that time, it would seem they still believe it and are just keeping



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

quiet about it. I use these examples to make known the many ministers who are hiding what they believe from the membership while pretending to believe otherwise. ***This is hypocrisy!***

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote *a Personal with the Editor* in the April 1983 publication of the *Plain Truth*, entitled: ***“They Didn’t Believe What He Said!”*** This is where we are today for the most part. Leaders want to accept enough of what they want from those teachings to have a following and discard the others. Erroneous teachings that might possibly pose such a problem to their membership that many of them would leave and go to other places! At the same time this could also place them in an ***unfavorable*** light with other ministers.

When I look around at all of these many corporate Churches of God, and where they are in ***belief and practice***, I ask, “Is there anyone left who has enough of God’s Holy Spirit, if they have it at all, to stand up and be counted **“for the contending of the Faith once and for all delivered to the saints”** (see **Jude 3**), without seeking his own glory instead of God’s? Too many are much like the politicians running for high offices in this country.

All of these ministers need to re-read Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23 where God ***indicts*** the shepherds who have no real caring and protective love for God’s true sheep while preaching all of the restored teachings by Mr. Armstrong. It would appear they only care about themselves and the ***recognition*** they have from others.

One should also remember this was the downfall and ***rejection*** of King Saul by God who thought more of what others thought about him than that of God as can be seen in the following Scripture.

To the prophet Samuel, Saul said in defense of himself after his disobeying God, **“I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, BECAUSE I **FEARED** THE PEOPLE AND **OBEYED** THEIR VOICE.”** Samuel said to Saul, **“... you have REJECTED THE WORD OF**

THE LORD, and the LORD has REJECTED you from being king over Israel” (I Samuel 15:24, 26).

Please consider this also in view of what Jesus Christ ***CAUTIONS*** those who are yet in the Philadelphia era of God’s Church, but applies to Laodicea as well: **“Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have that NO ONE TAKE YOUR CROWN** (Kingship, Revelation 3:11; 5:10; 20:4-6).

...YOU HAVE REJECTED
THE WORD OF THE LORD,
AND THE LORD
HAS REJECTED YOU...

The apostle Paul gives a lot of light on where we are today in his writing to the Church in Thessalonica:

... we were ***bold*** in our God to speak to

you the gospel of God in much conflict. For our exhortation did not come from ***deceit*** (margin: error) or uncleanness, nor was it in ***guile*** (margin: cunning, treachery). But as we have been approved by God to be ***ENTRUSTED*** with the gospel, even so we speak, NOT AS ***PLEASING MEN***, but God who ***TESTS*** our hearts. For neither at any time did we use ***FLATTERING WORDS***, as you know, nor a ***cloak*** (margin: pretext for greed) for covetousness -- God is witness. Nor did we ***SEEK GLORY*** from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ (I Thessalonians 2:2-6).

It should be realized the ***GOSPEL*** is not only about the preaching of the ***Good News*** of God’s coming Kingdom, but it also ***embodies*** all of His teachings, His holy and righteous laws, and the doctrinal teachings He used His early apostles to ***PLACE*** within His Church (Mark 1:14-15).

This was the very same ***GOSPEL*** Jesus Christ used His end-time Elijah and apostle to ***RESTORE*** WITHIN the Philadelphia era of His Church (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11; Mark 9:12). It also embodies the ***rulings*** made by Mr. Armstrong on ***makeup and women’s dress*** (Matthew 16:18-19; 18:18).

(Continued on page 32, “Personal”)

Where is the True Church Today?

by

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

“And I also say to you that you are Peter (*Greek*, petros, a stone loose and movable, John 1:42), and on this ROCK (*Greek*, Petra, huge unmovable rock like Gibraltar, meaning Himself) I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hades (the grave) shall *NOT* prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

In this *second of a series* of continued writing of establishing where the true Church of God is today, it is necessary to first re-establish the proof-positive fact that Jesus Christ did indeed establish His one and only True Church during His earthly ministry just as He said He would do in this Scripture.

Within the context of the establishment of the Church of God, it also seems necessary to make known *WHY* Jesus Christ began building it, its *PURPOSE*. This is made known from the following quoted excerpts extracted from the article, “Where Is the True Church?” July/August 1984, *Plain Truth*, pages 29-30, by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

God had allowed this world to be founded by the first (man) Adam. He started the very foundation of God’s world (the Church) through (Jesus) Christ, the second Adam: Jesus said, “I will BUILD My Church (Matthew 16:18). The Church is the embryonic beginning of God’s new civilization. . . . In Ephesians 2:21, the Church is called a building – actually the Spiritual Temple of God. It had a foundation which is Christ along with the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:19-22; Matthew 7:24-27). . . . We (God’s true

people) are begotten within our Spiritual mother, the Church is “Jerusalem . . . above . . . which is the mother of us all (Galatians 4:26). . . Then we are fed spiritually through the mother, the Church, on the spiritual food of the Word of God. . . . Symbolically the Church is referred to as the household (or family) of God (Ephesians 2:19-21), and a building that grows into the Holy Temple to which (Jesus) Christ shall come.

Amidst the maze of confusion confronting the many Churches of God, with each one claiming that it, and only it, is the true Church that Christ built, this continued writing will enable us to peer through the web of confusion which each of the over 400 corporate Churches of God has enveloped itself, until we then come to recognize beyond a shadow of a doubt as to where the true Church presently exists.

PART 2: Where is the True Church of God Today?

True to the promise of Jesus Christ, the true Church He built in 31 A. D. yet exists in this end-time, just as it has continued to exist from its beginning. Its history can be traced through the connecting of the first six of the seven Church Eras, one after another, like runners passing the *baton* to the one in front of him.

To understand the depth and scope of what the Church of God really is, we must remember that the Church is

made up of many members who have God's Holy Spirit dwelling in each one (I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-29, also please read chapter 6, *Mystery of the Church*, beginning with page 198 of the *Mystery of the Ages* by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

And as individual members of God's one true Church, this same Greek word, *ekklesia*, also has the meaning of a congregation, an assembly, a gathering, a group (*Mystery of the Ages*, chapter 6, page 207). In addition, it was never to become a real large Church in any era of God's Church (Revelation 2, 3).

A Little, Little Flock

This same true Church of God was to always be recognized as *a little flock* as Jesus Christ made known: **“Do not fear, little, little (Greek meaning, a double diminutive) flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).**

There are those who would question the *little, little flock size* and use as the basis of their question the many, many thousands of people in the Church before the scattering in 1995. Scripture along with past and present history reveals the answer. The majority of the membership were not in real fact truly converted members and therefore not a part of the one and only true Church of God.

The Tares Sown Among the Wheat

The Church did number over 150,000 people at the time of the scattering. However it is needful to realize the truth of what Mr. Armstrong said before he died – **“half of them would fall away.”** And they did, **plus!** Mr. Armstrong knew all through the years, even when the Church was real small, there were those among us who were not really of us.

EXAMPLE: When the congregation first moved from the Ambassador College campus in 1957 to the Shakespeare Club on Marengo Street in Pasadena, California, all of the people were assembled together for the first time in that one large club room. (Before then the people were in one room or another in the library building used for the Church services and as

such only 75 or so of them could be seen at one time by Mr. Armstrong as he preached to all of us.)

After all the people were seated together in that large club room for the beginning of the Church service Mr. Armstrong walked up to the entrance doorway where he could see all of them for the very first time. I was standing in the doorway and said to him, “Look at all the people!” He then said to me, **“This would be good if they all belonged but they don't.”** And time has proved him to be right, then, and since he died.

My wife and I sometimes reminisce while thinking about those few people of those real early years. Some of the members had already been living in the Church headquarters area before we arrived in 1953. And when we consider where they are today, it is with sadness we realize virtually all of them either turned completely away from the truth in 1995, or rejected it in part. This also includes those among the ministry as well.

We were already at headquarters in Pasadena, California when most of the top ministers of today came into the Church. My wife and I spent a lot of time with some of them and really loved each one.

Called... but Not Chosen

We need to realize from the Scriptures, there are *many* who are called but *few* chosen to be of the elect. Jesus Christ made this known in a parable when He likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a certain king who arranged a marriage to his son and sent out invitations to attend the wedding.

But due to their excuses for not coming he was **furious** and **rejected** them. He then sent his servants to various places to find others who would come to the wedding. And when the king entered to see the guests he found a man who did not have on **a wedding garment** and had him thrown out into **outer darkness** (Matthew 22:13, paraphrased).

Having used this parable to make known only those God would choose to attend the wedding of His Son, Jesus Christ then said the following regarding our coming marriage to Him: **“For many are called, but FEW are chosen” (Matthew 22:14; 20:16).**

These were the *called* people by God to enable Mr. Armstrong to do the Work at that time through their tithes and offerings. This was necessary for the many bills ran into the multiple millions of dollars and had to be paid or the Work would have stopped.

And when the Work of the Elijah ended at his death in 1986, it began to come to a grinding halt just as a very large machine will do once the power has been turned off. Nine years passed by after his death before half or more of the membership went back to the world from whence they had come some years before.

The Parable of the Tares

Though these many thousands of people were very lovely and enjoyable to be with, Scripture reveals they nevertheless were *Tares*. They were *called* to do a Work, but *NOT* chosen to be numbered among *the elect* (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42; Luke 8:4-5, 11-12). Their real opportunity for salvation will come at the *Last Great Day*, a little over one thousand years from now (Revelation 20:5).

It should be realized Jesus Christ loves each of them and looks forward to the time when He will remove the spiritual darkness that *covers* their understanding and will lovingly embrace them, *if* they then make the right choices (John 3:16; Deuteronomy 30:15-20).

However it should also be realized there are some very hard and painful lessons to first be learned due to their rejection of the truth they did know and practice over a period of time, some for many years. They did have choices but made the wrong ones. Some of them have even become enemies of those in the true Church (II Peter 2:1-3).

**However *NOT* all
of Them Left!**

By viewing the many churches of God and the many thousands in them along with their *rejections* of the truth of God in part or in whole, we must realize *not* all of the tares left us. Some are even yet among the true members in this small Church.

It is a known and an admitted fact there are the ministers today who are of the *present* Churches who actually preached the so-called *new truths* to their congregations before the scattering in 1995, but are keeping *hidden* what they did from their members.

On the very Feast of Trumpets in 1995 that was observed by the widespread membership in the area of Sacramento, California, a leading visiting elder in the United Church of God admitted to the ministers and deacons and wives in a meeting there were the ministers among them who had accepted Dr. Hoeh's theory of "*The Thinker*," a form of the *Trinity* teaching. Another elder from the same Church said they have a *rainbow of beliefs* in that Church.



At the same time it should be realized the United Church of God is not alone with these problems but there are also the others who have similar beliefs and teaching problems that do not harmonize with the doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ used His late apostle to *restore* within His Church. Scripture also defines them as *TARES*!

The Tares Will Remain in God's Church Until the Harvest

From Christ's teachings, we should also realize that some of the *TARES* will remain among the true membership until *the elect* leaves for the place of safety. This is confirmed by what He said in His parable about them:

Let both (tares and the elect) grow together until the harvest (the beginning of the harvest when *the ELECT will be gathered* together to go to the place of safety and there be protected from the holocaust coming on the whole world while waiting for the completion of the harvest at Christ's coming), and at the time of the (beginning) harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together THE TARES and bind them in bundles to **BURN THEM (Great Tribulation)**, but gather the wheat into my barn' (The first stage as being the Place of Safety) . . . The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will **GATHER OUT** of His kingdom (here - meaning His Church in Embryo) all things that offend, and those who **PRACTICE** lawlessness, and will **CAST** them into the **furnace of fire (Great Tribulation)**' (Matthew 13:30, 41-42; Luke 8:4-5, 11-12).

Then There Are the Laodiceans

Then there are the many Laodicean members also among the larger Churches. When we consider the Scriptures concerning the ten virgins, and how Jesus Christ described the Laodicean Era, these people can be recognized as to who they really are by what He said about them.

The difference in *the Tares* and the **Laodiceans** is that the tares were *never* converted, but the members of the Laodicean era *are* converted. They have God's Holy Spirit, keep the commandments and the testimony of Christ (Revelation 12:17), but they are also very ***self-righteous*** (Laodicea means righteous), as can readily be seen by reading what is said about them (Revelation 3:14-22). They are the only Church era who talks

back to Christ (verse 17). And all those who refuse to accept Christ's knock on the door of their hearts and minds will have to win their salvation as faithful ***martyrs*** in the Great Tribulation (Revelation 3:19-20; 6:9-11, the fifth seal).

Where is the Philadelphia Remnant of the Church of God Today?



The question yet *begs* to be answered in the minds and hearts of several thousand true elect members as to where the one and only ***remnant of the Church of God as a Congregation*** is among all the many Churches of God today? Once again, an example of this is illustrated by the following letter from one such member addressed to me:

"I was associated with the Worldwide Church of God for many years. I left the Church on [in] 1993 when they fell away from the truth. Now there are many churches all claiming to [be] the one true Church. Mr. Armstrong often stated that Christ would return to one church, not many. What is your stance on this subject? Thank you:" Name withheld

An Elementary Question

Though the answer to where is the **ONE CHURCH** is elementary, but for multiple thousands of church members, who are either ***deceived, or sleeping***, they are blinded to the true answer for they believe their corporate Church is the right one, whichever one it might be without even ***double checking*** to make sure of it.

(Continued on page 33, "True Church")

The Man Named “DIOTREPHES”

by

Gary Liebold

I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.

(III John 9 10 NKJV)

“I wonder what happened to all of those members that Diotrephes put out of the Church?” Probably to most, that would sound like a good, solid Biblical question to ask! Just a few years ago, this *VERY* question was asked in sincerity, by a loyal and faithful Church member of one of the main corporate Churches of God, without malice or intent of wrongdoing. However, the response received from those in authority, resulted in the ENTIRE FAMILY being sent home from the Feast of Tabernacles and **SUSPENDED** ... all stemming from this one single question. One has to wonder... “Why would such an innocent question invoke such a drastic response?” It shouldn’t have. As **I John 4:18** reads, “**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**” Yes, there is indeed a type of fear that involves “torment,” as the scripture shows, but God’s people are admonished in Ecclesiastes 12:13 and Hebrews 13:6 to “*fear* God” (with loving reverence), and *not* to fear what men shall do (Matthew 10:28).

True Christians Forced Out

In the book of III John, verses 9-10, we see the writings of the apostle John addressing in rebuke, a **false minister** physically in the Church of God. John describes this person as a man who **loved** having the “pre-eminence” (verse 9). His name? ...**“DIOTREPHES!”** Diotrephes was *rebellious* against God, His apostle (John) and converted members of the Church who were loyal and faithful to the TRUTH. He willfully cast converted members of the Church of God out of the congregation, in *blatant* disregard for that which was righteous in the sight of God. However, in actuality, those members he thrust out and scattered, were still very much a part of the **TRUE** Church. Dr. Herman L. Hoeh wrote in the 1959 edition of *A TRUE HISTORY of the TRUE CHURCH*, under the sub-heading of “**True Christians Forced Out**” (referring to this very subject)... “**The true Christians, who alone comprised the true Church, WERE BEING PUT OUT OF THE VISIBLE, ORGANIZED CONGREGATION. ...But that did not mean the scattered individuals were not a part of the Church. They WERE the Church because they were joined to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Those who drove them out became the FALSE church. The church of the god of this world -- ‘the synagogue of Satan’.**” Yes, these loyal brethren were still considered to be **TRUE** members of the Body of Christ, by the only real authority... **GOD!** Quite plainly, as shown in **Romans**

8:14, those who are “...led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God,” and considered to be TRUE Christians. No minister, anywhere, has the ability to alter this GOD-GIVEN fact!

John continued in **verse 11** (III John)... “**Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.**” The Greek word for “evil” (last part of the verse), is the word “*kakopoieo*,” from the word meaning to be a “bad-doer,” “to injure,” or “to sin: --do(-ing) evil.” This verse directly follows John’s rebuke of Diotrephes in verses 9 and 10. At the same time within this book, John also shows us other names of men who were not a part of Diotrephes’ diabolical plan. For example, Gaius is spoken highly of as “...the beloved Gaius whom I love in truth” (Verse 1). John also names Demetrius as a man who had “...good report of all men, and of the truth itself” (Verse 12 - KJV). Some Biblical commentaries indicate the possibility that Demetrius was also cast out of the Church by Diotrephes. It is clear that both Gaius and Demetrius had a right spiritual focus (shown in John’s writings), on the **TRUTH**, and not on following Diotrephes. Both were loyal, faithful men of God, who John would have truly expected the brethren to follow as they themselves followed Christ; the same desire the Apostle Paul also expressed (I Corinthians 11:1). Diotrephes, even in all of his **evil scheming**, “*prating with malicious words*” (indulging in malevolent gossip), and the casting out of TRUE Christians, still did not possess the ability to spiritually destroy Gaius, Demetrius, or any of the TRUE members he spiritually abused.

The Desire to Magnify “SELF”

As we take a closer look at Diotrephes, it becomes easier to see just what his underlying spiritual problem was. He had the same problem that has plagued mankind throughout all history (both Biblical and secular), and a problem that is at the very HEART of “human nature”.... a “nature” that even predates mankind, as we will see. In looking historically at only just a few former leaders in this world, we can see a common trait in all of them.

First we’ll look at Nimrod, a leader in man’s earlier

history. Nimrod is described as a man who “...began to be a mighty one on the earth” (I Chronicles 1:10). In the book, *Mystery of the Ages*, by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (pages 152-153), in quoting C. Paul Meredith’s thesis, (*Satan’s Great Deception*), we read...

Then it was that Nimrod ‘began to be a *mighty one*’ and a ‘*mighty hunter before the Lord*’ [Gen. 10:8-9] in a *ruling* sense (the Hebrew word for “mighty” is *gibbor*, which means “*tyrant*,” (*Strong’s Concordance of the Bible*). Nimrod became a tyrant over the people. ...Nimrod set himself up as the priest of the things worshiped by the people, to obtain a still stronger hold on them and gradually put himself in place of the true God...

Nimrod actually put himself in place of the true God with an insatiable desire to **glorify** and **magnify** “SELF”! Just as Diotrephes... he was SELF-CENTERED! He wanted the POWER and “*preeminence*” over the people, with a burning lust to put “SELF” in place of the True God.

Another example in history (one of the many we could choose from), was the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar. In his arrogance and self-adoration, he erected a huge golden image (perhaps over 100 feet in height), in which he commanded the people of that time, to bow down and worship. Anyone who did not obey his order would “...be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace” (Daniel 3:1-7). There were three young Jews (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego), who refused to bow in worship of the king’s graven image (verses 12 and 18). As a result, Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage and fury knowing that these three young men (who were loyal and faithful to the only TRUE God), would dare refuse to obey him. They plainly stated to Nebuchadnezzar (as he contemptuously threatened to cast them into the furnace),

...O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the **burning fiery furnace**, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. But if not,

let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up (Verses 16-18).

These scriptures clearly show by Nebuchadnezzar's actions at that time, that he had the very same problem as Nimrod, ... a desire to **glorify** and **magnify** "SELF"! The same as Nimrod and Diotrefes... he was SELF-CENTERED! He wanted POWER and "preeminence" over the people, and lusted to put "SELF" in place of the True God.

Another individual in history, "**Simon the Sorcerer**" had the identical problem. This same "nature" existed in him. (Acts 8:9-11).

But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city, and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, 'This man is the great power of God.' And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

Simon the Sorcerer saw himself as "SOMEONE GREAT" in his own eyes, and even had many followers. Just having "followers" (no matter what the number), is definitely not the criteria God uses to judge "spirituality." We can see this further in the book of Acts (verses 18-21).

Simon discovered in amazement that as God's apostles laid hands upon those who were newly baptized, that they received God's Holy Spirit.

Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.' (Acts 8:18-21). On page 52 of *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong (on this very subject), wrote... "**...Simon proclaimed**

himself a Christian apostle, ... He aspired to turn his pagan religion, under the name "Christianity," into a universal religion, to gain thereby the political rule of the world (Emphasis mine).

Simon had this same SELF-CENTERED "nature" (with a lust for POWER, and a display of self-adoration), just as Nimrod, Nebuchadnezzar and Diotrefes!!! He wanted "preeminence" over the people, and had a burning hunger to put "SELF" in place of the True God.

Satan is the Source

Where does such a self-centered lust for power, self-adulation, wanting the "preeminence" and having a desire to put "SELF" in place of the True God, emanate from? God's Word is very plain! The source of this "nature" emanates from a being that remains in a perpetual state of rebellion, and is filled with unchangeable, unyielding vanity. He is none other than **SATAN THE DEVIL** (Ezekiel 28:15-17)! Through God's Word we can see right where "human nature" emanates from (Ephesians 2:2). Satan is referred to as "**the prince of the power of the air,**" broadcasting his nature on unsuspecting (for the most part) man. Before man was ever created, Lucifer, who became "Satan," (God's adversary), desired to oust God from **His** throne and take the power for himself (Isaiah 14:12-14). He also tried futilely to tempt Christ, in his perverted lust to have Christ worship him and also had a hope of destroying man's future, with Christ as our Savior.

Again, the devil took Him (Jesus) up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve' (Matthew 4:8-10).

(Continued on page 34, "Diotrefes")

That Prophet

by

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

For false christs and FALSE PROPHETS WILL ARISE and show great signs and wonders, SO AS TO DECEIVE, IF POSSIBLE, EVEN THE ELECT (Matthew 24:24).

In this Scripture Jesus Christ is **warning** His Church of the very **strong deception** that will be coming upon His people in this end-time! Before, or about, the time of the **False Prophet** (II Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:11-14), there will be men who will be given the power from Satan to **perform miracles from among the corporate Churches of God!**

For the deception to be so strong as to almost overwhelm the **ELECT**, these men will undoubtedly be well-known ministers among the Churches of God (Matthew 24:24). Because of His great love and concern for His people, Jesus Christ follows up that **warning** by saying, “See, I have told you beforehand” (Matthew 24:25).

One is Already Proclaiming Himself to be a Prophet

There is a man already known among the Churches of God who is proclaiming that he is a prophet, so far without miracles. There will be others as well who will in short time also proclaim themselves to be prophets and will have been given the power by Satan of performing miracles, so said Jesus Christ.

The present one has presumed to take upon himself the office of a prophet! At the same time he is presumptuously proclaiming himself to be more than just an ordinary prophet, but rather the office of – **“THAT PROPHET!”**

Due to the perplexity in the minds of the members who are under him regarding the office of **THAT PROPHET**, this article is being written to prove by Scripture and other writings he is **NOT** the one referred to in Scripture as **THAT PROPHET!** Rather it will clearly prove this office was fulfilled by the promised Messiah! A very close and scrutinizing look at the Scriptures will make this well known.

Moses Wrote of ‘THAT PROPHET’ to Come to God’s People

And the LORD said to me:

...I will RAISE UP for them A PROPHET like you from among their brethren, and will put MY WORDS in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will NOT hear My Words, which He speaks in My name, I will

require it of him (Deuteronomy 18:17-19).

This was said in the context of the previous verses in which God, through Moses, was *warning* Israel not to learn to follow the *abominations* of the nations in the land in which they were going. God further told them: “**For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners (as do many leading men and women today); **but as for you, the LORD your God has *NOT* appointed (Margin: *allowed*) such for you**” (verse 14).**

Then God tells them that instead of these false, Satan influenced, and sometimes possessed, people, He will provide in time to come One who would be proclaiming the absolute and complete truth of God: “**The LORD your God will *RAISE UP* for you A PROPHET like me from your midst, from your brethren. *HIM YOU SHALL HEAR*” (verse 15).**

God, through Moses, was making known here in these Scriptures **THAT PROPHET** would *NOT* be a mere *fallible* man, but rather He was referring to the coming *infallible* Messiah! Please note the following very worthwhile comments that even a commentary understands regarding this question:

Clarke Commentary, volume 1, page 786: “The LORD thy God will RAISE UP unto you a prophet] instead of diviners, observers of times, &c., God here promises to give them an *INFALLIBLE GUIDE*, who should tell them all things that make for their peace, so that His declarations should completely answer the end of all the knowledge that was pretended to be gained by the persons already specified.

Like unto me] Viz., a prophet, a legislator, a king, a mediator, and the head or chief of the people of God. This was the very person of whom Moses was the TYPE, and who should accomplish all the great purposes of the Divine Being. Such a prophet as had never before appeared, and who would have no equal till the consummation of the world.

This Prophet is the Lord Jesus, who was in the bosom of the Father, and who came to DECLARE Him to mankind. Every word spoken by Him is a living infallible oracle from God Himself; and must be received and obeyed as such, on pain of the eternal displeasure of the Almighty (see verse 19, Acts 3:22-23).

... Dr. Jortin, in his remarks on *Ecclesiastical History*, has drawn a parallel between Moses and Christ in a great number of particulars, which he concludes thus: Let us search all the records of universal history, and see if we can find a man who was *so like to Moses* as Christ was, and *so like to Christ* as Moses was. If we cannot find such a one, then have we found HIM of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write to be Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.”

The Apostle Peter Also Wrote About ‘THAT PROPHET’

In the following Scriptures, the apostle Peter also makes very clear that it is Jesus Christ who fulfilled the office of “**THAT PROPHET**”:

And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive *UNTIL* the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, “The LORD your God will *RAISE UP* for you A PROPHET like me (in human flesh, *Messiah*), from your brethren (Tribe of Judah). Him you shall hear in ALL THINGS (no mistakes), **WHATEVER** He says to you. And it shall come to pass that every soul who **WILL NOT HEAR THAT PROPHET** shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ Yes, **AND ALL THE PROPHETS**, from Samuel and those who follow, as many

THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL
RAISE UP FOR YOU A
PROPHET LIKE ME FROM
YOUR MIDST, FROM YOUR
BRETHREN.

as have spoken, **HAVE ALSO FORETOLD THESE DAYS.** You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant, which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘*And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*’ To you first, **GOD, HAVING RAISED UP HIS SERVANT JESUS, SENT HIM TO BLESS YOU,** in **TURNING AWAY** everyone of you from your iniquities (Acts 3:20-26).

Clarke Commentary, volume 5, page 708: “Moses truly said unto the fathers” ... From this appeal to Moses it is evident that Peter wished them to understand that Jesus Christ was come, **NOT AS AN ORDINARY PROPHET**, to resort to repentance and amendment, but as a *legislator*, who was to give them **a new law**, and whose commands and precepts they were to obey, on pain of endless destruction. ...”

The New Law

That new law did not replace God’s spiritual laws, but magnified it (enlarged, added to, the existing laws), as the prophet Isaiah was led by God to write:

The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will MAGNIFY THE LAW AND MAKE IT HONORABLE (Isaiah 42:21).

Magnifying the law extended to include our intent, thoughts, and attitude (Matthew 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43). In magnifying the law, Christ *first* made it abundantly clear that in no way were the Spiritual laws to pass away:

DO NOT THINK that I came to DESTROY THE LAW, or the PROPHETS. I did NOT come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away,

one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least [by those] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great [by those] in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:17-19).

Christ is speaking of the commandments, statutes and judgments He had given through Moses to Israel (Exodus 20-24; Leviticus 23, etc.). The everlasting spiritual laws of God, and their magnification, can be seen clearly in what is called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 - 7). For example, notice:

You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not murder,*’ and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. BUT I SAY TO YOU that whoever is angry with his brother ... shall be in danger of the judgment. ... (Matthew 5:21-22).

Please note the Commentary Comments from what the apostle Peter wrote in Acts 3:22-25:



Experimental Commentary, volume 6, page 21: [For] **Moses truly said: ... “A Prophet shall the LORD your God RAISE UP unto you of your brethren, like unto me (i.e. Moses) particularly in intimacy of communication with God and as the mediatorial Head of a new order of things! (See Hebrews 3:2-6.)**

The apostle takes for granted that, in the light of all that he had just said, **IT WOULD BE SEEN AT ONCE** that One only had any claim to be that Prophet. Him shall you hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people.

(Continued on page 34, “That Prophet”)

No Prophet Today

by

Garfield Gregoire

Do you BELIEVE there is a Prophet or Prophets within the Church of God today? Just what do you BELIEVE? What does the Bible say? SURELY, you should want to KNOW the TRUTH to avoid being deceived.

*W*hat is a Prophet? To understand the answer to this question it is necessary that we learn the definition of a prophet, and also why God chooses one to fulfill that office. In this article we will find the answers in both areas.

Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible (Strong's Concordance # 5030), a prophet is "AN INSPIRED MAN, A SPEAKER OF ORACLE." It goes on to say, "SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT SPEAK HIS OWN WORD, BUT THOSE WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GOD."

In one of his public Radio Broadcasts - titled, *Proof of a True Prophet (#HA535B)*, Mr. Armstrong taught that the word prophecy, or prophesy as it is used in the Bible, has TWO MEANINGS: 1) It can mean one who PREACHES or expounds under inspiration what has already been revealed in the BIBLE. 2) He also points out that a Prophet is one who preaches what he receives in **DIRECT** communication from God.

Mr. Armstrong said in this broadcast that: "Prophet

means one to whom God DIRECTLY REVEALS THINGS." He went on to say that Jeremiah, Moses, Isaiah and the rest of the Old Testament prophets were those who received this kind of communication from God.

"For them to prophesy," said Mr. Armstrong, "means to foretell what God has SPECIALLY revealed to them; and usually that was revealed for the very purpose of being committed to writing as part of the Bible."



Here we see those who are called to the office of a prophet are those who received DIRECT COMMUNICATION from God. God spoke to these individuals so they could not only *foretell* or give *advance* warning, but to also commit to writing those very same prophecies that is evidenced throughout the Scriptures - and is

common knowledge even to those who are not necessarily students of the Bible.

Regarding the needed *discernment* of prophets, Holy Scripture tells us: "... If there be a prophet among you, *I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream*" (Numbers 12:6). Here is an example of how God communicates with His chosen prophets; He

communicates ***DIRECTLY*** to them by way of dreams and visions.

Notice what Mr. Armstrong said about himself:

Emphatically I am NOT a prophet, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God -- separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. ("Personal from Herbert W. Armstrong." *Tomorrow's World Magazine*, February 1972, page 1).

Mr. Armstrong made this statement because he knew that he was called to the office of an apostle and not as a prophet – like those to whom God directly communicated His instructions. His preaching consisted of what had already been revealed by God to His prophets and recorded in scripture. His job was to make these truths known.

Beware of False Prophets

Jesus ***warned*** His people of ***false*** prophets. He made it known that ***false prophets*** would come among His people in the form of righteousness – in order to ***deceive*** (Matthew 7:15). If we were mindful of this admonition, we would want to closely ***examine*** anyone claiming to be a prophet of God by what they say and do in light of the Holy Scriptures.

In one of the prominent splinter groups, there is a leader claiming to be a prophet of God. He says that God placed him ***"INTO THE OFFICE OF A PROPHET."*** Now, this claim must either be true or false.

In considering this matter, we have to understand that such a claim means that this man is more than one who preaches from what has been revealed in the Bible. By saying he holds the office of a prophet this man has inevitably ranked himself with all those prophets who have received direct communication from God.

In other words, one cannot (rightly) hold the rank or office of a prophet and not receive ***DIRECT*** communication from God; there is just ***NO*** way around

this. If one is ***RANKED*** a prophet – such an ***OFFICE NECESSITATES DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM*** God – and God has already made it known that such communication comes by way of dreams and visions.

In the case of the one claiming the office of a prophet, he says that God only reveals to him from the Bible; but if that is so, why claim the office of a prophet when God clearly tells us that He ***communicates*** with His prophets in dreams and visions? Clearly, this man's claim is a contradiction to what God says.

Please ***UNDERSTAND*** that *if* Mr. Armstrong came out and said he was ***PRIMARILY*** a prophet – to the ***EXCLUSION*** of being an Apostle, such would imply that he would be placing himself into an office held by the prophets of old.

The office God gives to his servants means ***EXACTLY*** what it says: an ***APOSTLE IS AN APOSTLE***, and a ***PROPHET IS A PROPHET***; and ***PROPHETS*** who are ***RANKED*** as such -- are those to whom God ***DIRECTLY COMMUNICATES HIS WORD***.

This makes known there is a very serious ***flaw*** in this man's claim to be in the office of a prophet. Can we not see this? Can we not see that God has made it so simple that no one ought to be ***deceived*** by any who would claim to be in the office of a prophet?

The apostle Paul wrote along these lines when he said: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (II Corinthians 11:3).

But Doesn't The Bible Teach There Are Prophets in The Church?

During my time in the Church of the one ***claiming*** to be a prophet, the question of the role of a prophet in the Church came up among some of the members in the congregation I was attending. The matter was brought to the attention of the minister – who, during the service, sought to address the problem. In attempting to

do so, he went to 1 Corinthians 12:28 – which reads: **“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers,...”**

With that reading, it appeared that the minister had everyone believing that this settled the matter; that this Scripture proved that the leader of this Church was justified in his claim to the office of a prophet.

Of course, I was troubled over the fact that this minister had failed to point out that Mr. Armstrong taught that since the Bible was complete for our time, no such prophets were in the Church any more, and that at the time Paul wrote the book of Corinthians, the Bible was not yet complete. It seemed the people in the congregation did *not* understand this, and so the matter was laid to rest. To say the least, I was greatly disappointed. However, I did not seek to question the minister because he gave the impression this was the end of the matter and NO other discussion was necessary; in addition, the Church had become LEERY when questions of this kind were pursued. People have been *DISFELLOWSHIPED* for asking certain questions, or expressing *doubt* on certain subjects. This is a known fearful fact! Now here is what Mr. Armstrong said on the subject:

All teaching came from Christ through the apostles . . . via the prophets (of which there are none in God’s Church today since the Bible for our time is complete). God’s Church today, as in the first century, receives its teachings from the living Christ, through an apostle, just as in A.D. 31 (*Mystery of the Ages*, Page 350).

Also take note of what Mr. Armstrong says in the **“Personal from Herbert W. Armstrong”** *Tomorrow’s World Magazine*, February 1972, pg 1:

Let’s take a look at the Church of God of the first century, as we find it revealed in the book of Acts, beginning from the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. The Bible was not fully written – only the Old Testament – in 31 A.D. God was still communicating new truth, instruction and knowledge directly and personally to prophets. As the Church progressed, it was the function of a prophet to communicate to the apostles special

messages which God had personally revealed to them. Others were inspired in the writing of the books of the New Testament. So we read, in Acts 11:28 and 21:10-11, of the prophet Agabus. But today we have the complete word of God, for our time, in the Bible. There are no such prophets — except false ones.

Do we BELIEVE Mr. Armstrong knew what he was talking about when he made that statement? Anyone who believes that this other leader is a prophet of God is *REALLY* saying that Mr. Armstrong was either lying or just didn’t know what he was talking about when he said **“THERE ARE NO SUCH PROPHETS ANYMORE.”**

Why is it that most of *God’s people have seemingly forgotten these VITALLY IMPORTANT TEACHINGS?* Isn’t it time God’s people begin to *‘WAKE UP’* and get back to the past instructions that clearly *negates* this man’s claim of being a prophet of God?

Section Removed From Mystery of the Ages

Mr. Armstrong further wrote; **“No prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church”** (*Mystery of the Ages*, Pages 244-245).

That section was *removed* without any prior notification given to the members in the Church of the one claiming to be a prophet. It was only after someone began circulating an E-mail accusing the Church of covertly tampering with Mr. Armstrong’s book that an announcement was finally made.

In that announcement – dated October 16, 2004, the leader’s son *defended* the action - by *insisting* that there was a prophet in the Church today and that they were *justified* in removing that section from the *Mystery of the Ages*.

(Continued on page 36, “No Prophet”)

The Vital Importance of Godly Family Values

by

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD . . . Blessed *is* everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall *be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

(Psalm 127:3; 128:1-4).

The ideal family is so pictured in these quoted Scriptures and all godly parents truly appreciate the blessing of the children God graciously grants to each of them. But in this day and age the family is facing unprecedented and virtually impossible odds to not only rear their children with godly virtues but to try and protect them from this evil world that is seeking to take their minds, hearts, and bodies into its destructive realm.

This is Satan the devil's world (Matthew 4:8-9; II Corinthians 4:4). As such his destructive purpose is to destroy our youth! And he is using the same tactic as he did with mother Eve (Genesis 3:1-6). He is enticing them by the glitter and glamour of his world while making it very difficult for our youth to resist its charm, attractiveness, and appeal. In so doing, he is using all of his deceptive powers through yielded human beings to *kidnap and destroy* our young people in the very soon coming *Great Tribulation!*

The Pied Piper

The alluring and attractive forces of evil today can be likened to the *Pied Piper* who skillfully played his enchanting music and *lured* the children away from their protective and caring parents into the forest to *destroy* them.

But the piper returns on a Sunday morning, when all the grown-ups are at church. Again he starts to play a tune on his flute. This time, all the children follow him, as he walks out of the gate to the mountains. Suddenly, a cave opens in the





mountain. The piper walks into the mountain, still followed by the children, and the cave closes again.

The children were never seen again in Hamelin.

The Rap and Rock Bands of Today

The **Pied Piper** can well be compared to those Satan is using with their rap and rock music to *enrapture* and essentially *cast a spell* upon the young people outside of the parent's protective care, and those who fall prey to him are too often in the process of being **destroyed** through drugs, illicit sex, and debauchery.

The loss of the nation's youth began with the hip-swinging rock music and lyrics by Elvis Presley in the 1950s and has since degenerated into what is heard today by the youth; and the fallout from it is the **loss** of virtually any real moral values among both the young and adult people of today's world.

The Attractive Pull of the World

Godly families usually remain **knitted together** in the younger growing ages of children. However, once they enter the teenage years they begin to be *exposed* and then *attracted* to the world about them as never before in their younger years of life. Parents may be able to protect their teenagers from the attractions of television, but unless they are attentively keeping in

touch with what their children learn from other school children, and what they are being taught in the public school system, and then correcting the errors, they begin developing a worldly and destructive mindset.

For an example of what is now being taught by law in that system, consider the following quote:

... children of various grade levels are indoctrinated with the belief that homosexuality is amoral and equally valid alternative lifestyle.... LifeSiteNews.com, May 30, 2007

Parents have the responsibility of carefully *monitoring* what their children are being taught by teachers, other children, as well as what they hear and view on Radio and Television. Otherwise it becomes easy for them to **watch** illicit sexual scenes on television, and also to **listen** to the rap chanting accompanied by the very loud musical instruments of rock bands! In so doing they



hear all the vulgar and violent language used in the lyrics and sooner or later they begin to use it. It is in this manner that Satan begins his **destructive captivity** of their minds that leads to the very core of their hearts and beings. They then leave their godly values behind and become a part of Satan's world.

The Desire to be Accepted

The problem facing the godly youth is they want to be *accepted and approved* by the other young people around them even though they have been taught godly values. They do not like being all alone and called names because of being different than the youth of the

world around them. As the result some of them begin reaching out to the youth of this world to try and find what they are not finding within the Church. This leads to the fading of the godly values from their minds while being replaced by the lack of values of this world.

Some of these young people have chosen to marry *outside* of the Church of God, and a few of them have chosen to enter into *interracial* marriages even being performed by the pastors of their Churches. Then there are a few who have chosen to live with others *without* the benefit of marriage. Sadly, there are real problems ahead for these young people *unless* they repent and return to the godly values they have been taught and forsaken.

They seem to have forgotten the Biblical examples of past ages when and where God dealt *severely* with mankind for their extreme sinful ways and all *violently* died in one way or another.

Past Civilizations Destroyed By God

The world of today has come to be *an exact replica* of a world of human beings that once existed, but all were destroyed by God with *a worldwide Flood* due to their very sinful ways! The nations of Israel, and the world of today, are also following the same *exact pattern* as that of Sodom and Gomorrah! And for the very same reasons God is going to *severely* deal with this present world's civilizations just as He did with each of them! Jesus Christ made this known in a prophecy for this end-time:

And as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, UNTIL THE DAY that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and DESTROYED them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; BUT ON THE DAY that Lot went out of Sodom IT RAINED FIRE AND BRIMSTONE FROM HEAVEN AND DESTROYED them ALL. Even SO WILL IT

BE in the day when the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:26-30).

Please think carefully and soberly of these Biblical examples that Jesus Christ compared to the end-time, our time today, while knowing God does *not* change *nor* is He a respecter of persons (Malachi 3:6; Acts 10:34).

The Pre-Flood World

Approximately 1,800 years after the creation of mankind the population had grown so greatly it was witnessing *a virtual explosion* just like today of almost 7 billion people (Genesis 6:1). It was also a thriving, bustling and growing world of people. However Scripture records it was also a *violent* and *wicked* world in which all human beings had '*corrupted themselves and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*' (Genesis 6:5, 11-13). God witnessing this had no choice but to destroy them: **And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing, and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them"** (Genesis 6:5-7, 11-13).

The LORD then *destroyed* that *pre-Flood world* (Genesis 6:1-3, 5-7, 11-13). Perhaps as many as 2 or 3 billion people *perished* in that Flood that covered the whole earth. It is sad to realize that world is almost identical to this one today in every evil way.

Interracial Marriages

Along with the other problems that brought the Flood of waters upon them was that of the *mixing of the races in marriages* just as we find in the Church and in Israel today. Scripture reveals it was during that time that the descendants of Seth (white racial strain) began *intermarrying* with the sons of Cain (black racial strain).

Mystery of the Ages, page 148, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

... It is *amply evident* that by the time of Noah there were at least the three primary

or major racial strains on earth, the white, yellow and black, although interracial marriage produced many racial mixtures... it is a fair conjecture that in Mother Eve were created ovaries containing the yellow and black genes, as well as white, so that some of the children of Adam and Eve gave rise to black, yellow, as well as white...

Toward the close of that world the races came to be virtually integrated, *contrary* to the will and purpose of the LORD (Deuteronomy 7:3, 6). This can be understood by what took place some years after the Flood when mankind had begun multiplying once again.

It was in the fourth generation after the Flood that Scripture makes known the LORD *scattered* the races that had been brought through the Flood by Ham and Japheth, sons of Noah, who each had married *outside* of their own race (Genesis 10:5, 32; 11:6-9).

Mystery of the Ages, page 149: “God originally set the bounds of national borders, intending nations to be SEPARATED to prevent interracial marriage . . .” (Deuteronomy 32:8; Genesis 10:32; Acts 17:26).

God *segregated* them by language and geography (Genesis 10:5). Each then developed their own culture. And their locations are pretty much the same today as they came to be at that time.

God's Purpose for the Different Races

It should be realized that God made it possible for the major races to be born for He loves variety just as He does all of the many different kinds of lovely and beautiful flowers He created. Likewise, He loves each and every race of people and as such His desire and intent is to keep the purity of the races as He intended them to be. Though they were segregated by God, His intent was there should be NO discrimination!

Likewise one should also realize there is NO one race superior to the other.

However due to the people's disobedience and disregard in this area along with all of the other major areas, God destroyed that pre-Flood world (Genesis 6:1-3, 5-7, 11-13; Luke 17:26-27).

To establish the fact that this present world is coming to be almost identical to the world at that time with the approaching total integration of the races, please note the following quote from the **USA-TODAY**, 4/13/2007, AP article by David Carey, headlined: **Interracial**

marriages surge across U.S. “. . . The number of interracial marriages has soared, for example, black-white marriages increased from 65,000 in 1970 to 422,000 in 2005, according to Census Bureau figures. . .”

It rained FIRE and
BRIMSTONE from
HEAVEN and
DESTROYED
them ALL.

Noah Walked with God

The lone exception was that of Noah who remained ***perfect in his generations*** (*true* to his race in marriage) and also his ***walk with God*** (Genesis 6:8-9). Ancient writings reveal Noah was greatly persecuted because of his godly values; but God spared him and also his immediate family due to his close and abiding relationship with Him.

Considering the age of Noah, he must have had older children, and tradition bears this out. If so, they were not spared from **drowning** in the Flood because they had been absorbed by that world just as were the married daughters of Lot **destroyed by fire** due to their being swallowed up by the evil society of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:14). Tragically the older children of Noah and Lot were **destroyed** along with the world they had chosen because of **forsaking** the godly values and high standards they had been taught (Genesis 7:21-23; 19:24-29; II Peter 2:5, 7).

(Continued on page 37, “Values”)

The Kingdom of God

Now the gospel, remember, was the kingdom of God and that is what he taught, that's what he preached, and that's what he taught the disciples. That's what they began to teach to the church, and the whole gospel, the message to teach the church, and to teach the world was the kingdom of God. Now what is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is the family of God. Now we should know some of these scriptures already, I don't have to begin everything as if we never heard of it before. It is the family of God. The born family of God ruling the government of God and that government will rule all the nations of this earth. There will be one government over all the earth. That will be over the United States, it will be over England, it will be over Japan (I just came from there a couple of days ago), it will be over China, it will be over Russia. It will be over all the nations in the world. Now to learn a little more about that, go back to Isaiah 9:6-7 where to ancient Israel through the prophet Isaiah, God said, **“For unto us [that is ancient Israel], a child is born, a child is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder....”**

The churches of this world do not mention as a rule, I have never heard much of them mentioned that Jesus was born to be a king and to rule the world. They only teach Jesus as a Savior. They say that he died and if you just accept his death, you go to heaven. They don't say very much about what real repentance is. That you have to let him wash your mind of what you believed, and what you've done. You have to start a new kind of life. You have to start new knowledge; you have to start a new education all over. They don't realize that even, let alone teach it.

...the governments shall be on his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (all of those things). Of the increase of his government (ruling nations of the world) and of peace (not war and trouble), there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his

kingdom [because David was given a promise his dynasty would last forever and it's still lasting today, and it's running today over in London, England and Christ is going to continue that dynasty and that throne is going to be overturned once more from London, it's going to go back to Jerusalem, where Christ will take it and sit on his own throne in Jerusalem as He now is sitting on His father's throne up in heaven.] **and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth and forever.... Isaiah 9:6-7**

The New Birth

So, that gives you a little idea. Now I could go into the third chapter of John, and show you where Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, and there he was talking about being born again. We've been born as human beings and will be born again as very God. Now we know the doctrine of that. Why were you born? Compare what Jesus said to Nicodemus, and he said **“That which is born of the flesh IS flesh.”** That's what we are. We're all born of the flesh and that's all we are. We only have a mortal temporary existence. **“But that which is born of the Spirit IS Spirit.”** We'll be composed of Spirit. We'll not be flesh and blood at all. None of us have been born again, only Jesus Christ has been born again. That doesn't mean that some people interpret it that Jesus was a sinner and had to be quote *“saved”* unquote, because He had never sinned. But he was the firstborn of many brethren. He was born again by a resurrection and you will find in the first chapter of Romans that he became a son of God by a resurrection from the dead, and we will become sons of God by a resurrection. He was the firstborn of many brethren. So He came not only to be a future king, but to save us and to give us immortal life.

Jesus Christ was God with God

Now let's carry it on a little further. Just who now was this Jesus who was coming to have the government on his shoulders and to bring a messenger of the covenant and proclaim the new covenant, the kingdom of God. We turn to John 1:1 and it says, **“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word**

was God.” The Word is a personage, and God is a personage. So the Word was a personage and the Word was with another personage, God, and so you have two persons there together. Two different persons, one called the Word and the other called God, but then it says **“and the word was God, and the word was with God.”** Just like John could be with Smith. Well, John could be the father of Smith or the son of Smith, either one. But his name would also be Smith wouldn’t it? So the Word was also God. God is the family name and the word merely means the one who was the spokesman. Now, to read on it says, **“All things were made by Him, the Word, and without Him was not anything made that was made and in Him was life [L-I-F-E]...” John 1:3-4**

He had immortal life, self-containing life, life inherent within himself. In **verse 14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”** In other words, the Word became Jesus Christ, was born of the virgin Mary as a human being, but also he was begotten by God and the only begotten son of God - the only human ever, born human after being begotten of God. We can be begotten of God, but we will be born divine and not human. Jesus is the only human that was ever begotten of God, in case you didn’t understand that scripture before. So now we turn back to Genesis the first chapter and you’ll find the same thing again. I’ve been going through that a great deal, through almost the last nine months or so. **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” Genesis 1:1.**

Now the word for God is the uniplural Hebrew word Elohim. Moses wrote this in the Hebrew language and he used the word **“Elohim”** which means more than one person. It’s like the family, one family, but composed of two people or perhaps twelve people or more. Like the word church, can be composed of a hundred people or thousands of people, but one church; but composed of many units, or many people. God is one God but composed of more than one person. So this is the same as John 1:1. **“The Word and God.”** That’s why you read in verse 26 that God said; **Elohim said (the plural) “Let us make man in our image.”** Not let Me, but let **Us**, and it is the Word that was speaking which was Christ. But He said only what God the Father told him to speak.

“...Let us make man in our image after our likeness...” Genesis 1:26 He formed man after the

God-kind. Now He had formed cattle after the cattle kind, other animals after their kind of animal. But He formed man after the God kind, but man was made if you read in the second chapter and verse 7, **“man was made of the dust of the ground.”** God is composed of Spirit, but man is not yet composed of spirit unless or until he is **BORN AGAIN**. **That which is born of the flesh as Jesus said to Nicodemus, is flesh.** That’s the way Adam was born. We can be born again, that which is born of the Spirit, when we’re born of the Spirit which is God, we will become Spirit, or we will become God if you want to put it another way. So, man then was made mortal.

The Two Trees

Now I’ve been preaching sermon after sermon about the two trees that were in front of Adam. He had to make a choice. One of those trees was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. That was going to lead to death and God said that He would die if he partook of it. The other tree offered him life which he did not have. Now in Christ was life, but in man was not life, only a temporary existence. He did not have life. He had only a temporary existence. But if he took of the Tree of Life, he would have received life, now how? The same way we can today. The Tree of Life is opened to us again now and we receive life by first receiving the Holy Spirit, and there are two conditions for us. Adam didn’t have those same two conditions. Now think of that. We have to first repent. Jesus said **“Repent and believe!”** Not only believe the gospel, that’s what Jesus said, but believe on Him and believe what He said. But to Adam, he didn’t have to repent. Adam had never sinned yet. He had just been created. He had to decide which way he would go, whether he would sin or whether he would take the Tree of Life and will receive God’s Holy Spirit. Now if he had taken the Tree of Life, he would have received what we do, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens your mind to receive knowledge – spiritual knowledge. Now God created man with a mind that could receive knowledge, but it was capable of receiving only material knowledge. He would have received knowledge and could acquire knowledge. He had much to learn yet, that’s true, but he could learn, he could acquire this knowledge of how to deal with matter, with things. But he was made to need a relationship with God, and a relationship with his neighbor, to deal with people, and

to have a relationship with God because God made him, because God was going to reproduce Himself, and he was made to be born of God. But he was not born of God, he was only a created being and everybody else have been born from Adam - like Cain and Able and Seth were born of Adam's wife Eve, but through Adam and Adam was the father.

Now, if you take the message of those two trees, Adam chose self-acquired knowledge. He *rejected* God, he rejected knowledge from God and the Holy Spirit now only gives you the knowledge of God, but gives you the power to be *guided* by that knowledge. Man was given a mind, and the mind has to guide your actions and everything you do. You have to decide in your mind, and your mind must tell you to do it. It tells your hands or your feet what to do. That is not true of an animal. Animals do what they do by instinct. When a dog barks when someone is coming down the sidewalk or coming to your front door, the dog doesn't stop to think now shall I bark or shall I not bark. It doesn't know why it barks, it just does it, that's instinct. It doesn't have to have a mind to decide what to do. You and I do! God made man with a mind to decide what to do because man is capable of building CHARACTER. Animals are not! They're the dumb brutes, yet they have brains just like we do, just as capable as ours, but there's something lacking. In the human brain, God put a Spirit, and that Spirit gives the human brain the power of *intellect* and gives us human mind. Animals do not have mind, they have brain and instinct. We have brain and mind and there's quite a difference.

Now, Adam chose self-acquired knowledge. He was really led by Satan who got to him through his wife Eve. Eve was *deceived*. She took of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the result of that was sin, and the penalty was death, and they both died. **She gave to her husband, Adam, and he did eat also** and he was *not* deceived, but Eve was, and Adam *deliberately* sinned. He had never had to repent, he had never sinned yet, but then he did sin. And when he sinned, God shut up the Tree of Life. In other words, God shut up the Holy Spirit from all of Adam's children. Now get this brethren, if you want to know why the church, if you want to know why you're sitting here this afternoon. **GOD CLOSED THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM PEOPLE!!** And so you read in Hebrews 9:27 as a result of Adam's sin, **"It was appointed to man once to die but after that a**

judgment:" And God has made it so that everyone who had ever lived, Adam, Cain, Abel, Seth, all the others, they are all going to come back to life - *mortal life* - just like they did live, and then they're coming to the great judgment. Now that judgment is one where they're going to be required to give account for what they did in this life. And the penalty for what they did is death, and the death sentence is going to be passed on them. In that judgment they're going to have an opportunity to appeal to the court who will be judging them and sitting on the bench of that court will be the judge who is Jesus Christ. That will be the great judgment. We celebrate that on the Last Great Day after the Feast of Tabernacles. That will come after the millennium, after the thousand years, more than a thousand years from now. If they throw themselves on the mercy of the court, and the court, who's Jesus Christ, will say "Well now if you repent, now that you're eyes are open, now that you see what you did, and now that you have come to finally confess what you did, you've come to repent, if you do repent and you will henceforth live the way you should have." I can't imagine after they have seen the penalty of sin and seen everything that has happened for seven thousand years as it will be then, that a lot of them are going to say "No, I'm going to take *the lake of fire,*" but some apparently will.

Well, now Adam took self-acquired knowledge, but he was guided by Satan. Satan was there, I don't know if Adam realized it or not, but Satan was *influencing* everything he did. It was Satan who *influenced* him through Eve to make the wrong decision. It was Satan who *influenced* Cain to kill Abel. It was Satan who has been *influencing* everything man did. Now man was left with knowledge only to deal with material things, but not to deal with other people, and cut off from a relation with God - at least from receiving the Spirit of God. Now they did retain some knowledge of God, but it became perverted through Satan's perversions and Satan's misleading the rest of them and deceiving them.

This is Satan's World

He has deceived the whole world, beginning with Adam. Adam's world has been *deceived* into materialistic knowledge. He had been deceived into

building a certain world, a civilization that we call “the world.” Now the world is not the earth. Jesus talked about the end of the world. He meant the end of this world, this society, this civilization that had been built from Adam through the influence of Satan, the way of the world. Now the world has an educational system.

Adam started that but he had no spiritual knowledge. He had only materialistic knowledge. He tried to add spiritual knowledge, and today in the colleges and universities as we get down to the twentieth century, we have law schools, and they teach them how to enforce man’s law, to regulate relation of one person with another person or people with people. They go to court, and they decided by laws made by man, all in man’s education. We have even courses in the universities in sociology, courses in psychology, but they don’t even know what the human mind is and what it is composed. So how can they understand its workings? They know nothing of Spirit or spiritual things or spiritual knowledge. They deny that it even so much as exists. So they developed an educational system as part of this world. Now they also rejected God (Adam did), and so his children all have. And so they’ve formed their own religions.

The Descendants of Jacob

Now God called a group of slave people, descendants of Jacob, whose name had changed to Israel, and he called them to become his nation, and he made the Old Covenant with them through Moses. And he made them one of earth’s nations, and he revealed knowledge to them, spiritual knowledge, but they did not understand it. They did not have the Holy Spirit, and they never understood it, and they didn’t have the power that the Holy Spirit would give them, the power to obey it. God could explain it, but they couldn’t understand it anymore than a cow, a dumb cow can understand academic knowledge. You try to teach a cow that one plus one equals two and the cow just looks stupid, he doesn’t know what you’re talking about. He can’t understand it. And the scientist with a PhD after his name today, when you talk to him of spiritual knowledge, he says “Oh, pop? I don’t care about that, it doesn’t exist, there isn’t any such thing as Spirit.” Because he doesn’t know, and what he doesn’t know he doesn’t know that he doesn’t know it. He’s

unconscious of the fact that he doesn’t even know it. He is in fact, ignorant! I don’t care how many letters he has after his name, and how many colleges and universities he’s graduated from. He has had no spiritual knowledge.

That’s why we have such great progress in material advancement. That’s why we have such regrettable appalling evils and troubles in the world. We can’t solve troubles - people dealing with people. That’s why the world is filled with crime, filled with discontent, unhappiness, filled with murder, filled with everything wrong. It’s been influenced by Satan and it has had no spiritual knowledge, it has not have the power of God’s Spirit to guide it the right way.

So the world has built, Adam’s people have built, a world of their own with false education and now a system of education with schools beginning with the first grade on up through the universities.

It has false religions, and so man has made up their own ideas of what God is, and not one religion on this earth including Christianity, knows who and what God is. They just don’t know! So what do they know about true religion – absolutely nothing you might say. All religions are man devised or Satan influenced.

Then man developed his own governments and his own system of governments. So we have the many nations and governments over every nation in the United States, or a government like the United States. We have different states and we have state governments, and we have local city governments. In Canada, they’re divided into provinces, and they have local provincial governments as well as their national governments. That’s the way governments are formed all over the earth.

Then we have developed a human system of economy. Now the economy is in trouble all over the world right now, and man has nothing but problems and troubles with the economic system he’s developed. Because it’s false, its man devised and Satan influenced. God for one thing, God’s way denies interest or usury on loaning money, but the whole world’s system is based on usury and interest. That’s one of the problems of the United States right now.

Then we have a social system, a social customs and

regulation of man's relation with man through laws and government. And we build a society, a society influenced by Satan - that is this world - and the society is in trouble, and people in this society are not happy, and they are miserable, they're discontented. We use to hear about milk from contented cows. You may have contented cows, you don't have contented people. It's quite a difference if you stop to think about it.

Jesus Christ Came Into This World from Heaven

Now, it was into such a world, it hadn't grown technologically like we have in the 20th century, that's true, but otherwise it was a world just like we are today, we just advance more in materialism today. But Jesus came into such a world. Jesus however was born of God and He was the Word, and by Him were all things created. He was the creator of all, and He came into such a world. He was called the second Adam. Now the Holy Spirit was closed from the time of the first Adam until the second Adam, until Christ could come and pay the penalty of sin and died for us, otherwise, no one could be... everyone had sinned... all have sinned. Adam sinned, Cain and Abel sinned. Abel was called righteous Abel, but he did sin because all have sinned. And all have died. Now it's also true that as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive, that's in I Corinthians 15:22. That will be in the Great White Throne Judgment. But in the meantime, here is a terrible world in trouble, and man is in trouble with his neighbor and man is cut off from God and the relationship with God, and Jesus came into such a world.

Now there had been a prophecy in **Joel 2:28** "**And it shall come to pass afterward [God said], I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh....**" Now that time hasn't even come yet. But it came where it began with the church, where God began to pour out his spirit on a small portion of all humanity (the church), and the Holy Spirit is open to those that God calls into the church. I want to put together all the things I've been teaching you the last nine months about the two trees, and about the way the Holy Spirit and how it was shut off from man, and it was. I'd like you to notice next in John 10:10 where Jesus said, "**...I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.**"

Jesus came to give us life. Now the first Adam did not get life. God offered him life but he had to make a choice. He had to take the Tree of Life. *He took the tree of death instead.* He took the tree of *self-acquired* human knowledge *influenced* by Satan. To take the Tree of Life, he would have had God inspired, God revealed knowledge through the Holy Spirit, and with the power of the Holy Spirit and giving him, making him that is, *begotten* of God for eternal life. So Jesus came so that we might have life. And he said "**I will build my church,**" and that is the beginning. But on the other hand while Joel said that the Holy Spirit will be open ultimately to all flesh, it was not yet because Jesus said in **John 6:44** "**No man can come to me except the Father which sent me draw him.**"

So, the Holy Spirit was limited to those that God would call; those that were *predestinated* by God to be called into the kingdom of God. God is *choosing* some. Now why? Is God discriminating? Is God discriminating against others and just calling you and me, and he's just discriminating all these other people all over the world? Oh no! Because the call is only a matter of *when* anyway, and predestination refers *only* to the time of your calling. We're to be called *NOW*!

Let me give you another explanation. Why did Jesus first call only his fourteen or the twelve original disciples with two alternates (but really were fourteen)? Why didn't He call thousands right off the bat?

Because He had to teach those in order that they could teach the thousands. And when the church began, it began ten days after Jesus had descended to heaven. After He had taught his disciples for three and a half years, they had graduated from his college or school, and the knowledge that He imparted to them, and now they were sent out as apostles; as those sent with that message, and they preached the gospel of the kingdom. So He called only twelve so that they could teach more in the church.

Now likewise, He has called the church now only a few in order that we in the kingdom of God, when the millennium begins, and Christ comes, under Christ can teach all the other millions in the world. He's teaching us and we're going to school. WE are now His disciples and WE are to learn the message. WE are to learn how God's government is to run. WE are to learn

His gospel, His government, His society, His education, His religion, different than that of this world.

This world has its religions, it has its economic system, it has its social system, it has its educational system. We're to learn something different, and we're to be the head of the kingdom of God when Christ sets it up. We're to rule with and under Christ. Now for example I want you to notice, now you know a lot of these things already, but notice in Revelation 3:21 where Jesus said, speaking to the church and this is a message to the church and not to the world. This is not to the world, I can preach this to the world and they wouldn't understand it.

To him that overcometh [meaning in the church], will I grant to sit with me in my throne [in the kingdom of God], even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne [up in heaven]. Revelation 3:21.

Then in **Revelation 2:26-27** Jesus also said to the church – a message to the church, **“He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end (that's in the church).... “**

We're going to school now in the church. We are learning the economic system of God. We're to learn the educational system of God. We're to learn God's religion. We're to learn God's civilization, His social system in order that we can teach the world, and it says

He that overcometh (those in the church) and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations and he shall rule them with a rod of iron. Revelation 2:26

He's speaking to you and me brethren. But are we learning? Are we growing in grace and the knowledge of the truth? Or do we just think like the Protestants have it and the Catholics - you just accept. Or what is it in the Catholic Church, you....well, in the Protestant you accept Christ, in the Catholic Church they have something else they use. You embrace Catholicism I guess is the word, or whatever it is. Anyway, now I'd like you also to notice the 5th chapter of Genesis and verse 10. I mean Revelation not Genesis. **Revelation**

5:10 where “He made us [in the church] unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Those in the church are being taught to become not only priests to rule, but, I mean kings to rule, but also priests, to save the world, to teach the world a religion. And church and state will be united and we're to teach the people in the millennium, and then in the Great White Throne Judgment, and that will last a hundred years, and we're to teach them.

God's Master Plan

So now understand the purpose and God's Master Plan for working out that purpose. God gave His church, seven annual holy days and seven annual festivals. Now, there's a difference between just a holy day and a festival. Actually, the Feast of Pentecost, or Feast of Firstfruits is a holy day, and it's also a festival of one day. But the Feast of Tabernacles is seven days, and it has also one holy day in it, and then there's another holy day added on the end of it. Now this world..., let's understand God's purpose and plan. God's purpose in spiritual, of taking us from this world and taking us into the kingdom of God, His spiritual plan for His spiritual purpose, is worked out by the seven holy days. First we repent, that is... first is the Passover where Christ paid the penalty that is applied only if we repent. Second is the seven days of Unleavened Bread when we put sin out of our lives, if we have repented and when we've repented. Next comes the day of Pentecost or the coming of the Holy Spirit. That then brings us *into* the church age and after that is the second coming of Christ, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the putting away of Satan, and then the Feast of Tabernacles, the millennium, teaching the whole world and then the Last Great Day, which is the final judgment after the thousand years.

Come Out of This World of Satan

Now, get this, this whole world *started* by Satan through Adam. But Satan started this world really because Adam *rejected* Christ, and went the way of Satan, and it is Satan's world, and Satan has been using mankind. Men have been called the children of Satan.

I want to show you that a little later. Well we might turn to that right now. **John 8:44, beginning with verse 43.** To those that believed on Jesus even among the Jews when he was on earth, He was talking to some that really believed on him. But he said, **“Why do ye not understand my speech....”** They didn’t agree with him at all. They didn’t accept what he said. He said,

“Why do you not understand my speech? Even because you cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil....” Now these were people who believed on Him. These are not the Scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees. These were people, Jews, that believed on him, but they believed on him but they didn’t believe HIM. They didn’t believe what he said and he said,

...Ye are of your father the devil, and the works, the lust of your father will you 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 speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. John 8:43-44

So, those that are not converted and do not become the children of God are in a sense the children of Satan. They have been absorbed the ways of Satan, the attitude of Satan, the purpose of mind, the state of mind, the intention of mind of that of getting, that of vanity, that of taking from others, of exalting the self over others from Satan, and they are the children of Satan.

Newly Revealed Knowledge

Now I’m giving you some things that you *haven’t* heard before this afternoon, and I hoping you’re getting it. I hope you’re getting it. Now let me go back again. This world was started by Satan through Adam. God’s kingdom or family in the World Tomorrow was started by Christ through the church, and the church is the first part of it, of the kingdom of God, just like the disciples were the first part of the church before it began.

The church is founded on the apostles and the prophets of the Old Testament. Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone and they all were before the church. Now as Adam and his physical children were the material

that Satan used to build this world, this civilization, so the church is the spiritual material that Christ is using to build, or to create the kingdom of God. He’s creating something new in us, a new character, a new being, a new creating God within us. He is *reproducing* Himself through us the kingdom of God which will be the world tomorrow and we’ll rule the world tomorrow.

Now as I say the unconverted are really the children of Satan, but in the church we become the children of God. The Church are those that are called out of Satan’s world. I’d like you to notice that in **II Corinthians 6:16** where it says **“What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God....** [We are the temple to which Christ is coming. The church and the dead in Christ are going to rise and meet Him in the air as He comes to rule]. **As God has said “...I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**

Well the world are really Satan’s people, but we are to come *out* of that and be God’s people. Wherefore, come out from among them of the world. Those that are Satan’s people. ***WE ARE TO COME OUT OF THIS WORLD AND NO LONGER BE PART OF IT BRETHREN. I DON’T THINK WE GET THAT!! NOW GET THIS: I DON’T THINK YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT! WE’RE TO COME OUT OF THIS WORLD AND BE NO PART OF IT!***

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch *not* the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. II Corinthians 6:17-18

He says that we are a separate and a peculiar people, different from the rest of the world. We are a holy nation of people in the church, different from the rest of the world. We are coming out, and we’re being taught in school, you might say, and in church, with the true gospel and God’s way of life to teach the whole world in the millennium, just like the apostles were called out first for three and a half years to teach the church.

God's Indwelling Holy Spirit

I want you to understand that. Now we are not in the church unless the Spirit of God is dwelling in us. Just being a member of the church, and saying you're a member, and I often wonder how many that are supposed to be church members, and we look on as members of the church- how many really are members of the church? You are not a member of the church unless the Holy Spirit of God is dwelling in you, and also you are being led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit of God has got to be opening your mind to God's way of life, and you've got to be living that way of life. You've got to be leading where the Holy Spirit leads you, or following where the Holy Spirit leads you. Now turn to **Romans 8:7** "**Because the carnal mind...**" And we all *were* carnal to begin with, and some of us I'm afraid still are unless we really have received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of a *changed* mind, a *sound* mind, a different kind of a mind that can begin to *comprehend* spiritual knowledge. And I've found so many in the church that have been members a long time, and they *don't* comprehend spiritual knowledge. They get doctrine, they're straight on doctrine, **but they don't understand it!**

Brethren, I worry sometimes about the Church. Then I have to remember that we don't get a full measure of the Holy Spirit all at once. We get a little of the Holy Spirit, and perhaps you get five percent, or Christ had one hundred percent. Well then you're still ninety-five percent carnal. But if you grow in the grace and in the knowledge and in spiritual knowledge after a little while, if you grow, you'll have ten percent of the Holy Spirit and ten percent God's knowledge, and only ninety-percent carnal. Where are you now? Have you gotten up to forty-five percent the Spirit of God and still fifty-five percent carnal? Well you better get where you're not over forty-nine percent in this world any longer, and fifty-one percent spiritual.

Now I hope I've gotten that far. Have you? You better examine yourselves brethren. Where do you stand? How far have you grown? How much knowledge have you acquired? How much are you practicing in your life? How much prayer...how much of your time you're

spending in prayer? How *devout* are your prayers? How much are you *pouring* your heart into your prayers or how much of it is just...well...I was in one place where someone gave a prayer, I was speaking to a group of a thousand people in the Philippines, and there was a man who gave a prayer and he read every word of it. He just read it. It didn't mean a thing. It didn't come from his heart. He just read something. I didn't even bow my head, I noticed a lot of others bowing their heads, I couldn't. But you read here in **Romans 8:7** "**...the carnal mind is enmity** [that is hostile] **against God....**" And all of us were that way. To what extent have you quit and come out of that. "**...the carnal mind is hostile against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.** [Are you in the flesh or in the Spirit?] **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 have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**" **Romans 8:7-9**

I don't care how long you have been a member of the church. Now look, you have the Holy Spirit, you don't have the Holy Spirit unless you're being led by the Holy Spirit. We read in the beginning with **verse 14**,

As many as are led by the Holy Spirit, they are the sons of God [If you're not following where the Holy Spirit leads, you just don't have...the Holy Spirit won't stay in you, it won't stay dormant in you at all. It just won't.] **For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption** [or that sonship], **whereby we cry, Abba Father** [And you call God your Father.] **The Spirit itself also beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be we that we suffer with Him...**[and we do.] **Romans 8:14-17**

As I said to you last night, Peter was put in prison. I wonder if I shall be someday. The people prayed when Peter was put in prison, and God *performed* a miracle and just *caused* chains to drop loose and gates to open up and let him out by a miracle. I wonder how many of you people would put your heart in your prayers if God puts me in prison. Well I think you would brethren. I believe you would. I think that most of us really have

God's Spirit. But I know that there have been those among us that have even rose up to be evangelist rank in the ministry did not have the Holy Spirit and I... sometimes... it would be easy for me to *lose* faith when I think of those things. Well I tell you, everyone of us need to examine himself. For he says, **"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [and we do have sufferings] are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."** Romans 8:18

So it's not easy. It's not easy to come out of this world and the temptation of the flesh; and you're hearing sermons on that. I don't know how many of you heard the sermon this morning. I at least got to hear the sermonette this morning and it was very good, and it was. But I had to spend the time of the sermon this morning preparing what you've been hearing this afternoon. I hope that it was worthwhile and I had to lose that sermon. They could have recorded it. I have equipment in my home now that I could record a sermon if I can't be there myself. But finally now I'd like to read to you the **12th chapter of Romans beginning with verse one. Romans 12:1:**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice [That's what it means. You realize it? Not only your bodies, but everything that you count yours. You have to be willing to present a living sacrifice.] **holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world...** (Romans 12:1-2).

We're to come out of it and be separate. We're a separate, holy and peculiar people that are different. Now we are not freak people wearing some kind of... men wearing crazy hats and women some old kind of a bonnet and things like I've seen some religious people do. We're different in the way we live - having the Spirit of God and love toward other people. Not freakish in manner or anything of that sort or wearing peculiar garb.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind... [And the Holy Spirit is the spirit of a sound mind, and the mind must be renewed, different than it was before conversion.] **...the renewing of the mind, that you may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and**

perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought [and some people do, more highly than they ought] to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man that measure of faith" (Romans 12:2-3).

So you see we do have *degrees* of the measure of faith and *degrees* of the measure of the Holy Spirit. That is true, and we must realize it, but we *must* grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That means more prayer, and more Bible study, and having our mind on the things above, and on the things of God, and **NOT ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD!!** We still have *not* been fully weaned from the interest of the world brethren, have we? Now think of that and answer that question for yourself.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another (Romans 12:5).

That's what we are brethren. Now perhaps you realize why the church? We're *being* prepared to rule and teach the kingdom of God just as the disciples were trained and prepared to teach the church. I hope that we all can really realize that. Take this message and don't forget it and realize why you are a member of the church and what a terrible responsibility and a wonderful responsibility it is! ❖

" PERSONAL "

...continued from pg 6

And unless the ministers, whoever and wherever they are, truly repent and then make known they have repented by standing up to be counted, **regardless** of the cost of the loss of membership, and favor from other ministers, as did the apostle Paul, terrible times are ahead of them and not all that far away, just as the following Scripture makes known: **". . . The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, IN FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance on those who DO NOT know God, and on those who DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Matthew 7:21-23).

Presently Jesus Christ is knocking on the doors of the hearts and minds of all those who are converted ministers and members who are *not* living by the

standards Christ demands of all of us:

“As many as I love, I *rebuke and chasten* (margin: discipline). Therefore be *ZEALOUS* [for the TRUTH] AND *REPENT*. Behold, I stand at the door and knock, IF anyone *HEARS* My voice and *OPENS* the door (to his heart and mind), I will come into him and *DINE* with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:19-20).

How is Christ knocking at the door of our hearts and minds? It is by and through His Holy Spirit and through the voice and writings of the Restored Works of God’s late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that can be found on our websites.

Yes, Mr. Armstrong was indeed just a man! However he was also God’s apostle and the man raised up by Jesus Christ to *preach, to warn*, and also to pave the way before the soon-coming of Jesus Christ our Lord just as did John the baptizer the first time. He was indeed a very human man, but he was also used by God just as were the very human men Christ used in former years, such as Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah (James 5:17-18), and also the early apostles. Remember Peter? He denied Christ; and Paul, who contributed to the arrests, beatings, and deaths of the people of God. Each of these men repented of their sins and was then used by God in great ways. So possibly could you!

Will all of you ministers, who are *failing* the true people of God by your *unwillingness* to stand up and be counted along with ALL of the true teachings of God and Jesus Christ, *likewise* humble yourselves as did these godly men, and listen to the loving corrective voice of Jesus Christ who is trying to help you make the right and good changes before it comes to be *too late*? This is my entreaty and my prayer for each of you. ❖

“ TRUE CHURCH ”

...continued from pg 10

Further, this question for the most part never really comes into their minds, let alone asking their pastors leading questions about whether their doctrinal beliefs and teachings squares with what can be read in the *Mystery of the Ages* (the original publication of it).

One member in the Sacramento, California

congregation of the United Church of God asked her pastor about the Book written by Mr. Armstrong, the *Mystery of the Ages*. He told her he had never read it and felt Mr. Armstrong wrote it to make money from it. She then left that church and came with us. This makes the point that these people are so *comfortable* in believing they are right they feel no need to even read that Book and see if where they now are is the right place for them to be.

I have been writing articles, with the heading of: “*A Shepherd’s Warning Cry*” and “*A Open Letter to God’s True People Worldwide*” for about three years or longer that have appeared in each issue of *The Journal* (the Big Sandy, Texas, Church Newspaper), for the readership to read. In virtually every article I point them to the *Mystery of the Ages* asking them to look at the teachings where they now are and compare them with the writings in that Book.

Though there may be many who are doing so, and I hope and pray they are, I hardly ever hear from anyone who is actually doing it. This helps me to realize all the more *there are only the few who are chosen* to not only be provided a place of refuge during this coming world crisis, but to also meet Jesus Christ in the air when He returns to this earth to claim His bride, the Church, and with them to begin His new world.

Tragically, many of the true members will have to win their salvation by enduring faithfully *the horrors of the Great Tribulation in martyrdom* due to their lukewarmness and sleeping (Revelation 6:9-11; 12:17; 3:14-19; Matthew 25:1-13).

The One True Church

Always *remember*, Jesus said he had come to BUILD His Church (singular), one Church, not many!

The importance of understanding the answer as to where the True Church is should be of the *utmost* importance for all of us – and also being a *zealous* part of it – knowing the time is soon coming when it will become very necessary for *the elect* to flee to the place of safety, *with no tarrying!*

One should also realize to receive that word to *flee* one

will need to be connected to the pastor, whoever Jesus Christ might be using at the time, of that one true Church. And even more importantly, one should realize the vital importance to be in the One Church to which Christ will come to receive His bride. This should be enough to make us want to know with full proof and assurance we are in the right one.

To be continued ❖

“ DIOTREPHES ”

...continued from pg 13

Yes, in the first century Church of God, there was a man named Diotrophes. He was REAL! But, the “spirit of Diotrophes” is not limited to just ONE man, existing ONLY during the first era of God’s Church (III John). He has existed in “*type*” throughout all of the Church eras and there are those like him (with the same spirit of rebellion), in corporate Churches of God today. In this very end-time as God’s people have been scattered [“shattered”] (Daniel 12:7), ANY man acting in the “spirit of Diotrophes” is also of the same mind, as Diotrophes! He may revel in thinking he has scattered the brethren. He may enjoy “*prating*” (maliciously gossiping) against the brethren. He may delight in his (limited) “*POWER*” for a very short season (II Corinthians 11:13-15, Acts 20:29-30), but all of these things will eventually cease, when Christ returns to this earth and His saints come with Him (I Corinthians 15:51-58; I Thessalonians 3:11-13). Christ will put a stop to any future types of “Diotrophes,” from ever coming on the scene again!

The original Diotrophes in the first era of God’s Church loved to have the “**preeminence**” (III John 9). He was a self-serving individual whose personal ambition, self-recognition and desire to be “**the center**” was paramount to him, above all else. He took control over the TRUE people of God, even to the point of scattering them in merciless persecution. Neither God the Father nor Jesus Christ ever once abandoned those members he put out. “... **For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’**” (Hebrews 13:5).

Caring for the Sheep

In quoting part of **chapter 34**, in the book of **Ezekiel**

(verses 12 and 16), the Eternal says, “...**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...**” (KJV). A true minister of God; a true SHEPHERD of God, will always care for (II Corinthians 1:24), those “scattered” and loyal sheep, whenever and wherever they are found. As shown in **Daniel 12:3...** “**Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.**” The True Church of God can never be destroyed (Matthew 16:18). Just as the apostle John spoke of loyal men like Gaius and Demetrius (GOD-CENTERED men), with “scattered” brethren whose names we don’t know as yet, people who were scattered by Diotrophes... they were NEVER forsaken by God! It is no different today. Any man acting with the same rebellious “spirit of Diotrophes,” will ultimately FAIL to destroy the **TRUE ELECT**. Those converted members who love the TRUTH and keep their spiritual **FOCUS** will not allow any “Diotrophes” to ever take their spiritual “crowns” (Revelation 3:11). ❖

“ THAT PROPHET ”

...continued from pg 16

“This part if the prediction is *emphatically* added, in order to shut up the audience to the obedience of faith, on pain of finally being ‘cut off’ from the Congregation of the righteous (Psalm 1:5).

“Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold these days.”

**Jewish People Believed
JESUS CHRIST to be
THAT PROPHET**

THAT PROPHET who was to come was being looked for by the Jewish people during the time of Christ, and the question was asked of John the baptizer: . . . **And they (Priests and Levites) asked him (John), “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No” (John 1:21).**

Shortly before He was crucified, Christ came into Jerusalem riding a colt of a donkey and the people were praising Him. **All the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, *THE PROPHET* from Nazareth of Galilee”** (Matthew 21:1-11).

Clarke Commentary, volume 5, page 202: That Prophet whom Moses spoke of, Deuteronomy 18:18. *I will raise them up a Prophet like unto thee*, &c. Every expression of the multitude plainly intimated that they fully received our blessed Lord as the promised Messiah – ...“Not just a prophet as had been known, but “***THAT PROPHET***”!

This was fully recognized by Christ’s disciples as well for after His crucifixion Jesus appeared to two of His disciples in a form in which they did not recognize Him. Christ asked them what they were talking about and why they were so sad: . . . **And they (the two disciples) said to Him (Jesus), “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, WHO WAS A PROPHET mighty in deed and word before God and all the people”** (Luke 24:19).

Experimental Commentary, volume 1, page 664: But Christ, the further His claims are investigated appears the more clearly a Prophet; for not only was the name given to Him, but multitudes concluded that He was the ***THAT PROPHET*** that should come (John 1:21; 6:14).”

This was further attested to by the five thousand people who had miraculously been fed by Jesus Christ: **Then those men, when they had seen the *SIGN (Miracle)* that Jesus did, said, “This is truly *THE PROPHET* who is to come into the world”** (John 6:14).

Stephen Spoke of *THAT PROPHET*

When Stephen made his defense before the high priest and the council, he also made a very pointed reference to God making Himself known to Moses and the mission he would have in bringing Israel out of Egypt. And then he spoke of ***THAT PROPHET***, and a few verses later connecting Him with the ***MESSIAH***, whom the Jews had crucified.

In the following quotes from Stephen, there is no question but that he connects ***THAT PROPHET*** as being none other than JESUS CHRIST: **“This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘*The LORD your God WILL RAISE UP A PROPHET like me from your brethren. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR, . . .*”** (Acts 7:37-39).

Moses said, **“Him you shall HEAR!”** This is exactly what was said to the disciples right after the transfiguration: **“... a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED. HEAR HIM!”** (Matthew 17:5).

The following comment was well made concerning the standing of Moses with God (Acts 7:37): *Experimental Commentary, volume 6, page 43:* “Moses himself, in his grand testimony, had held himself forth, not as the last great prophet of Israel, but only as a precursor and small model of Him to whom absolute submission was due by all.”

The Scriptures are Abundantly Clear

The Scriptures by themselves are absolutely clear as to who ***THAT PROPHET*** was – and there should be no question or doubt whatsoever in anyone’s mind to the contrary! My feelings based on these very clear Scriptures are of fear for the one who has presumptuously placed himself in that office that only belonged to the Messiah!

At the same time I feel very sorry for what he is doing to the members who are under his ***ironclad rule*** believing he is ***THAT PROPHET*** and therefore ***fearful of being rejected*** by him and his ministry based on what the Scriptures say about anyone not believing and obeying ***THAT PROPHET***! (See **Deuteronomy 32:18-19.**) (Please read a related article in this current publication, entitled, “**NO PROPHET TODAY.**”)

In conjunction with all that has been written here, so far, please consider a quote from the writings of Mr. Armstrong regarding prophets in New Testament times: ***Mystery of the Ages, Pages 244-245, Mr.***

Herbert W. Armstrong:

The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of New Testament and gospel teaching and functioning. **NO PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED AS HAVING EITHER ADMINISTRATIVE, EXECUTIVE OR PREACHING FUNCTIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.**

Mr. Armstrong has also said since we have the New Testament that reveal the prophecies there is no need of a prophet in this time.

A Concluding Caution: Based on the foregoing proofs from the Scriptures, and remembering the warning from Jesus Christ there would be false prophets coming in among us, every member should take personal heed to not let anyone deceive you into believing he is THAT PROPHET for that office was filled by the Messiah Himself! Anyone who makes that claim is on very dangerous ground for when we grasp this fact, though the man, or any other man making this claim, may not realize it, in reality he is saying that he is Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:24)!

(The Quotes in the above Article are intended for educational purposes only.) ❖

“ NO PROPHET ”

...continued from pg 19

In attempting to bring closure to the matter, he said: “We will TRY to make the ministry **MORE** available or more **AWARE** of these sort of **MINOR EDITS**. To this point, we really haven’t had the vehicle or really the time to **UPDATE** the CONGREGATION **ON EVERY LITTLE THING THAT IS CHANGED.**” (The author of this article deliberately and carefully wrote down this quote from the announcement tape.)

Please take note that even the ministry had **not** been notified and that this change has been passed off as being nothing more than a **“MINOR EDIT.”** This is

NOT a **MINOR EDIT** to God; this is **a MAJOR departure** from the PLAIN TRUTH of what Mr. Armstrong taught – and it was done so this man could advance and secure his claim to the office of a prophet.

In essence, the **removal** of this section from the *Mystery of the Ages* implies that Mr. Armstrong was wrong, and that this leader -- who had learned from Mr. Armstrong, had advanced so much to where he could now **CORRECT** the established teachings of God’s chosen Apostle by **editing** what he wrote.

In so doing, he is telling God’s people that he knows better than an APOSTLE. This was done by a man who says: **“I must be always subject to what God taught through Mr. Armstrong – government, law, statutes and judgments”** (Flurry, Gerald. *Who is that Prophet*, page 22).

Anyone willing to see the **TRUTH** can clearly see that this man is *not* subjecting himself to what Mr. Armstrong taught. If Mr. Armstrong were allowed to come up from the grave, he would have very **STRONG DISAGREEMENT** with this man; of this we can well believe!

Warning from God’s True Apostle

Shortly before he died, Mr. Armstrong said:

And there are those that are just waiting for me to die; and, like buzzards, they would like to come and gobble up all you people, and tell you that no one else is fit to lead you but them. And they look to human charisma, someone who has a certain personality, someone who is a good entertainer, but God looks on the heart. Don’t forget it brethren. People are always fooled by human personality, and the charisma that attracts them right to someone. That must never happen in this Church (*Feast Of Trumpets Sermon, 1985*).

But it did HAPPEN in the Church – and most of God’s people are now being led **astray** by false ministers. The VERY THING Mr. Armstrong **feared** has come to pass – and we are seeing it happen in the many corporate

Churches of God right NOW!

God does not take it lightly when any man claims an office that has not been divinely imparted. God considers this to be so SERIOUS that in the Old Testament, **FALSE PROPHETS** were put to death (Deuteronomy 13:5)! From this it can be seen that making such a false claim of being a prophet can lead to terrible consequences unless there is *heart-felt* repentance.

It should also be noted that over and above making such a *false claim* of being just a lowly prophet, this man is making the claim of being “THAT PROPHET” who was prophesied to come by Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 17-22). And by this means he is holding his members in fear of him! (To clearly understand this erroneous claim, please read the article in this current publication entitled: “THAT PROPHET.”)

Through this magazine, God is reaching out to His people with the effort of waking them up to the many false prophets and ministers who are presently deceiving His people! We are not here to maliciously attack or wrongfully accuse anyone, but God expects us to speak out against those who would deceitfully lead His people *astray*. To see DECEIT and say nothing is tantamount to saying, I DON'T CARE! BUT WE DO CARE ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE and we do have a RESPONSIBILITY to speak out and try to help those who are willing to see error and admit to it. The question is: Are we willing to Prove All Things and BELIEVE what God tells us from his HOLY WORD – and not allow any man to deceive us?

Please consider the following words from God's late apostle, and ask, if this could be true with you? It could make a real difference in time to come:

“Our people today can't see where *these* things make any difference! But Ezekiel says the preachers have deceived the people, and led them astray. They have condoned all these things, until the people have lost God's pure TRUTH” (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. “Will RUSSIA Invade AMERICA?” *The Plain Truth*, November 1948, page 5).

The Quotes in the above Article are intended for educational purposes only. ❖

“ VALUES ”

...continued from pg 23

The Family of Jacob

There is another Biblical account that parallels the problems of today with the youth within the Church of God and with this evil world. This can be understood when we compare our time now to what took place then.

This had to do with a chosen family of God that was destined to grow into a nation, and later into the Church of God (Genesis 12; 15; Romans 9:7-13, plus many other Scriptures). This family was later to become the nation of Israel and would be used by Him as the center-piece of His Master Plan for the ultimate salvation of the world. To fulfill that purpose it was necessary for this family, nation, and Church to remain separate and apart from the world with no entering into outside marriages (Deuteronomy 7:3, 6).

Jacob's Daughter Dinah

This chosen family was that of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, the friend of God. His name was changed by God to that of Israel. He had twelve sons and one daughter (Genesis 30:21).

Having just moved away from the parents of his two wives (Leah and Rachel) in Mesopotamia, Jacob and his family returned to the land of his fathers and pitched their tents in the land of Canaan near the city of Shechem (approximately a mile to the east of the city, Genesis 33:18-20). Jacob purchased that parcel of land from Hamor.

After some years of dwelling in that land a *problem* developed within the family of Jacob that cost the lives of all of the men of that nearby city. This had to do with Jacob's daughter, Dinah, who had reached the age of either 15 or 16, at that time, but no older. When they moved into that part of Canaan she was about 7 or 8 years old and about a year older than was Joseph at the time, as he was 6 years old (Genesis 30:21, 24) when leaving Mesopotamia, and was 17 when he was sold by his brothers into bondage; so Jacob's family must have been resident in Canaan 11 years when this incident occurred.

After having reached that age of maturity she had the desire to go outside of her world to see and be seen in the world *apart* from hers. She wanted to make friends with them just like our youth of today (1 John 2:15-17). Now for the story:

Dinah Visits the World

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land (Genesis 34:1-26).

Soncino Commentary (Jewish): ‘see’] to see ‘and be seen.’ The Hebrew idiom ‘to see, to look upon’ means ‘to make friendship with.’ It was wrong of Jacob to suffer his daughter alone and unprotected to visit with the daughters of the land (*Adam Clarke*).

Today’s parents can relate with Jacob, for many of the parents are caught up in the same predicament as was Jacob. For many reasons parents cannot always watch over their young people and prevent them from doing things that lead to their harm, both physically and spiritually. Also, it does not always seem wrong to let our youth do what they sometimes want to do. As the result there is the often failure to see where Satan is leading them until it is too late, just as it was with Dinah.

And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated (raped, humbled, KJV) her. His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly (comfortingly, KJV) to the young woman.

Experimental Commentary: ‘humbled’] i.e. dishonored; the Hebrew implies by force [with no consent on her part]. ‘Comfortingly’] lit. **spoke to the heart of the damsel**; . . . He tried to console her by his words of love and his declared wish to make her his wife. [She was undoubtedly very upset and crying over what he had done to her and wanted to go home, but he refused to let her.] According to *Josephus*, she had been attending a festival; but it is highly probable that she had been often freely mixing in the society of the

place, and that being a simple, inexperienced, and vain young woman had been flattered by the attention of the ruler’s son. There must have been other times of opportunities of acquaintance to produce the strong attachment [lust] that Shechem had for her.”

Now he would attempt to *force* her into an unwanted marriage with him: So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “**Get me this young woman as a wife.**” And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *it*; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing which ought not to be done. But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it.”

Hamor was proposing marriages between the two families. This was contrary to the purpose and will of God and Jacob knew it for he remembered his parents displeasure of His twin brother Esau’s marriages to women outside of the family (Genesis 26:34; 27:46; 28:1-9). He also knew the reason why his parents had sent him to his mother’s family to seek a wife for him just as had Abraham sent his servant for the wife of Isaac from his brother’s family (Genesis 24:1-67).

Josephus, chapter XXI, page 43,

But Jacob not knowing how to deny the desire of one of such great dignity, AND YET NOT THINKING IT LAWFUL TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER TO A STRANGER (outside of the family and their world), **entreated him to give him leave to have a consultation about what he desired to do. So the king went away, in hopes, that Jacob would grant him this marriage.**

It would seem that Hamor was trying to do the right

thing, but when we read what he later said to his people, it can be seen he was as *deceitful* as was Simeon and Levi (Genesis 34:20-23).

The Slaughter of the Males of that City

In short, Simeon and Levi, two of the twelve sons of Jacob, *deceitfully* agreed to the king's proposal on condition all of the males would be circumcised. The king agreed to this proposal and all of the men were circumcised. On the third day while suffering extreme soreness and pain and therefore making it impossible for them to defend themselves, Simeon and Levi *massacred* them. Not one male was left alive, including King Hamor and his son, Shechem. During all of that time Dinah had been held prisoner by force in the city and here she was found when Simeon and Levi sacked the city.

The Analogy and Lessons

It is my hope and prayer that our youth will learn the sorely needed lessons from such true examples from the holy Bible; and by *patiently retaining* their godly values and high standards they will spare themselves from *the horrible fate* that is very soon to come upon this evil world; just as the apostle Peter exhorted the people to do while listening to him on the Day of Pentecost, 31. A.D.: **“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation” (Acts 2:40).**

The apostle Paul also pleaded with the people of Philippi, by saying to them: **“That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you SHINE (setting the example) AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD” (Philippians 2:15).**

The Hardships of the Godly Youth

It is well realized the *great difficulties* of our youth today to live by God's standards when there seems to be no one of like mind and belief to have friends of

their own age, or to date, and finally enter into marriage. And because of these obstacles, and lacking patience, there are those who have and those who will give up on God as did Dinah and Lot's daughters when it seemed there was little if any opportunity of ever meeting anyone within their world of the opposite gender who also had the same godly virtues. Tragically they *paid a terrible price* for their lack of patience and thoughtless decisions.

I, along with your parents, plead with you to *wait* on God and *trust* Him to provide your needs, just as He did with Isaac (Genesis 24). Trust Him to provide for you in His own time in one way or another (Proverbs 3:1-8).

It should also be realized there will be opportunities in the place of safety when several thousand people will be there in hiding for three and one-half years. And this coming time is almost here! Can you not patiently *wait* just a little while longer on God – and be *saved* from this evil world?

Please know this world of today that is so attractive and alluring will soon be *severely* dealt with as was the pre-Flood, and as were the peoples in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and as were all of the males in the city of Shechem! Because God wants to *spare* His people, He commands His people, including the youth, to *come out* of this world's system and be saved from it (I John 2:15-17).

And for those who choose not to do so there is *a terrible and horrible fate* awaiting them and that not all that far away for they will also be *destroyed* along with this evil world, along with all of the *Pied Pipers* and their followers (Revelation 18:4-8; Ezekiel 14:12-22).

As parents and friends, we *plead* with you to make the right and wise decision to *return* while there is yet time and remain within the protective fold of God's Church. And for those of you who are yet *within* the Church, we plead for you to remain and wait for God's good blessings while holding on to the *godly values* you have been taught. Please know the time will soon come when you will realize the wait was well worth it for then you will experience God's good blessings, yet in this life, and even more importantly, in the life to come.





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!

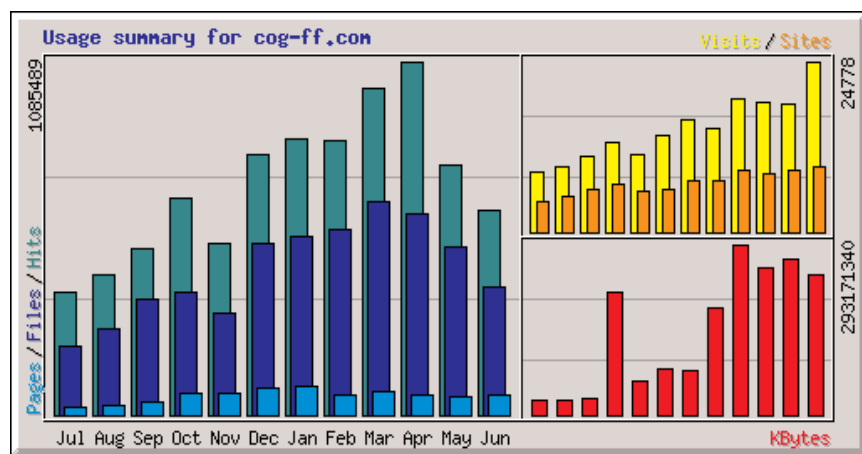
www.newworldahead.org

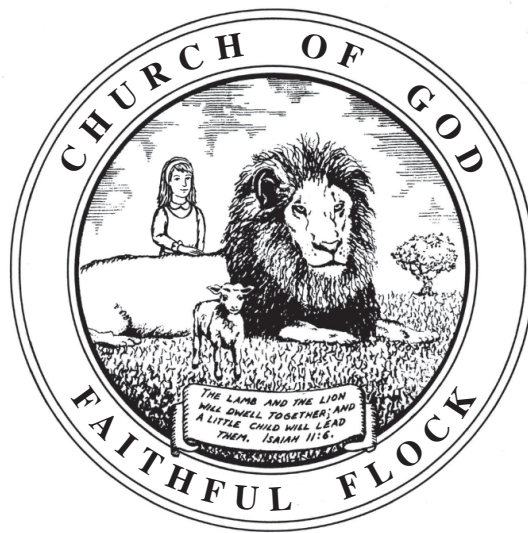
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT! It will happen, regardless. It is sure -- the world's only sure hope. This advance good news of tomorrow is as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun.

Web Statistics for www.cog-ff.com

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
Jun-07	20,920	13,188	2,059	825	9,079	247,107,310	24,778	61,777	395,664	627,622
May-07	24,741	16,595	1,730	553	8,153	266,675,532	17,170	53,631	514,450	766,989
Apr-07	36,182	20,536	2,018	574	7,793	252,767,487	17,222	60,552	616,085	1,085,489
Mar-07	32,410	21,097	2,332	573	8,202	293,171,340	17,765	72,309	654,033	1,004,726
Feb-07	29,987	20,403	2,205	496	6,845	183,552,369	13,903	61,741	571,301	839,644
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
Totals						1,744,962,301	166,015	695,465	5,312,835	8,425,201





CHURCH OF GOD – FAITHFUL FLOCK
P.O. Box 8819
Modesto, CA 95357-8819