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Should We Listen to *Others*?

Is it wrong to listen to a fellow-member who disagrees with the ministers? To attend other churches? To listen to other religious broadcasts? To admit "Jehovah Witnesses?"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

AFTER you have come to a knowledge of the TRUTH, have repented and been baptized, and by the Holy Spirit been put into the true Church of GOD, is it all right to attend some other church?

"Well," you might reply, "here's the way I look at it—"

But *wait!* Stop right there!

If you have truly *repented*, you have stopped using human reason and acting according to the way *you* look at it! If you had the faith in Christ as personal Saviour to be baptized into Him, you were accepting HIM as your Lord and Master, to obey what HE says—not the way *you* look at it. If you have received God's Holy Spirit, it is to lead you into all TRUTH—which means understanding of GOD'S WORD, and what it instructs on all these questions, so that you know *what* to obey.

The Scriptural Answer

Therefore you will look into the Bible for your answer.

Suppose you live in an area where God's Church has not yet established a local congregation. There is no place in reach for you to attend services *unless* you attend some *other* church.

It has seemed to many in this situation that, since Seventh Day Adventists keep the right DAY, it would be all right to attend the nearest church of their denomination. Besides, is it not necessary to keep your children in Sabbath school?

It has come to our attention that several of our members have reasoned in this manner. Isn't it *necessary*, as a Christian duty, to attend regular church services?

The WORLD has its churches. The WORLD has its religions, replete with false teachings, false doctrines, and pagan practises. One of its basic beliefs and practises is that it is necessary to your salvation to ATTEND CHURCH. You see the slogan: "ATTEND CHURCH" along the highways on billboards. You read that slogan on the "Saturday Church page" of your daily newspaper. You see it in signs or bulletin boards posted outside church buildings. You hear it on radio and TV. You have been told by *the world* "ATTEND CHURCH" so many times you have come to *assume*, without thinking, that this is the teaching of your Bible.

But IS IT?

You may be surprised to know that there is only one passage in all the New Testament giving any direct instruction to assemble together with others: ". . . and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:24-25).

Even there, it is not a direct command that you *must* assemble together with others in the church—for the simple reason that God *knew*, when He in-

spired His instruction to us, that some would be living where there is no church to attend. Notice, the command is: "*not forsaking* the assembling of ourselves together." If there is no church in which to assemble, you are not *forsaking* the assembling together. The very words: "*not forsaking*" mean you are not to "*abandon*"—not to "*refuse*" assembling—not to "*desert*" assembling. (See dictionary). It implies *running away from*, or *refusing to assemble*.

If you live close enough to one of GOD'S churches to attend His Sabbath services, and you refuse to attend, desert attending, abandon attending, or neglect it, then you are *breaking* this command.

But if you live where God does not have a church near enough to attend, then you are certainly not refusing, abandoning, or deserting attendance, because that attendance is not in your power.

Local Churches

Does this mean that God makes light of church attendance—that it is not important—that we ought not to attend? Not at all. The Sabbath is a *holy convocation* (Lev. 23:2), which is a *commanded* assembly—one you are *commanded* to attend. But of course this command applies within realm of your ability. If you are confined to bed with sickness, you are *unable* to attend. If you live two hundred miles away from GOD'S Church, you are *unable* to attend with regularity.

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scattered abroad*

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During apostolic days many local churches were established. "And so were the churches established . . ." (Acts 16:5); "So ordain I in all churches" said the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 7:17). Nothing is said about whether they had large and ornate buildings, but the implication is that they did not. Some merely met in the houses of members. "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church *that is in their house.*" (1 Cor. 16:19). In Col. 4:15 you read of the church in Nymphas' house in Laodicea—and this evidently was one of the important churches. There was a church in Philemon's house (Phile. 2).

However, Scripture teaches against brethren assembling in small groups in private homes *without a minister to lead them!* You read in Acts 14:23 that Paul and Barnabas ordained elders in *every* church. There were no churches without ordained leaders. If you did not read the article in The GOOD NEWS on this point of a few brethren in a locality meeting together when there is no minister, write in for it. **THIS OUR MEMBERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO DO!**

Attending OTHER Churches?

But now what about attending some *other* church?

HOW does God say we must worship Him? You see signs and slogans in the world to this effect: "Let every man worship God *according to the dictates of his own conscience.*" But that is contrary to GOD'S instruction.

To a woman of the world, Jesus said: "Ye worship ye know not what." Then He said: "God is a SPIRIT: and they that worship Him *must* worship Him in SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH." (John 4:22, 24). God will not accept worship "according to the dictates of man's conscience." To be acceptable to Him you MUST worship Him in SPIRIT—that is, you must have within you HIS Holy Spirit, which He gives only to them that OBEY Him (Acts 5:32) and you must worship Him IN TRUTH. What is TRUTH? Jesus said "Thy Word is truth." You must worship Him according to the BIBLE!

With whom are we to have FELLOWSHIP?

The Apostle John, in his first letter, declared God's TRUTH in order "that ye also may have fellowship with us . . ." showing we can have fellowship ONLY with those who know and obey the TRUTH. Do you know any *other* Church that knows, believes, preaches, and OBEYS the TRUTH?—that keeps the true Sabbath, and *also* God's Holy days and Festivals; that knows the Resurrection was on the Sabbath and the crucifixion on Wednesday; that knows God's PURPOSE is that we, now *mortal*, are to be begotten, and then, after a life of overcoming, growing in knowledge of Christ and in grace, developing godly CHARACTER, are to be BORN of God at which time we BECOME divine members of the very God family; that the soul is mortal; that this is not the time God is trying to save the world, but only His "first-fruits"; that Christ is coming to rule all nations with God's WORLD GOVERNMENT, *on earth*, for a thousand years; that the Gospel is the Message of the KINGDOM OF GOD, which is both the world-GOVERNMENT of God and the FAMILY of God into which we may be born; and many other TRUTHS held and proclaimed *ONLY* by this one and only TRUE Church of God!

No other church on earth knows, obeys, and proclaims this TRUTH of God!

YOU are to have fellowship *only* with those who know and obey the TRUTH!

Now continue what John says about fellowship: ". . . that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly *our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*" (1 Jno. 1:3).

Our fellowship is, first of all, WITH God the Father, and WITH Jesus Christ! If I have fellowship with Christ, and YOU have fellowship with Christ, then HE joins you and me together in fellowship. You can not have true Christian fellowship with *any*, except those who also have fellowship with God the Father and with Christ.

But WHO does have fellowship with God? Just anybody? Members of worldly churches? LISTEN! "If we say that we have fellowship with HIM, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the TRUTH: but if we *walk in the light*, as He is in the light (truth), we have fellowship one with another." (Verses 6-7).

Brethren, that narrows fellowship—*assembling together for worship—down to ONLY those who are in God's TRUTH—the true LIGHT—and who OBEY it.* And that means ONLY those whom God has, by His Holy Spirit, put into HIS TRUE CHURCH. We are barred from fellowship or worship with any others.

The Church of God at Corinth was threatened with division. It needed correction. WHY? One preferred Paul as a minister, another wanted to follow Apollos, another Peter, and some Christ. Listen to Paul's correction:

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called *unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *THAT YE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING,* and there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Cor. 1:9-10).

We must have fellowship only with Jesus Christ, and those who are joined together in the TRUTH all speaking the same TRUTH.

Now suppose you try to find fellowship with members of a Seventh Day Adventist church. They may worship *on the right day*, but they do not keep God's annual Sabbaths and Festivals; they do not proclaim the true Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD which is to rule THE EARTH for the millennium; they do not believe we are to be actually born into the divine, glorified FAMILY or Kingdom of God; and they do break the second Commandment with their many idolatrous pictures of a long-haired man they falsely call "Christ"; they do believe lies and errors, such as their "Sanctuary Question," "Investigative Judgment," Mrs. White's inspiration as God's "Prophet"; going to heaven, etc., etc.

Suppose you try to find fellowship with Baptists, Church of Christ, Methodists. They believe in the immortality of the soul—if they have not gone "Modernist"—they do not OBEY God's Law and therefore cannot have His Holy Spirit. There is no basis whatsoever for fellowship with them. They are deceived and carnal. They are of the UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS!

God commands you: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; *for what fellowship hath righteousness (keeping of God's Commandments) with unrighteousness? and what com-*

manion bath LIGHT (TRUTH) with darkness? . . . WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD." (II Cor. 6:14-17).

IN, But Not OF the World

All this does not mean that we cannot have any contacts with the world, or people of other beliefs. It does not mean that you cannot buy groceries or merchandise in a store staffed with unbelievers, or with professing Christians of other beliefs.

Paul clears this up: "I did not mean you were literally to avoid contact with the immoral of this world, with the lustful and the thievish, or with idolaters; in that case you would have to leave the world altogether. What I now write is that you are not to associate with any *so-called brother*. . . . Associate with him? Do not even eat with him." (I Cor. 5:10-11 Moffatt translation).

We are not to have social or religious FELLOWSHIP—close friendship—with any except those who know and OBEY the TRUTH. We must not try to WORSHIP with them—attend their churches.

In Jesus' last prayer for His Church—FOR US!—He prayed the Father: "I have given them THY WORD and the world hath hated them, because they are not OF the world, even as I am not OF the world. I pray *not* that thou shouldst take them *out of* the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil." (John 17:14-15).

Again God instructs through Paul: "Have NO FELLOWSHIP with the unfruitful works of darkness." (Eph. 5:11).

You can WORSHIP GOD three times a day—in a private room, behind closed doors—on your knees, in prayer. DO YOU?

You can have FAMILY WORSHIP in your own home—husband, wife, and children—every morning. DO YOU?

You can join THOUSANDS of our own Church brethren in DAILY WORSHIP, by sitting quietly before your radio while The WORLD TOMORROW program is on the air. DO YOU?

If you hunger for fellowship, remember you can, and MUST, for true worship, have regular daily fellowship with Christ, and with God the Father, to whom Christ has given you direct access in prayer!

Should You Admit "Jehovah Witnesses"?

When the so-called "Jehovah Witnesses" come to your door, should you admit them?

"Well, the way I look at it," some might say, "is this: it would be dis-

courteous not to admit them, and that would not be 'Christian,' would it?"

BUT HOW DOES GOD LOOK AT IT?

God says "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, *saith the LORD.*" (Isa. 55:8).

What does God COMMAND?

"For many deceivers (including "Jehovah Witnesses") are entered into the world. . . . Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not (obeys not) in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. . . . If there come any unto you, and bring not *this doctrine* (of Christ, and of God's true Church), *receive him not into your house*, neither bid him God-speed: for he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II Jno. 7-11).

These "Jehovah Witness" people DO NOT OBEY GOD! They *argue* against God's Commandments, and especially against the Sabbath. Reports reach us of scores of them who lie when they say I was formerly a member of their sect. So do some Seventh Day Adventists lie, or at least willingly misrepresent, when they say I formerly was one of them.

Both of these sects will argue Scripture, in a spirit of contention, which your Bible forbids. "Jehovah Witness" people especially will argue *against* God's Law. They DO transgress God's Law, and they abide *not* in the doctrine of CHRIST. Therefore their deeds are EVIL. God says you, also, are partaker with them of their evil deeds if you receive them into your home.

Shall you, then, be discourteous or un-Christian? Of course not. When these people come to your door, just smile and tell them politely, but FIRMLY, you are not interested—you do not discuss religion—and *be closing your door* as you say it, and be sure you DO close it as soon as you have said merely that short sentence. DO NOT give them any chance to talk back, or continue the conversation, or get you into an argument.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE THEM! You cannot talk them into the TRUTH! If you already KNOW the truth, they cannot deceive you with their false teachings, or talk *you* into anything. Any further conversation with one of these people are IDLE WORDS, for which you shall have to give account in the judgment!

The GREATEST Danger of ALL

But all these temptations to ensnare you into the world—into false doctrines—into forbidden fellowship or false worship are mild compared to the *one in our very midst*, HARDEST OF ALL TO RESIST!

That is the impulse to listen to the professed BROTHER in the Church—one supposedly of our own membership—who begins to say to you—or to a

group standing on the Tabernacle grounds—that he is not quite sure he agrees with something one of God's ministers said—or with something said on the WORLD TOMORROW program—or with something in one of our magazines or booklets or articles.

Several times—in fact, almost every Festival—someone on the grounds will approach one or two members, with an argument, or interpretation of his own of some point or question of Scripture, which is contrary to the doctrine of GOD'S OWN CHURCH.

Usually a crowd begins to gather quickly. It seems *many* are such "dumb sheep"—so naive and unthinking, and ready to be deceived by Satan—that they are ALL EARS at once! This sort of thing seems to stimulate a certain excitement—an interest, to see what this fellow has to say, that many of you members just can't resist crowding up to hear him! It seems to fascinate you!

Now LISTEN TO GOD'S TEACHING!

The Apostle Paul, speaking his farewell to the elders of the large Church of God at Ephesus, said:

"I know *this*, that after my departing, shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of *your own selves* shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30).

THAT DID HAPPEN IN THAT CHURCH!

The *greatest danger of all* is when one who is among us, supposed to be one of us, approaches you with some doctrine or interpretation CONTRARY to that of God's Church, and of God's ministers.

Whether it be a so-called "Jehovah Witness" or even one supposedly a member of God's own Church, remember THIS COMMAND:

"If there come ANY unto you"—it does not say member of *another* church—it says if ANY come unto you "*and bring not this doctrine, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE . . .*"—DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!

IF you see a little group gathering around a man or woman on the Tabernacle grounds—or at your local church—and this person is disagreeing with God's ministers or God's Church, *report this to a minister or deacon AT ONCE!*

There have been at least two different WOMEN who have come to the Tabernacle either at Passover time or the Feast of Tabernacles, who devoted themselves busily to trying to teach different and false doctrines—especially to the women. WE HAVE HAD TO PUT THEM OFF THE GROUNDS, and forbid them to return. One woman tried to argue contrary doctrines *privately*, in the tents and steel booths of members, hoping not

to be seen, or caught by one of the ministers.

It is your duty to report such an activity to a minister or deacon IMMEDIATELY!

"Didn't I Say, LISTEN"?

But some will say, "But didn't you say, over the air, for us to LISTEN to you, and also to LISTEN to all others, but not to believe you, and not to believe the others, but believe what we see in the Bible?"

BRETHREN! When I speak *on the air*, I am speaking to the outside WORLD—to the unconverted. I am not speaking just to those who should already KNOW the truth.

These people all around the world, who listen to me on the radio, do not know whether I am a false prophet, a minister of God, or WHAT. To them, YES, I say, DO NOT BELIEVE MEN—BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE!

That is what you should have done—before you knew the TRUTH. Probably it was because you did do that, that you saw the TRUTH with your own eyes in your Bible. Perhaps THAT is what brought you *into* the truth, and led you to God's one and only true Church!

To people who do not KNOW that this is the ONLY true Church of God, I do say those very things.

But to you who have PROVED this is GOD'S CHURCH, it is different.

BUT, you say, are you no longer supposed to PROVE ALL THINGS, by your own BIBLE? Yes, of course you are!

Then is it wrong for you to PROVE THESE THINGS FOR YOURSELF, in your own Bible? Not at all! What we say is, *do not listen any longer* to those who bring a DIFFERENT doctrine! If you have already seen these truths for yourself—already PROVED them in your own Bible—already proved this is the true Church of God, then GOD'S TEACHING, as I have shown you in this article from the BIBLE, is, DO NOT LISTEN to those who bring a different doctrine.

In God's Church, we ministers do not tell you what to believe, and command you to believe US, without even looking into your Bible. That is what the Roman Catholic Church does—but not God's Church.

Of what does the preaching of God's ministers consist? Do we not PREACH THE WORD, just as we are commanded? (II Tim. 4:1-2). Do not our sermons to you in the Church consist of EXPOUNDING the Scriptures—of PROVING to you, in your own Bibles, the true doctrines of God?

What about the articles we write? Do they not consist of expounding the Scriptures, PROVING the truth by the Scriptures, so you can see these things

for yourselves *in your own Bibles*? Is not that what I am doing NOW, in this very article? Am I now asking you to merely believe ME—to take my word, without proving it to you by GOD'S WORD?

But suppose, when you study your own Bible, you come across something you feel is contrary to the teaching of the Church? Must you hide your eyes from what you see in your Bible? CERTAINLY NOT!

Well then, can you go to other members with it, to set them straight? CERTAINLY NOT—that would only tend to *cause division*. The Bible teaches that we must all SPEAK THE SAME THING.

Well, what shall you do, then?

LISTEN! UNDERSTAND THIS! You *must not* go to any other member with what you feel you have found is contrary to the Church's teaching. Instead, YOU MUST BRING IT TO THE MINISTERS! If you are a member of a local congregation, take it to your pastor. Go into it WITH HIM—but with NO ONE ELSE, lest you foment division, and be cast out of the Church! If there is no local pastor, bring it to one of God's ministers, or write it to HEADQUARTERS.

God's ministers will go into it with you. If you are right—if you have found any place in the Bible where we are in error, then WE WANT TO KNOW IT. We hate error, and love truth, even though the truth correct and reprove us! Bring it to us. If YOU are wrong, we will patiently show you, and explain it more perfectly to you. If WE are wrong, we will correct it BEFORE THE WHOLE CHURCH, so that ALL the Church may, with one mind, believe the TRUTH, and speak the SAME THING!

If any other member comes to you to point out where the Church is wrong—DO NOT LISTEN! Rather, *tell him to take it to the CHURCH!* And then report him to Headquarters.

This, Brethren, is the ONLY way we can have unity!

AUTHORITY of the Church

When you repented, you repented of rebellion against God and His government. You surrendered to OBEY God's government. And God carries out His government THROUGH HIS CHURCH!

Has God given His Church AUTHORITY to determine DOCTRINE? Yes, indeed He has.

In the Apostolic days God set up His HEADQUARTERS Church at Jerusalem. There are some matters of doctrine, or procedure, which do not appear plain to all members alike in the Scriptures. One such example was the matter of whether physical circumcision was still to be practiced. The Church at Antioch

was divided, and in doubt. This could have split up the church. But they took it to the Headquarters Church at Jerusalem, where the largest number of highest ranking ministers was located.

God, through His Holy Spirit, LED THIS CHURCH to settle this doctrinal dispute GOD'S WAY. The decision of the Headquarters Church WAS NOT THE DECISION OF PETER AND THE APOSTLES—it was the decision of GOD, as He led them to understand, and to settle it. The brethren at Antioch WERE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION, and act accordingly! They did, and the Church was kept in UNITY, all speaking the same thing—and the thing inspired by GOD!

Today God has His Headquarters Church, where the largest number of highest ranking ministers are located.

One subject the members could not all see alike, or agree on, was that of women wearing lip-stick and make-up. The leading ministers of God's Headquarters Church went into a very thorough study of this question. We had no set opinions of our own. We sought only GOD'S truth.

God led His Church into His TRUTH. But we did not command the women to follow OUR personal ideas, like human dictators. We rendered GOD'S decision, as He revealed it to His Church—and we published a long article in The GOOD NEWS, explaining fully the Scriptural teaching so that every member could see this in his or her Bible. But when the CHURCH settled it—or rather when GOD settled it through His Church—that is FINAL, unless one can bring to the Church evidence of error, and the CHURCH *officially* alters its decision.

Another example: One of MANY things the Church MUST do, where there is no definite Scriptural direction whatsoever regarding some phase of it, is this: We are COMMANDED to take the Passover. We are *commanded* to take the wine, as well as the unleavened bread. That much is PLAIN TO ALL. But one phase of doing this which is NOT made plain in the Scripture is HOW, or by WHAT METHOD, the wine is to be passed and taken by each one.

Many will say: Since Jesus "took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves" (Luke 22:17), therefore Jesus meant to divide it into several small glasses, and each drink of it from a separate glass.

But this year at the Passover, one member declared there should be just the one great big Texas-size cup, and all 792 who took of it should have put their lips to this same big cup—no matter if it took all night and all the next day to pass the one cup to so many!

(Please continue on page 12)

Should We Pray to GOD, or Only to Christ?

Do we have access to the Father, or only to Christ? What does it mean to ask "in the name of Jesus Christ"?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

GOD'S Church has been accused of error in addressing prayers to God the Father. Two supposed former members of God's Church have set out to "speak perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:30).

Rejecting the truth, after it was patiently pointed out to them, this couple now is going farther and farther into error. They have begun sending typed or mimeographed accusations and doctrinal arguments to such brethren as they may know, attempting to discredit God's Church. We now must "mark them" as God commands, that all may "AVOID THEM" (Rom. 16:17-18).

Accusing God's Church

One such 8-page tirade against The Church of God is captioned: "THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD IS THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA." No accusation could be more false. In it this dissenter states falsely: "The work that the Radio Church of God is doing is not the preaching of the Good News to the world." To say that God's Church is not preaching the true GOSPEL to the world is a point-blank LIE! Many other false accusations and misrepresentations, and reflections against the Church, were made.

However, the main contention is the accusation that God's Church is in error in obeying Christ's instruction regarding prayer. This couple says it is wrong to address prayers, as Jesus taught, to the Father, in Jesus' name. Their basic argument is that to ask "in Jesus' name" means to ASK JESUS HIMSELF!

As this misguided man himself wrote: "It revolves around the question of what is meant by Jesus' instruction to ask in His name . . . I became convinced that Jesus meant a different manner of prayer than what is usually used. He was ascending into heaven, to be our high priest at the right hand of God the Father. Therefore, we are to come directly to Him with our requests. The words 'Ask in my name' are not a blanket power of attorney, but have a different meaning entirely."

The Scriptural teaching about TO WHOM our prayers should be addressed is so plain that a few Scriptures very

plainly set forth the TRUTH. Ten thousand pages of arguments cannot countermand, disannul, or explain away these plain basic Scriptures.

Shall We Obey Christ?

The Church of God *obeys* the HEAD of this Church, who is Jesus Christ. What did He teach and command?

One of His disciples said to Jesus. "Lord, teach us to pray."

"And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done . . ." (Luke 11:1-2).

NOTICE! Jesus, teaching His disciples, instructed "When ye pray, say, *OUR FATHER* which art in heaven." This false accuser says we are WRONG if we obey that instruction. IF JESUS CHRIST be your Saviour, Lord and Master, and High Priest, FOLLOW HIM! If this dissenter be your lord and master, then follow him.

Notice again, from Matthew's version of the "sermon on the mount."

"But when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy FATHER which is in secret: and thy FATHER which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:5-6).

NOTICE! "When thou prayest . . . pray to thy FATHER." This is a command. This is the teaching of the Head of our Church. Will we listen to Christ, and obey Him, or listen to misguided and self-willed dissenters bent on accusing, discrediting, dividing God's Church, and drawing a personal following after themselves?

Notice, further, there is promise of THE ANSWER, when we address THE FATHER in prayer: ". . . and thy FATHER shall reward thee. . . ."

In verse 8 Jesus adds, further: ". . . for your FATHER knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." It is God the FATHER who knows what we have asked HIM—not asked of Christ!

Next, Jesus instructed us HOW TO PRAY:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: OUR FATHER which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. THY Kingdom

come. THY will be done . . ." etc. (Verses 9-10).

If you can tear that teaching of Jesus out of the Bible, you might as well throw your Bible away! Yet this dissenter says we must NOT obey that teaching! He says that was all CHANGED, after the crucifixion and resurrection! If it was, the next step is to say the Sabbath was changed, and everything Jesus taught!

This dissenter has ARGUMENTS! Long, voluminous arguments. But this is a plain and simple THUS SAITH THE LORD! Can ARGUMENTS, or twisting and misapplying other Scriptures, knock these Scriptures in the head? Can you call Jesus a false teacher, and yet claim to honor Him?

Did Christ CHANGE It?

This man asks why are no prayers recorded after the four Gospels that are addressed to THE FATHER? The true answer, of course, is that there were! Yet, he argues, "The simple explanation is that Jesus Christ authorized a change in the manner of prayer He had taught, just before He was crucified. *John 16:24: 'Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.' His name was not given for men to call upon until His ministry was completed. When this was finished, He instructed us to ask in His name and from this time, there are no recorded prayers that begin with the words, 'Our Father.'*"

That is the crux of his argument! It is based on his assumption that to ask "in Jesus' name" does NOT mean what God's Church teaches—that is, by His authority—by His permission—but to ask Jesus Himself direct.

Now let us look at the Scripture he quotes, and understand it IN ITS CONTEXT. He has put into this Scripture an exact opposite meaning from its plain and simple meaning, when we read it all. He quoted only the PART of it he could twist and misapply! What was Jesus saying?

Read it ALL:

Jesus was telling His disciples, the night of His last Passover, just before He was seized to be crucified:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it

is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. . . . Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth. . . . A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go unto the Father. . . . Verily, verily I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy . . . but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, *whatsoever ye shall ask the FATHER in my name, HE will give it you.* Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:7, 13, 20, 22-24.)

NOTICE IT! Jesus' disciples had been with Him almost day and night for three and a half years. During that time they had asked HIM, direct, many things. Was that asking "in His name?" He said that up until then they had asked NOTHING *in His name*. But you can find countless Scriptures recording instances when they asked HIM, DIRECT, many things.

Asking Jesus DIRECT

Notice just a few examples of how, prior to this time, Jesus' disciples had asked HIM, direct, many things:

"And His disciples asked Him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must come first? And Jesus answered and said unto them. . . ." (Mat. 17:10.) But this was not asking IN HIS NAME, because later, Jesus said: "Hitherto ye have asked no thing in my name" (John 16:24). So when "His disciples asked Him," they were not asking "in His name."

"And when He was entered into the house from the people, His disciples asked Him . . ." (Mark 7:17). Asking "in His name" did not mean asking HIM direct here, because they *did ask Him*, but they had not, as yet, asked "in His name!"

"And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here. . . ." (Mark 9:5). Peter addressed Christ direct—but speaking to Him direct was NOT *speaking in His name!*

"And when He was come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately," (Mark 9:28). But they did not ask "in His name."

"And in the house His disciples asked Him again . . ." (Mark 10:10). Asking HIM direct was *not* asking in His name."

"Peter and James and John and An-

drew asked Him privately . . ." (Mark 13:3). But they did not asking "in His name."

Asking HIM, then—praying to, or speaking to HIM, is NOT "asking *in His name!*" For plainly, Jesus said in John 16:24, that all these many times they had asked things of HIM, direct, in person, was NOT asking "*in His name!*" "Hitherto," He said, "ye have asked nothing *in my name.*"

Now Jesus had, previously, instructed them to address their prayers to THE FATHER, as I have shown above. But He had *not*, previously, instructed them to ask *in His name*, or by HIS AUTHORITY, or as having power of attorney to ask FOR Him, in His place. But now He did authorize them to ask *in His name*.

AND OF WHOM did He instruct them to ask *in His name?*

"Whatsoever ye shall ask THE FATHER *in my name*, HE will give it you," instructed Jesus (Verse 23).

WHY DID THIS DISSENTER QUOTE ONLY VERSE 24, AND PUT AN OPPOSITE MEANING INTO IT, and OMIT VERSE 23, WHICH PLACES A MEANING ON VERSE 24 EXACTLY OPPOSITE TO THIS MAN'S ARGUMENT?

Did he not know verse 23 was there? Did he omit it purposely?

In this Scripture—Jesus' parting Message to His disciples before His crucifixion, HE DID NOT CHANGE His previous command to pray to THE FATHER. He REPEATED IT!

But *now* He gave them authority to ask *in His name*. There is POWER in the name of Christ! His name carries AUTHORITY. He assured them that when they prayed to THE FATHER, by this AUTHORITY of HIS NAME, the Father would give them what they asked!

Notice further! Did Jesus say here, "Do not pray any longer to THE FATHER—but from now on pray only to ME direct? NO!! Just the opposite! He said—NOTE IT—"In that day"—after His resurrection—after He has gone from them, and to the Father's throne in heaven—"ye shall ask ME *nothing!*"

Until then, they had asked Him many things continually. But now—in OUR DAY TODAY—He said to ask HIM NOTHING, but to ask THE FATHER, *in His name!*

The words *in His name* do not tell us WHOM to ask. They tell us HOW to ask—that is, by Christ's authority. Jesus told WHO to ask. He commanded "*Ask the FATHER!*"

Christ's Command to US

This accuser states, falsely: "Jesus Christ authorized a change in the manner of prayer He had taught, just before He was crucified."

He quoted—or rather MISquoted—

John 16:24. It is shown above, so plainly a little child can see, that Jesus did not authorize any change but rather confirmed what He had taught, now merely adding authority to ask IN HIS NAME.

EVERYTHING Jesus taught and commanded His disciples is a teaching and command for us today!

AFTER His resurrection, just before ascending to heaven, Jesus' last spoken COMMAND was: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in (to) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: *teaching them* to observe ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I have commanded you." (Mat. 28:19-20.)

Jesus had taught and commanded THEM *to pray to the Father*. He had authorized them to address the FATHER *in His name*. Now, just before parting from them in Person, He commanded them to go into all the world—teaching those whom they baptized to observe ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER He had commanded them. He had commanded them to address their prayers to THE FATHER. So now they were to teach *all converts*, likewise, to pray *to God the Father*.

Meaning of "in Jesus' Name"

This man argues that the words "*in Jesus' name*"—or, as Christ Himself instructed us, in praying to the Father, to do it "*in my name*"—does not mean by His authority—by His instruction or permission—but, rather, he argues that to ask "*in Jesus' name*" is TO ASK JESUS HIMSELF DIRECTLY.

Now let us look at a few Scriptures and see how ridiculous this contention is.

Notice Jeremiah 14:14: "Then the LORD said unto me, the prophets prophesy lies in my name: . . ." If "*in my name*" means "ask ME," then these false prophets were prophesying LIES *direct to the LORD!* Were these false prophets preaching their lies *to the Eternal*, trying to mislead and deceive HIM? How foolish! He says, same verse: ". . . they prophesy *unto YOU* a false vision." They were addressing, NOT the Eternal, but the PEOPLE. But HOW? "IN CHRIST'S NAME"—for He is the "LORD" spoken of in this verse. Of course they *claimed to preach* BY HIS AUTHORITY, but they were lying. He had not sent them. The very fact that the context shows THE ETERNAL (Christ) had not sent them, and that they were LYING when they claimed to be speaking "IN HIS NAME" shows definitely and positively and finally that they CLAIMED to speak by HIS AUTHORITY—only they were lying. "*In my name,*" here, then, means "BY MY AUTHORITY!"

Consider the 23d chapter of Jeremiah.

It pronounces woes on the false preachers. It is a *prophecy* for OUR DAY, NOW! The Eternal tells us, verse 16, not to listen to the preachers who flatter their congregations, to inflate their congregations' vanity, speaking *their own* ideas, but NOT the Word of the Eternal. Yet they CLAIMED to be representing Christ.

"They say . . . The Eternal hath said . . ."—that is, that they are sent BY Christ, as His representative, with His words, and therefore *by His authority*. But God says (verse 16): ". . . they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Eternal." They were lying about representing Christ—speaking FOR Him—by His authority.

"I have NOT sent these prophets," (preachers), says Christ (Verse 21). Yet they CLAIMED to speak BY HIS AUTHORITY: "I have heard what the prophets said," says the Eternal (verse 25), "that prophesy LIES *in my name*."

Here again, "*in my name*" means "as my authorized representative," or "by my authority." If it means, as this deceived couple argue, "prophesy to or address ME direct," then you read into it the ridiculously foolish meaning of these false preachers preaching lies TO CHRIST DIRECT—but NOT to the people!

Notice Jeremiah 26:9: "Why hast thou prophesied *in the name of the LORD*, saying . . ." Jeremiah was not prophesying TO THE LORD DIRECT. He was not speaking TO CHRIST. Christ (The Eternal) had spoken *to him*, and Jeremiah had spoken Christ's words, as CHRIST AUTHORIZED, *to the people!* Here, so plainly all can see, "*in the name of the LORD*" means by the LORD's authority—by His permission—by His command. It does not mean TO the LORD. Jeremiah spoke TO the people.

Need we go further?

Jeremiah continued to warn these people: ". . . for of a truth *the LORD hath sent me* unto you to speak all these words in your ears. Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and to the prophets, This man is not worthy to die: for he hath spoken TO US *in the name of the LORD our God*." (Verses 15-16.)

Jeremiah did not speak TO the Eternal—he spoke TO the people. But the Eternal sent him. The Eternal authorized him to address his speech to the people, and speaking by this authority is plainly designated as speaking to them "*in the name of the LORD*." Speaking "*in His name*" is NOT speaking TO Christ—but BY HIS AUTHORITY!

Remember the disciples had addressed many questions to Jesus direct. Yet He said, "Hitherto have ye asked NOTHING *in my name*." (John 16:24.) Hitherto they had asked HIM, direct, on their

OWN initiative—NOT by Jesus' direction or authority—but by their own. But, after He left them and ascended to heaven, "ye shall ask ME nothing . . . Whatsoever ye shall ask THE FATHER *in my name*, HE will give it you." (Verse 23.) He was here and now AUTHORIZING them to ask *in His name*, but commanding them to address their prayer TO THE FATHER.

Nothing could be plainer.

Apostles Prayed to the FATHER

Now just one or two points more, and we shall have an END to these nonsensical and perverted arguments against Christ's commands. This man says, as quoted above, that no prayers were addressed to the Father after the Four Gospels—that is, as recorded in the Book of Acts, and other Books of the New testament following.

He even had the audacity to quote Acts 4:24, 29, and say they were praying to Jesus, and *not* to the Father!

Peter and John had been put in prison overnight, and threatened.

"And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that they lifted up their voice to GOD with one accord and said, Lord, thou art GOD . . ." (Acts 4:23-24).

Now TO WHOM were they praying? This dissenter says that "God" sometimes means Christ—which is true—but apparently does not know that the word "Lord" also sometimes refers to THE FATHER, as it does here!

Let's read on. It becomes very PLAIN as TO WHOM they are praying:

"For of a truth against THY HOLY CHILD JESUS, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles . . ." etc. (Verse 27).

Jesus is called the holy CHILD of the One to whom they were praying. Jesus was the child of GOD THE FATHER. So they were praying to the FATHER, whom, they said, "THOU hast anointed." They were praying to the One who had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit. The FATHER anointed Jesus (Mat. 3:17; Mark 1:10-11). Therefore they were addressing this prayer TO THE FATHER!

Now notice verses 29-30. The prayer continues: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants . . . that signs and wonders may be done *by the name of THY HOLY CHILD JESUS*."

Again, they were addressing their prayer to THE FATHER of Jesus. They were NOT asking that signs and wonders might be done TO Jesus direct—but that they might be done "*by the name*" of God's Son, Jesus—BY HIS AUTHORITY!

Quoting Acts 4:24 this man admits: "Portions of this prayer appear to be spoken to the Father." Then why contradict himself, saying: "Why are there no prayers recorded after the Gospels . . . with any indication that the prayer is being addressed to the Father?"

Isn't it absurd that a man with a college education, as this man claims to have, would claim that Jesus CHANGED, when He says He has never changed, and that Christ did away with His own teachings and commands, just before His death—and that he would argue that "in Jesus name" means TO Jesus; and that no prayers were addressed to the FATHER, after the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?

Jesus thanked God that these truths are revealed unto BABES, and hidden from the wise and prudent. A college education *in this world's colleges* can be a very great HANDICAP, rather than a help. Still, ANYONE can understand the TRUTH whose heart is willing!

Access to the Father

This man would deny God's own children access to their heavenly FATHER. But what IS the very WAY of God, by which we are converted? Our SINS have cut us off from God (Isa. 59:1-2). Sin is the transgression of the LAW. There is ONE Lawgiver—God the FATHER (Jas. 4:12). Sin cuts us off from the FATHER. When we repent of sin, our repentance is toward God the FATHER (Acts 20:21). But saving FAITH is toward Christ (same verse). When we repent, and receive Christ as Lord and MASTER, and are baptized as the symbol of our FAITH toward Christ, then what happens? The blood of Christ RECONCILES us to the FATHER (Rom. 5:10).

And, once reconciled to the FATHER, He puts HIS SPIRIT into us, BEGETTING us as HIS BEGOTTEN CHILDREN. We are not begotten by CHRIST to become sons of Christ. Jesus is our elder Brother—the first-born of many BRETHREN. To be reconciled to the Father for transgression of HIS Law is to have ACCESS direct to HIM.

Now notice: "For through HIM (Christ) we both (Jew and Gentile) *have access* by one Spirit UNTO THE FATHER." (Eph. 2:18).

Christ has purchased for us and given us direct access to the Father! He has AUTHORIZED us to go direct to the Father in PRAYER. Notice again: ". . . according to the eternal purpose which He (the Father) purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. . . . For this cause I bow my knees (in prayer) UNTO THE FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His Glory, to be strengthened . . ." (Eph. 3:11-16). The Apostle Paul bowed his knees (both knees) in prayer direct to THE FATHER!

Why did this man say no prayers were addressed to the Father after the Four Gospels?

Col. 1:3: "We give thanks to God and the FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, PRAYING always for you." WHY does this man deny this Scripture?

Eph. 5:20: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the FATHER *in the name of* our Lord Jesus Christ." Praying to the FATHER. Yet by authority from Christ, who gives us access to the Father.

In 51-52 A.D. Paul and Timothy gave thanks to God the Father (I Thes. 1:1-2).

We are to call on God the FATHER (I Peter 1:17).

Col. 1:12-13: "Giving thanks unto the FATHER . . . who hath . . . delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son."

If we have the Holy Spirit, "we cry (pray) Abba, FATHER" (Rom. 8:15) as Jesus prayed (Mark 14:36).

Our High Priest

Finally, what about Christ as our High Priest?

WHY is Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of our Church, now appearing before God the Father, at God's right hand? He is there to make intercession for us.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto GOD by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:25). Yes, Jesus Christ is able to save those who *come to GOD the Father*—and we have been given access to come to the Father IN PRAYER—*by* Christ. We cannot approach the Father by our own merits. We have none. Christ is the door—the way. One does not go to a door and STOP. He goes on *through* the door. Christ gives us access to GOD. And He INTERCEDES with God *for us*.

This intercession of our blessed HIGH PRIEST *does not mean that we pray to Christ and that He then carries our request to the Father.*

Notice Scriptural proof of this: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for *we know not* what we should pray for as we ought: but *the Spirit itself* MAKETH INTERCESSION for us . . ." (Rom. 8:26). Nowhere does the Bible give any teaching or example of Christians praying TO the Holy Spirit. Here is a plain example of Christians *not knowing WHAT to pray for*—but God's Holy Spirit intercedes for them. They do not pray TO the Spirit, and then the Spirit

transmit their request to God; but rather, the Spirit *itself* moves upon God for that which they did NOT ask, since they did not know WHAT to ask!

In like manner, we have access direct to the Father, to pray direct to Him by CHRIST'S PERMISSION. Christ, our High Priest at the Father's side, *also* petitions the Father for us—offering HIS SACRIFICE in lieu of our unworthiness.

Elijah made intercession to God AGAINST Israel (Rom. 11:2). This was not acting as a go-between to transmit THEIR prayers to God. Paul taught that we HUMANS should make intercession for ALL MEN (I Tim. 2:1).

Our FELLOWSHIP

Many of our brethren *hunger* for the *fellowship* of other brethren. They long to be able to TALK WITH others of like mind and the same Spirit.

But our FELLOWSHIP is first of all "with the FATHER, and with the Son Jesus Christ." (I John 1:3).

How do we have FELLOWSHIP? By meeting with—conversing with!

When we *pray* to the Father, and/or to Christ, we are speaking to them. When we read and study the Bible, they are talking to us. The Bible is the Word of GOD. Although Jesus is the WORD—the direct author of the Bible—yet He spoke only as the FATHER commanded Him. So the Bible is the WORD to US from both the FATHER and the SON.

When Jesus Christ, our Saviour, High Priest and Lord, reconciles us to the FATHER—gives us direct access to the Father, we have the great HONOR, paid for by Christ's very life which He gave, to speak directly to the Father.

But our fellowship is also with Jesus Christ, God's divine SON. Christ is now on the Father's throne with Him, at His right hand as our High priest. We have fellowship with Jesus Christ ALSO.

WE DO, WE MAY, WE SHOULD, *ALSO PRAY TO JESUS CHRIST!* Yet the teaching and examples of the Bible place overwhelming main emphasis on praying to the Father.

God's Church does not forbid any to pray to Christ. It is not so much a matter of to WHICH Person we are to pray. We do not condemn this couple for praying to Christ. Rather, they condemn God's Church for praying to the Father. But we DO SAY that *one who has no fellowship with the FATHER by prayer is CUT OFF from God!*

Our accuser quoted Scriptures to show that the apostles (Acts 1:24-25) prayed direct to Jesus to show them, by lot, which of HIS DISCIPLES who had followed with them in Jesus' personal ministry He had chosen to take Judas' place. Of course! And so should God's minis-

ters of today, under the same circumstances! Jesus had taught these candidates *personally*. God gave Him this ministry personally. Jesus is GOD—and the FATHER is God. Jesus is worthy of our worship—and that of angels! But the FATHER is the HEAD even of Jesus!

This dissenting couple accuse God's Church of by-passing, and insulting JESUS. We do neither—we OBEY HIM, and honor Him in so doing. It is rather THEY who are by-passing and ignoring THE FATHER. We are to WORSHIP GOD, as well as Christ. They quote Acts 7:59-60, where Stephen called out to Jesus Christ. God's Church knows that, and always has taught it!

This couple falsely accuse God's Church of putting them out for no more than "calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." That is a deliberate falsehood and effort to discredit God's Church and draw a following after themselves. We TEACH all members to "CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST." Since all members do, how absurd would it be to put two supposed members out for doing what we teach should be done?

They were put out for the wrong spirit they allowed to possess them, and for false doctrines, and for having dis-fellowshipped themselves from THE FATHER, thereby cutting themselves off from God, His fellowship, and ours.

II Thes. 3:6: "Now we command you, brethren, *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received from us."

Here, by AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST is a command for all members of God's Church to WITHDRAW FROM this couple who walk thus disorderly, and not after GOD'S true tradition they did receive from us. These Scriptures have been gone into with this couple personally, in long sessions, and they rejected them and set out to mislead God's people and discredit God's Church.

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine (of Christ and His Church) receive him not into your house." (II Jno. 10).

Let us realize that this is not a harsh or unkind command. It is God's punishment of them, and His mercy and protection for His Church. God punishes every son whom He loves. To be CUT OFF FROM GOD is the most severe curse that can come to any person or people. To condone such a crime and make light of it by remaining in the friendship and fellowship of those who commit it is to 1) *harm and injure them*, by encouraging them to be deceived into thinking

(Please continue on page 12)

Greatest PASSOVER *Ever!*

The greatest Passover observance in modern times has just ended! Meanwhile, God's local churches continue to grow. Local church buildings are now almost a REALITY!

by Roderick C. Meredith

WHILE the worst spring storms and floods in decades continue to rage across the country, God's church is still being BLESSED.

We are to be the "light of the world" (Mat. 5:16), and that light is destined to shine with increasing POWER as the end of this age approaches. So, in spite of the temporary trials and setbacks which we all have, we need to *thank God* that the overall picture is one of *blessings* and *progress* for God's Church—and for us who are used as human instruments in it!

Thousands of us were recently blessed in the wonderful Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread observed as a full eight-day festival in NINE different places throughout the world! We had reported to you last month that seven of these occasions would be held, but word has just arrived from Australia that Mr. Gerald Waterhouse conducted a full eight-day festival of preaching and Bible studies for our brethren down there as well!

And, just as this is being written, word has arrived from the Philippines that a full eight-day festival was observed in that far-off land! Also, we are certain that several ministers who have accepted God's *Truth* have held Passover services in Africa, on Formosa and perhaps in other parts of the world.

Truly, this was the GREATEST Passover ever to be held in this modern era of God's true Church!

The Passover Observed in Australia

From the continent "down under," Mr. Gerald Waterhouse reports that the brethren there had a wonderful spiritual feast during the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. To our knowledge, this was the FIRST time that God's Holy Days have been observed by His people in Australia!

Many problems arose to hinder this observance, but God showed His blessing and power in helping overcome every obstacle to the observance of His commanded festival days. Mr. Waterhouse reports that up until two weeks before the Passover nothing suitable had opened up in the way of a hall which could be used for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread there in Sydney, Australia. However, right at that time—*just in time to inform the brethren*—a

very fine hall was made accessible to use during the festival season!

Mr. Waterhouse relates: "To our utter surprise, the hall was one which was totally unfamiliar to us and in clear view from my office window! In spite of all the inquiries I had made and the number of different places which I had visited, not one person even mentioned this particular hall. God surely brought these things about to let us know He is in charge of operations here and will provide for us if we will just trust Him. Just why this hall has gone unnoticed and unrented by the organizations in this vast area is beyond me unless it is just that God reserved it for us as He did the office space we use and the home in which we live."

Mr. Waterhouse writes that this hall was built by the "Australian Institute of Builders" and especially designed for lectures up to three hours' duration! It has softly cushioned, arm-supported chairs which were specially built, an acoustical system effectively installed, and very appropriate indirect lighting throughout the building with spotlights especially for the speaker's platform. It will seat up to 250 people and in an adjoining room there is a nice kitchen with a stove and refrigerator and all facilities necessary for God's festivals!

"On Sunday before the Passover service," Mr. Waterhouse reports, "I held a meeting about twenty miles out of Sydney in Blacktown to discuss baptism with several who wanted to be baptized before the service and most of whom were staying at this particular place during the festival. After going into baptism and related topics for a few hours, I found that eight were ready for baptism and we proceeded with the service. In spite of our time being limited and without a knowledge of where the baptizing could be performed, God worked circumstances out so that everything had been done and we could all return to Sydney in time for the Passover. With the addition of these eight people to the members in Sydney, 29 of us took the Passover."

Healings and GROWTH in Australia

During the course of the festival, Mr. Waterhouse relates, God allowed several of the brethren to be confronted with various sicknesses, afflictions and infir-

mities. But in *every single case* God raised each person affected and *not one* person missed a single meeting because of any of these complications.

"It seemed God was letting the significance of the unleavened bread taken at the Passover service be impressed upon our minds indelibly," Mr. Waterhouse stated.

Mr. Frank Longuskie and Mr. Charles Hefner—both from Ambassador College and assisting Mr. Waterhouse in Australia—were a great deal of help in all of the physical work and counseling the people throughout the entire festival, he reports. In closing, Mr. Waterhouse states: "The brethren were so encouraged through the festival that they are now looking forward to Pentecost and the meetings which will be conducted for *three full days*. And, on beyond this festival, many are making preparations to be in attendance throughout the entire eight days during the Feast of Tabernacles and great High Day festival. In addition, we are encouraged that others unable to be here for the Passover will be here for the Feast of Tabernacles. Several have written to this effect. Too, by the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, there should be a good number added to the Church in Australia as they come to full repentance and are baptized."

"As the broadcast penetrates the minds of more people and they are brought to repentance by the TRUTH set forth in the literature, I am confident that as the people in God's church throughout the world pray fervently for the people in this vast continent, Mr. Tony Hammer and I will have some fruitful baptizing tours later this year."

Brethren, we hope that this detailed report of how God's people clear around on the other side of the earth are observing His feast days just as we in this country are will be as *interesting* and *inspiring* to all of you as it is to us! You have already heard that Mr. Tony Hammer—son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hammer of the big Tabernacle in Gladewater—and accompanied by his able wife, Natalie, is being sent to Australia in June to assist Mr. Waterhouse and the work of God on the Australian continent. Will *you* be PRAYING that God will bless the work of His Church in Australia?

Will *you* pray earnestly that God will

STOP the hand of Satan and his persecutors in that area? Will you ask God's blessing and guidance for Mr. Waterhouse and the men and women who are assisting him in this "outpost" of God's work?

Now, a decision has just been made in a ministerial conference here at God's headquarters that Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Faulkner—a young married couple in God's Church who are zealous Ambassador students—are to be temporarily pulled out of Ambassador College and rushed by plane to Australia as soon as they may obtain passports and air passage! This emergency measure is being taken because of the OVERWHELMING amount of work in the Australian office and Church. The work of Jesus Christ—the living HEAD of this Church—has grown to tremendous proportions on that continent just within the last few months!

But this growth is already bringing with it persecutions by religious pressure groups in that area as Mr. Armstrong has reported to you! Be sure your fervent PRAYERS are with God's servants and His work in that continent! And let us REJOICE in the wonderful growth and blessings that God is continuing to shower upon His work around this earth in spite of every persecution and opposition of Satan the Devil and his human instruments!

The Passover Observed in Britain and the Philippines

Mr. Raymond McNair—evangelist in charge of the work in the British Isles—reports that our brethren in Britain had a wonderful Passover festival this spring. Starting with a Passover observance participated in by only about 15 people three years ago, the converted membership of God's Church in London has multiplied five times so that this year there were 75 baptized adult members who partook of the Passover service in London! In addition, 14 brethren partook of the Passover in Bristol, England.

Mr. McNair reports that there were about 120 present for the feast day and several dozen remained for regular Bible studies and preaching services during the entire period of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The wonderful and beautiful grounds and buildings of our future Ambassador College campus there had proved to be a perfect setting for God's feast days in England! Mr. McNair states that our brethren in England are feeling continually closer and more a part of God's work from headquarters here in the United States, and they send "greetings" to all of you brethren here.

Let us remember our brethren in Britain in earnest prayers of thanks-

giving for the many blessings God has granted His church there—and supplication that He will continue to bless, strengthen and keep them unreprouvable until the day of Jesus Christ's coming!

From the Philippine Islands, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero reports that they had a full quota of daily preaching services during the Days of Unleavened Bread. A total of 23 baptized adult members of God's Church in the Philippines partook of the sacred Passover service. Most of these remained throughout the entire eight-day period for a spiritual feast of daily preaching and Bible study. Mr. Ortiguero was assisted in conducting these services by Mr. Dionicio Descargar—a dedicated servant of God who has proved an able assistant to Mr. Ortiguero in ministering to our small congregation in the Philippines.

Mr. Ortiguero reports: "I surely believe that the Church in the United States was mentioning us many times in their prayers during the feast that we might experience a very wonderful time. For this we are here sending our thanks to all of you who have remembered us in prayers during the spring festival."

Let us all, brethren, pray more fervently that God will guide and bless those who yield to Him in the Philippine Islands and other men in scattered areas throughout this earth who are beginning to see His truth and walk in it—and teach others as a last witness before the end of this age.

Passover Observed at the Big Tabernacle, near Gladewater

Here in the United States, the largest single gathering for the Passover took place at our own big Tabernacle near Gladewater and Big Sandy, Texas. As usual, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong were present to conduct these important services which lasted throughout the entire eight or nine-day festival.

A total of 792 baptized adult members took the Passover and about 1500 people, including children, attended the feast and most of these stayed throughout the entire period for the preaching and Bible studies! Lending valuable assistance in the preaching and counseling were Mr. Jon Hill, pastor this semester of the churches in Gladewater and Minden, Mr. Allen Manteufel and Mr. Richard Prince, who are respectively pastors in the San Antonio-Corpus Christi and Dallas-Houston church areas. Also, Mr. Tony Hammer and Mr. Cecil Battles assisted in bringing helpful and inspiring sermonettes during the services.

Mrs. Armstrong stated that she felt that this was undoubtedly the best spring festival which has ever been held at the Tabernacle, and many commented that the ministers there gave especially help-

ful and powerful sermons on everyday Christian living.

It was noted that Mr. Tony Hammer showed tremendous growth and potential in preaching, and he will undoubtedly be of great help to Mr. Waterhouse in God's work on the Australian continent.

Passover in New York City and Pittsburgh

This year, for the second time, the Passover and a full eight days of services were conducted in New York City. The attendance there was nearly double that of last year since a local church has now been established. A total of 150 adult members partook in the sacred service of God's Passover, and about 220 were present for the feast.

Mr. Raymond Cole, evangelist and supervisor over the field ministers in the United States, flew back to New York to help conduct these services. He was joined by Mr. Carlton Smith, pastor of the New York church, and for part of the festival by Mr. Wayne Cole, his brother, who is pastor of God's churches in Pittsburgh and Akron. Mr. Cole reports that the church in New York is strong and enthusiastic and that they had a most inspiring eight days of preaching services during the festival of Unleavened Bread.

Before coming to New York, Mr. Wayne Cole conducted the Passover services in our church at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with 168 baptized members partaking of the Passover there. Also, Mr. Bob Hoops, who is acting as assistant pastor in these two churches, conducted the Passover service in Akron, Ohio, with 45 adults partaking. With both churches joining together for the feast in Pittsburgh on the first Holy Day, there were over 400 in attendance.

The Passover in Chicago

Another full festival with eight days of preaching services was held in Chicago, Illinois, with Mrs. Meredith and me flying back to join Mr. Dean Blackwell, pastor of the churches in Chicago, Milwaukee, and El Paso, Illinois. We were ably assisted by Mr. Frank McCrady and Mr. Harold Jackson—both ordained local elders in this area. Also, outstanding sermonettes were given by Mr. Arthur Mocarow—a zealous member of the Chicago congregation, and Mr. Richard Pinelli and Mr. Richard Plache—both advanced students in Ambassador College who were visiting home during this season.

A total of 383 adult members partook of the Passover service and about 650 people, including children, attended on the first Holy Day. There were three to four hundred present throughout the entire eight days for preaching services

each night, and a smaller number for afternoon Bible studies. This was a real spiritual "feast" and the brethren in the Illinois-Wisconsin-Indiana area became much better acquainted with each other in love and Christian fellowship.

A Busy Time

This trip also gave me a much better opportunity to get acquainted with the huge ministerial area which is the responsibility of Mr. Dean Blackwell, God's minister in that area. Flying from Pasadena, our plane touched down at O'Hare field, just outside of Chicago, about 3:30 Friday afternoon and we were greeted at the terminal by Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell and Mr. McCrady. From the airport, we drove immediately to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the Sabbath services there which have to be held on Friday nights in this most busy circuit.

Before the services, we had time for only a brief evening meal and then drove immediately to the hall and began the services soon after arrival. The Milwaukee church is young and small but *very enthusiastic*. However, with slow but steady growth, its membership is now approaching 100. After the service, we visited for some time with the brethren, and then drove to the outskirts of the city to our motel to gain a few hours of sleep before the heavy schedule the next day.

Arising early after only about five or six hours' sleep, we ate a hasty breakfast, jumped in the car and headed for Chicago to preach to the brethren there. The Chicago congregation has grown to be our second largest church outside of Pasadena headquarters. In this church, God has called an unusual mixture of nearly every race which is found in the United States! We have brethren there who are English, Irish, Scotch, Polish, Czech, Russian, German, Italian, Armenian, Mexican, Negro—and even one or two Jewish brethren!

It was a memorable experience to preach for the first time to this warm and responsive congregation, to visit with them briefly, and then "take off" again to another church! This time we drove south to a quaint little country church building near El Paso, Illinois. Mr. Blackwell has been able to secure this little church edifice for our services in that area because the other local churches have simply not put it to any use and it is completely community property—available to any in that area who will keep it up.

What a change from the big city atmosphere of Chicago! Here in El Paso, we found brethren who were farmers and small town business men and workers in various trades. After the service there, we had a baptismal service in a

portable tank situated just outside the church and in the almost icy cool of the evening, *eight* new brethren were immersed into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—in the name, or by the *authority*, of Jesus Christ, our Savior and living HEAD!

These brethren were so enthusiastic that most of the church stayed until after 8:00 P.M. that evening in Christian fellowship and visiting! We finally left, ate our first real meal of the day on the way home, and arrived at Mr. Blackwell's home in Joliet, Illinois, about 1:00 A. M. Sunday morning.

Relating these details, brethren, should give all of you a better idea of the tremendous load of WORK which is carried by many of our ministers and of how they have to drive themselves in order to accomplish the job God has laid upon them. Also, perhaps this will give all of you an idea of the church area in and around Chicago and encourage all of you to *pray* more for the brethren and God's ministers in that area.

Passover Services in Denver and Portland

Coming west from Chicago, the next area where we had a full eight-day Festival of Unleavened Bread was in Denver, Colorado. Here, Mr. Burk McNair—local minister in the Colorado-Kansas area—was joined by Mr. Al Portune from Pasadena to conduct the preaching services and Bible studies. They were very ably assisted in this by Mr. Roger Foster—recent graduate of Ambassador College and assistant pastor in this area.

Mr. McNair reports that an outstanding festival was enjoyed by everyone there and that a great deal of love was shown by everyone throughout the entire Passover season. Mr. McNair and Mr. Roger Foster both gave very helpful sermons on Christian living. And Mr. McNair said he was very thankful to have the help and outstanding messages brought by Mr. Portune during his stay there.

Mr. McNair reports: "We had a great blessing having Mr. Al Portune and his family with us and wish it were possible they could be here for the three days during the feast of Pentecost, but know that might be a bit selfish on our part. We enjoyed some inspiring sermons from Mr. Portune. Many have commented about the good they received from his messages and how wonderfully he had been inspired."

A total of 217 baptized members took the sacred symbols of the bread and wine in the Passover service. About 360 remained for the first Holy Day services, and nearly 200 remained steadily throughout the entire eight-day festival in Denver.

Further west, in Portland, Oregon, another full eight-day festival was enjoyed by the brethren in the Oregon and Washington churches. Mr. Benjamin Rea, minister and also professor in Ambassador College and now slated to be the first Dean of our new college in Britain, drove up to Portland to take charge of the services there. Accompanying him were Mr. Dale Hampton—elder from the Pasadena church—and the wives of both men. Mr. Hampton is slated to take over as pastor of the Portland church in June.

220 adults partook of the Passover there and over 475 were present for the first Holy Day service. Over 100 stayed throughout the entire period for the week-day preaching services and Bible studies. Assisting and conducting the preaching and Bible studies were Mr. Jim Friddle, pastor of God's churches in Seattle and Tacoma, Mr. Lcs McCollm, local elder in the Portland church, and Mr. David Antion, graduate of Ambassador College and now acting as assistant pastor to Mr. Raymond Cole of the Portland Church of God.

Passover Observance in Pasadena and other California Churches

At God's headquarters Church in Pasadena, 747 baptized members partook of the Passover observance, and about 1000 were present for the feast. As you brethren can see, Pasadena has really GROWN!

Mr. Herman Hoeh remained at headquarters and took charge of the services in Pasadena, assisted by Mr. Norman Smith, Mr. Ernest Martin, and Mr. Leroy Neff. Bible studies were held each evening throughout the entire festival season, and very enlightening sermons were given by Mr. Hoeh and Mr. Martin related to the theses on which they are both working for advanced degrees from Ambassador College. Also, Mr. Norman Smith brought a very moving sermon on the persecutions that are beginning to set in against God's work. While this comes to mind, brethren, let me remind you that God's work NEEDS your prayers that He will withstand the hand of Satan and protect the "doors" of radio and of the printing press which He has opened for His work to use as instruments in reaching this world with His gospel!

Because our hall in Pasadena could not even accommodate all those in this area, the Passover was also held in God's church at Long Beach, California, with 83 partaking of the Passover and about 160 brethren attending the feast. Mr. Leroy Neff, Long Beach pastor, conducted these services and stated that they had a fine festival and an enthusiastic group there.

Elsewhere in California and around

the nation, Passover observances were held in San Diego, California, with 89 partaking of the Passover there and about 140 present for the feast. Mr. Norman Smith was in charge and some of the brethren report that he preached a most inspiring and helpful sermon on what Christian love really is—as well as other helpful and important messages that were delivered on the Sabbath and Holy Days.

Mr. Kenneth Swisher here at Ambassador this semester for work in the graduate school—took charge of the Passover observance at Fresno with 150 brethren partaking of the Passover and about 230 present for the first Holy Day.

In Houston, Texas, 109 took the Passover with 173 brethren in attendance on the first Holy Day. Mr. Prince, minister of the Houston and Dallas churches, took charge of the service assisted by Mr. Cecil Battles.

In Springfield, Missouri, Mr. Bryce Clark conducted Passover services with 198 adults partaking, and over 250 present for the Feast. This shows real GROWTH in our new church in Springfield!

As this goes to press, final reports on the Passover and feast are not in from other local church areas or from some of our co-operating pastors abroad. But from every report, this has undoubtedly been the GREATEST Passover observance in modern times—with a total attendance of converted, baptized adult members of God's true Church ranging well over 3600 brethren—plus hundreds of children and young people who sat in on the preaching and Bible studies but were not yet able to take the Passover! In addition, of course, literally *hundreds* of you brethren across the nation and around the world observed the Passover quietly in your own homes if you were simply unable to assemble with God's people in one of these great convocations God has made possible.

Listen to Others?

(Continued from page 4)

In such cases, the individual member does NOT have authority to determine God's will—THE CHURCH has authority to determine the procedure for THE WHOLE CHURCH!

God did not give us one absolutely plain Scripture on HOW this wine was to be divided among us. Jesus did say: "DIVIDE it among yourselves." Therefore, GOD has shown His CHURCH that, since God is not the author of confusion, and all things must be done decently and in order, that the ORDERLY way to DIVIDE the wine among 792 people is to divide it into 792 small glasses, pro-

vided specially for this very purpose. There is NO BIBLE TEACHING saying, as this man said, that all must put their mouths to the same one and only cup!

Therefore, the CHURCH HAS RULED! That ruling has the AUTHORITY OF GOD! Every member is *commanded*, by the government of GOD in His Church, to partake of the Passover as the Church has been inspired to rule. Any member is perfectly free to come to the Headquarters Church to present any reasons he may have why he thinks the Church ought to rule otherwise.

But, so long as he remains a member in the fellowship of God's Church, he is NOT free to voice his contrary doctrine to any other members, or to do otherwise, but obey the Church's commands, which, in such a case, ARE THE COMMANDS OF GOD! Otherwise, he is coming with a different doctrine—he is causing division, tending to stir up strife and introduce confusion—and he must be MARKED, and disfellowshipped, and refused permission to be in the fellowship of any of our brethren!

This is GOD'S WAY of preserving UNITY! This is GOD'S WAY of leading us all to SPEAK THE SAME THING, and insuring that it be the very thing GOD wills, not our human will.

The Church at Eugene, Oregon, was split over a division of human opinion on HOW to count 50—and on setting the right day for all the Church to assemble for the Feast of Pentecost. This split was *started* by TWO WOMEN! Only the CHURCH has authority to determine such matters for ALL THE CHURCH. Otherwise there is confusion. Those carnal minded members who rebelled are no longer in God's Church. But The Church of God goes joyfully on, and on, constantly GROWING, and as God's instrument, doing the Work of God WORLD-WIDE, producing FRUIT, having God's continued and abundant BLESSINGS!

These things, dear Brethren, we speak to you, that all may understand, and that we may be drawn closer and closer to the TRUTH, in harmony, and the SPIRIT OF GOD and GOD'S LOVE! Thus, and only thus, do we have God's blessing!

Pray Only to Christ?

(Continued from page 8)

they do right; and 2) to cut ourselves off from God—for whoever even bids them God speed is PARTAKER of their evil deeds. If we truly LOVE these people, and also LOVE GOD, we will do as God says.

A Grave DANGER!

This totally unscriptural doctrine, based on erroneous human reason, pro-

mulgated by this couple is a satanic doctrine of great DANGER!

What is the essence of all pagan doctrines? How did Satan deceive the world with heathen doctrines? The ancient pagans *knew* there was one SUPREME GOD and FATHER over ALL. But, like this misguided couple, they reasoned that *He was unapproachable!* He was totally INACCESSIBLE! They had to approach only a go-between—a lesser god. Satan represented his demons as demi-gods, to whom people should address their prayers. THAT IS THE WAY THE IDEA OF THE MANY GODS of the pagans originated. The Roman Catholics make Mary such an intermediary. *They pray to her!* Also to dead "saints."

To turn Jesus Christ into such a demi-god IS HERESY, and AN INSULT to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ paid THE SUPREME PENALTY for us—*why?* To purchase for us *access direct to God* the Supreme FATHER over all! To DENY that access is to DENY the very blood of Jesus Christ! Far from honoring Christ, this erring couple, in the smug conceit of their own supposed intellectual human reasoning, are DENYING Him—disobeying Him—insulting Him!

Jesus Christ, who is very GOD, is also our ELDER BROTHER! He made it possible for us to have access to the Father so that we might be begotten by the FATHER. We are not begotten by our elder BROTHER. A brother does not beget and sire brothers! We are begotten by our FATHER into HIS FAMILY.

My sons and daughters have always had a FAMILY RELATIONSHIP with, and full access to, ME. All of us who are God's begotten children have ACCESS to GOD THE FATHER. And, we also have access to our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, and to our still human but begotten brothers and sisters! It is a WONDERFUL family relationship!

Yes, PRAISE GOD for it! We have access direct to the FATHER—and also to Jesus Christ! Many times DAILY we may go into intimate COMMUNION with BOTH God and Christ—our FATHER and our BROTHER! Our GOD and our SAVIOUR! HOW WONDERFUL to really come to KNOW the great supreme GOD! How grateful to Jesus we should be for making this blessed privilege possible! The MOST JOYOUS thing in life is to have this COMMUNION—this close and intimate FELLOWSHIP with *both* the FATHER and Christ the SON!

God's Church certainly does not forbid members to commune with and pray to Christ Jesus—but neither must we leave UNDONE the communion and fellowship with and prayers to THE FATHER, who is the HEAD of Christ, and of all that is!