

The

Good News

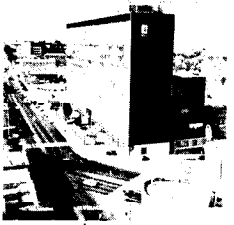
International Magazine of The Church of God



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 1

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE BUILDING

JANUARY, 1964



More About Our Cover...

This modern glass and steel building houses the offices of the Work in Australia. It is located just across the famous Sydney bridge from the bustling heart of Sydney. Convenient to all the facilities needed, such as banks and postal service, this fine office building matches the caliber, quality and culture of all our offices world-wide. Read Mr. Wayne Cole's article in this issue describing the history and the present activity of the Work of God in Australia.

What our READERS SAY...

"The Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course in which I am enrolled is the greatest projection of God's revealed, unadulterated truth that I have come in contact with; and being a Minister since 1931, and having attended and graduated from a Southern Baptist College and Seminary with A.B. and B.D. degrees, and having served as Pastor of Baptist churches, worked as a Missionary with our Home Mission Board, and Chaplain of the Army for more than three years in World War II, so you know I have been exposed to a lot. I have often thought, how different my life and ministry may have been, had I had the privilege of attending Ambassador College."

Man from Georgia

• *Obviously, the more a person is "exposed" to this world's theological institutions, the more confused he becomes.*

Confused with Another

"In two recent issues of the Jerusalem, Israel Church of God 7th Day paper there have been unfavorable remarks against your work. The second remark is by a woman here in Alabama. She says the work for Jerusalem in her state has practically stopped because so many are listening to you and have taken to attending dances, shows, and using make-up because you say it is all right. I can't believe that this is

true; someone must have misunderstood some remark you made."

Woman, South Dakota

• *You have a very generous thought there—but make-up! She must have confused us with someone else.*

Christian Shouldn't Fight—A Shock!

"Mr. Earle Reese of your Letter Answering Department answered my letter of late this month. I have read the enclosed article 'Should a Christian Fight?' Believe it or not, it came as only a small shock. I believe in my heart I knew the answer. I have learned since writing the letter that if I want to be a Christian I should come out of this world. I pray that God Almighty will forgive my sins of participating in the wars of this world in the past. My enlistment is up very soon and although I will have nearly seventeen years service in the Navy we will come out of slavery and again be free. We, my wife and myself, will be open to much harsh word from the Navy, and people will think we've flipped to be so near the completion of twenty years and then to chuck it all aside. But this matters not, for we know there are much more important things to strive for. The passing pleasures of this world are just that—passing. The more we think about getting out the bigger our smiles become. Never have we been

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The Good News

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

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EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

SENIOR EDITORS

Roderick C. Meredith

Herman L. Hoeh

Associate Editors

Albert J. Portune

Ronald Kelly

Contributing Editors

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Robert C. Boraker	Raymond F. McNair
Bryce G. Clark	C. Paul Meredith
C. Wayne Cole	L. Leroy Neff
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Ernest L. Martin	Clint C. Zimmerman

Foods Consultants

Velma Van der Veer

Mary E. Hegvold

Isabell F. Hoeh

Rose McDowell

Editorial and Production Assistants

Paul W. Kroll

James W. Robinson

Donald G. McDonald

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address Post Office Box
44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B. C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and
Africa should address the Editor, Ambassador Col-
lege, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts., England.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should
address the Editor, Box 345, North Sydney,
N. S. W., Australia.

In the Philippines, Post Office Box 2603, Manila.
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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!



Offices of the Australian Work are located in this building.

A CLOSE-UP REPORT —

The Work of God IN AUSTRALIA!

Here, from the Evangelist in charge of the Work of God in Australia and Southeast Asia, is a personal sketch of how God's Work began and developed in the "land down under." The purpose of this article is to bring all of you into intimate contact with the events that have taken place in the growth of God's Work in this corner of the world, enabling you to more diligently pray for your brethren in Australia!

by C. Wayne Cole

"**B**UT GO rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" . . . Jesus instructed His disciples in Matthew 10:6. Did Jesus mean that these TWELVE original disciples were actually to go *personally* to every nook and cranny of the world where the people of the house of Israel were scattered, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?

THINK FOR A MOMENT—could these TWELVE men without the aid of mass communication media such as radio or television or even public address equipment, without the use of the printing press and with only the very slowest means of transport have actually completed Jesus' commission? NO! This has been possible only with the

powerful facilities of our present time!

A WORLD-WIDE Work

Later, Jesus commissioned His servants (in Matt. 28:19-20) with the responsibility of preaching His Gospel to *all the world, to every nation*. And, He promised to be with those doing His Work ALWAYS—even unto the *end of the age!* YES, brethren, Jesus promised to be with *US*, in *this* age when the Gospel would be THUNDERED to all the world, just prior to His coming as RULER in the World Tomorrow—(see Matt. 24:3 and 14).

The evidence of divine direction and intervention by the LIVING HEAD of this Church is clearly revealed in the *staggering, nearly unbelievable* and

phenomenal growth that has taken place in this Philadelphia era of the *True Church*.

For the first *nineteen year time cycle*, from 1934 to 1953, the growth of God's Work was confined to the boundaries of the North American continent, principally within modern-day Manasseh.

But, *precisely*, according to His time schedule, in January, 1953, God opened the door to Europe, marking the beginning of an *international* Work leading to far-flung offices around the world!

And now—to Australia

Just slightly more than *three years* later Christ opened *another door*. The

time had come for the precious Message of Almighty God to reach, for the *very first time*, the peoples of Australia! On April 14, 1956, the familiar voice of Herbert W. Armstrong broadcasting the *Good News* (Gospel) of God's coming Kingdom first BOOMED into Australian homes. The New York advertising agents had been able to open time for *The WORLD TOMORROW* one-half hour per week on a virtual network of *eight* stations controlled by Amalgamated Wireless Australasia (AWA).

Response was slow at first as letters began to trickle into the Pasadena, California office—over *seven thousand five hundred* miles away. But, just as certain as the tiny mustard seed grows to become a great plant, the response from this land of Ephraim made its inevitable growth. As the months passed it became evident that many of the Australian people had a genuine hunger for God's Truth.

Late in 1957, *four* more stations were added and then early in 1958 *three* more brought the total to FIFTEEN stations, each carrying God's program one-half hour per week.

A major breakthrough came late in 1959 for the Australian Work, now over three years old, when time was opened for *six-nights-a-week* broadcasting on the original network of eight AWA stations.

A short time later five of the stations carrying *The WORLD TOMORROW* only once a week were dropped and FOUR more were *added* with *six nights* a week opened. This now made a total of TWELVE stations BOOMING God's vital Message *daily* across the vastness of this continent.

Office Established

With this expansion came a tremendous leap forward—there were many new listeners, the volume of mail quickly multiplied and there were soon many thousands of additional readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine.

In anticipation of the obvious *continual* growth, it became imperative that offices be established in Australia, staffed with trained personnel prepared to undertake the increasing responsibilities. Selected as the Director

of this important foreign office was Mr. Gerald D. Waterhouse. Mr. Waterhouse was no stranger to this type of service having previously spent over *two years* doing similar work in our London office. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, the Director over *all* the foreign Work accompanied Mr. Waterhouse to take charge of the initial contacts and to do the preliminary groundwork in locating and equipping adequate offices for receiving and distributing mail, sending out the booklets and *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine and the *Correspondence Course*.

Many of you brethren will undoubtedly remember how God *miraculously* intervened and directed His servants through a seemingly endless set of harassments and delays. After considerable pressure had been brought to bear on the Australian Consulate in San Francisco, California, and an amazing chain of rapid-fire events in getting medical exams and chest X-rays had been negotiated, visas were issued and the men were finally on their way at about 1:30 a.m., November 10, 1959. Two *delays* later, one at Honolulu and the other at Nandi, Fiji, they arrived in Sydney on the morning of November 12th.

God quickly led His servants to see that the most ideally situated available office space was in the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited Building (MLC Bldg.) in North Sydney. This building, one of the finest, most beautiful and modern in all of Australia has many outstanding advantages. For one thing, although only minutes away, it is located across the beautiful harbor from the ever-congested heart of the throbbing metropolis of Sydney. Also conveniently located just across the street are the Post Office and a branch of a leading bank. The office itself consists of a fine, air-conditioned and well-lit suite of office rooms on the sixth floor actually the *seventh*, because the Australians don't count the first floor!

Formerly it had taken *many weeks* for the Australian people to receive literature they had requested from Pasadena, but with a *local* office these requests were able to be filled within a few days.

The MAILING LIST for *The PLAIN TRUTH* at the time it was transferred to this local office was nearing 5,000. But, this was only the start—growth was very rapid. Soon more help was needed. The office had been opened for *only one month* when Mr. Charles Hefner arrived late in January from Ambassador College. The main task assigned to Mr. Hefner was to set up a tape-dubbed room in which *master* broadcast tapes from Pasadena could be copied for use on the local stations.

Another Door Opens

With daily broadcasting on many stations and with very encouraging response *another powerful medium* was opened. Full *two-page advertisements* in the Australian and New Zealand editions of *The Reader's Digest* began to appear with the February, 1960, issue. With this was another FIRST—the first time God's Message of hope penetrated the beautiful but isolated nation of New Zealand. Each ad brought *hundreds* more letters pouring into the North Sydney office. *The Reader's Digest* has been responsible for about *one-half* of the presently existing mailing list of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

With this increased work load, more help was *desperately* needed. Even though several local Australians were employed God provided additional help from Pasadena. Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Faulkner arrived May 30th, followed almost immediately, in late June, by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hammer. Mr. Hammer had graduated from Ambassador College and was an ordained minister. This not only gave the office additional help but it also provided Mr. Waterhouse with much-needed *ministerial* assistance.

Local Church Grows

In the meantime, a local church had been organized and was growing well. The first official meeting of the small handful of people that had come to true and sincere repentance was conducted in Mr. Waterhouse's home in Lane Cove on the Sabbath of January 23, 1960. This small church made steady and stable growth. After several

(Please continued on page 10)

You Are NOT an "Armstrongite"

Some of our members need to learn to what church they belong!

by Richard D. Armstrong

DO YOU know what church you belong to? When your friends ask you, "What is your church? What denomination do you belong to?"—what is your answer? Do you tell them you are an "Armstrongite"?—or a member of the "Armstrong Movement"—the man that preaches over the radio on *The WORLD TOMORROW* program?

JUST WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM?

First, let's look at the meaning of the word "church."

As it was originally used, the word "church" meant a *group of people*, no more, no less. It did not mean a holy group or a Christian group—merely a *group of people*. That is the meaning of the original Greek word, *ekklesia*.

If you call yourself solely "a follower of Herbert W. Armstrong" or any other *man*, then you are *not* a follower of Christ—hence, not a Christian! The word *Christian* implies one who is a *follower of Jesus Christ*, who patterns his life after the life Christ led, who believes His teachings and follows His precepts.

As popularly applied, the word "church" is taken to mean a group of people bound together by a common creed or religious belief. There are many different churches of this world, each with its own name, each with the name of the particular person, creed or custom it follows.

What, then, is *our* creed and whom do *we* follow? Whose group are we and *to whom do we belong?*

Notice I Corinthians 1:12-13 where Paul says, "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ."

Is Christ Divided?

Is Christ divided? Was Herbert W.

We are reproducing this article written in 1954, because it is a perennial problem needing understanding today also. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong at this year's Ministerial Conference reviewed again the need of wisdom on the part of EVERY MEMBER in explaining this point which comes up often for all of you. Read this article and FOLLOW the wisdom of its instruction.

—Editor

Armstrong crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Armstrong?

We are not to follow *men*, but we must follow Christ even as He followed the Father.

The true and correct name for the church (group of people) that is God's, that belongs to Him—keeps His commands—is "The CHURCH OF GOD." Its members pattern their lives after His Son who lived perfectly. It is GOD's group, or GOD's Church! This name implies that we have given ourselves to God—recognize Him as the *supreme authority* on this earth at the present time and have come to be able to be chastised by Him, to accept correction and reproof where we are wrong and follow God's true WAY!

Every *other* Church does what it feels is right. Or follows what some human being (or board of men) has set down as his precept of what is right by his own private interpretation of the Bible.

Let us look now at Isaiah 55. Beginning with the sixth verse, we read: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is

near: Let the wicked *forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man *his thoughts*: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Notice that we must *forsake* OUR ways and turn to the ways of GOD. Thus we KNOW HIM IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS (I John 2:4, 6). So God's true Church is a church or group of scattered individuals who recognize God as RULER—as the SUPREME AUTHORITY REIGNING ON EARTH AT THE PRESENT TIME—recognizing that it is God who is working out His PURPOSE here below!

True Church Receives Correction

Notice Hebrews 12:5-13. We find here that everyone who is a true child of God is being chastened—rebuked by God. That means that he is having to be shown where he is wrong and is willing to admit it and do what is right—go the other way, as God commands!

Notice what it says in the eighth verse: "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye BASTARDS, and NOT sons." Read it! Now we know that we are the children of God if He chastens us and is our constant guide in life, not just an empty belief that we think about a few hours a day or a week!

In II Peter 3:18 we find another sign of God's true Church. True Christians are those who *grow* in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Here is another way of knowing which is GOD's true Church. It is NOT a stagnant group, but a group that *grows spiritually* in GRACE and KNOWLEDGE.

A third means by which we know that we are God's true Church is the

way we recognize the *authority* of the Bible. Look at II Timothy 3:16. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God [God's own way of speaking to us directly], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Brethren, *there* is the sign of those who are God's true people! Those who are overcoming, being chastened, recognize God as Supreme Authority, and know that the Bible is His inspired Word whereby He corrects us.

There is only one church or group of people on this earth that is doing this! If these things are true of you, then you are a member of GOD'S CHURCH—a Christian—and should call yourself such, NOT an "Armstrongite," or a follower of any other human being.

Now, if you are being led by God, chastened and rebuked by Him, daily acknowledging where you are wrong and turning from YOUR ways, and learning and living His ways, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH and not an "Armstrongite" or a member of "the Armstrong Movement." You should boldly tell people to whom you belong. Notice Paul's teaching in Acts 20:28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the CHURCH OF GOD, which he hath PURCHASED with his own blood!" We *belong* to God! You are a member of the Church of God!

The NAME of the Church

The Bible gives us the true NAME of the Church in *twelve* different places. Twelve is God's COMPLETE number.

In five passages where the true NAME of the Church appears, the entire Body of Christ—the Church as a whole—is indicated. Thus, when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is "The CHURCH OF GOD."

1) Acts 20:28, the admonition to elders to "feed The CHURCH OF GOD."

2) I Cor. 10:32: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to The CHURCH OF GOD."

3) I Cor. 11:22: ". . . or despise ye THE CHURCH OF GOD, and shame them that have not?"

4) Gal. 1:13: Paul writes, "I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD."

5) I Cor. 15:9, "I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD."

Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, it is called "The CHURCH OF GOD," often in connection with the PLACE of location.

6) I Cor. 1:2: "The CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

7) II Cor. 1:1: "The CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

8) Speaking of a Local Elder of a local church: I Tim. 3:5: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of THE CHURCH OF GOD?"

9) Here the name applies to the *building*, or *house* of meeting. I Tim. 3:15: ". . . that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the *house* of God, which is THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD." Here it is the Church of *the Living God*.

And, finally, in speaking of the local church congregations collectively, not as one general body so much as all the single organized local churches collectively, the Bible name is THE CHURCHES OF GOD.

10) I Cor. 11:16: ". . . we have no such custom, neither THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

11) I Thess. 2:14: "For ye, brethren, became followers of THE CHURCHES OF GOD which IN JUDAEA are in Christ Jesus."

12) II Thess. 1:4: "So that we ourselves glory in you in THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

False Denominations Claim True Name

Our members should realize that there are *several* religious denominations who claim the name "Church of God." We should bear in mind that *all* sects of this world have *some* truth, though mixed with error. Several have found the truth about the true NAME, and use it.

It is *because* of this fact, and BECAUSE it is scriptural to include with the name the designation of PLACE, such as "The Church of God at Corinth," that we incorporated under the

name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD." By the time we were forced to incorporate in order to be subject to the powers of human government as the Bible instructs us to be, this name had become nationally known. Because others already were incorporated in the state as "The Church of God," we were not allowed to incorporate under that name alone. Since the radio work was the main function of the church—and at the time it was, primarily, a church over the radio, rather than in any one or several church buildings—and since it was entirely scriptural, we incorporated under the name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD."

Church of God Members

But, regardless of technical names of the incorporated Work, the name of the CHURCH to which you belong—that general body of all the individuals in the world who collectively form the true Body of Christ—is THE CHURCH OF GOD.

Tell your friends and acquaintances the TRUTH—*do not be ashamed of God!* Tell them you are a member of God's Church! You may say that Herbert W. Armstrong is your pastor, but NEVER say you are his follower. You must follow CHRIST, even as HE followed the Father!

Finally, when anyone asks you what Church you belong to, tell them "THE CHURCH OF GOD." The Church is incorporated under the legal name "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD"—but the TRUE CHURCH is *not* merely a legally incorporated society, but a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM entirely separate from human political jurisdiction or control. It is GOD'S Church, ruled by GOD'S GOVERNMENT, as God Himself governs through those of His choosing. Although we must conform to legal requirements of organized human government of THIS WORLD, and, therefore, are legally named for purposes of dealing with men's political power the "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD," that great over-all SPIRITUAL ORGANISM which is God's true Church on earth, SEPARATE from this world though *in* it, is named THE CHURCH OF GOD. That is the Church to which we belong!

Sins of "Modern" Babylon Exposed

Many wars have been fought in the name of "religion." The Catholic Church—and her Protestant daughters have perpetrated horrible crimes—claiming to be "God's instrument." God shows that their day of reckoning is almost here.

by L. Leroy Neff

THE consequences of the great church COMPROMISE of the fourth century have caused untold human suffering and woe!

History has recorded the results of this terrible mistake. The facts are *horrific* and hard to imagine.

Modern *spiritual* BABYLON has tried to *hide her sins* and *appear holy and righteous* before the world. Her sins are going to be *bared* for the whole world to see (Rev. 18).

God's instructions about fighting are *clear* and *plain*. The early Catholic Church of the first few centuries accepted this teaching. As a result they were the persecuted and the martyred. Under Constantine's protection, the church no longer was persecuted. The Catholic Church began to reject Christ's teachings against fighting and taught the *doctrines of men* instead. The Catholic Church was now teaching the *commandments of men*, just like the Jews did during the time of Christ (Matt. 15:9).

The Persecuted Now Persecute

Almost immediately the Catholic Church began to *persecute*, where before she had *been persecuted*. Now the church was in the good favor of the state and in *control* of all religion. Any unbeliever, heretic (real or assumed); any person not willing to submit to the authority of the church was *persecuted*.

This persecution was first promoted

by Constantine, but later, directly by this *false* church. Here is the official statement of the Emperor to put down the "*heretics*."

"Victor Constantinus, Maximus Augustus, to the *heretics*:

". . . To speak of *your criminality* as it deserves demands more time and leisure than I can give . . . Why not at once strike, as it were, at the root of so great a mischief"—(he means the TRUTH OF GOD) — "BY A PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF DISPLEASURE? Forasmuch, then, as it is no longer possible to bear with your pernicious errors, we give warning by this present statute *that none of you henceforth presume to assemble yourselves together*. We have directed, accordingly, *that you be deprived of all the houses in which you are accustomed to hold your assemblies*: and (we) forbid the holding of your superstitious and senseless meetings, not in public merely, BUT IN ANY PRIVATE HOUSE OR PLACE WHATSOEVER . . . Take the far better course of entering the Catholic Church . . . We have commanded . . . that you be positively deprived of every gathering point for your superstitious meetings, I mean all the houses of prayer . . . and that these be made over without delay to the Catholic Church; that any other places be confiscated to the public service, AND NO FACILITY WHATSOEVER BE LEFT FOR ANY GATHERING, in order that from this day forward none of your unlawful assemblies may presume to ap-

pear in any public or private place. Let this edict be made public" (from Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*, book 3).

By this edict, any dissenter who might protest on *any* point of doctrine was under extreme peril of his life. This included any person who would not accept prescribed Catholic doctrine, including other "Christian" sects, pagan, agnostic, atheist or *True Church* of God.

True Church Must Flee

The Catholic Church was not at this time, nor had it been at any time the *true* Church of God or of Jesus Christ. It had taken the name of Christ but *it had never obeyed* Him. It had never really accepted Jesus Christ and *all His teachings*.

As a result of Constantine's decree, the True Church now entered a time of *ten years'* severe persecution (Rev. 2:10), as well as the period of 1260 years mentioned in Revelation 12:6. For this period of over one millennium, the True Church had to flee from the *organized* religious society of the Roman Catholic Church or be in *extreme peril* of life.

The True Church had been prophesied to be a *little flock* (Luke 12:32). This *small flock* was now prophesied to be persecuted (Luke 21:12).

This could not refer to the *great number* who now embraced the Catholic religion and who now became the *persecutors* instead of the *persecuted*.



From an old woodcut a typical occurrence during Middle Ages—more victims of religious persecution.

This amazing fact is little known or recognized by the world today. The world has seen the huge churches of the past two thousand years, and has little cared or noticed God's True Church. The world has thought the Catholics and Protestants were the churches of God. God's Church has always been comparatively small. To understand who God's people were, and how they were scattered and persecuted all these centuries, refer to the free booklet, "A True History of the TRUE CHURCH," by Herman L. Hoeh.

Terrible Crimes Committed

Because of the compromise with Constantine, and the power now given to the Catholic Church, terrible crimes were committed in the name of religion. These crimes which lasted many centuries were done in the name of "Christ". *This terrible crime of unlawfully using the name of Christ will not go unpunished.*

Gibbon records that *capital punishment* (death) was pronounced against people who even *possessed unacceptable religious writings*. And, "the sword of the magistrate, and even of the tyrant was unsheathed, to enforce the reasons of the theologian!"

Terrible Inquisitions Result of Compromise

To further show how this persecu-

tion effectively dealt with the dissenter, and in many cases even with Catholics, we must note certain facts relating to the terrible *inquisitions*. The word *inquisition* is "the name given to the ecclesiastical (church) jurisdiction dealing both in the Middle Ages and in modern times with the detection and punishment of *heretics* and all persons guilty of any offense against Catholic orthodoxy" (from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, article "Inquisition," eleventh edition). A heretic by this statement would be anyone who would not believe or go along with Catholic teachings.

At first, the inquisition included the punishment and death of those with "outward manifestations of heresy." In later centuries it included those who were deemed guilty of having "crimes of conscience."

At first, there were only a few occasions when a person was judged to have outward evidence of heresy. Later, in the Middle Ages a person could be suspected of having inward heresy (in the mind), while not obviously violating the laws of the Catholic Church.

Even Catholics Killed by Catholics

Because of this, many Catholics, as well as Protestants were later subjected to these *horrible* inquisitions. This, in a limited sense, was indicated by the prophecy of Revelation 2:23: "And I will kill her (the Catholic Church's) children with death." Within a period of fifty-two years after Constantine, there were no less than sixty-eight laws recorded against heretics. At first the penalty was only scourging, fines or exile. Later, the penalty was perpetual imprisonment, *cutting out the tongue*, death by *strangling* or *burning* at the stake!

In 1034 certain of the *Cathari*, also known as the *Albigensians*, were given a choice between the "admiration of the cross and death" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, article "Inquisition"). About this time *Peter de Brays* was burned to death because of the charge that he was a *leader in heresy*.

Later, as the inquisition developed and expanded, the pope appointed commissioners to stamp out "heresy."

These commissioners traveled from place to place.

"On arriving in a district they addressed its inhabitants, called upon them to confess, if they were heretics, or to denounce those whom they knew to be heretics: a 'time of grace' was opened during which those who freely confessed were dispensed from all penalties, or only given a secret and very light penance, while those whose heresy had been openly manifested were exempted from the penalties of death and perpetual imprisonment. But this time could not exceed one month. *After that began the inquisition*. As soon as their mission was at an end and heresy was considered stamped out, the inquisitors left the country" (*Ibid.*, page 589).

During such an inquisition those accused of heresy were either put to death, given long terms of imprisonment, perpetual imprisonment, or some other "appropriate" sentence.

Torture Instituted

Later on, the countries were divided into various districts and the local monastery had charge of the inquisitions. The procedures and trials of the inquisitions were conducted in *utmost secrecy*. *The accused was considered guilty unless proved otherwise*. He could have no legal representation. His accusers were not named, nor did they appear in the inquiry against him. He could have no witnesses for his defense. *Tortures* of all kinds came in vogue to force the accused to confess his guilt of heresy.

"The Church was originally opposed to *torture*, and canon law did not admit confessions extorted by that means; but by the bull *Ad extirpanda* (1292) Innocent IV, approved its use for the discovery of heresy and Urban IV confirmed this usage . . ." (*Ibid.*, page 590).

Later, even the *torture of witnesses* was used to extract the "truth." There was *never* a case of acquittal, according to this article!

After the inquisition, the accused was turned over to the civil authorities to carry out the sentence, and then *the property of the accused was divided between the church and the state*.

The period of most active persecution under the inquisitions occurred after the twelfth century. During these terrible inquisitions some whole villages were wiped out in an effort to stamp out such people as the Albigensians and Waldenses. *Vast multitudes* of people were killed in France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. Other areas escaped with fewer deaths.

Millions Perish by Inquisitions

During the period between 1540 and 1570 alone, at least 900,000 people were put to death by these terrible persecutions. In all, *several million* people were put to death by these inquisitions. It did not take an atheistic "Hitler" to commit such horrible crimes. *The clergy of the Catholic Church perpetrated them!* Is it any wonder that those of God's True Church had to flee for their lives during this terrible time of trouble?

Just as Jesus prophesied, "They shall put you out of the synagogues (churches): yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2).

These crimes against humanity were done "in the name of Christ." Christ did not authorize these murders! The blood of the righteous cry out and *God will avenge HIS ELECT!*

What would the founding fathers of the Catholic Church—Tertulian, Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Cyprian, Lactantius and others, who were TOTALLY OPPOSED to *violence and bloodshed*, think of the church that they helped found? What would they think of these *crimes* of their church against humanity?

The Crusades

The next major series of events that show the result of the great *compromise* is that of the *Crusades*. The Crusades are considered by most religious people to have been righteous wars that were good, and according to God's will. In fact some world-famous evangelists have taken this same *infamous name* and applied it to their religious *evangelistic endeavors*.

The Crusades were seven in number, and were supposedly instituted to wrest the control of the Holy Land from the

Mohammedans. They all occurred within a period of about 300 years, ending just prior to the fourteenth century. They cost a tremendous amount of money and many thousands of lives were lost. In the end these Crusades came to naught.

The Crusaders practiced what they thought was a part of the true Christian religion, by engaging in war, against the pagans. But this was exactly *contrary to Christ's teaching*. They were trying to take away the land of Palestine from the Mohammedan religion. When the truth is known, both religions were EQUALLY PAGAN. Both had rejected the *True Christ* and His message.

During the Fourth Crusade the Crusaders were repulsed from their goal of capturing Jerusalem. So they attacked Constantinople *instead!* They captured and plundered the city and set up their own rule which lasted about fifty years.

Hurlbut, in the *Story of the Christian Church*, records:

"The kings and princes who led the movement were *perpetually quarreling*, each chieftain caring more for his own interests than for the common cause; all *jealous* of one another, and fearful of a success which might promote the influence or fame of a rival" (page 132).

After the seven Crusades were over there were minor Crusades and almost any *war*, even those against "heretics" were usually called Crusades.

These infamous "*Crusades*" which were entirely contrary to God's laws, became a foul stench to Almighty God!

Tremendous Cost of Vatican's Wars

The expense of carrying on these and other war activities was tremendous. The Catholic Church had come a long way from the time when its founding teachers taught that it was wrong to kill in *any* way. In early times it was considered by their theologians wrong to *even speak* anything against a person that might cause him to die. It was a far cry from the teaching of Tertulian who wrote in the third century: "How will a Christian man war, nay, how will he serve even in peace without a sword, which the Lord has taken away?" (De Idolatria XIX).

Now the church had taken the sword and it was very costly. It was bringing *misery and wretchedness* on untold multitudes of people. This cost increased to the point that during the fourteenth century the MAJORITY of the *tremendous income of the Vatican was used for war purposes!*

"A parallel reorganization and departmentalization of the papal financial administration led to a new efficiency in the levy and collection of papal taxes, fees, etc., which bore hard on the clergy, and drained *large sums* from the national states, stirring public opinion still further, especially in England. Significant items of the budget of John XXII: WAR, 63.7%; upkeep and entertainment, 12.7%; alms, 1.16%; stables, 0.4%; art, 0.33%; library, 0.17%" (*An Encyclopedia of World History*, William L. Langer, page 286).

The figures speak for themselves. The Roman Catholic Church was using much of its wealth as a tool for the "god of war" instead of the *God of Peace*. What would the humble Carpenter of Nazareth think of such an organization which had *taken His name, claimed* to be His representative, and yet spent such vast sums of money to wage war, killing and injuring multitudes of helpless people?

Protestant Persecutions

Persecutions and fighting were not committed by the Catholics alone. At first the Protestants were *persecuted*, but they soon turned to *persecute* also. They followed the same path that their mother church had followed centuries earlier. They followed in most of the sins of their mother.

Here is a brief summary of the Protestant persecutions.

"Calvin consented to the death of Servetus. In Holland Calvinists executed an Armenian. In Germany Lutherans put to death a few Anabaptists. In England Protestant Edward VI executed 2 Roman Catholics in 6 years (Romanist Mary in the 5 following years burned 282 Protestants). Elizabeth executed, in 45 years, 187 Romanists, most of them for treason, not heresy. In Massachusetts, 1659, 3 Quakers were hanged by Puritans, and, in 1692, 20

(Please continue on page 17)



Mr. Wayne Cole and family.

Work of God in Australia

(Continued from page 4)

moves in search of the right meeting location, God led His people to the Australian Institute of Builders in Milson's Point, only a few minutes' walk from the MLC Building, just prior to Passover in 1960. In this same location the *first Festival of Tabernacles ever observed* in this "down-under" land was attended by 103 people in God's Church in 1960. The distances traveled by some to this historic Festival were staggering—some coming from nearly 3000 miles to personally hear ministers of God expound the Truth of the Bible.

In less than a year the mailing list *more than TRIPLED* from the less than 5000 to about 15,000. Starting in July, 1960, the Australian Edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH* was now being printed by Wilke and Co. in Melbourne, reproduced from film positives received from Pasadena. Staff members, both from Ambassador College in Pasadena and local personnel now numbered *ten*.

Persecution Comes

Suddenly it appeared as though the Australian Work was going to collapse in its infancy. Persecution was being brought against God's Work by the New South Wales Council of Churches. Station 2CH, with broadcasting license held by this church council, although operated by AWA, strongly objected to *The WORLD TOMORROW* — which

they said taught contrary to theirs. God's Work had been using 2CH since April, 1956, broadcasting one night a week. This had not stirred up this placid council, but when in November, 1959, *six nights a week* were opened for God's Truth the opposition began to mount. 2CH seemed sure to cancel. Other station managements fearfully alerted by this pressure were threatening cancellations as well.

For this reason Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, accompanied by Mr. Guy Bolam, a New York advertising agent, arrived in Sydney very soon after the Festival of Tabernacles in 1960.

Space does not permit the many details of how God intervened. But suffice it to say, this apparent crisis was, *in reality*, another "cocking-of-the-trigger" for the terrific shot forward! The results of Mr. Armstrong's vitally important trip and the six event-packed days were *phenomenal!* Many long and laborious conferences were held with Mr. Harris and Mr. Fox of AWA, which seemed to be absolutely to no avail until *suddenly* God gave Mr. Armstrong favor and the resistance began to melt away. The crisis was abated and instead of doors being closed and the Work in Australia failing arrangements were made to *ADD many more stations*, eventually bringing *daily broadcast coverage to ninety-eight per cent of Australia's population!*

Mr. Armstrong's visit was not only a "shot in the arm" for God's Work, but it was also a *terrific* boost to the local congregation, numbering by this time seventy-five in attendance.

In November, 1960, the contract with station 2CH, which had been the source of the major persecution, was allowed to terminate. But, this *did not* stop the broadcast in Sydney since *seven* days prior to the termination of 2CH God opened time on 2KY, *six nights a week!*

Growth Continues

To help keep pace with the increasing mail response, Miss Lorelle Simon arrived from Pasadena in December, 1960, to augment the Typing Department.

Soon, others were on their way to Sydney. Mr. Gene Hughes, his wife and

son, arrived on March 2, 1961. Mr. Hughes became Business Manager for the office and Circulation Manager for the Australian edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Until this time Mr. Waterhouse was forced to spend most of his time directing the mailing offices and departments, keeping the business records and handling all financial affairs. Mr. Hughes' arrival left him more time to give over-all direction to the *entire* Work and to pastor the local church.

So far as *arrivals* were concerned, March 2, 1961 was a *big day!* Just a few minutes after Mr. Hughes and family arrived from the States, Mr. Waterhouse arrived on his return from Manila. He was then followed by the arrival of Mr. Albert Portune on the next flight. Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Portune had been on a fact-finding tour throughout the Philippines to determine the degree of growth that had taken place among many who considered themselves part of God's True Church and also to prepare recommendations for the future of God's Work in the Philippines.

Additional radio stations were added in early 1961 until by June the total stations numbered 31 with 28 of them broadcasting *The WORLD TOMORROW* six nights a week. One of these was the small station 2XM at Gisborne, North Island, New Zealand, thus far the *only radio outlet* God's Work has had in New Zealand.

Baptizing Tours—Melbourne Church

The first baptizing tour in Australia had been taken by Mr. Waterhouse

Mr. and Mrs. William Winner. Mr. Winner pastors Melbourne church.



early in 1960 at which time several members were added to God's Church. Two of those met on that first tour, Mr. Don Abraham and Mr. Ron Lyons, are now employed in the office. At the time he was met, Mr. Don Abraham was working as a radio announcer for station 4TO in Townsville, Queensland—this AWA station was one of the first in Australia to air *The WORLD TOMORROW* program. Mr. Abraham

mer as assistant to Mr. Waterhouse in the office and church work in Sydney, there was again need for more help. This time Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpkins were called upon. Immediately after Mr. Simpkins graduated from college in Pasadena he and his wife winged their way to Sydney, arriving June 21, 1961.

A short while after the Melbourne church was organized, Mr. Waterhouse could also see that a sizable number of

viously been done by local printing firms in North Sydney. Three more local employees were added to the staff in mid-1961. One of these, Mr. Glyn Davies, with considerable mechanical aptitude and experience qualified to fill the need in this new Printing Department. Another, Mr. Kevin Lulham, was assigned to the Mail Reading Department.

Surprising News Arrives

Early in August, 1961, Mr. Waterhouse received surprising news that he would be leaving Australia for duties



LEFT: The office staff in action! Here you see the mailing of the Correspondence Course to Australian members. RIGHT: Australian Printing Department printing the Correspondence Course.

was the first local Australian employed in Gods' office—later began preaching sermonettes and is now a Deacon in God's Church.

The second tour was made in 1961 through southern New South Wales and Victoria by Mr. Tony Hammer and Mr. Dexter Faulkner. As a result of the baptisms and visits made on this tour it became apparent the time had arrived to establish, this time in Melbourne, Australia's second local congregation.

Mr. Hammer and his family moved to Melbourne and held the first meeting of the new church on June 15, 1961 with over 30 in attendance.

But, with the absence of Mr. Ham-

members and prospective members in Brisbane, Queensland, were in need of instruction and a regular meeting. So, with all arrangements made, the first Bible study was conducted on August 6, 1961, with 28 in attendance. These Brisbane studies continued meeting every other Sunday afternoon until recently. This study finally emerged, on June 22, 1963, into a full church, meeting each *Sabbath* with about 100 attending regularly.

Also, by this time it became apparent that a small Printing Department was needed to handle some of the smaller jobs such as office forms, envelopes, letters, letterheads, semi-annual letters, Co-Worker letters, etc., that had pre-

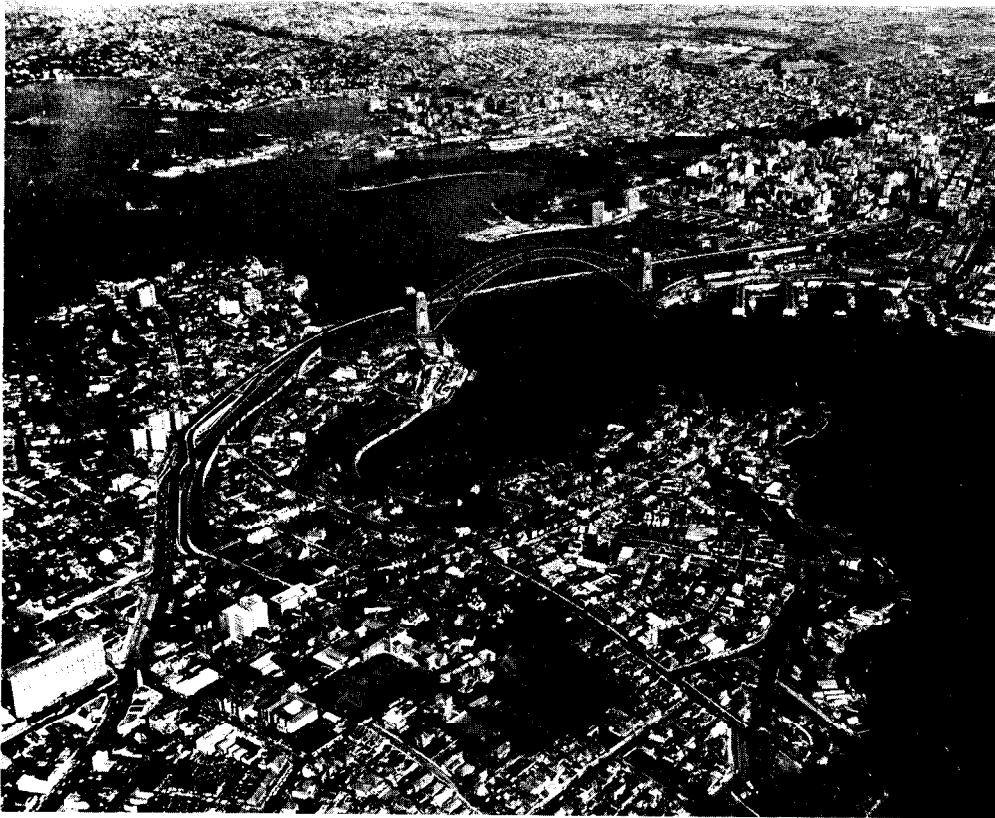
elsewhere. Simultaneously, while in Memphis, Tennessee, I received word from Mr. Ted Armstrong that I was to become the new Director of God's Australian Work.

I, with my wife and two children, arrived in Sydney on September 19, 1961, only minutes before the Day of Atonement.

A few days later we were observing the Festival of Tabernacles in the beautiful resort spot of Blackheath, N.S.W., in the Blue Mountains. One hundred seventy people gathered for this Festival. The Feast the year before had to be observed amidst the hustle and bustle of Sydney . . . but, in a very encouraging manner God had revealed to Mr. Waterhouse that He had placed His name in Blackheath for the 1961 observance of this yearly highlight. The Feast of Tabernacles was observed in this same location in 1962 with 330 attending and this year we were back in the same spot for the 1963 Festival with an attendance of 575.

The Australian Office

Here is a picture story of another regional office of God's Work! The "land down under"—Australia—is served by one of the seven foreign offices of God's Work now in existence.



Beautiful Sydney harbor. In the lower left hand corner is the MLC Building—Headquarters for God's Australian Work. The building is located across the harbor—away from the congested downtown area.

1961 was the first year the Festival of Tabernacles was observed at Blackheath, in the beautiful Blue Mountains. Pictured are the entirety of God's people who gathered at that time.





Mr. Wayne Cole—Evangelist in charge of God's Work in Australia and Southeast Asia—seated at his desk.



Another view of the MLC (Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance) Building. Our offices are located on the sixth floor. Actually, they are on the SEVENTH floor. Australians do not count the first floor level.

Article Continues



In October, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Huse arrived to once again bolster the local staff. With an increasing number of sincere requests from listeners desiring a personal visit, Mr. Huse, a graduate of Ambassador College with Letter Answering and Visiting Program experience, filled an urgent need for local visits.

On December 19, 1961, having completed over two years' service in Australia, Mr. Waterhouse left for the United States to attend the annual Ministerial Conference and to receive new assignments. Thus, from this date, I was left in charge of this ever-growing Work as a major responsibility.

New Zealand Baptizing Tour

As the months rapidly passed the response continued most favorably. In April, 1962, Mr. Clarence Huse accompanied me on a baptizing tour to New Zealand, resulting in many people visited and *eighteen* baptized. Nearly all the response and interest making necessary this trip came as a result of ads in *The Reader's Digest*. Very disappointingly, the last ad offering God's literature appeared in the January, 1963, issue of *Reader's Digest*. This is something you brethren can and should all pray for—that God will open some new doors for reaching this part of Israel in New Zealand.

Work Continues to Grow

Every phase of this Work continued to grow. Other baptizing tours have been taken in remote parts of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. In May, 1961, Mr. Frank Simpkins and I took a very fruitful baptizing tour to most of the inhabited areas of Western Australia. *Twenty-three* were baptized. We could clearly see from the numerous visits made in and near Perth that *IF we had a minister* to organize a local church there, the attendance would soon pass fifty and continue to grow. At the present time, well over 400 attend the three local churches—over 200 in Sydney, 115-120 in Melbourne and 100 in Brisbane. There are other areas where sizable local congregations could be established if sufficient laborers were available.

Many changes have been made in personnel including Mr. Hefner, and more recently Miss Lorelle Simon being transferred to other areas. Miss Simon is now working in the Canadian office. Miss Jessie Emmett, Mr. William Myers and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Cole from Ambassador College in Pasadena arrived in Sydney on August 23, 1962. Miss Emmett took on the duties of head secretary and telephone operator. Mr. Myers began in Letter Answering and Mr. Leroy Cole became department head in the Mail Opening and Reading Department. Some local Australian employees have left to attend Ambassador College and local replacements have been hired to fill the vacancies.

Just prior to the Festival of Tabernacles in 1962, Mr. and Mrs. William Winner arrived from the States. Mr. Winner, a graduate from Ambassador College and an ordained minister, had pastored churches in the midwest United States before coming to Australia. The presence of Mr. Winner to pastor the Melbourne Church enabled Mr. Tony Hammer, his wife and *two Australian-born girls* to return to the United States immediately after the 1962 Feast, and Mr. and Mrs. Winner are now also proud parents of an "Australian" son!

Spokesman Clubs established in Sydney and Melbourne number nearly eighty men—making a need for two club sections in each area. In both clubs there is the developing potential for stable and strong future leaders in God's Work.

In December, 1962, almost exactly three years since he first came to Australia to establish the office, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong returned to see the growth of this foreign branch of the Work of Almighty God.

Now, over three and one-half years old, the office of God's Work in North Sydney is staffed by *eight* people from Ambassador College and *fifteen* local Australians, plus one minister in Melbourne.

An average of considerably over 1000 letters are received each week in the North Sydney office. *The PLAIN TRUTH* mailing list now stands at over

23,000. There are over 3200 students enrolled in *The Bible Correspondence Course*. A full-fledged Printing Department housed in an entirely separate building has developed, saving a great deal of time and expense in having literature shipped from Pasadena. Over the past year an average of over 80,000 separate items have been printed locally *each month*, not including the Australian Edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH* printed in Melbourne. There is an organized Visiting Program, and a Letter Answering Department writing numerous personal letters.

The most recent arrival of ministers to visit the Australian Work of God was made by Mr. Roderick Meredith and Mr. Jon Hill on August 23, 1963. Both of these leading ministers in God's Work today are not strangers to any of you as they have written many informative and exhortive articles for *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *The GOOD NEWS*. Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hill were able to spend a few days in Australia on the last part of their around-the-world fact-finding tour. The Sydney congregation was inspired to hear Mr. Meredith preach on the Sabbath of August 24, while Mr. Hill spoke to our brethren in Melbourne.

Plans for the Future

Brethren, God's Work *has not completed* its commission to preach the Gospel as a witness to Australia and New Zealand. *Much work remains yet to be done.*

Some of the major needs are *earlier broadcasting* times on at least the metropolitan stations—additional well-situated rural stations—advertisements appearing in well-read newspapers and/or magazines creating interest in vital literature from God's Work—and more local churches as God provides the laborers.

God has worked many wonders here—more than space has permitted me to relate to you. And, we know, He will continue to bless and provide for His Work, not only in Australia, but **AROUND THE WORLD**. But, there is a *heavy weight* of responsibility on **ALL** you **BRETHREN** in *diligent and fervent* prayers.

Be a POSITIVE Christian

Having trouble with your neighbors? WHY? This will show you the REASON, and give you a POSITIVE PLAN to guide you in living the happy, abundant, and exemplary life that God intended.

by Roderick C. Meredith

ENRAGED at the evangelists, the furious bloodthirsty mob brought them to the city officials crying, "These that *have turned the world upside down* are come hither also" (Acts 17:6).

With these words, the angry Jews at Thessalonica accused the Apostle Paul and his helpers of the very same thing of which many of you have been accused. Does true Christianity turn the world "upside down," or *right side up*? Is the Holy Spirit the spirit of a peculiar mixture of *misguided religious zeal*, *unreasoned superstition*, and a *rebellious attitude* toward custom, society, and other people in general? Is this the attitude of a good Christian?

Let's face facts! Some of our brethren have been accused of such *wrong attitudes and conduct*. Sometimes the accusation is clearly false, *but sometimes it is based on fact!*

How *should* Christians live to gain the respect of unconverted neighbors and friends? In *spite* of persecutions, *how can we live the joyous, fruitful kind of lives that we should?*

Let's look into God's Word for the answers, and use *sound-minded wisdom* there.

Are You a "Light"?

Jesus told His disciples, "Ye are the *light* of the world." And later, "Let your *light* so shine before men, that they may see your *good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14, 16). Jesus taught that we are not to put our light under a bushel, but on a candlestick where all can see. But *how* do we let our "light" shine before men?

Notice that Jesus said men would see our *good works* and glorify God (Verse 16). He *didn't* say that they would *hear* our constant prating about

the Bible. Our "good works," our *kindness* and *thoughtfulness* to others, our willingness to *sacrifice*, our *Christian example* in daily living, these things will cause even unconverted men to admire and respect us. Eventually, they will realize that it is *God* who is helping us live this way. Then they will glorify Him.

But *arguing, disputing*, and trying to "convince" people they are wrong is nowhere referred to as "good works." If a friend or relative isn't interested in God's Truth, he will *in no way* be helped if you constantly plague him with what he regards as "*your religion*." It is certainly not the religion of Jesus Christ! That is *not* the kind of example that He set.

Remember that men will glorify God because of your "good works," not because of what you say. What type of *good works* should you demonstrate in this modern day?

Christian Works

In John 14:11, Jesus said, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very *works' sake*." He was referring to the miracles which He performed, and said in Verse 12 that one who truly believed on Him would perform even greater works.

Most of Jesus' miraculous works were acts of *kindness to others*—healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, casting out unclean spirits. Paul wrote the Corinthian brethren, "Now ye are the *BODY* of Christ, and members in particular" (I Cor. 12:27). Today, Jesus is not here to perform good works in person, but we of God's True Church comprise His *Body* through which He *can* and *does* perform

miraculous works. Many times, unconverted friends of our brethren have been *forced* to glorify God and His power when they have witnessed a genuine, miraculous healing according to God's promise.

The Church of God is Christ's instrument to preach the True Gospel as a witness to all the world, to feed the flock, to heal the sick, cast out demons, and exercise all the other gifts of God's Spirit. By each of us drawing closer to God in diligent Bible study, earnest prayer, and fasting, we shall receive the *POWER* to carry out our mission in a way that men cannot help but notice. In the days of the Apostles, God confirmed the word "with *signs* following" (Mark 16:20). If we draw as close to God as we should, if we "hunger and thirst after righteousness," He will grant us the *power* to do the same miraculous works as the early Apostles, and many others will learn to glorify God.

But aside from these miraculous works of the ministry, there are many, many things that we should all be doing to glorify God in our lives. What are these?

Be a Good Neighbor

One of the most beautiful parables of Jesus that we all learned as children, but sometimes seem to forget as adult Christians, is the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). It is the story of one man, a priest, who thought he was too holy or too important to be bothered with helping a poor fellow who had been set upon by thieves, and was lying wounded and suffering by the roadside. It also portrays the splendid, unselfish compassion of the Samaritan. He was not too "good" to help even a wretched fellow in trouble he had never seen before.

Notice Jesus' instruction: "*Go, and do thou likewise.*"

Just how good a neighbor are YOU?

This is a *vital* IMPORTANT factor in determining your ability to be a "light" to others and, incidentally, in determining *your own happiness.*

You should realize from the outset that carnal-minded friends and neighbors are *just naturally* going to have a bad opinion of you—a true Christian trying to keep all of God's commands—against which their carnal minds rebel. They are going to look upon you as "peculiar" or "fanatic" *unless you take positive action to counteract this attitude.*

To separate yourself from worldly fellowship and participation in politics and pagan customs, you may have to drop out of any lodges, clubs, religious or political organizations of which you may be a member. You will be accused of not loving your fellow man—and many other charges will be laid at your doorstep.

The SOLUTION to this problem is to *prove by positive ACTION* that these things are not true. Go out of your way to be a really *wonderful* neighbor. Remember that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The chief attributes of God's Holy Spirit are *love, joy, peace, long-suffering* (Gal. 5:22). Put the *love* of God to work in your life. Try to be understanding, patient, and always ready to be of service to others. Cultivate the attitude of *joy* and *peace* at all times. Try to make others feel *happy* in your presence.

God is more willing to give you of His Spirit—His *love, joy, and peace*—than you are to feed your own hungry children. ASK God to help you show more love—to give you *His love*—and to help you be a better neighbor in every way.

Then, with God's help, MAKE your neighbors like and respect you by your "good works"—your kindness, love, willingness to help in time of need. This will *never* be accomplished by your words, but by your ACTIONS.

Be Positive

One of the most striking mistakes of

some new converts is their failure to show a *positive attitude* toward life. Because they have come to realize that much of this world is wrong, they assume a negative attitude toward life in general. They don't take a real interest in their family, their friends, or their community. Is this the way to be a "light"—the kind of example others will admire?

No. Instead of being *against everything*, strive to be *for* something. Have a *positive* program of developing your personality, your capabilities, your ability to help and influence other people for good.

James tells us, "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith?" (Jas. 2:5). Many of us are poor humble people when God calls us. Some have not had many educational opportunities, and are handicapped in their speech and writing, their knowledge of this world about us, and in many of the social graces.

Does God wish us to *remain* this way?

First of all, we have to confess that if we *had* all been highly successful in this world, we would have been too proud to accept God's Truth and be converted. We would have had too much SELF-confidence to recognize our need for God. But now that should all be changed. Now our confidence should rest in *God*, and *what He can do through us* if we yield to His Spirit. Now that our confidence about any abilities rests in *God*—not *self*—wouldn't He want us to develop these?

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore *perfect*, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). We are to strive to become *like God in every way!* Through God's help, we will finally achieve this goal when we are finally *born of God* in the resurrection.

Jesus was God in the flesh—setting a *perfect example* for us to follow. Did Jesus use sloppy speech or dress? Did He appear "backwoods" or uncouth to others?

In Luke 4:22, we find that when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, "All bare him witness, and wondered at the *gracious words* which proceeded out of

his mouth." They were *forced* to admire Jesus' ability in speech even though they later condemned what He said and tried to throw Him off the brow of a hill! (Verse 29).

In reading the Gospel, it is easy to discern that Jesus was a natural *leader* of men. He was a person that people would naturally be forced to admire—even though the Jews hated what He *taught* so much that they crucified Him.

Are you developing the qualities of *personality, of leadership?* Are you able to deal with and influence people of all classes? The Apostle Paul said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Cor. 9:22).

You should try to do your work the best way possible, to keep your home and yard looking as neat and clean as possible, to dress as well as possible within your means. You should *study* to use really good English, to broaden your interests and your general knowledge, to develop your *personality* and *abilities* in every way. God says to *develop your talents—to be like Him* in every way! By doing these things, your neighbors will notice the change for *good* in your life and will be forced to respect you more.

Show them a POSITIVE life of *overcoming selfishness, of growing* in grace and knowledge, of being an example of *love* and *service* to those about you.

With these new interests and abilities, with the *joy* that comes from *actively helping* others, your life should be more exciting, more full and abundant, than ever before. And you can go ahead in full FAITH that God has *promised* to help you grow more like Him by guiding you, blessing and protecting you, through His Spirit.

Show Common Sense

Many fail to realize that, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of POWER, and of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND" (II Tim. 1:7). Instead of *demonstrating* these qualities in their lives, they proceed in a hesitant, apologetic, or sometimes a belligerent attitude to try to "talk people into" some of their beliefs.

Humanly, we all tend to do these things, and it is hard to overcome them. But God has given us the Spirit of POWER to do so!

From now on, instead of being "down on the world" in all of your talk and actions, try to show the world by *action* that you have found something *better*. Show your neighbors that your faith *works* for good by *doing good* to them.

Through God's Spirit within you, *live up* to what you believe and set a shining example before others. They may not agree with all your *doctrine*, but they will respect the *results* you achieve in your life.

Make an exciting game out of life—out of overcoming yourself and all the obstacles in the world. Accept yourself as a bundle of possibilities—the soft, pliable clay out of which God, the Supreme Potter—can fashion a character and personality worthy of *eternal life* in His Kingdom.

Try *hard* NOT to give others the impression that you are "queer," or "peculiar." *Your job* is to show them the Spirit of a SOUND MIND in everything you do. If people *do* ask you questions concerning your belief—which they will if you are *living* it—be prepared by diligent study to give them the answer in a non-argumentative, clear, and *common-sense* way. Show them that God's way *makes sense*—and is based on a *law of love* which would *prevent war, murder* and most of humanity's troubles, if it were only taught and obeyed. But only tell people what *they ask you about*. Don't try to *force* too much new truth upon them all at once. Just show them by your *words* and *ACTIONS* that God's way is based on *common sense* and a *sound mind*.

Continually ask God for the love, faith, and wisdom to be a POSITIVE Christian. Put a smile on your face, pull back your shoulders, and hold your head high as you step forward to meet the world with God's LOVE in your heart toward everyone, with His FAITH and POWER to show others a positive example of the blessing that comes from a life of love and service, and with the Spirit of a SOUND MIND that you may demonstrate by your *actions*

that God's way is best, and could bring happiness to everyone.

Even though you will still be persecuted by many, this *positive attitude* in Christian living will gain you new respect in your community. You may then be a *positive* influence for good. More important, *this way* of living *faith* and *action* will give your own life more meaning, interest, and joy, and will prepare you to better serve as a king and priest under Christ throughout life eternal. *Use it.*

Modern Babylon

(Continued from page 9)

were executed for witchcraft" (*Pocket Bible Handbook*, H. H. Halley, page 703).

The Protestant persecutions have not been nearly as severe or as extensive as the Catholic's. Nevertheless, the Protestants *are also guilty* before God because



John Calvin, a leading Protestant "reformer." He assumed dictatorial powers in Geneva, Switzerland—and mercilessly persecuted other Protestants.

of this sin against humanity and God.

Protestants, Catholics War

There was also war and enmity between the Protestants and the Catholics for many years. To justify their own actions, the Protestants blame these wars on the Catholics, who started them. The Protestants *did not rely on God* to fight their battles for them. They fought their own battles instead of letting God fight them. Much bloodshed resulted.

In subsequent years, we have had many wars between various Western nations. In almost all of these wars the *major denominations* had members on BOTH SIDES of the battle lines! Men of one denomination fought against and killed men of their own faith. In many of these wars, religious as well as political issues were involved. What terrible times of trouble have been brought on mankind *in the name of religion!*

Inquisitions Will Come Again

There are going to be even more trying times ahead for God's people, and for the whole world. Jesus prophesied that some of His saints would be *beaten and scourged* in the churches of this *false church system* (Matt. 10:17). God's people would be hailed before the courts, the rulers and people in high places for a witness before them.

People will increasingly be brought before such higher powers of this world as we near the end and climax of this age. One of the principal reasons may well be because of the Bible teaching against fighting and the obedience by God's people to this teaching. It is on this very point that some of the young men in God's Church are now being called up before authorities. *May God's people stand firm in these trying times* and not give up the faith of Jesus!

This false religious system is going to cause the coming "Beast Power" to attack and destroy modern Israel (principally the United States and Britain). The people remaining will go into slavery under this power and the Catholic Church.

Inquisitions are going to be held again. There will be a terrible time of trouble such as never was before in

the history of man. For three and a half years the people of God, who are not accounted worthy to escape to safety, will be given over once again to this false church for persecution and death.

Burning at the stake, the rack and the torture chambers will be revived. Added to all these medieval torture instruments will be those of modern science, some of which were used by the Nazis in World War II. Some will even be shot off in rockets, into space to die. From there God will have to bring them back at the time of the resurrection (Deut. 30:4).

Babylon Will Pay For Her Crimes!

God rightly labels this whole false religious system BABYLON! It is *confusion*—that is just what the word "Babylon" means. There is confusion

of beliefs and practices in *these* false churches.

The prophecies concerning this counterfeit church system are explained very clearly in the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelation. In these chapters we find that the people of the earth have become spiritually drunk (in other words, they cannot see things clearly) because of *her false teachings* (Rev. 17:2). This great church is called by the prophetic scriptures an *immoral woman* or *whore*. The civil governments of the world are referred to in the masculine gender. This false church system has had illicit relations with these civil rulers and states. Such a relationship is forbidden by God.

This woman is not alone in her sins as she has daughters (Verse 5) who protested against her and came out of her. Yet *they have the same sins*.

(To be continued)

went to bed and it was near morning when I awoke to find a bright and beautiful day; and I was rested and safe."

Woman, Missouri

• *God does PROTECT His own people!*

"Dear Mr. Cole and Brethren in Sydney,

"Many thanks for your prayers and the anointed cloth which I received yesterday.

"God be praised! The pain in my side was gone the morning after I wrote you requesting healing, and since receiving the cloth my shoulder is much better.

"I rejoice in the sure knowledge that there is One who hears us when we put our trust in Him, and call upon Him for help.

"May God haste the day when all mankind will share in His blessings, through obedience to His will."

From Member in Queensland

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

so excited. Excited at the entire prospect of the future. Free to worship God in truth. It's challenging, exciting, and we will pray always that we may live in truth and by every word of God. Our decision is firm—we will get out."

Couple, Hawaii

• *What a blessing to see how God is changing lives!*

Didn't Send It—But Please Return

"Please excuse me for not replying sooner to your letter in which you enclosed a receipt for a \$5 donation. There seems to have been an error made, as I did not forward the donation. I do not agree with your teachings or your Work. I am proud to say that I am an Orthodox Jew with firm confidence and faith in my religion and therefore require no substitutes or pseudo replacements. It would be greatly appreciated if you would return the \$5 donation to me."

Sam F., Maryland

• *W'haaaat??*

Miscellaneous

"Fires have been set in this locality, which is thickly wooded, destroying leaves and vegetation that help prevent erosion, build up the soil, and offer food and protection for wildlife. These fires have even destroyed some property. One night the blaze and smoke rose very close to our home. I was alone so I connected the hose to our hydrant and spread it out in readiness as the wind was quite high. Then I gathered belongings we have, such as important papers, clothing and bedding, and put them in the car. I do not drive, although I could well enough to get to a safe place. Suddenly I felt so tired, so weak and the fire was coming closer. Then I thought, how foolish, I haven't even prayed. I immediately prayed the dear Lord to stop the fire and please not let it destroy our home. After praying, I felt comforted—I had faith. Very soon, I mean *very soon*, it thundered, lightning and sprinkled and then it poured. The fire was put out—I was safe. What a wonderful Saviour! I

"A very dear friend who was an avowed atheist—who used to scoff at the programme on the air, and the articles in *The PLAIN TRUTH*—has now become interested and has sent for his own copy. He has made this decision against the strong opposition and threats of his wife. Yesterday the Methodist minister called on his wife (she is a strict Methodist) and she immediately told him about her husband's "madness" and that awful Armstrong man. The minister sort of looked foolish and admitted HE TOO was a LISTENER and admitted he agreed with most of the programme, but he said he couldn't agree with all of it and keep his job. The result was one disillusioned wife, one wildly happy husband, and one discomfitted minister."

Friend from Albury,
New South Wales

• *Thousands of ministers listen to The WORLD TOMORROW, and are afraid to accept what they know to be true.*

TWELVE RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

Here are some of the rules of Bible study used by Ambassador students and instructors alike. Study them and USE them to grow in your personal understanding of God's Word.

by David Jon Hill

MANY TIMES in sermons, articles and over *The WORLD TOMORROW*, you have been urged to STUDY your Bible. You have read, you believe and you have had expounded to you the scripture which says, "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). This type Bible study that is urged, is *apart from* the Correspondence Course, *The PLAIN TRUTH*, *The GOOD NEWS*, the review of booklets and of sermon notes—it is *your own private, personal study of God's Word itself!*

To be more effective in this study—to guide you in gaining the real meat and meaning, the understanding that is in God's Word—it is necessary to understand *HOW* to get the most out of God's Word.

In Bible study, as well as with anything else, there is a *right* and a *wrong way* to accomplish. There are certain rules, which if followed, will give you a more thorough understanding of God's Word—leave you with fewer questions, begin to help you think and act as God does because you understand what He says in His Word.

The following rules are not necessarily in order—they are certainly not *all* the rules of Bible study—but they are *basic* and *important* and will help you gain the Truth from God's Word.

Pray for Guidance

First, before you even open the Bible, you must ask God in PRAYER to open your mind to His Word in the study that you intend to make. David was a man after God's own heart—

he studied that portion of God's Word which was available to him in his day. He meditated, thought about and considered God's laws and His ways. He was close to God in every way and yet many times throughout the Psalms we read how David ASKED God to *guide* him in his study, to *open* his mind, to *reveal* His Truth.

"TEACH ME, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. GIVE ME understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. MAKE ME TO GO in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. INCLINE MY HEART unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness . . . STABLISH THY WORD unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear . . . Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: QUICKEN ME in thy righteousness" (Ps. 119:33-40).

Without sincerely and believingly asking *God's direction* in your Bible study—without seeking *God's Kingdom* and His righteousness first (Matt. 6:33)—Bible study of itself would be futile. Just as you can worship God in vain (Mark 7:7), so you can study His Word in vain! Many wise and intelligent men have made a life study of God's Word in its original languages, and profited nothing from it!

Men like Moffatt, who *translated the entire Bible* from Genesis to Revelation—certainly *he* studied God's Word, but he did not get the Message, he did not understand the Gospel—even in the introduction to his translation he explains how he feels the Old Testament is a compilation of Jewish literature! Adam Clarke wrote six volumes of a commentary on *every*

last verse in the Bible—yet not by any stretch of the imagination could he be construed to have understood God's Plan.

The study and work that men of this intelligence have contributed *CAN be helpful to us*. But not because of any special intelligence that we may have—only because we have asked God to open our minds and give us *His* understanding of His Word.

Don't use the excuse that you have not had enough education, or that you are *not intelligent enough* to really study God's Word—GOD KNEW you weren't too brilliant, *that's why He called you!* (I Cor. 1:25-27). You become unwise when you begin to compare yourself to others—in the church or in the world! Take for granted your ignorance. Take for granted that you do not know *of yourself* how to understand the Plan of God—that's why you must ASK Him to make it plain!

If all that was needed to understand God's Word were *brains*, then a vast number of the people of the world would have a thorough understanding of God's Word! God says, ". . . they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jer. 4:22). So, as long as you know *how to read*, if you get on your knees and sincerely ask God to guide you in a study of His Word, He will open your mind to understand things that the most intelligent minds of mankind have not been able to understand. *Prayer* will open to you an understanding of God's Word that Einstein did not have. *Prayer* will open your mind to understand God's Word in a way that the graduates of Harvard and

Yale, Oxford and Cambridge, the great universities of Europe and Asia, are not able to understand.

PRAYER—your contact with God—is important in the beginning of your study of His Word—His contact with you—or you may spend endless hours of studying His Word like a Pharisee. The time spent, the verses covered, your understanding of the depth of the Greek, your memorization of how many verses there are in the Bible, will be of NO AVAIL at the return of Jesus Christ! *Only that part of His Word which you have made a part of your Spirit-begotten mind will be of any account.*

HEART-FELT PRAYER for God's guidance in your own personal Bible study will insure success!

Attitude Must Be for Self-Correction

This SECOND rule really goes hand-in-hand with the first. Before you rise from your knees in prayer, you should fully recognize in your own mind and heart that your *purpose* for this Bible study is not just to gain academic knowledge, not only to prove or disprove a certain doctrine or fact—but to get you closer to the stature of the fullness of the very character of Jesus Christ. The only way this can be done is for the *carnal* you TO BE CORRECTED!

God's Word is written directly to each of us as an individual—it is personal, direct—and as far as our achieving salvation is concerned has nothing to do with anybody else on the face of the earth!

Therefore your attitude should be the same as Jeremiah's. In fact, since you're going to be *studying* the Bible, turn to Jeremiah 10:23 and read two verses there meaningfully and as part of your prayer! "O Lord, I know that the way of man is *not in himself*: it is NOT IN MAN that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, CORRECT ME, but with *judgment*; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing."

Don't just go through this mechanically, really mean it! Don't just do this because this article *says* to do it, but because *you want correction from your Creator!*

In order for your attitude to be proper in your approach to God's

Word, turning to one other scripture would clearly aid you in understanding what your approach should be—in educating your attitude to be right before you begin. "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but *to THIS MAN will I look*, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and TREMBLETH AT MY WORD . . . Hear the word of the Lord, *ye that tremble at his word*; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake [your carnal friends and relatives], said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to *your joy*, and they shall be ashamed" (Isa. 66:1-2, 5).

This Bible that you are studying is the *very MIND and THOUGHTS of your Creator-God!* It is not to be argued about. It is not meant to be a club to chastise OTHER people with! In other words, if you are a husband DO NOT use Ephesians 5:22 as a weapon against your wife—or, if you are a wife DO NOT use Ephesians 5:25 as a weapon against your husband! But each of you as husband or wife apply that scripture which refers to YOU *to yourself and YOURSELF ONLY!*

Prove All Things

This THIRD rule is in a way an extension of the proper attitude of rule number two. Your approach to God's Word should be *completely POSITIVE!* The example given by the Bereans in Acts 17:11—"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things WERE SO"—this was a *positive* attitude! The Bereans were not searching the Scriptures to prove Paul was *wrong!* They were NOT negative, angry, bitter.

So if you have heard something in a sermon that you do not fully understand, your approach in your own personal Bible study should be to prove that it is so.

Since you are a member of the Body of Christ—a baptized member of the

Church of God—this certainly takes *at least FIVE THINGS for granted.* It *takes for granted* that you have already proved that there is a personal Creator-God who made all things. That you believe the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is His express will to mankind. That Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the actual Son of God who lived a completely righteous life nearly 2000 years ago here on this earth, *died to save you from your sins*, and rose the third day to live forever. That that same living Jesus Christ *built His Church* which has lasted from the time of its inception, June 18, 31 A.D., until this present moment. And lastly that THIS is *that church!*

Having proved these things, establishing them as a foundation of faith upon which to build your character to perfection with the aid of God's Holy Spirit, you must also recognize that CHRIST RULES HIS CHURCH! Therefore, do not try to *disprove*, but to *prove*, to understand thoroughly from God's own Word the statements made through His Church.

The common misunderstanding of I Thessalonians 5:21 which says, "Prove all things," is that this *proof* must entail a deep research into the Hebrew or Greek backgrounds, and into encyclopedias and historical references, lexicons and musty historical records. This is erroneous. If your research takes you into references of this sort, and you are endeavoring to *prove POSITIVELY* God's Truth, this is perfectly all right—but it is *not always necessary.*

This word "*prove*," is POSITIVE. That is the one main point of this particular law of Bible study. But the word itself means, *to put to the test.* There are *proving* grounds on which the modern automobiles manufactured in Detroit are *tested.* In the parable Jesus Christ uses regarding the wedding supper, there is a reference to a man who had just bought five yoke of oxen. The excuse he gave for not coming to the supper was that he wanted to *prove* these oxen (Luke 14:19). This is the *same Greek word* as used in I Thessalonians 5:21. Yet this man did not mean that he was going to go to his local library and look up in some dic-

tionary a description of oxen to find out for sure *whether they WERE oxen*—it meant he wanted to be excused from the wedding supper so that he might take the oxen out to the field, yoke them up, hook a plow behind them and find out whether they would be able to do what oxen are supposed to be able to do! This is basically what God means in I Thessalonians 5:21.

Just as He commands us in the book of Malachi regarding tithing. What He wants us to DO is *not* to technically search lexicons to find out Greek and Hebrew derivations, but—just as the principle is throughout the entire Bible—merely to DO *what He says to DO*. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME [TEST ME] now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). This is a POSITIVE *going forward*, a finding out of what God DOES say, not a search for *error* or *disproof*.

Bible Never Contradicts Itself

If you have difficulty in understanding any particular scripture—if it *seems* to say something different from another scripture, you just need to study more. Always remember beyond any shadow of a doubt that *God never contradicts Himself*. Therefore, either your understanding of the particular scripture or the translation that you are reading is incorrect or misunderstood.

Malachi 3:6—"For I am the Lord, I CHANGE NOT; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"—MEANS what it says. Hebrews 13:8—"Jesus Christ the SAME yesterday, and to day, and for ever"—MEANS what it says.

The very *source* of Truth is God's Word (John 17:17)—and unless your approach to it, your study of it is from this point of view you will never gain any understanding from it.

What DOES the Bible Say?

This FIFTH rule of Bible study often solves many problems. Many times our misunderstanding comes from the *confusion that this world causes*—from a misinterpretation, a direct *twisting* of

a scripture to conform to the doctrines of devils promulgated by Satan's ministers.

"Woe unto them that *call* evil good, and good evil; that *put* darkness for light, and light for darkness; that *put* bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are *wise in THEIR OWN eyes*, and prudent in THEIR OWN sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which JUSTIFY the wicked for reward, and TAKE AWAY the righteousness of the righteous from him!" (Isa. 5:20-23). The educated people of this world who *claim* to be representatives of God, the *interpreters* of His Word, TWIST and WREST that Word to their own destruction and the destruction of their hearers.

Yet many times YOUR *faith is weakened* because a friend or relative brings up one of the pet scriptures. With his explanation and the dominance of worldly teaching about the subject it seems to be difficult to understand, yet is quickly understood if you just ROOT OUT all of the prejudice introduced by this world's doctrine and read the Bible EXACTLY AS IT IS WRITTEN.

So always remember to ask yourself — *and answer* — the question. "What does the BIBLE say?"

John 3:6 is a good example of this. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." This is a very clear scripture, explaining that flesh is flesh and Spirit is spirit! That's what the Bible says! But that's not what *people say* the Bible says!

Sometimes you may have to refer to a reference work (which we will cover under a separate law) for scriptures such as I John 5:7.

Or perhaps a reading in the *margin* of your Bible will help you understand if a scripture *seems* to contradict what you know to be the truth. Take the example of Luke 17:20-21—"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is WITHIN you." Here, the Bible *does* say, "The kingdom of God is *within* you." But here it is only the King James Translation which says

this—not really God's Word. So, since it is not clear in the *King James Translation*, other aids are necessary to find out what it does say.

This leads automatically to the next rule of Bible study.

Check the Context

Context means, *con* — *with*, *text* — *text*. In order to check the context you merely read the *texts which come WITH* the text that is in question. You read the texts BEFORE and the texts AFTER. In this example of Luke 17:21 you need to also ask yourself a number of questions regarding the context. The text that is with (*con*) Luke 17:21, is Luke 17:20! This verse *just before* answers the question regarding Verse 21, but in order to *answer* that question you must *ask* yourself the question, "WHO?"

In other words you must ask yourself, if "the Kingdom of God is *within* you"—WHO is the YOU that the Bible is referring to? In this case Verse 20 explains that it is the *Pharisees!* Now you KNOW that certainly Jesus Christ wasn't saying that the Kingdom of God is inside of PHARISEES! Therefore, the *con (with)* text helps you to see that there must be a *mistranslation* in this particular verse.

And sure enough, when you check the margin of your Bible you will find that the word "within" should be translated "among"—referring to Jesus Himself as a Representative of God's Kingdom who was at that time "among" the Pharisees!

In order to understand any scripture thoroughly, in its context, you need to ask yourself—and answer for yourself—all the following questions: WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? WHO? HOW? When you have answered these questions regarding any particular text, and you have read all of the accompanying texts, *with* the text in question, you will have GOD'S answer to the problem.

Many people misunderstand Mark 7:19—thinking that this is one of the places where unclean meats were cleansed—simply because they do not read the context. In this case the context is the *entire chapter*. You must go back from Verse 19, until you begin to find the subject about which Verse

19 is talking. That subject has to do with whether or not to wash your hands ceremonially before you eat, and has nothing to do with whether the food you eat is clean or unclean according to the laws of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

There are even *lies* written in the Bible and you have to be careful that you ask yourself *exactly* what the Bible says in the *entirety* of the context of any one statement. *The Bible says*, "Ye shall NOT surely die" (Gen. 3:4). This is a *Biblical* statement! But in order to find out whether it's true or not you have to find out WHO said it. In this particular case the same verse explains that Satan the Devil said it, but in order to find out whether it is true or not (because sometimes even Satan tells the truth) you have to go back in the *context* until you come to Genesis 2:17 where the Creator-God is quoted as saying, "THOU SHALT SURELY DIE!"—then you know what the *Bible*, in its ENTIRETY and in its *truth*, DOES SAY!

Get All the Scriptures

No one scripture can *of itself*, taken OUT of *context*, be used to establish the Truth. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any *private* interpretation" (II Pet. 1:20).

God has put His Bible together in a very unusual manner. He has written it so that men could study it intricately in its original languages, pouring over its pages for their entire lifetime—and yet never come to a knowledge of the *Truth*. Many people have memorized great sections of the Bible and yet not come to realize what those sections mean. You must take the whole Bible in its entire context, getting *all of the scriptures* in that Bible on *any one subject* BEFORE you can come to the knowledge of that particular subject from God's point of view.

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little [Even so, when people of the world study God's Word a little here

and a little there they are STILL *not able to understand* the Message of God's Truth because they do not have His Holy Spirit guiding them. That Holy Spirit—the very mind and understanding of God—is the power that inspired those words in the first place, and WITHOUT THAT SPIRIT TO INSPIRE THE UNDERSTANDING THE DOOR TO THE WORD OF GOD REMAINS SHUT!] . . . But the word of the Lord *was* unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken" (Isa. 28:9-10, 13).

Oftentimes people think that the Bible is *contradicting* itself when actually all it is doing is *supplementing* itself. A good example of this is found in Matthew 27:37 as compared to Luke 23:38. Here Matthew and Luke *appear* to contradict one another in their statements as to what was written on the sign affixed to the stake upon which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Now while you're going through this article, just take time to *get your Bible* and USE this example to PROVE that getting *all* of the scriptures on any one subject WILL give you God's understanding on it. In order to find out *what* was written on that sign, *who* wrote it, and *how many* languages it was written in, you will need to put at least four scriptures together, not just two. So turn first to Matthew 27:37, and *write down* what the Bible says was written on that sign. Then, *go right on* to Mark 15:26 and write beneath what you have written what *Mark* says was written on that sign. Then do the same with Luke 23:38 and also John 19:19. Put them all together and you will see what was written on that sign.

If *one* of these scriptures were left out you would not know that it was *Pilate* who did the writing. If *two* of these scriptures were left out you would not know that the writing was originally done in *three languages*. These added bits of information, each from a different author, supply us with a complete record of what was written there originally. No one scripture contradicts the other—each only serves to

complement and round out the information of the other.

Let the Bible Interpret the Bible

So many people write in to *The WORLD TOMORROW* and comment how much they enjoy *Mr. Armstrong's interpretation* of the Bible. Over and over again you will hear Mr. Armstrong explain to the radio audience that it is NOT *his interpretation* that is being heard over *The WORLD TOMORROW*, but *only PLAIN BIBLE TRUTH!*

Romans 3:4 is a good clear principle to live by in this EIGHTH rule of Bible study—" . . . let GOD be true, but every man a liar."

In your edition of the King James Bible the book of Revelation will probably be entitled, "The Revelation *St. John the Divine*." This is an excellent example of *MAN'S interpretation*. Now in order for you to understand *what* the book of Revelation is—*whose* revelation it is, *to whom* it was written and *what* it is about—all you have to do is read the first few verses of THE BOOK ITSELF! In fact the very first words of the very first verse *directly contradict man's interpretation* of the Bible with the plain Bible statement that this book is, "THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!" (Rev. 1:1).

This book of Revelation has long been an enigma to the people of the world—GOD SAYS it is a book of *revelation*. *The world says* it is a book of *hidden mystery*. People have come up with many weird interpretations for the book of Revelation—yet the book of Revelation is VIVID in its own clear description and needs no interpretation!

As you read in Verse 12 that John saw seven *golden candlesticks*, you don't have to *wonder* what these seven golden candlesticks are—all you have to do is READ ON until you come, in the *context*, to Verse 20 and that verse tells you plainly that the seven candlesticks ARE the seven churches. In Verse 16 it states that John saw *seven stars* in the hand of the Son of man. There is no need to go into great, eloquent illustrations of what the seven stars are, because again Verse 20 reveals the plain Bible truth—no interpretation necessary—that the seven stars ARE the

angels of the seven churches. And so it goes through the rest of the Bible.

All you have to do is be patient and search God's Word and you will come up with God's clear answers to the muddled questions of mankind.

Beware Vague Scriptures

Perhaps a better general statement of this NINTH rule of Bible study would be: *Never establish a doctrine by a vague or difficult-to-be-understood scripture.* In searching for scriptures which would back up the doctrine of the reward of the saved being heaven, Satan's ministers have taken scriptures which are a little *unclear* in the King James, put their own interpretation on them, and got people to believing they say something other than what is written in the Bible. So the people of the world are deceived into thinking that John 14 in its first few verses states that the saved are going to heaven! You read those verses and see if there is any mention of the saved going to heaven.

Sometimes we can have difficulty with scriptures because we get our nose too close to the tree to see the forest. For instance, "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," (Matt. 9:12) *seems* to say that Jesus is making a statement regarding sick people using physicians. However, all you have to do is read the very next verse—the advice of *Jesus Christ Himself*—and then go do exactly what he said.

People of the world *assume* that the vision which Peter had regarding the unclean beasts lowered to him on a sheet affirms the fact that God "cleansed" unclean meat. Because they *take out of context* a verse, unclear of itself, that says, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:15). However, all they need to do is read on *two more verses* and Verse 17 very plainly says that *Peter himself doubted* what the vision meant when he saw it he didn't jump to any conclusions, but vague-scripture quoters are eager to! Further reading in the same chapter will explain what Peter finally came to understand about the vision—read Verse 28.

Use Several Translations

In Matthew 27:46 Jesus Christ while hanging on the stake before He died used the *Aramaic* translation of the first verse of Psalm 22. Even though the original Word of God was inspired in the Hebrew or the Greek, God has allowed it to be translated into nearly every language spoken by mankind. If we were going to be particular about which language we used or which translation then we would all have to learn Hebrew and Greek and study the Bible in its original languages.

The King James Version was written 353 years ago. In the time since the English language has undergone many changes. Sometimes those texts which are vague and unclear in the King James can be cleared up very easily by just reading a *more modern translation*, such as the Moffatt or the Revised Standard Version.

There is one thing to note about the King James Translation and that is regarding italics. This word *italic* is written in italics. Words that look like this in your King James Version are NOT in the original languages but are *supplied* by the translators. So everywhere in the King James Version where you notice words in italics they are supplied to help you understand the meaning of the sentence. However, since the translators were carnally minded they did not always supply the words correctly. So some of these words in italics are incorrect and do not help but rather hinder your understanding.

On the other hand, *all of the words which ARE supplied* by the translators are NOT in italics. Take I John 5:7 for instance where the reference to three who bear witness in heaven is a completely erroneous reference inserted by a monk-copyist in the Middle Ages. The fact is this particular verse appears only in the King James Version and is in NONE of the other translations of the Bible.

If there are *words* that you have difficulty in understanding remember to not only look them up in an English dictionary such as Webster's, but if possible in a *Bible* dictionary or in STRONG'S CONCORDANCE so that you can see what the meaning of the word

in the original is. Sometimes people will look up the meaning of a word in a modern dictionary and that is not at all the *sense* of the word that is used in the King James Translation. Take for example the word "conversation" in I Peter 3. Conversation to us today means talking between two people. A modern dictionary will give this definition. However, at the time of King James this particular word meant *the entire conduct* of a person and that is the meaning in the *Bible* usage of this word. In order to understand it then, you need to understand the meaning of the *original* word, and not just the meaning in a modern dictionary.

Often these difficulties will be cleared up by merely reading another translation and comparing it to the King James. Any questions arising after a thorough reading through several translations of any one verse will be few, and can be handled by studying further in Bible helps.

Don't Establish Doctrine With "Bible Helps"

Clarke's Commentary and the commentary by Jamieson, Faucet and Brown are good reference works—as is *Halley's Pocket Bible Handbook*. Sometimes in the back of Bibles there will be sections called "Bible Helps." These "helps" often turn out to be the insidious instruction of Satan himself. All they do is lead you astray. Even the marginal references in your Bible, which *sometimes* prove to be very helpful, are often misleading.

Therefore, all of these Bible helps must be used ONLY to establish historical or grammatical facts related to the Bible and MUST NOT be used to *establish doctrine or to interpret the meaning of the Bible itself.* The chain reference in my Bible in the center of the two columns at Revelation 1:10 says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day . . ." and by the Lord's day there is a little z. In the column by the z there are two scriptural references—one to Acts 20:7 and the other to I Corinthians 16:2 which both refer to the *first day of the week*, but have nothing to do with the Lord's day which is explained in the rest of the book of Revelation. So, with Bible

helps you must remember only to use them for technical facts and not for interpretive facts.

MARK YOUR BIBLE!

If you have been in the Church of God for long, your Bible is probably very well marked. Now the measure of a saint is not the marking of his Bible, but most of the ministers' Bibles look almost messy because they have been marked so much. Sometimes we hold back from marking the Bible and think that we'll do it later—especially when we're listening to a point that we need to remember about a particular scripture in a sermon—but we never seem to get around to it. It's always so difficult to get out all the different colored pencils and the ruler, to get our hands clean and remember what the color key was—we just never seem to

get around to it. So I have found over years of experience that the best way to mark the Bible is to **JUST MARK IT!**

If during a sermon you hear a minister explain that a particular word is mistranslated in the King James language—don't allow that time to go by before you mark down that fact in your margin. When the minister explains about I Peter 3:1 and says that the word "conversation" ought to be "conduct" the thing you need to do is to **IMMEDIATELY**—while you are yet listening to his words—**WRITE DOWN "conduct"** in the margin and draw a little line and circle the word "conversation" in the verse. This way you will always remember.

Apply these twelve rules diligently, and your Bible study will be both interesting and rewarding.

Bible Answers To Your Questions

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

Would you please explain Proverbs 26: 4, 5. Verse Four reads, "ANSWER NOT a fool according to his folly." Yet, the very next verse tells us, "ANSWER a fool according to his folly."

Actually, these two verses are not contradictory — BUT COMPLEMENTARY! The use of either verse—that is, its principle applied to a particular use—depends on the *set of circumstances*. Both these verses contain gems of wisdom that each one of us needs to learn to properly apply in answering other people's questions (I Peter 3:15).

The **LAST PART OF EACH VERSE** holds the **KEY** which unlocks the meaning of these verses—and shows them to be *practical, usable and wise principles*.

Verse Four reads, "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him." The last part of the verse holds the **KEY**: don't degrade yourself by descending to **HIS LEVEL** in an **ARGUMENT!** Don't harangue

—don't bite back—don't try to "argue back" with someone who is obviously trying to stir contention.

The perfect example of this is found in Luke 20:1-8. Here Christ was teaching in the temple. The Pharisees came to Him with these words: "Tell us, **BY WHAT AUTHORITY** doest thou these things? or **WHO** is he that gave thee this authority?"

Quite obviously, they weren't interested in learning anything—they weren't coming as humble individuals hungering after new knowledge. **THEY WERE THERE TO ARGUE WITH CHRIST!!**

Notice, how Christ handled the situation.

"And he answered and said unto them, I will also **ASK YOU ONE** thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?"

"And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not?"

"But and if we say, Of men; all the

people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet.

"And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was.

"And Jesus said unto them, **NEITHER TELL I YOU** by what authority I do these things" (Luke 20:3-8).

Christ answered their question *with a question!* To answer their question directly would have only resulted in a verbal battle. An argument would have ensued. Christ avoided strife by **NOT answering them according to their folly.**

Now, understand Verse Five in Proverbs 26. Again, the last part of the verse holds the **KEY**: "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit."

In this case—if you don't answer his question—if you don't accept his challenge—he is going to **THINK HIMSELF** to be wise!

Your beliefs—your position will be ridiculed and in jeopardy. Now is the time to **ANSWER** "for the hope that lies within you" (I Peter 3:15).

The Apostle Paul had this problem. *False apostles* in Corinth were claiming **THEY WERE** the *true Apostles* of Christ.

Paul's position was in jeopardy! His *office* as Apostle to the Gentiles was at stake. But not that it would hurt *him*. The *congregation* would **BE LED ASTRAY!**

Now was not the time for silence—or clever questions! Now was the time to **SMASH** the contentions—to **ANSWER** these false apostles!

Notice II Corinthians 11:23—and how he answered these *foolish* men.

"Are they ministers of Christ? (**I SPEAK AS A FOOL**) I am more; in labours *more abundant*, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

"Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one . . . In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

Paul showed the people **HE** was their true minister! He *answered* and *debunked* the claims of these other men.

There is no contradiction! But rather much wisdom in these two verses. Wisdom we need to **APPLY** in *our daily lives!*