

The

MARCH 1980

Good News

ROMANS 13
and the State of
California
Attack

Is Your Name
in the Book
of Life?

Footwashing:
Only a Lesson
in Humility?

Remember
the Sabbath
Day



**HOW YOU CAN AVOID
CHRISTIAN BURN-OUT**

The Good News

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COVER: Like this candle, Christians can burn out, losing all interest in putting forth the effort to live God's way of life — and losing out on the future reward for living that way! Read how you can avoid this condition in the article beginning on page 4. Photo by Warren Watson.

Letters

Mr. Armstrong's Personal

I have never written you before to comment on any of the articles in the Church publications, but I am excited about [Herbert W. Armstrong's] "Personal" in the December issue of *The Good News*.

I never realized that Adam's decision was a deliberate rejection of God's Spirit rather than a negative reaction in human weakness. Until I read your article I was always a little sorry that Adam had to be tested (in his ignorance) beyond his human strength, but as usual you have made your point very clear.

Thank you for your wonderful explanations and teachings. I only hope as time goes on that I can appreciate more fully how much wisdom and truth you have to give.

Eve Lynne Elinson
Miami, Fla.

Only good news on earth

I received *The Good News* yesterday evening and I have read it through once, and I am going to read it through again. I just had to write to you and thank you personally for such a wonderful magazine! . . . To me, it is the only good news on the face of the earth.

Carolyn Blanton
Whittier, N.C.

1979 GN Index

I would like to thank [you for] the annual index of articles in the back of *The Good News* [December]. This will be a valuable tool in my studies.

Phil Thomsen
Coffeyville, Kan.

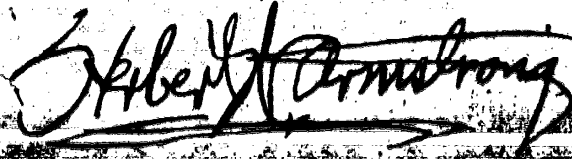
Appreciates articles

Just want you to know how much we appreciate the articles you include from time to time about the progress of the Work and members in other countries . . . We feel that all this amounts to the glorifying of our great eternal God as we are made aware of the way He is working in so many countries and with so many brethren individually.

We are thus helped to make our prayers for the Work very specific, and we thank God that He is using your publication to keep us informed on every aspect of the situations that arise . . .

When maps are published, they too help us to realize the extent of God's Work.

Elsie Tout
Witbank, South Africa



Romans 13 and the State of California Attack

Dissidents and enemies of God's CHURCH have been saying that we disobeyed Romans 13 in appealing the government lawsuit of Jan. 3, 1979. They say, falsely, the Church of GOD should have caved in (to use an expression used by those who brought the suit) and let the State of California take over and run or destroy the Church of the LIVING GOD!

It's about time we UNDERSTOOD God's teaching through the apostle Paul in Romans 13.

The King James translation has, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers" (verse 1). The Revised Standard translation has, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities." The Moffatt translation has, "Every subject [citizen] must obey the government authorities."

The meaning is clear. It is speaking of each individual person, citizen, soul or subject of a kingdom.

The State of California lawsuit was not a criminal charge against a "soul," person, citizen or subject, or individual. It was a suit to take CONTROL and OWNERSHIP of the CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD! No criminal charge was made. No one was hauled into court to be tried whether guilty of such a charge or innocent. It was merely a civil ACTION with a COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER, to take CONTROL OF, TO MANAGE, HIRE AND FIRE AND OPERATE the Worldwide Church of God and its corporate affiliates, Ambassador College and Ambassador Interna-

tional Cultural Foundation. Along with it, because they are officers of these corporations, were named Christ's apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, treasurer Stanley R. Rader and the accounting firm which was used as, official accountant for the above.

Only weeks ago, the Los Angeles Superior Court dismissed from the suit the accounting firm. We had, meanwhile, employed one of the largest firms of CPAs in the United States to completely review all books and accounts and records of our accounting firm. They found everything IN ORDER. The accounting firm had been made part of the suit because IE. as newspaper headlines blared forth (but no such criminal charges were brought) Mr. Rader and I had been guilty of siphoning off millions (plural) of dollars every year, there is no way under the sun that could be done without collusion with our accounting firm. The books and records would have to have been juggled in some way to try to cover it up.

Once our firm of accountants was DISMISSED from the suit, it simply meant that the State of California could not affirm that anything was wrong in the way our accountants handled the books. If anything was wrong, then the California attorney general should have been able to state a "cause of action" to support his allegations of wrongdoing. Since he COULD NOT, the court dismissed the accounting firm from the case.

Although NO CRIMINAL CHARGES had been made in the suit, it was well understood that was the BASIS for the whole lawsuit. But there never was any PROOF — for of course no such

thing had ever happened! All they had was a false supposition by six disfellowshipped members seeking revenge! Even though they had no evidence — it was a false trumped-up charge by false men. The reason the State came SUDDENLY on Jan. 3, without even the legally required advance notice (in which THEY broke the law), was to seize our records before we could protect them! They got the records, and at the request of the attorney general, one of the country's largest CPA firms went carefully over the records for WEEKS. But no such evidence was found!

The lawsuit was against the Worldwide Church of God, affiliated corporate organizations and principal officers of the CHURCH, as chosen by Jesus Christ. In other words, it WAS A LAWSUIT AGAINST GOD ALMIGHTY, against the LIVING JESUS CHRIST AND AGAINST HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE AND GOD'S CHURCH — which BELONGS TO THE LIVING GOD.

When the Philistines came against Israel, with the giant Goliath, young David said, "Who is this uncircumcized Philistine, that he should defy the LIVING GOD?" The attack was not against David, nor even Israel, but against the LIVING GOD!

According to the dissenters David and all Israel should have "caved in." For it was a GOVERNMENT (the Philistines) who came against God's CHURCH of the Old Testament, and it's a GOVERNMENT of men that has now come against the CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD!

The State is not attacking a MAN! They have made no criminal charges. We are not being tried on a criminal charge. The ONLY evidence there pos-

(Continued on page 25)

Why Did God Raise Up the Nation Israel— and Deny Them Spiritual Salvation?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

DID ANYONE ever think to ask *WHY* God raised up the ancient nation Israel, denying them His Holy Spirit and eternal salvation — except their prophets *only*?

I've been writing on chapter 6 of my forthcoming book, *A Voice Cries Out*, covering this very question. I hope to have the book ready for distribution to our membership at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Meanwhile, it is being published by installments, a chapter a month, in *The Plain Truth*. But this chapter 6 will not appear in *The Plain Truth* until about August. I thought our membership might be interested in a preview of it, so I'm including it in my lead article in this issue of *The Good News*.

Why "chosen people"?

WHY were Old Testament Israelites called God's "chosen people" — and still denied the Holy Spirit to bend them into eternal life?

"Chosen" — for *what*? To be teacher's pet? For special favors above other nations? Was God a respecter of nations?

To understand, we need to start with Adam and Eve. It is an intriguing story, and I have never seen it put together in this manner before. The true reason for ancient Israel is an integral part of God's supreme master plan.

And did you ever realize that the

Holy Bible is the Book of and concerning that one nation ISRAEL? And that the Bible mentions other nations only if, and as they came into contact with Israel?

The truly amazing truth about Israel is totally unrealized by any religion — by any denomination in traditional Christianity — or even by Judaism.

And here's another shocker for you — also unrealized by any, including Judaism — the kingdom of Israel was *not Jewish!* The first place in the Bible that the word *Jews* is used is II Kings 16:6, where Israel is at war against the Jews!

It is indeed true that the nation Israel was God's chosen people. But understand this: they were not chosen as teacher's pet or for special favors. They were chosen for a special purpose preparatory to the Kingdom of God — a purpose they, on their part refused to comply with.

It is an intriguing story. And it has great significance in God's overall PURPOSE for all peoples!

God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF in and through MAN! God's ultimate purpose is breathtaking — the seemingly incredible transcendent potential of man.

The establishment of the ancient nation of Israel is an integral part of God's supreme master plan.

So now, to understand, and bring into mind the background, we go back a bit briefly.

First humans perfect physically

God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, as perfect specimens

physically and mentally. Yet they were but *unfinished* pieces of God's workmanship. Spiritual character was yet to be built into them and their offspring. In this humans are required to perform their own vital part.

Physically this perfectly created pair had no chronic ailments or tendencies toward physical illness or disease. That is testified in part by the fact that Adam lived to be 930 years of age. And for nearly 2,000 years the life span averaged close to 900 years!

Think of it! The first created man lived more than one sixth of all the time from his creation until now! Adam and Eve had a number of sons and daughters, but only three sons are named in the record.

Bear this in mind: Adam and Eve had rejected God as revealer of basic knowledge — rejected His government. They had chosen the "GET" way of life — the self-centered way of vanity, covetousness, envy and jealousy; competition leading to strife, violence and destruction and rebellion against authority.

Their first son, Cain, became a murderer and a liar. Although his murdered brother Abel was called "righteous Abel" by Jesus, humanity, descending at a rapid birthrate, became more and more violent.

Actually, from the time of Adam until Noah — some 1,500 or more years — only one man, Enoch, "walked with God."

By the time of Noah, a population explosion was taking place on earth

— even as it is again today. It is recorded, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth" — human thought and interests were "only evil continually... The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:5, 11-12).

This lawless universal corruption and violence was inflicting pain, suffering, anguish, frustration upon an evil humanity. It seems humanity never realizes the *God's way* — transgression of God's law — inflicts increasing suffering on its perpetrators — and on others.

This corruption and violence had become so universal that God determined to spare humanity from suffering longer in the mounting misery and anguish.

God took away their miserable lives by the earthwide flood, to be resurrected in the next second of their consciousness in the Great White Throne resurrection of the book of Revelation, chapter 20, verses 11-12. They will be brought back to life in a time when Christ is ruling the earth in righteousness, peace and happiness. Satan will be gone. Their minds then will be opened to God's TRUTH, and eternal salvation opened to them.

But God intended to preserve human life — and, as it were, to give humanity a new and fresh start.

Races mixed

One man only, Noah, was perfect in his "generations." That is, his heredity, ancestry.

It is amply evident that by the time of Noah there were at least the three major racial strains on earth — the white, yellow and black. All others in our 20th century have come from interracial breeding.

God does not reveal in the Bible the precise origin of the different races. It is evident that Adam and Eve were created white. God's chosen nation Israel was white. Jesus was white. But it is a fair conjecture that in mother Eve were created ovaries containing the yellow and black genes, as well as white, so that some of the children of Adam and Eve were black and some yellow, as well as some white.

At least, by the time of Noah, men "took them wives of all which they chose" (Gen. 6:2). The very fact of the insertion of the words *which they chose* implies they chose wives God did not intend for them to marry. There was every kind of evil and violence at the time. Jesus, some 2,000 years later, said, looking into this END time of the late 20th century, just before His coming to establish the KINGDOM OF GOD and restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, that conditions would be as in the days of Noah — "...they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage..." (Matt. 24:38).

In what way did eating and drink-

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ing and marrying have to do with the extreme evils which caused God to blot out the lives of all earth's people, except the eight of Noah's family? To eat wholesome food and drink pure water is necessary to sustain life and is GOOD. God Himself established the institution of marriage and made it holy matrimony.

But there was something contrary to GOD'S WAY in the manner in which they were eating, drinking and marrying, in Noah's time. Like today, "eating and drinking" evidently had become a custom of the type of revelings listed as "works of the flesh" in Galatians 5:19-21 and 1 Peter 4:3. In the latter passage, Peter speaks of "when we walked in lasciviousness [lawlessness and crime], lusts [violations of the Tenth Commandment], excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable

idolatries." Verse 4 terms these as "excess of riot."

Now Jesus drank wine — but in proper moderation. I frequently have attended banquets at which were present royalty and men high in government — at which only proper food and a minimum of wine have been served — and all were completely sober, discussing vital questions for the general good. Like marriage, none of these is WRONG — in moderation. God teaches moderation and temperance — not drunkenness, rioting, senseless drunken reveling like some do on New Year's Eve today.

Marriage is not wrong in itself. Yet, according to Jesus, one of the things evil and wrong in Noah's day was "marrying and giving in marriage." Genesis 6:2 reveals HOW and WHY! They were marrying wives "of all which they chose." They were choosing the wrong wives. HOW? God had intended NO MONGRELIZATION in human reproduction.

The one man God chose to PRESERVE the human race alive was perfect in his generations — all his ancestry back to Adam was of the one strain, and undoubtedly that happened to be white — not that white is in any sense superior.

If you are a livestock breeder, planning to enter your prize animals in a livestock show — perhaps at a state fair — you will be sure to enter only thoroughbred or pedigreed stock! Mixing the breed tends toward degeneration.

God originally set the bounds of national borders, intending nations to be SEPARATED and prevent interracial marriage. Notice, "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance [speaking of land or geographical boundaries], when he separated [notice — He separated] the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people..." (Deut. 32:8).

But people wanted to intermarry — until there would be only ONE RACE!

That desire seems inherent in human nature today!

God scatters humanity

Noah was of a perfect lineage — in his generations. His wife and three sons were of that same pure white strain. But Japheth evidently had

(Continued on page 25)

How You Can Avoid Christian Burn-Out

By John Halford

We have all experienced it. We come home at night and reach for the familiar switch. But instead of the room being bathed in light, there is a flash, a "pop" and darkness. The light bulb burned out. And we think, Why did that have to happen just now?

In these days of mass production, a burned-out light bulb is easily replaced. It's much harder to replace a burned-out Christian — specially selected and called by God to be a light to this world. But Christians, like light bulbs, do burn out!

Professional burn-out

"Burn-out" is a way of describing a problem common among deeply dedicated and highly motivated people. It happens when people who have been enthusiastic and committed discover that they cannot keep going. Suddenly, perhaps quite unexpectedly, they lose interest in their work and can no longer turn in a good job performance. Sometimes they even quit completely.

Burn-out is the special occupational hazard of those in the "helping" professions: counselors, poverty lawyers, policemen and psychiatric nurses, for example. Such people's

jobs involve a high degree of sacrifice and commitment. But a Christian is also a prime target for burn-out — for the Christian's calling also involves self-sacrifice, commitment and extra effort. So let's take a closer look at burn-out so that we can understand it and — what is more important — know how to guard against it.

Professional burn-out has been the subject of much study in recent

years. Researchers have tried to find out how to help once-dedicated people who have lost the desire to achieve. They have found that those most susceptible to burn-out are people with jobs that demand prolonged self-sacrifice — perhaps long hours in poor working conditions with inadequate salaries.

Such people can keep going for a while — perhaps years — because they work for more than just money. They believe in what they are doing. They share a sense of mission that goes beyond normal commitment to the job. But one day they find that their inner wells have run dry and they cannot give any more.

The symptoms of burn-out vary from person to person. Some just become apathetic, no longer interested in making a creative contribution. They do just what is required of them — nothing more, nothing less.

Others resign from their jobs, throwing away good reputations, accrued benefits and lifetimes of effort. They have even been known to turn in hostility on those they were once dedicated to serving and supporting. In some cases, they are driven to suicide.* (The suicide rate for policemen and psychiatrists is



Photo by Warren Watson

several times the national average.)

Perhaps you can recognize some of these symptoms in people you know — or even in yourself. These people don't pray as much as they have in the past. They become lax in their Sabbath-keeping, tithing and Bible study. They lose interest in the Work and gradually lose contact with it. They withdraw from fellowship and no longer participate in Church activities. They become very critical and negative. They still attend services, but their hearts are not in it. Bit by bit, little by little, they begin to leave the Church.

The Christian "burden"

What can be done to prevent burn-out? Studies of the subject suggest there are some professions that should not expect a lifetime commitment. Perhaps people should only be expected to work at certain jobs for a few years at most. It was even suggested that an effective working life span for a nurse in a psychiatric ward might be as short as 18 months.

Which is all very well for a psychiatric nurse — but Christianity is a lifetime commitment! If God has called you to "endure to the end," you can't just quit and do something else when the going gets rough. That course of action plays right into the hands of Satan — the adversary who is dedicated to the failure of God's Church. As the end time closes in and this earth becomes darker and darker, those whom Christ has called to be lights must be prepared to burn brighter.

So how do we help those who are burning out? And how do we avoid it ourselves? It is a problem that can strike at any one of us, from the least to the greatest.

Our part in God's Work, be it ever so humble, involves a genuine sacrifice of our time, energy and money. Christ never promised that this would be an easy task. As we grow in commitment and as the demands of the end-time Work press more heavily upon us, we can understand why some of the prophets described their part in God's Work as a "burden" (Nah. 1:1, Hab. 1:1, Mal. 1:1).

Before we ever set out to shoulder this burden, Jesus Christ warned us of exactly what we were getting into:

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:27, 28).

He went on to warn us that our own resources would not be adequate for the task. We, with "ten thousand," would have to go out to meet him that comes against us with "twenty thousand" (verse 31). Christ leveled with us — He was going to ask us to shoulder a burden, or carry a cross, that from time to time would almost become too heavy.

Of course, the reward for this labor is indeed handsome — eternal life, ruling with Christ!

But sometimes this reward seems a long way off, doesn't it? There are times in all of our lives when the vision blurs, and the reward seems unreal, too distant. The present, with its fears and frustrations, becomes the "real world."

These are the times when we are most in danger of burning out. That is the typical human reaction, as scientific research has shown. It is only the most unusual human being who is capable of prolonged self-sacrifice without a tangible reward. Most of God's people would not claim to be unusual human beings. So, given the situation, the calling and the responsibility that we have, it is only human that we should burn out — just like anybody else.

God knows this. There have been times when some of his greatest and most effective servants got discouraged and felt like giving up.

Elijah, we are told, was a man just like us (Jas. 5:17). Right on the heels of one of his most significant achievements, he felt like quitting.

In 1 Kings 18 we read of how Elijah faced the 400 prophets of Baal. He stood alone before them, challenged and ridiculed them, and then, as the servant of God, performed a stunning miracle. The false prophets were arrested by the people, and Elijah supervised their execution. It was a day that left its mark on the religion of Israel for many years.

But Queen Jezebel, furious at the destruction of her religion, determined to destroy Elijah and put a price on his head. Elijah had to flee

to a barren wilderness, where loneliness and weariness began to get the better of him. He came close to burning out (1 Kings 19).

The prophet Jeremiah served God faithfully in many different ways all through his long life. But there were moments when Jeremiah's burden became very heavy.

In Jeremiah 20:7-10 he tells God, in effect: "You deceived me. You made me do this job. Everyone laughs at me. I do your Work, and all I get is persecution. Even my friends are out to get me. But if I say I am quitting, you still make me do the Work."

Strong words indeed to the Creator of the universe. But God did not strike Jeremiah down. God knew Jeremiah was only human, and the burden was getting heavy.

Like Elijah and Jeremiah, we too become weary in well-doing from time to time and are tempted to slip quietly back into the world.

We saw earlier how burned-out policemen or nurses might do well to face facts and quit their professions. If they can be given honorable discharges they can leave without disgrace and start again. But Christ has not given us that option.

But God has not left us helpless in the face of burn-out. Remember God's promise: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Preventive maintenance

Christ knows what it is like to be tempted. Today, He has been restored to all power and authority. But He has not forgotten the experiences He underwent as a frail human being. We are told that we have a High Priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (Heb. 4:15). He, as a man, had to cry out to His Father for strength. He had to avoid a burn-out that would have had tragic consequences both for Himself and all mankind.

Christ knows that there is a limit to mere human strength and will. He knows we are vulnerable and has shown us how to guard against it.

How?

By preventive maintenance. Anyone who owns an automobile knows that it is better and cheaper to give it routine servicing than to try to repair it after something has gone wrong. A good mechanic understands the things that can go wrong and knows how to guard against them happening. He maintains the right amount of oil in the engine, fluid in the brake system and air in the tires.

We Christians should also know what can go wrong. We need to always keep in focus that the Christian calling was not promised to be a bed of roses.

We were told to "strive to enter in at the strait gate" (Luke 13:24), to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12) and to labor "to enter into that rest" (Heb. 4:11). Striving, fighting and laboring are strenuous activities. If we are to continue to help with the Work, we must take care of ourselves, as we would a car that we expect to work well.

The Bible shows us what preventive maintenance we need: regular contact with God and regular contact with the Church.

Herbert W. Armstrong has always said that God's Work is not the work of men — it is a work of faith. Mere men can't do the Work of God.

After He had returned to heaven, Jesus Christ would not allow His first apostles to even begin their work until He sent them the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. He knew that, humanly speaking, they were inadequate. They knew that too. They covered in the upper room, not knowing how, where or what to begin. But once the Holy Spirit came — well, you know that story.

It is the same today. We of ourselves, are not adequate for our part in God's Work. As God places a greater load on us (which He will do if we are growing); there will be times when we will stagger.

We are like weight lifters. However strong a weight lifter may be, there comes a point when he simply cannot lift any more. If he is to carry the extra load, he must get help.

Knowing that we would need help, Christ sent us the Holy Spirit — the same fuel His Father sent Him when He was on earth doing the Work. With the Holy Spirit, the apostles

were able to fulfill their great commission. Armed with the same Spirit, we can finish our jobs too.

The Spirit of God never burns out. But it can be quenched by neglect. And when the Spirit is quenched, remember that it is only a matter of time before we burn out. Think of what happens to your car engine if you neglect to maintain its oil pressure.

Paul told Timothy, a young man heavily committed to the Work, to "stir up the gift of God [the Holy Spirit], which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (II Tim. 1:6).

He told another young minister to remind the congregation to maintain good works (Tit. 3:8). Paul knew that God gives His Spirit only to those who worship and obey Him.

Guarding against burn-out

So how do we, as Christians, perform the essential preventive maintenance? By keeping *close to God* in prayer and by keeping *close to His law* by doing the right things. God's Spirit can then flow through us — like engine oil — preventing the wear that leads to burn-out.

Learn from the apostle Paul. He carried one of the heaviest burdens that God has asked of any man. He knew that even if he was humanly brilliant, energetic, zealous and dedicated, he could not make it by himself. Unless he had the same fuel driving him that Christ had, he would burn out.

Paul meant it when he said, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God" (Gal. 2:20).

There is one other way we can guard against burn-out. The researchers found that burn-out is *not* inevitable. Some people in the helping professions keep on going year after year, producing. And they maintain a healthy attitude toward their work and toward those they serve.

How do they cope? The researchers found that one thing these people had in common was the ability to share their feelings of weakness and frustration with others who understand. Successful doctors, policemen and counselors will act as props for

each other. They have learned how valuable this support can be.

Christ knew that His followers would need this kind of relationship. He made special provision for those who might find themselves lonely in the Church:

"There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake; and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now *in this time*, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30). Perhaps those in danger of burning out need to reassess the value of these spiritual relatives.

The prophet Malachi foresaw a time when some members of the Church, tired of waiting for their reward, would say: "It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts? And now we call the Lord proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered" (Mal. 3:14-15).

But Malachi also saw another group "that feared the Lord [and] spake often one to another" (verse 16) and thus kept the vision, kept the faith and kept going.

No useless members

There is no such thing as a useless member of the Church — one who can afford to let himself or herself burn out and not be missed. God doesn't call people. He doesn't want. The Body of Christ needs the effective working together of every part (Eph. 4:16).

Paul said the Church should become knit together in love (Col. 2:2). Take a look at a piece of knitting. Notice how no stitch can exist, by itself. Its existence depends on its connections to still more stitches, and so on until the whole garment is knit together with thousands of interconnecting stitches, each giving to and gaining support from the others.

The New Testament instructs the Church to not forsake assembling together, to prefer one another's

(Continued on page 29)

Is Your Name in the Book of Life?

By Stephen M. ...

Shrouded with mystery through the ages, this book has an incredible significance that is now revealed! The future depends on how you respond to this book.

Eternal life is promised to Christians. They are set apart as sons of God — legal heirs of the Kingdom of God. But how is this setting apart done? God is not the author of confusion. He has not left the records of those who are to inherit eternal life in haphazard disarray.

The legal recording of those who have become begotten sons of God is a real facet of God's plan of salvation. This recording process becomes fully clear only when one truly understands the God-ordained purpose for the *book of life*.

Mankind has not known God's intent for this book — most have never even known of its existence, and many who have seen it mentioned in the

Bible are confused as to its meaning and ignorant of its purpose.

Man's purpose revealed

It is God's desire to "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). This was the ultimate purpose from the beginning, and it has never changed. God intended that mankind be born into His Family before Adam was created. He intends it today and qualifying humans to share eternal God-life with Him will continue to be His unswerving purpose until everyone who has ever lived has had his chance to become God's son.

The prophet Daniel understood God's purpose for mankind. He wrote,

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness [shall shine] as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3).

This prophecy, which also mentions a terrible tribulation culminating in the Day of the Lord and the resurrection of the dead (verses 1-3), states that those who are to be delivered are "written in the book" (verse 1). This volume is the book of life. In other words, to be given eternal life and entrance into God's Kingdom, it is necessary to be found in this book.

Church being judged now

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house

[household or family] of God" (1 Pet. 4:17). God's Church — and only His Church — is being tested and tried now in preparation for eternal life. But why are we being judged now? Why, of all the people in the world, is God deciding our qualifications for birth into His Family on the basis of our actions now? At what precise moment does eternity come to hang in the balance for the Christian?

Notice the example of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the other servants of God. Christ did call some few people in the first 4,000 years of world history — and they did have their chance for salvation. These Old Testament servants of God were judged in their lifetimes. They, like us, had God's Holy Spirit and were His true people. But why? There is an important but often overlooked bond these people of bygone eons have in common with us today. A specific legal document determines when each servant of God officially begins his preparation for eternity.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination; or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27). Here is the answer. Everyone who will ever live in the Kingdom of God as members of God's Family must have their names entered in this book.

Matthew 8:11 plainly says that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of God. They represent the faithful men and women in the past who were tested and who qualified for eternal life. They will become members of God's Family. Their names are in the book of life!

Now notice an experience in the life of Moses, another of the faithful few in the Old Testament. The people of Israel had committed a grievous sin against God, forsaking the covenant He so generously made with them. As a result, God was ready to punish by death the entire nation, as death is the penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23).

Moses, understanding the heinousness of Israel's punishment, went before God to plead for mercy for the nation. In doing so, he offered to relinquish his most precious possession —

the legal right to membership in God's Family.

"Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin —; and if not, blot me. I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written" (Ex. 32:31-32).

Moses already had his name in the book of life. He recognized it to represent his legal right — if he remained faithful — to enter God's Kingdom that was much later to come to the earth.

Moses offered to substitute his opportunity for salvation to redeem the nation of Israel! God answered that this is not possible. God rejects no man, unless he personally chooses to reject God. "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book" (verse 33).

The New Testament likewise reveals the existence of this book. In giving various instructions to the church at Philippi, Paul enumerated several Christians "whose names are in the book of life" (Phil. 4:3).

God's plan to add members to His Family has always included the book of life. Explained to only a few, its purpose has remained hidden knowledge. However, God's elect in every age have known of the existence and solemn purpose of the book of life. Having your name in the book of life is the legal difference between eternal life and death!

Is it the Bible?

It is assumed by many that the book of life is just another name for the Bible. This explanation may satisfy the curiosity of some, but such conjecture is not scriptural. In the first place, it is self-evident that all the people who will be in the resurrection do not have their names written in the Bible.

Revelation 22:19 establishes a separate identity for these two books once and for all. "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy (the Bible), God shall take away his part out of the book of life."

Obviously, from the foregoing statements of Moses, Paul and John, who wrote Revelation, the book of life is a real book, apart from the Bible. It must be taken seriously.

Whose names are included in the

book of life? When are these names registered? Can they be taken out? If so, how? And, just as important, whose names are *not* there?

When are God's sons named?

When does one become a member of God's Family?

Paul explained that God's begotten children are "sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise [of ultimately receiving eternal life], which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" (Eph. 1:13-14). The receiving of God's Spirit, this "earnest" payment, spiritually begets us as members of God's Family.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God... the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:14, 16). We receive the Holy Spirit after a real repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). So those who receive the Holy Spirit become begotten sons of God at that moment.

God's government is not tangled with confusion and needless bureaucracy. Christ keeps records, using the book of life in much the same way as communities keep vital records of births. It is an authoritative legal record attesting that the names listed there designate begotten members of the royal Family to be resurrected and blown into eternal life at Christ's return.

God's book records, in effect, that a person has completely repented, come to believe Christ, been baptized and His name forgiven, that he has received the Holy Spirit and that he is a begotten son of God. Each person's name is written into the book when he is begotten as a son of God.

Many people do not value baptism or the laying on of hands as they should, not fully realizing the sacred importance of this ceremony, nor that their names are being entered into the book of life. They linger in heaven rejoicing when one sinners' remains unbaptized, receives God's Spirit and is recorded in the book.

Exceptions to the rule

At this point, other scriptures which may present questions as to when one's name is inscribed in the book of life need explanation.

It is important to remember that

the book of life is specifically mentioned in scripture only 11 times. Every facet of its role in God's plan is not clearly revealed, and certainly, technical questions remain. Consequently, there appear to be exceptions to the general rule that one's name is recorded at reception of the Holy Spirit, but these do not alter the normal manner in which God deals with the overwhelming majority of His people.

One such exception may be the early New Testament apostles themselves. Notice Luke 10:20, where Christ tells them, "Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you: but rather, because your names are written in heaven."

These men formed a group unique in all history. Christ dealt with them face-to-face during His earthly ministry, and their lives and work were to be the foundation of the New Testament Church. Apparently, their names may have been written in God's book before they received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31.

The apostle Paul presents another exceptional case. The Bible does not mention Paul in relation to the book of life, yet it does record that he was separated for God's service from birth (Gal. 1:15).

This may mean that Paul's name, too, was included in the book of life before receiving God's Spirit. Paul lived an unusual life in the service of God, and according to his own words, he was called to be an apostle "out of due time" (1 Cor. 9:1).

One last scripture that may present a question is Revelation 17:8. "And they shall dwell on the earth, shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world."

Does this verse support the predestination of specific people from creation? No. The phrase "from the foundation of the world" does not refer to the name, but rather to the book. This scripture does not teach the general predestination of mankind, but simply reveals that the book of life has been in existence from the beginning.

Additional names to be entered

After the first resurrection, there is yet another time when this

book will be in use: "And I saw a great white throne... and I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books [the Bible] were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life" (Rev. 20:11-12).

The Great White Throne Judgment is the time salvation is offered to the billions of people who have never been called by God, and God has called very few during the last 6,000 years of earth's history. Any offer of life demands the presence of the book of life.

These multitudes never had a previous chance, never had their names in the book. Most people have lived and died never knowing of this book, much less being included in it. Salvation has never been generally offered to man — only to a select few in the Old Testament and to those whom God calls now. The vast majority of people have yet to be numbered in the book of life.

These are the ones to be brought back to physical life for the express purpose of being judged worthy or not worthy, by Christ, of receiving eternal life. "And the dead [brought back to life in the second resurrection] were judged out of those things which were written in the books [the Bible], according to their works" (verse 13).

The book of life being open at this time (verse 12) symbolizes that the opportunity to gain eternal life still exists for these uncounted billions. Additional names can be inscribed in the book of life when these people are brought to repentance and receive God's Spirit. And apparently, must will make the right choice when it is offered to them.

Can names be taken out?

Once a person has qualified to have his name inscribed in this special book, is it ever possible to have it removed? Unfortunately, though God's Word never fails, man may falter. One may not continue as a begotten member of God's family if he willfully chooses the way of disobedience and death. Such a grievous sin will disqualify him to become a son of God.

Remember Paul's admonition! As a true Christian, his name was in the

book of life, yet he said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27).

"Yes, man can disqualify himself and lose out completely on God's wonderful promises. When one is granted repentance, is baptized and receives God's Holy Spirit, he receives his only chance of salvation. At that time, Christ places his name in the book of life — legal attestation that this person is a begotten son of God qualifying to be born into His Family. If the person rejects God's way of life, disqualifying himself, he forever loses this opportunity.

Notice: "Therefore... let us go on unto perfection... For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit... If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance" (Heb. 6:3, 4, 6). A Christian's life is serious business.

If one commits this unpardonable, unrepentable sin, he has abandoned his opportunity to enter God's Kingdom. He has forsaken and lost God's Spirit. He is no longer a member of God's Church, and his name is blotted out of the book of life.

John explains, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot his name out of the book of life" (Rev. 3:5). If one commits the unpardonable sin, his name is to be blotted out of the book. This symbolizes the eternal punishment to be meted out to reprobate sinners in the lake of fire.

Christ is returning soon to govern this earth. At that time He will grant eternal life to all those from the time of Adam whose names are found written in His book!

Think of the privilege, the glory and the life God offers His begotten sons. His gift to man is membership in the Family of God, forever recognized in this great book of royal records. One's name in the book of life is a precious possession. It is the difference between life and death — for eternity.

Footwashing: Only a Lesson in Humility?

Once a year, Christians are commanded to follow the example of Jesus Christ in performing the foot-washing ceremony He instituted on the eve of His crucifixion. But why?

By Stephen K. Hart

When men and women wore sandals — shoes open at the toes and on top — and commonly went barefoot as they walked the dusty and sometimes muddy roads and streets, the act of foot washing was a hospitable amenity extended to guests upon arrival at the home of their host.

It was usually performed by a servant or by the wife of the host, while the guests reclined at the table.

Jesus — the servant — performed this lowly service for His disciples on the night of His final Passover.

A humbling ordinance

John's account of this event has special significance when compared with the parallel accounts by the other gospel writers (John 13). The synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke) describe the partaking of the bread and wine. John does not mention this, but replaces it with the foot-washing incident. The explanation is that there is a deeper meaning in the foot-washing episode than is at first apparent.

The basic significance of foot washing seems obvious. John 13:14-17 states explicitly that Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet was an example of self-sacrificing humility for them to imitate. Certainly this lesson of service is not to be underestimated. In the first century — as so often today — humility was despised

as a sign of weakness rather than being seen as a virtue.

But Jesus made it a requirement for salvation. Thus the foot-washing incident is an enactment of His teaching:

"Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all" (Mark 10:43-44).

A deeper meaning

Yet there is more to it than this simple interpretation. For example, John 13:8 indicates that Jesus' act of washing the disciples' feet was essential to them if they were to inherit God's Kingdom. "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." In verses 10 and 11, Jesus seems to imply that His action also represents a cleansing from sin: "Ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, ye are not all clean."

Moreover, if Christ only intended foot washing to teach humility, then why should He have stated in verse 7 that they would only understand it later, presumably after His resurrection? For Christ immediately explained the lesson of humility that could be learned from His actions in verses 12 through 17. Clearly something more than a pattern of service is being established here.

Besides being an example of humility, the foot washing was also a prophetic indication of Christ's ap-

proaching crucifixion. In lowering Himself to wash His disciples' feet, Jesus anticipated His humiliation in death, in the same way that Mary's actions in John 12:1-8 foreshadowed the anointing of His body for burial. Notice verse 7. "Then said Jesus, let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this [ointment]." Foot washing was an act of service for others, symbolic of the service Christ rendered to men in laying down His life for them.

Christ "laid aside" His garments to do the foot washing (John 13:4). The same Greek word *tithenai* is also used in John 10:11, 15, 17, 18, where Christ spoke of "laying down" His life for mankind. A deliberate parallel? Perhaps, especially since the same Greek verb *lambanete*, meaning *take up*, is used in both John 13:12, in reference to Jesus' garments, and John 10:17-18, in reference to His life.

A vital observance

Thus John's rendering of the foot-washing ceremony brings to mind Christ's sacrifice. And this would explain why Jesus stated that the foot washing was necessary if the disciples were to share in His heritage (verse 8), and why it would render them clean (verse 10). Only His death on the cross could reconcile them to God the Father and Christ's resurrection and gain them salvation.

through paying the price for their sins and making it possible for them to repent and be accepted by God as righteous.

Naturally, the disciples wouldn't understand this symbolism until after Christ's death (verse 7), and as a result Jesus met with resistance from Peter, when it came His turn to have His feet washed. Peter attempted to repudiate Jesus' humbling of Himself. But Jesus insisted that if Peter refused to allow Him to wash His feet — that is, if Peter didn't accept the significance behind Christ's actions — then he could not have a part in the destiny of his Master (verse 8).

Why continue the ceremony?

Then, impulsively, Peter went to the other extreme and asked that Jesus wash his entire body in order to show his devotion to Him. To correct this second extreme, Jesus explained (verse 10) that a man who has bathed before going out to dinner does not need to wash his entire body upon arrival at the home of his host, but only his feet, which have become dusty on the road.

But why should John include this bit of discourse? Is it a reference to the state of cleanness from sin that believers, including Christians today, share? The one nonbeliever there, Judas, was not clean (verse 12). Was Christ indicating that it was still necessary for believers, though cleansed by the sacrifice of Christ, to periodically be cleansed of the "travel stains" they have acquired throughout the year? If so, the foot-washing ceremony was instituted to symbolize a yearly renewal of and rededication to one's initial conversion and resulting cleanness through baptism.

In other words, it represents the constant renewal of grace required to cover one's daily sins after the initial justification brought through Christ's sacrifice.

When the symbolism behind the simple act of foot-washing is seen, the truth in Jesus' statement is given added emphasis. "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." If we refuse to have our feet washed year by year, it could be viewed as a symbolic refusal of further and continued reliance on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and the resulting justification offered to sinners by God.



Old Testament Personalities

JOB

Though there is much speculation about who the patriarch Job really was and where and when he lived, there are, fortunately, fewer questions about the central theme of his remarkable book (assuming he was the author).

It seems safe to say Job lived sometime between Abraham and the exodus. He was extremely wealthy — the richest man of the east.

He lived in the land of Uz, but where in the east was Uz? Most place it on the

eastern edge of Palestine, somewhere between Damascus on the north and Petra on the south.

The outstanding characteristic of Job was his degree of piety. He knew the law of God and dutifully observed it. He even offered burnt offerings to God just in case his children had sinned (Job 1:5).

God calls a meeting

Now God actively governs the universe, and at a prearranged time the

archangels came to report the progress of their activities (verse 6). Satan was among them, for he had been assigned the care of the earth before the creation of Adam.

God asked him what he had been doing, and he replied that he had been "going to and fro in the earth, and . . . walking up and down in it" (verse 7). He neglected to reveal the reason he was so busy — he was looking for humans he might antagonize against God (1 Pet. 5:8).

And God said: "Have you seen Job? There's nobody like him in all the earth. He's perfect, upright, fears God and hates evil."

But Satan answered with sarcasm: "Why shouldn't he worship you? As long as you protect him and give him everything on a silver platter, he'll appear righteous. But just take a few blessings away and he'll curse you to your face!"

Satan was eager to prove his point, so God gave him authority over all that Job had, except he was not to lay a hand on Job.

The adversary departed to begin his evil work, not knowing that God was actually using him to chasten Job for a good reason — to further improve the man's exemplary character.

Attacked by Satan

Satan didn't waste time. He began a merciless barrage.

First he caused the Sabeans to kill Job's field hands and take his 500 ox teams and 500 she asses.

While Job was receiving this distressing news, another messenger came running to tell him a great fire had burned his sheep and shepherds. His trusted servants and more than 7,000 animals had been lost!

This messenger was just finishing his story when one of Job's camel drivers came bleeding and ragged to pour out his own story of terror. The Chaldeans had ambushed them and killed all but himself, stealing Job's 3,000 camels.

Job's mind was reeling! But before he could begin to sort out the turmoil in his brain, another servant came running with the most horrible news of all — Job's sons and daughters had been feasting at his eldest son's home when it was destroyed by a tornado — all were dead!

Job fell to the earth, totally broken. Satan had caused each succeeding calamity to be greater than the one before. Loss of his children was the crowning blow.

After a few moments he arose, tore his clothing in mourning, shaved his head and bowed down to worship God. He said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Eternal gave, and the Eternal hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Eternal!" (Job 1:21). And in spite of his great tragedy, Job didn't sin.

Another meeting in heaven

Following this, there was another meeting in heaven, and God inquired of Satan what he thought of Job now. "Doesn't he still hold to his integrity, even though you gained permission from me to persecute him without cause?" (see Job 2:3).

But Satan replied: "He's only interested in his own skin, and will give anything to save it. Just touch his bone and flesh, and he'll curse you to your face!"

Now God loved Job, and was confident that these trials would bring him to greater understanding and more perfect character. So he allowed Satan to return and strike Job's very body, but to refrain from taking his life.

Satan struck the man with boils, from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. And Job had to scrape his running sores with pieces of broken pottery. The pains were so severe on his posterior that he sought relief by sitting on a mound of soft ashes.

As if his agony wasn't enough, his wife began to chide him: "Do you still maintain your integrity? Curse God and die!"

But Job replied: "You're talking as a fool! Should we expect only good at the hand of the Eternal? He has the right to bring evil also." And Job did not sin with his lips.

Job's three friends

Three of Job's closest and wisest friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, heard of his calamity and set an appointed time to visit him. The trip was carefully planned, for they came considerable distances.

When they approached, they couldn't believe their eyes. Job's face

was so covered with boils he wasn't recognizable. They wept, tore their coats and sprinkled dust on their heads in deep mourning. They were so stunned by the turn of events in Job's life and so dedicated to him as friends, that they sat with him on the ground and fasted seven days and nights without speaking.

Finally Job spoke. He condemned the day of his birth, saying if he had never been born — or had been privileged to die at birth — at least he would now have rest. He indicated that he feared calamity, but saw no reason for it when it came. For he had been doing nothing differently from what he had done before. He had continually obeyed God's laws.

What follows, in chapters 4 through 31, is an example of eloquent ignorance. Job's friends prepare and deliver long discourses as to why he is suffering, and he in turn refutes them. His friends, without specifically accusing him, insist he is guilty of some horrible sin by pointing to his calamity as evidence.

Eliphaz, the first speaker, mistakenly argues: "who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous ever cut off? . . . they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same" (Job 4:7-8). He went on to proudly repeat some erroneous thoughts that a spirit had given him in a vision — that no man can be accepted as pure in God's sight. Then he gently told Job to repent, to acknowledge his calamity as correction for his sin, and he would again be blessed.

But Job maintained his innocence before his friends and God. He told Eliphaz his eloquent speech had been wasted on a righteous man! He challenged his friends to show him his sin — if they could find an error.

Then Bildad gave his speech, condemning Job for arrogance toward God. He insisted that as long as Job denied his affliction was punishment for sin, he was, by his actions, accusing God of perverted justice. But Job maintained that God had a right to do whatever He wanted to do, and He had evidently chosen to afflict Job without a cause. He implied he was perfect, but openly saying so would be an improper thing to do (Job 9:20-22).

Zophar mainly argued along the

same lines, more forcefully accusing Job of dodging the good advice of his "friends" on the pretext of being innocent. In effect, he called Job a liar. And the discussion became a bit heated.

Job retorted: "When you three die, no doubt all wisdom will perish with you! Give me some credit for having brains of my own!" (see Job 12:1-2). He challenged them to quit accusing and show him his errors if they were so wise. If he saw the sin, he would willingly repent. Otherwise, he insisted, they should behave like true friends and comfort him.

The great debate about Job's infirmity continued. His friends insisted he was somehow guilty of incurring God's wrath, and God would show him no mercy as long as he maintained his false righteousness. This, of course, made them more righteous in their own conceit than Job. He, meanwhile, condemned them as disloyal friends and maintained that if God took his life today, he would be worthy of immortality (Job 19:26).

Job went on to show his great knowledge about God's spiritual and physical laws. He gave a discourse on the depth and breadth of God's power and infinite wisdom — he certainly respected God and knew how to refrain from sin. Then he reminded them how great he had been before his troubles — highly respected for his wisdom, righteousness and wealth. He was righteous then and righteous now!

His friends had nothing more to say, for Job was adamant about his righteousness.

A new voice

This great debate, which had lasted several days, had drawn quite a group of observers. Among them was a young man named Elihu. And seeing that Job had declared he was through talking, and his friends were through arguing, the young man unexpectedly arose and took the floor.

He was angry at Job for justifying himself rather than God. And he was angry at his friends for accusing Job without understanding his error. He told them he had remained quiet out of respect for their ages, but now he would speak — filled with the inspiration of God (Job 32:1-20).

Elihu recounted their reasonings

and began to explain their fallacies. He told Job that God was dealing with him, not as an enemy, but as a friend — that God was merciful, not cruel, and that God doesn't punish without a cause.

He went on to explain that God will often correct a man to save him from destroying himself, pointing out, in effect, that even one who is righteous according to the law needs refinement from a loving God.

He spared no words in telling Job his turmoil was caused by his own vanity. He held his righteousness in higher esteem than God's righteousness (Job 35:2). All of his words were vain, and God doesn't waste His time listening to vanity (verses 13-16). Elihu went on to say that Job might know the letter of the law, but fell far short in knowing the magnificence of the Creator God. "Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart" (Job 37:23-24).

God Himself speaks

There followed a discourse by the Creator Himself. He expanded on Elihu's speech, addressing Job as the one who "darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge" (Job 38:2). Then He told him to start acting like a man, for He had some questions for him!

God, through a series of wonderful questions impossible for Job to answer, pointedly illustrated the great gulf between puny man and the awesome mind of the Creator God. He challenged Job to answer the unsearchable questions of the universe:

Where was Job when the foundations of earth were laid? Who determined the size? Who fastened it in space? Who controls life and death or light and darkness? Who designed the nature of man and animals and the beauty of creation? Who created all in perfect balance?

Then God asked Job: "Shall he [Job] that contendeth with the Almighty instruct Him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it" (Job 40:2).

And Job said: "Behold I am vile; what can I answer you? I lay my hand to my mouth."

God continued: "Will you also disannul my judgment? Will you condemn Me so you can be righteous? Can you search out the proud and humble him?" (This was exactly what God was doing to Job, and Job knew it!) And then God said, "If you can do all these things, surely you can save yourself by your own efforts!" (see Job 40:14).

Job sees himself

Then Job answered God, admitting he had spoken without wisdom and that his words were vain. He confessed he hadn't really known God, but now he understood what God was really like for the first time. He was guilty of the sin of self-righteousness and vain pride. He understood his chastening. He saw the foolishness of setting limits on divine wisdom and purpose and humbled himself before his Maker.

He said, in Job 42:6, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Then God corrected Job's three friends, for they had pictured Him as a harsh God, without mercy and compassion. And they had foolishly pretended to understand the mind of God better than Job had.

God told Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar to sacrifice seven bullocks and seven rams for a burnt offering, and ask Job to pray for them. For God said He would accept Job's prayer.

When this was done, God "turned the captivity of Job" (verse 10) — meaning when Job had repented and also forgiven his friends, God took him out of Satan's tormenting hands. He had learned a lesson about how God mercifully works with men to bring them to repentance, as well as the true meaning of righteousness and humility. This is probably where Job got his name, for Job means *repentant*.

Then God restored Job's health and wealth, giving him twice as much as he had before. The respect of his relatives and friends was restored also. God even gave him seven sons and three beautiful daughters to replace those Satan had killed.

To these blessings was added a long and full life. For God gave Job 140 more years to walk with Him on the earth. — *By Art Ferdig* □

ALCOHOL

Blessing or Curse?



Ethyl alcohol may be, to various people at various times, a source of enjoyment, a party beverage, an antiseptic, a depressant, an anesthetic, part of a religious observance or an addictive drug. It all depends on who is using it and how. Christians need to be aware of the properties of alcohol and of the proper uses for which God intended it.

Alcohol can be either a blessing or a curse, depending on how it is used. Most people who drink alcoholic beverages find them to be a blessing. On the other hand, sadly, there are a few who find — through abuse of such beverages — that alcohol can be a curse. This group includes the approximately 10 percent of drinkers who develop the malady of alcoholism, which destroys them physically, mentally and spiritually.

It doesn't matter whether the alcohol is consumed in beer, wine, whiskey, gin, vodka, vanilla extract or mouthwash — they all contain the same ethyl alcohol or ethanol (C₂H₅OH), and people need to be aware of the proper — and improper — uses of this chemical.

The Bible reveals three basic proper uses for alcohol: religious, medicinal and for enjoyment.

Religious uses of alcohol

In the Old Testament alcoholic beverages were important in various aspects of religious observance.

God's people, Israel, were commanded to include drink offerings of wine with the burnt offerings they made to God (e.g. Num. 15:5, 7, 10). Wine was among those blessings of which the Israelites paid tithes and gave offerings to their Creator (Neh. 10:39, 13:5).

Old Testament prophecies of the Millennium envision a world of material as well as spiritual blessings for everyone, and wine is used to symbolize those physical riches (Amos 9:13). Alcohol, used properly, will add another dimension of happiness to the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth.

Abstinence from alcohol was also

religiously significant in special cases.

Those who took Nazarite vows were to abstain from "wine and strong drink" (Num. 6:1-3). The Israelite hero Samson was a Nazarite; part of his vow, as the angel told his parents, was that he drink no wine or strong drink (Judg. 13:7).

As an act of worship to God, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah refused to eat the king's food and drink his wine while they were in captivity in pagan Babylon, choosing instead to eat pulse and drink water (Dan. 1:8), and they were blessed for doing so.

Wine is used to represent the sins of the great whore of Revelation, where the world's kings are said to be "drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Rev. 17:2).

For the Church now, the Bible shows one specific religious use for alcohol — at the Passover. Jesus indicated that the small amount of wine Christians are commanded to take on the first of God's annual Holy Days represents His "blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:28). This religious use of alcohol is, of course, the most significant in all history.

Alcohol as medicine

The medicinal value of alcohol is in its ability to act as an anesthetic (painkiller) and an antiseptic (prevents infection).

The good Samaritan poured oil and wine into the wounds of the man he befriended on the road to Jericho (Luke 10:30-37); undoubtedly the purpose of the wine was to deaden some of the pain and to prevent infection. Today we have more advanced

drugs for anesthesia, such as novocaine, which dentists use to deaden nerves when they pull teeth. Alcohol, though now generally mixed with other patent medicines, is still recognized and used as an antiseptic for minor scratches and cuts.

The apostle Paul suggested that Timothy use a little wine for his stomach's sake (1 Tim. 5:23). The Bible does not indicate the nature of Timothy's stomach problem or what his "often infirmities" were, but perhaps there was some difficulty with the drinking water or Timothy had a digestive impairment. However, whatever it was, note that Paul said to use a *little*, not copious amounts, of wine.

The book of Proverbs comments on the sedative effects of this drug in a warning to those in positions of authority: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more" (Prov. 31:4-7).

Alcohol can cloud a person's thinking. It can tranquilize those suffering pain or having psychological problems such as poverty, but this use of alcohol is very limited and should be resorted to only with extreme caution.

The danger of using alcohol as a sedative is that a person can become dependent on or even addicted to the drug. All too often people have started out by using alcohol to help themselves sleep or to escape severe problems, only to end up addicted to

the chemical and suffering from the destructive syndrome of alcoholism.

Thus alcohol, which can produce good, becomes destructive through abuse. It is far better to find some *real* solutions to your problems. If you are burdened with heavy difficulties in your life, remember the assistance God offers you through Jesus Christ: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

If poverty or financial problems are plaguing you, remember Christ's admonition that a Christian is not to worry about food or clothing, but should rather seek the Kingdom of God first — then his needs will be supplied (Matt. 6:25-33). God knows every one of your needs and will provide them if you rely on Him — you should not allow these physical considerations to so burden your mind that they cause you stress and tension that require relief from sedatives such as alcohol.

Drinking for pleasure

In addition to the religious and medicinal uses of alcohol, God also approves of drinking to add pleasure to social occasions such as weddings and parties. Wine and other alcoholic beverages can make people more cheerful and give greater enjoyment to already happy gatherings. They "gladden the heart of man" (Ps. 104:15, Revised Standard Version).

Christians should always exercise caution when using alcohol for pleasure, however, because of the ever-present danger of overuse, which will utterly destroy any enjoyment that could have been derived from a social occasion. Nobody likes a drunk, including the drunk himself.

Notice how Jesus Christ used wine at a wedding He attended in Cana.

The supply of wine had run out at this particular marriage celebration (John 2:3), and Jesus took it upon Himself to resupply wine for the feast.

Because this passage shows no religious or medicinal use for the wine, we are left to conclude that it was to be used to cheer the hearts of the

guests, including Jesus and His disciples. A wedding is an exciting, enjoyable occasion; and a little wine can make it more pleasurable, if used moderately.

Verse 6 indicates that Christ may have turned from 100 to 160 gallons of water into wine. This would seem like an enormous amount of wine for a wedding feast. However, during this particular period of history, Jewish wedding feasts lasted seven days, especially if the wedding involved a dignitary of the city.

This particular wedding was apparently a rather prestigious affair, because a "governor of the feast" was in charge. If this were a seven-day affair, and most of the village of Cana had been invited, then the stated quantity would not have been an excessive amount of wine at all.

This demonstration of supernatural power was the "beginning of miracles" by Jesus (verse 11). Why would the first of Christ's recorded miracles be that of turning water into wine at a social occasion? Perhaps it is because God was aware of the controversy that would develop among religious people over the use of alcoholic beverages.

The issue of drinking has been a raging battle among religions for centuries. One group of fanatics in the United States was so vocal that the government imposed a total prohibition on all alcoholic beverages from 1920 to 1933.

And indeed, if a person were to view only the devastation caused by alcohol abuse and alcoholism, he would be forced to accept the conclusion that the use of alcohol is *evil*. However, the majority of those people who choose to drink alcoholic beverages do not have any problems because they do so. There is nothing wrong with the proper use of wine, "which cheereth God and man" (Judg. 9:13).

Alcohol abuse

As we have shown, however, the misuse of alcohol is very dangerous. And alcohol abuse is not only harmful physically, but, spiritually as well.

During Christ's ministry, the religious bigots of His day condemned the way He used wine, calling Him "a glutton and a drunkard" (Matt.

11:19; RSV). These charges, of course, were utterly false accusations from ignorant sources. You can be sure that while Jesus most likely used wine at meal times and on some special occasions, He was never drunk. The Bible says that though Christ was tempted in all points as we are, He *never* sinned, and drunkenness is a sin that will keep you out of the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10, Gal. 5:21).

Christ Himself warned His followers not to be drunken (Luke 21:34). Paul told the Corinthian church to "put away from among yourselves" any member who was a drunkard — to have no fellowship with such a person (1 Cor. 5:11-13). No person who is unable to use alcohol properly is fit to be a minister (1 Tim. 3:3, 8, Titus 1:7). Paul taught the Ephesians to "be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess," but rather to be filled with the Spirit of God (Eph. 5:18).

Have you ever been guilty of drunkenness? What about at an event like the Feast of Tabernacles?

Notice God's instruction about how to spend your second tithe: "and spend the money for whatever you desire, oxen, or sheep, or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves; and you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household" (Deut. 14:26). Alcoholic beverages are to be used, if you desire, to help you *rejoice* in the presence of God.

But this instruction should never be used as an excuse to get drunk at the Feast, which would bring shame on you, your family and friends and cast a dark shadow on the Church of God. You are to rejoice — not bring disgrace on Christ's Body, which can happen when moderation and common sense are not exercised.

The Bible nowhere commands Christians to drink alcohol, with the exception of about a tablespoonful during the Passover service. Alcohol should be seen as a blessing that God has given human beings to honor Him, to help heal our bodies, to cheer us up when needed and to add pleasure to meals and social occasions. As Christians, we should be aware of the benefits and dangers of alcohol and use it properly, so we can truly consider alcohol to be the blessing God meant it to be. □

Close-Up

Personality profiles of members and co-workers of God's Church around the world.

"I'm not a kook, a religious nut or a rabble rouser. But if I believe in something, I feel I should stand up for it." So says Bakersfield, Calif., Church member Tom Byars, a man who believes in acting on his faith. And after nearly 10 years of fighting, his action paid off, winning him and hundreds of other Americans a major victory. Last December, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that he could not be fired from his job for refusing to work on God's annual Holy Days.

Mr. Byars, a teacher in the Ducor Union School District, became a member of the Worldwide Church of God in 1970 when he was 24. That fall he took the Holy Days off. The school board threatened him with dismissal. Mr. Byars, however, held to his rights as a U.S. citizen and decided to challenge the school board's illegal act. And so began a chain of events that ended up in the nation's highest court.

The Los Angeles, Calif., *Times*, in a front-page article following the ruling said, "The [Supreme] court's action amounted to a significant legal victory for Jews, Muslims, Seventh-day Adventists, members of the Worldwide Church of God and other religious faiths that celebrate their holidays at times when most Americans are working."

Mr. Byars lost the early rounds.



TOM BYARS WON a major victory when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled he could not be fired from his job for keeping God's Holy Days.

Even the California State Court of Appeals refused to rule in his favor. The school board was determined to win and hired an attorney who had never lost this kind of case.

It was not that anybody was against Mr. Byars personally, for he was a good teacher. California Supreme Court Justice Frank Newman wrote: "[Mr.] Byars' religious-sincerity and his competence as a teacher are unquestioned."

Mr. Byars was often told, particularly when he had lost an important round in court, "Just quit keeping these Holy Days and you will have no more trouble." But God's Sabbaths were not negotiable.

"I never felt like quitting," says Mr. Byars. "I never questioned what I would do — even if I lost. You have to count the cost. If it is important, it's worth it."

Despite having the salaries of substitute teachers deducted from his pay for the absences, Mr. Byars'

attorney stated that Mr. Byars does not plan to seek reimbursement.

The California Teachers Association paid Mr. Byars' legal fees and supported his cause throughout the struggle.

And Mr. Byars found that as his beliefs were the real issue in the case, it clarified his role as a Christian. "It made the scriptures about not suffering as an evildoer very real to me," he says. "I realized that my

keeping the Holy Days was the only thing that I could allow myself to be criticized for. I had to make sure that the school board had no other reason to be dissatisfied with my performance. I felt a great pressure to represent what I believed properly."

Looking back, Mr. Byars feels that, overall, it has been a positive experience. "It helped me to be strong and steadfast in my beliefs. When you are dealing with the highest courts of the land, you had better be sure of your stand. I know that keeping God's Holy Days is right.

"It has helped my family," he adds. "It has brought us very close together. My wife Linda [also a Church member] has been a great source of support to me. The members of the Bakersfield, Fresno and Visalia churches have too. It is not just my victory — it is theirs too. In fact, I hope that it is a victory for all who stand up for what they believe."

— By John Halford □

Good News on the Australian Work

20 Years of Growth

It has been more than 20 years since *The World Tomorrow* was first heard in Australia. On April 14, 1956, eight radio stations around the nation began to broadcast the program once a week. As a result, a few Australians wrote to the United States asking to receive *The Plain Truth* magazine. (At that time, the Work's only mailing office was in Pasadena, Calif., 8,000 miles away.)

During the next two years, seven more stations began broadcasting the program weekly. Then in 1959 arrangements were made for the original eight stations to air the program daily. Soon the rapidly growing mailing list made it obvious that an office was needed in Australia.

On Nov. 12, 1959, Gerald Waterhouse flew to Sydney. Arrangements were made to lease space in the newly completed MLC Building in North Sydney. In December a



Gerald Waterhouse opened the Work's first Australian office in 1959.

small office was opened, and Mr. Waterhouse remained in Australia to supervise the Work and to become the pastor of the first Australian congregation of the Worldwide Church of God (in Sydney). The Church began Jan. 30, 1960. Just 30 people attended the first service.

Once the office was established, the Church began to



Specially designed to fill the needs of the Work, this 14,000-square-foot office building in Burleigh Heads, Australia, was completed in 1976 and now houses the regional headquarters.

advertise in several Australian mass-circulation magazines, including *Reader's Digest* and *Australian Woman's Weekly*. As a result of these advertisements and increased radio coverage, the circulation of *The Plain Truth* tripled in two years to 15,000 copies a month.

These years brought steady growth. Many radio stations were added and by 1968 *The World Tomorrow* program could be heard in most parts of Australia. The Australian office also assumed the responsibility for mailing *The Plain Truth* and other literature to New Zealand, the Philippines and many countries in Southeast Asia.

At first all magazines and booklets were brought in directly from the United States. But the increasing circulation of *The Plain Truth* soon made this uneconomical, and so arrangements were made to print in Australia.

From 1961 to 1967 the magazine was printed in Mel-

bourne, by Wilke & Co., one of Australia's largest printers. However, rising costs and growing circulation forced the Work to upgrade the small printing works in 1967 so that it could print the Australian edition of *The Plain Truth*. Further economic pressure made it necessary to transfer the printing to New Zealand. Two years ago it was moved again to Singapore.

By 1973 the effects of the world economic crisis and a rising inflation rate began to be seriously felt in Australia. The cost of living skyrocketed, and it became obvious that something had to be done to ensure a sound future for the Work.

After an extensive feasibility study, the decision was made to relocate the office out of Sydney's high rents and increasing congestion. At the same time, it was decided that the Work should build its own office complex. After much searching, a suitable site was selected in Burleigh Heads in

southeast Queensland (600 miles north of Sydney).

The office moved from Sydney in January, 1974, to temporary rented premises in Burleigh Heads. And finally, after more than two years of planning, preparation and construction, the new Australian office building was finished.

The Australian Branch of God's Work moved into its new regional headquarters in March, 1976. The 14,000-square-foot building had been specially designed to fill the needs of the Work. It houses all the operations needed to keep the Work running smoothly, including administration, accounting, data processing and mailing. □

Regional Director

Dean Wilson first came in contact with God's Work in the late 1940s in Oregon. He

Photo by Roland Rees



Photo by Warren Wilson

Australian director Dean Wilson

and his wife Marolyn began tithing and subscribing to *The Plain Truth* in January, 1951. At the time, Mr. Wilson was serving with the U.S. Air Force and saw service in the Korean war.

In 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson came to Ambassador College. After he graduated in 1962, Mr. Wilson was ordained a preaching elder by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong and assigned to a fledgling operation in Vancouver, B.C., as office manager.

During the years that followed, the Work in Canada prospered and grew. It has been able to make substantial financial contributions to the establishment of the Work in other areas of the world.

Mr. Wilson was ordained an evangelist by Mr. Armstrong in 1976. A year later he was transferred to Australia. His experience and expertise, gained from the 14 years he spent directing the Work in Canada, have enabled him to nurture the continued growth and expansion "down under." From the office in Burleigh Heads, Mr. Wilson directs all aspects of the Work throughout Australia, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Most of his efforts revolve around the growth and progress of the Work, but he also enjoys his grandchildren, golf and fishing. □

Doing the Work

In 1976 the Australian branch of God's Work completed its first series of film presentations. The film *Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambas-*

sador for World Peace was shown in 10 Australian cities to audiences of invited *Plain Truth* subscribers.

Results of the first film showings were encouraging. A wide variety of towns and cities were chosen, from metropolitan Melbourne and Sydney to Cairns in the tropical north. An average of 14 percent of the *Plain Truth* subscribers attended the film evenings in each area, and in some towns it was as high as 25 percent.

The church pastors acted as hosts and members of the congregations manned literature displays. In each of the presentations, more than half of the audience stayed to talk after the films. They seemed to appreciate the opportunity to meet the people behind the magazine.

In the last year a multiple-pronged advertising campaign has continued to place a broad spectrum of literature in homes across the nation.

Large advertisements in both major state capital dailies and regional newspapers on a weekly basis during the first eight months of 1979 drew more than 17,300 responses for a subscription to *The Plain Truth*. Simultaneously, full-page color magazines like *T.V. Times* added another 17,000 subscribers to date.

A program using "householder cards" — a small folded card offering a subscription to the *PT*, with a tear-off response section — has brought 16,200 responses so far. Where possible, these are delivered by hand to mail boxes (an acceptable and much-used way of advertising in Australia, although not permitted in the United States) by using volunteer members in larger centers. More than one million had been distributed by the end of 1979. The Australian *Plain Truth* circulation now stands at more than 85,000, the highest subscription list in its history. □

The Lucky Country

Australia has been called the "lucky country." In spite of vast deserts, it is rich in mineral resources and agricultural land. The population is only 14¼ million people in an area the same size as the continental United States.

Although Australia has one of the lowest average population densities, it is the most urbanized country in the world, with 40 percent of the population living in Sydney and Melbourne alone. Its immense size and relatively small population make it virtually self-sufficient in food and fuel (except for oil).

The population is predominantly of British origin, although many other Europeans have immigrated in the last 40 years. The diversity of national origins has added much to

the country and is reflected in God's Church in Australia.

But even a lucky country cannot remain immune from the problems facing the world today. Most of the problems that are eroding the fabric of society in the United States and Europe are found in Australia too. Internal political crises, wars in Southeast Asia, breakdown of family life and the effects of recession and inflation are causing many Australians for the first time to worry about their future.

A survey in one Australian town showed that an astonishing 38 percent of those interviewed believed that the world may be coming to an end. Forty-six percent said that they were not finding mental peace and spiritual fulfillment in traditional religion. □



Churches Across the Nation

Throughout the 1960s, Australian membership of the Worldwide Church of God steadily increased. After the establishment of the Sydney Church in 1960, a second church began in Melbourne in 1961. Brisbane was added in 1963.

Soon many of the cities and larger towns in eastern Australia had regular services or monthly Bible studies. In 1966 a congregation was raised up in Perth in the far west. The Church and the Work of God continued to grow.

God has called many Australians to help do the Work. Almost 5,000 people attend services in churches all over Australia.

There are now more than 60 congregations, and the Church has ordained ministers in all major population centers and many of the smaller cities and towns.

The Work of God in Australia has come a long way from that day in April, 1956, when *The World Tomorrow* was first heard on a few radio stations. □ — By Rod Matthews

**'And this Gospel
shall be preached...'
Matthew 24:14**

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

Today I would like to discuss one of the great blessings God has given us — marriage. I refer to marriage as a "great blessing" because it can be, if the relationship is built and maintained properly. I have been happily married for nearly 27 years now, and the reason is largely because of the training I received at Ambassador College beginning in 1952.

I had gone to Texas A&M, where I studied petroleum engineering. We had some unique classes. But when I came to Ambassador College, I found some unique classes here, too. One of them was sex education. The class has some different, perhaps more technical, names on it now, but it is still the same class. When I took it we had the privilege of having Herbert W. Armstrong as the instructor. He showed us the basic principles of husband-wife relationships so we students would have the guidance we needed to build happy marriages.

So when my wife and I were married by Raymond McNair [deputy chancellor of Ambassador College] in Big Sandy's [Tex.] Redwood Building, I had received Mr. Armstrong's firsthand instruction before. My wife and I knew the way to continually nurture a rewarding marriage relationship.

So I put my notes together and have decided to give you today some of the information Mr. Armstrong has offered down through the years. Since 1955 I have heard him say: "Don't take your marriage for granted. Build it. Work at making it a beautiful, happy, exemplary marriage." And over the years I've seen a lot of growth and beauty in the homes, marriages and families in God's Church.

Need for frankness and affection

When Mr. Armstrong established Ambassador College, he knew it should be coeducational. One of the drawbacks he'd noticed previously with men and families was that there was no training for wives. Wives didn't have the same emphasis placed on their roles as men did on theirs. Mr. Armstrong noticed that one cause of failures in men's lives was the absence of competent wives.

So Mr. Armstrong decided that Ambassador would train wives as well as husbands. And as a matter of fact, in some of the ministerial training sessions we used to

get into, Mr. Armstrong would discuss traits needed in ministers' wives, like frankness and affection. These qualities are too often lacking in marriages today, as the women are taught to be shy and yielding and the men are taught to be forceful and aggressive. You don't see openness, compassion and meekness in marriages. You see yelling, bickering, emotional outbursts and immaturity. God intended for mates to express love for each other like the man and woman did in the Song of Solomon.

The movie *Fiddler On the Roof* illustrates this kind of love. In a moving moment, this vigorous, hardworking man says to his wife, "Do you love me?" After a pause she replies, "Why, I've been with you for 24 years — I've brought up your children..." He waits a little bit, then looks at her again and asks, "Do you love me?" She answers: "Well, don't be silly! I've lived with you all these years, and we've been through a lot of tests and predicaments..." There is a pause, and then the man looks at her again and asks, "Yes, but do you love me?"

This man needed somebody to express appreciation, joy and delight. But we live in an age that discourages expression of feeling and affection.

We need this kind of expressiveness in our marriages. Half the confessions of love in the Song of Solomon came from the man, but the other half came from the woman. It should be just as natural for the woman to express appreciation and concern for the man as it is for the man to express love for the woman.

Proper leadership

When I was a young man planning to get married, I wanted to be sure that I was in authority over my wife. Maybe that's natural for a man. There's a biblical command that the man be head of the family. But there has to be a right balance.

Mr. Armstrong has said husbands should *dominate* but never *domineer*. Do you know the difference?

I was by nature a domineering person. I didn't know it and when people told me I didn't believe it. When I was

going home from college in 1953 to get married, a female student wrote some memorable remarks in my yearbook. She said:

"Now Dean, be kind and gentle and

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A HAPPY MARRIAGE

God intended for mates to express love for each other like the man and woman did in the Song of Solomon.

understanding toward Maxine." I thought, what in the world! Doesn't she know me? Of course I'm going to be kind and gentle! But I didn't see myself as I was.

But finally I learned a lesson I'll never forget. We were in Israel, standing on the balcony of a Jerusalem hotel, when a man I love very much said, "Dean, I'd like to talk with you." My wife and I had been traveling with him and his wife for about four weeks. He told me: "I feel I need to bring this to your attention. You know, you're overbearing toward your wife. You're domineering!" Well, by then I could understand that he was right.

Mr. Armstrong used to come all the way from California to Chicago by train. He would spend a day or two with us and then catch another train to New York. He would ride from Los Angeles, Calif., all the way to New York on a train — a trip that took several days and nights. Why? Because his wife was afraid to fly. Mrs. Armstrong would fly when she had to — she was willing to endure the fear and nervousness — but Mr. Armstrong wouldn't make her do that. He was too considerate and understanding.

When you learn to balance leadership and authority, you can develop kindness and consideration.

The marriage ceremony the Church has used for years begins with Ephesians 5:21. As a young, newly-married man, I would have liked for it to begin with verse 22, the part that says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands." But the ceremony starts in verse 21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Do you mean to tell me a man should listen to his wife? Are there times when a man should even be corrected by his wife? Yes. The wife's input must be an integral part of decisions that are made.

God created mankind male and female and said they are to function as a team. God said the husband is to be head of the wife. Therefore, in the fear of God, a man should be afraid to misuse his authority, and a woman should be afraid to rebel against God's authority.

Mr. Armstrong got this message about proper leadership across to us clearly at one conference when he said, "If I find out any of you men are belittling your wives, you are going to be out of a job!" That really got our attention. For men to belittle or domineer their wives is certainly condemnable.

Responsible use of authority

People must develop the responsibility necessary to properly use authority. If they don't, they will end up like the person who directs the kids across the street at school crossings. First thing you know he is out there directing traffic like a policeman. The next thing you know he is a self-appointed buck sergeant ordering everybody around. If you're not careful when you're given a little authority, you'll start over-using — and misusing — it.

Take one classic statement Mr. Armstrong has made: "I would never marry a woman who couldn't wear the pants. But I never would be married to one who did." To me, that is perfect balance.

I counseled students for five years in Big Sandy, and it was surprising to me how many young men would say: "I really don't know what to do. There's one girl I really like — she's shy, meek and yielding. Then there's this other girl who's a real challenge, you know — it's always a job for me to stay ahead of her. She's always pushing me to accomplish more. So I'm in a predicament, because humanly it would be easy to rule over the first girl, but it would be a real prod to lead the other."

Well, nobody would enjoy being married to someone who doesn't have any get-up-and-go or any backbone — someone who's as limp as a dishrag. It's a challenge to be married to someone who keeps you on your toes.

So I really appreciate Mr. Armstrong's statement. There's good counsel in it for some of you.

Subjection to your mate

Women's liberation has profoundly affected society, and it has affected us in the Church — and our marriages. Now you hear of people who want to take "obey" out of the marriage ceremony and write their own vows.

Mr. Armstrong said, "Show me a woman who wants a 50-50 marriage and I'll show you one who wants to wear the pants." What is a 50-50 marriage? How do you have one? Perhaps you take turns making decisions, or you make decisions together. But what if you can't agree? Who decides what course of action you will take together?

Any of us who might have a modernistic attitude of wanting a 50-50 marriage should know that the Bible says a woman's delight is to be married to one who can lead her. She needs someone she can respect — who will listen to her counsel and yet not be henpecked. Notice Peter's dual admonitions: "Ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands... Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge" (1 Pet. 3:1, 7).

Don't try to cram your tastes down your partner's throat, and don't try to overlord the person. I've seen cases where a man would marry and within months the woman looked and acted totally different. The man had enforced his tastes on her. He tried to remake her into the kind of woman he thought would please him, and only succeeded in destroying her self-respect and drive.

We all have different tastes. My wife doesn't like the same kind of music or sports I do. There are areas where we have the same interests and areas where we don't. But that's no big deal. The point is that the husband should dwell with his wife according to knowledge, and be the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church (Eph. 5:23). How is Christ the head of the Church? "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (verse 25). Christ, the head of the Church, loved it so much He gave His life for it.

"So ought men to love their wives"

A lot of men, either symbolically or literally, give their lives in marriage. They go out and face all kinds of

People must develop the responsibility necessary to properly use authority If you're not careful... you'll start over-using — and misusing — it.

pressures in the world. Most men live several years less than their wives, due to high blood pressure and heart failures. Christ gave Himself for the Church. So the husband should have a giving, self-sacrificing attitude for his wife.

Notice verse 26: "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." In other words it's the husband's responsibility to lead his wife spiritually. He should see that they study and pray together, not as an overlord but as an example and a leader.

How many of you women have been dupped by society's ideal man — a dark, curly-headed, handsome, flashy dream boat? That's ridiculous! The real "dream boat" is somebody who is going to be a Christian leader, who is going to be kind to you and be the kind of husband God commands him to be.

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish" (verse 27). The man's desire as the leader of his wife should be to bring his wife to that condition.

If a wife has a husband who leads that way, then she's going to be more able to be subject, to submit to her own husband as God commands and requires.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For our bodies yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth it and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church" (verses 28-29).

The virtue of peacemaking

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). When we're children of God we're going to be peacemakers among all the nations of this earth.

But where are you going to get all the training you will need to bring peace to this world? You're supposed to be getting it now!

What if one person is having a bad day or he or she gets up in a bad mood? Do you have vision and wisdom? That is the time to say to yourself: "Now is not the time to open the big mouth. Now is not the time to say anything. Now is the time to be still and wait till later." Then, when you can sit down calmly and coolly together in a different atmosphere, you can settle things. Many times you can prevent arguments or fights in your marriage.

Keys to happier marriages

I have a list I carry to remind me what I am supposed to be as a husband. Maybe you can apply these points, too.

1. *Husbands, love your wives* (Eph. 5:25). God commands you to be expressive. Let your wife know you love her. It's a good idea to commit yourself to telling your wife every day that you love her and consider her half of your success. On the other hand, the two top jobs of a wife are to encourage and inspire her husband.

2. *Dwell with your wife according to knowledge* (1 Pet.

3:7). "Husbands, love your wives, and be as the church loveth against them" (Eph. 5:25). God commands you husbands to rule your nature and emotions and to control your tongues. Don't begin odds with your wife.

3. *Accept your wife's natural difference from you*. God made men and women differently and saw that everything was very good (Gen. 1:31). Neither sex is greater than the other. They mutually excel each other — they blend together into perfection. *Give a difference!*

4. *Husbands, be the head of your wives*. Lead — be an example. Be in authority and dominate, but don't dominate. Appreciate your wife and listen to her wisdom.

5. *Remember to be a peacemaker*. Develop self-control and compassion. Remind yourself of this duty daily.

6. *See to your wife's health*. The husband is to a large degree responsible for the wife's physical well-being, just as the wife is to a large degree responsible for the husband's physical well-being. Make sure you both get the proper diet and sufficient exercise.

7. *Study the Bible and pray together*. How long has it been since you've applied this suggestion? The husband should lead his family spiritually as well as physically.

8. *Schedule a big date alone at least once a month!* Mark it on a family calendar — make time for it among all your other family activities.

9. *Set aside time to talk*. Communication problems are a main cause of marriage failures. Schedule a time when you're not in a hurry so you can discuss the home, family problems and how you can help each other grow.

10. *Value your wife's input*. Notice a quality of the virtuous woman, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness" (Prov. 31:26). Your wife should be your helpmeet in every way. If I were a girl and I didn't know a man appreciated my character and thought highly of my wisdom — if he just thought of me physically — I would be highly offended. Don't be too high and mighty to accept good judgment from your wife.

11. *Don't let the sun set on your wrath*. Don't let problems magnify and roots of bitterness grow. God's way is to get things settled day by day; "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matt. 6:34).

These points have been a help to our marriage for more than 26 years. Perhaps they can help yours too. I hope we can all have happier marriages and be able to be more thankful for them in the future.

Dean Blackwell is an evangelist in God's Church, and presently serves as one of Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's regional evangelists.



MINISTRY

Remember the Sabbath Day

SABBATH

Most churches of modern Christianity envision Sunday as having replaced the biblical seventh-day Sabbath. They believe that the Fourth Commandment is no longer obligatory upon Christians today. Then there are those who feel it is not necessary to keep any specific day at all. To them, every day is a "spiritual" Sabbath.

Let's look directly into the Bible for the truth about God's Sabbath.

1. When, how and by whom was the Sabbath "made"? Gen. 2:1-3; Mark 2:28.

Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath because *He* made it! Christ, as other scriptures prove conclusively, was the Lord God of the Old Testament era and the very Creator of all things.

Christ created the Sabbath by the act of *resting* on the seventh day of creation week. He put His divine favor upon and set apart for a special use and purpose a 24-hour period of time that was to occur once every seven days following that first Sabbath.

2. For whom did Jesus say the Sabbath was specifically made? Mark 2:27.

"The Sabbath was made for man," declared Jesus. It was set apart at creation for the benefit of the whole human race which would descend from Adam.

3. How did Christ intend the Sabbath to serve man's needs? Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15.

Notice that God made the seventh day of the week holy — and He commands us to keep it that way. The Sabbath, then, is *holy time*. And it was made to be a great blessing for all humanity.

The word *Sabbath* means *rest* in the original Hebrew. Simple physical and mental rest and refreshment after a grueling work week is an obvious reason for the Sabbath. Human beings need periodic rest and deliverance from the trials and troubles that seem to result from just living.

But the true meaning and purpose of the Sabbath goes far beyond physical, mental and perhaps even emotional respite. For the seventh-day Sabbath is inextricably interwoven into God's transcendent purpose for creating man.

Modern man desperately needs this period of

time in which to have spiritual contact with God — time in which to think more about God, to worship Him (both in private and in fellowship with others), to meditate upon man's place in the universe — to grasp more fully God's *purpose* for his existence.

4. Was the observance of the Sabbath day to be a special sign of identification between God and His people Israel? Ex. 31:12-17. Did God also make Sabbath observance a *separate* covenant with His people? Verse 16.

In order that Israel would especially remember that the eternal God is the Creator, Sustainer and Supreme Ruler over all His creation, God singled out Sabbath observance as the one great sign by which they could always be reminded of who *He* is and who *they* were. It was the one law of God that would make Israel especially *stand out* from all the other nations.

And so God doubly commanded Sabbath observance by making it a separate covenant with His people Israel (The Sabbath was already one of the Ten Commandments, which were given to Moses shortly before when the old covenant was ratified.) It was to be an *everlasting* covenant, which would identify the people of God of all generations, including "spiritual Israel" today — the true Church of God. Notice further:

5. Doesn't the Bible plainly reveal that a real Christian is one who has become a *spiritual* Israelite — one of Abraham's "seed" through Jesus Christ? Gal. 3:28-29; Rom. 4:16; 9:4.

God made the special Sabbath covenant with Abraham's physical seed. It was to be obeyed throughout their generations. Today, all Spirit-begotten Christians have become Abraham's *spiritual* seed and are therefore under the same obligation to keep the Sabbath day!

6. Was Jesus Christ a Sabbath keeper? Luke 4:16, 31.

Jesus regularly attended church services on the Sabbath day "as His custom was." Thus he fulfilled His own command to convoke for worship services every Sabbath day (Lev. 23:3). This is the day He would obviously observe since He is the One who originally made

MINISTRY

the Sabbath and ordained that it be kept holy!

7. Is there biblical evidence that the early New Testament church also observed the Sabbath? Acts 13:14-15, 42-44; 14:1; 17:1-2; 18:1-11.

8. Was it Paul's "manner" (Acts 17:2), even as it was Christ's custom (Luke 4:16), to keep the Sabbath because he felt like it, or because *Jésus Christ dwell in him*? Gal. 2:20. Does Christ's will remain the same forever? Heb. 13:8.

It is quite plain that the apostle Paul observed the seventh-day Sabbath. And if Christ lives His life in us today through the Holy Spirit as He did in Paul, then we will also be keeping the *same day Jesus and Paul kept*.

9. What are all Christians warned in Hebrews 3:8-13? Was rebellion, especially *Sabbath breaking*, the reason God prevented those ancient Israelites from entering His "rest"? Ezek. 20:12-13, 14-16.

Because Israel had become rebellious and polluted God's Sabbaths, He did not allow the generation that came out of Egypt to enter the promised land — a symbolic *type* of the Kingdom of God. Nevertheless those Israelites under Moses were headed toward the *promised land*, even as God's Spirit-begotten people today are aiming at the goal of entering into *God's Kingdom*.

The word *rest* in Hebrews 3:11 is translated from the Greek *katapausin* and is defined as *rest* or *place of rest*. It denoted for ancient Israel "rest" from the rigors of the wilderness by entering the promised land (notice Joshua 1:13). This is a *type* of the Christian's spiritual "rest" — being *born* into the Kingdom of God!

10. Was it primarily because of their unbelief — lack of faith — that the Israelites disobeyed and therefore were prevented from entering God's "rest" for them — the land of Palestine? Heb. 3:19; 4:1-2.

Because the Israelites disbelieved God and therefore lacked faith in Him, they "hardened their hearts." They went on to profane God's Sabbaths when He made that the very *testing point* ("that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law; or no" — Ex. 16:4); therefore God said of that generation, "They shall not enter into my rest" (Heb. 3:11).

And none but faithful Joshua and Caleb of that generation did enter the promised land. But the children born along the way during the 40 years did enter with them.

11. But if New Testament Christians believe and obey God, may they enter *their "rest"* — *eternal "rest"* in God's Kingdom? Heb. 4:3, first nine words.

The equation is clear: Real belief in God equals active obedience. If a person truly believes God's Word, he will be obeying it!

12. Will true believers be keeping God's weekly Sabbath day as a symbol of their future "rest" in God's Kingdom? Heb. 4:9.

The vital meaning of this verse has been obscured by the King James' rendering of the word *rest*. Everywhere else in chapters 3 and 4 of the epistle to the Hebrews, the English word *rest* is translated from the Greek word *katapausin*. However, in verse 9 of chapter 4, *rest* is translated from the Greek *sabbatismos*, meaning literally (as most Bible margins show) *keeping of a Sabbath*. Correctly rendered, this verse reads: "There remaineth, therefore the *keeping of the Sabbath* to the people of God."

So, because of the future "rest" (*katapausin*) — the Kingdom of God — spiritual Israel is to enter, there remains for them a *sabbatismos* — the keeping of the Sabbath day. This means that Christians will enter the future "rest" of God's Kingdom even as they *now keep* the weekly seventh-day Sabbath, which looks forward to it!

13. What further encouragement are Christians given about entering God's eternal "rest"? Heb. 4:10-11. Where may they go for the help needed to obey God? Verses 14-16.

God's seventh-day Sabbath is not to be treated lightly or forgotten, for the Sabbath is both a memorial and a shadow. It is a memorial of creation and a foreshadow of the coming eternal "rest" that Spirit-begotten Christians will enter when *born* into God's eternal Family.

14. Did God command the entire nation of Israel to assemble ("convoke") on the Sabbath? Lev. 23:3; Num. 28:25. What are New Testament Christians admonished regarding the assembling of themselves? Heb. 10:25-26.

As early New Testament Christians assembled together on the Sabbath day, likewise God's Church in this age assembles for worship services on God's holy Sabbath. The Worldwide Church of God has congregations all over the world. Every Sabbath, God's people meet to receive spiritual instruction and inspiration from the Word of God as expounded by the ministry of His Church (Eph. 4:11-13). If you would like more information about these Sabbath services, then write to our *Good News* office closest to you. (See inside front cover for the addresses.)

Also, for an in-depth study of God's Sabbath, write for the free booklet, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* — Prepared by Richard H. Sedwick

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

sibly could be proved the allegations of six former, bitter and expelled members were FALSE! The State should now GIVE UP — but, being politicians and seeking only SELF gain politically, they won't until a higher court dismisses the case, I petition daily to the Highest Court of Heaven to intervene and cause dismissal, and in God's due time HE WILL!

When the giant Goliath came against God's Church of the Old Testament, the giant was huge, with all kinds of armor and weapons. He looked on David as small, and he underestimated David and his God. So the State of California is HUGE — largest in the Union — and it regarded God's Church as small and weak, and one that would "cave in." But God gave David power to conquer the giant, and He will give us power to win this suit!

Now back to Romans 13. In chapter 12, Paul was talking about the individual Christian's duty. In 12:1, Paul beseeches the Christians at Rome to each present his body a living sacrifice to Christ. In the spring of 1927 I literally gave my personal SELF over to Christ who had bought and paid for me with His life's blood. Have YOU? Verse 3, Paul says to "every man that is among you [speaking to individuals], not to think of himself more highly than he ought." He continues speaking to the individual Christian. Then, continuing in chapter 13, he speaks of each individual being subject to the higher powers.

If the government sets a speed limit of 55 mph, I as an individual do not exceed it. As an individual, I am subject to GOVERNMENT, and no government has EVER had occasion to find me guilty of not obeying its laws.

But this lawsuit was an action to TAKE OVER — TO OPERATE — TO OWN — and therefore to have right to SELL CHURCH PROPERTY — TO FIRE GOD'S APOSTLE AND TREASURER — WHICH THE RECEIVER DID THE VERY FIRST DAY! JESUS CHRIST chose and appointed me, and I, His apostle, appointed Mr. Rader. WHAT RIGHT HAD THE WORLDLY POLITICAL STATE TO COUNTERMAND CHRIST'S CHOICE?

The GOOD NEWS March 1980

Further, the suit was UNCONSTITUTIONAL. I had broken no law! The Church had broken no law. Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the Church, had broken no California law!

Now notice what a "scholarly" commentary says in expounding Romans 13.

Speaking of government rulers: "If he rule according to the Constitution nothing can justify (the individual) rebelling against his authority.

When the ruler acts thus (contrary to law or the Constitution) he dissolves the compact between him and his people; his authority is no longer binding, but illegal; and it is illegal because he is acting contrary to the laws of the Constitution, according to which, on being raised to the supreme power he promised to govern. This conduct justifies opposition to his government" — and the commentary means in GOD's sight! (Adam Clarke's Commentary).

I know that in such cases GOD DOES GUIDE HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE, and He has guided me in emergencies. It is by ACTS OF GOD that His Church has been able to keep operating AS USUAL. When the temporary receiver (now dismissed) fired me, I was not in California. I continued to RUN THE WORK from Tucson, Ariz. The receiver tried for a short time to run the work, but he was USEABLE! Immediately I had money sent in my care, which was deposited in a corporate account here in Tucson. He had no control over God's tithes. We funneled funds into Pasadena just in time to pay God's Church bills, and the receiver was unable to lay his hands on the money — which was his goal.

We did not give up and quit — HE did!

We now have the receiver off our backs, no longer filling my office and Mr. Rader's with his cigarette smoke. We have won a victory in having the accounting firm removed from the suit. We are operating as usual. Income is INCREASING — did all year — still is! The Church is being set back on God's track! We are closer together and closer to GOD than ever before!

Though God is teaching us patience and FAITH, He nevertheless is BLESSING US, keeping His Work going — AND GROWING!

Nation Israel

(Continued from page 3)

married a yellow woman and Ham a black.

Soon after the flood, the world's small population was all of one language and gathered together building the tower of Babel. Their purpose? "...lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4).

But God said: "...the people is one, and they have all one language, and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (verse 6). This expresses how great God made the mind of man.

But, just as God created varieties in many species of flowers and of animals — for example, many varieties and colors of roses — for greater beauty, so God created the three races and colors of human skin. God intended to prevent racial intermarriages. But man has always wanted to violate God's laws, intentions and ways.

So God compelled a scattering by mixing their language. "So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth; and they left off to build the city" (verse 8).

Today the English language is fast becoming the chief international language. Men are entering mixed marriages and starting to get back to one worldwide language.

Shem, the son of Noah who had married a white woman, may have continued for some time in the knowledge and perhaps worship of God. But there is no record of any walking with God until Abraham, whom God specially called to have a function preparatory to the Kingdom of God. But the pure white strain probably was retained until Abraham.

Abram, as he was originally named, was not seeking God. But God called Abram to leave the land of his father and kindred and go to a land God would show him — the "promised land" of Palestine. Without protest or question, Abram obeyed and went. And through his obedience and faith in God, Abraham became the "father of the faithful." To him God made the promises of both the national Israel

birthright and the "scepter" promise of eternal salvation to come through Jesus Christ.

Israel raised up

Four hundred thirty years after Abraham, God raised up His nation Israel — descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel.

To lead these people out of Egyptian slavery and to the promised land, God called Moses. Moses was not seeking God. But God had caused Moses to be trained specially for this commission by having him reared as a prince in the palace of the Egyptian pharaoh.

So now again welcome to the question, why did God raise up this special Hebrew nation as "the chosen people"? Why, when God never made accessible to them His Holy Spirit?

One point to notice here. The probability is that these people were all — or nearly all — of the white color strain, unchanged since creation.

After Jacob and his sons and families had come into Egypt at Joseph's behest, they were kept in the locale of Goshen — geographically separated from the Egyptians, marrying among themselves.

In this connection, go back momentarily to Abraham. He prevented his son Isaac from intermarrying among the black Canaanites then in Palestine. He sent his chief servant to his own family and racial people to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham said, "thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell" (Gen. 24:3).

The next generation, Jacob married Leah and Rachel, daughters of Laban, nephew of Abraham, who lived in the land of Haran, brother of Abraham. The whole community of Haran, where Laban lived, was of the same family ancestry as Abraham.

Jacob had six sons by Leah, two from Rachel — all of the same original racial stock, and two each from the maids of Rachel and Leah — 12 in all. Even the maids of Leah and Rachel probably were of pure Hebrew stock.

But God specially prepared from

birth and called Moses, with Aaron his brother to assist as his spokesman. Moses stuttered.

In the plagues God caused against Egypt, God was turning the Egyptian gods and objects of worship against them to show them that these were not gods. Even the plagues were sent in LOVE for the Egyptians.

The final plague occurred on the eve of the 14th day of the sacred month — starting in the spring. The Israelites went out of Egypt during the night part of the 15th. They reached the Red Sea. But the pharaoh had meanwhile changed his mind, and with his army, pursued after them.

The children of Israel had reached the Red Sea, and there they were stopped as if dead. There was no bridge. It was too far to swim, with their women and children. Behind them the pharaoh's army was in hot pursuit. There was nothing they could do. They were stopped — HELPLESS! At that point they had to rely on God!

In Egypt God had caused their release from slavery by a series of supernatural plagues. Now God caused the waters of the Red Sea to form a watered wall on either side, with a wide path on the dry sea bottom between.

The Israelites walked on through. On the opposite side they looked and saw the pharaoh and his army entering the sea-floor path. When they were all within the sea-wall passage, God allowed the waters to flow back, drowning the Egyptian army with its pharaoh.

In due time the Israelites pitched tents at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

God's covenant with Israel

God did not make them His nation, under His theocratic rule, without their consent.

Through Moses, God put to them His proposition: If they would obey His laws of HIS GOVERNMENT, He would prosper them and make them the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth. Yet all God's PROMISES were of a national and material nature — not spiritual salvation.

They agreed. Thus they became God's chosen nation.

BUT WHY?

This we know: God's purpose for

them had a definite relation to preparing for the ultimate KINGDOM OF GOD — when the GOVERNMENT OF GOD would be reestablished over all the earth, and spiritual salvation would be offered to ALL!

Undoubtedly one reason was to preserve the original racial strain. But there was much more.

Nations had developed knowledge. Mankind was limited, after Adam's rebellion, to the acquisition of physical and material knowledge.

But, like educated men and scientists today, they were saying, "Give us sufficient knowledge, and we will solve all problems and eradicate all sickness, diseases and evils — we will create utopia!"

Up to that time, mankind had been denied spiritual knowledge. God now decided to give them knowledge of His law — His kind of government — *His way of life!* He was going to prove to the world that without His Holy Spirit their minds were incapable of receiving and utilizing such knowledge of the things of God.

He was going to demonstrate to them that the mind of MAN, with its one spirit and without the addition of God's Holy Spirit, could not have spiritual discernment, could not solve human problems, could not cure the evils that were besetting humanity. The nation Israel would be His "guinea pig" to demonstrate that fact. God had chosen a nation of almost perfect original strain in its generations — its ancestry. Also they had the quality heredity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

So God entered into a covenant with them, making them HIS NATION. It also represented a MARRIAGE covenant, with Israel the wife promising obedience to her husband — God. It was the physical type of the yet-to-come NEW COVENANT.

And what did it prove?

Here was a people of almost clear racial strain, and the superior heredity of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Two requisites make a human whatever he becomes in life — heredity and environment. Heredity has been inherited by birth in the areas of intelligence and character from parents. Environment includes all exter-

nal influences and self-determined characteristics — whether good or evil.

Heredity — if of good and high quality — may start one off at a great advantage — but an evil environment and self-motivation may turn one into a failure in life, or an evil nature.

But God started off His chosen nation Israel with all the natural advantages of a superior heredity.

Kingdom being prepared

Now WHY? WHY did God prepare and raise up this nation ISRAEL?

WHY did God create mankind in the first place? GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF, TO CREATE IN MANKIND GOD'S OWN PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY CHARACTER — AND THAT IN TURN TO 1) RESTORE HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE WHOLE EARTH — IN ORDER, ULTIMATELY, TO PRODUCE, CREATE, BILLIONS OF GOD BEINGS TO FINISH THE CREATION OF THE UNFINISHED VAST UNIVERSE — AND 2) TO CREATE EVEN MORE, WHICH GOD HAS NOT CHOSEN AS YET TO REVEAL TO US!

Everything God has done, since the creation of the first humans, after God's own image and likeness, HAS BEEN ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE STEP IN THAT OVERALL SUPREME PURPOSE!

The immediate purpose, so far in the history of mankind, is to prepare for the KINGDOM OF GOD, which will RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD EARTHWIDE!

The Kingdom of God is the actual begotten and born FAMILY OF GOD, which will first actually appear by a resurrection and instantaneous translation at Christ's Second Coming! And by begotten and BORN sons of God, emphatically I do NOT mean those deceived into the current "BORN AGAIN" teaching — that anyone who "receives Christ" is already, in this present human life, "born again." THAT IS A PARAMOUNT DECEPTION by which Satan the devil has DECEIVED those (the many in a so-called "Christianity") who have "accepted" a false conversion. They may be well meaning — but nevertheless DECEIVED! And of course a deceived person does not know he is deceived — he may be wholly sincere!

But now THINK! HOW does the

Old Testament nation Israel play a part in progressively preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD?

Israel the example

First, Abraham was a man of very outstanding qualifying abilities. Undoubtedly he, with his sons Isaac and Israel, shall, in the resurrection and the Kingdom of God, occupy a position next under Christ Himself. The Kingdom of God will be a spiritual Kingdom including both Church and State — earthwide. These, as a team, probably will be next in line of authority under CHRIST — and over both Church and State.

Of the nation ISRAEL, Moses, whom God raised up as their leader and lawgiver (though God the Father is, the original real Lawgiver), in all probability will be under the Abraham-Isaac-Jacob team, but head over the national governments of the world during the coming Millennium. And probably Joshua, who succeeded Moses, will be Moses' assistant in that office of worldwide national governments.

What of the nation Israel as a whole?

They, despite their favorable heredity, failed utterly to qualify. When God put the proposal of their formation as His nation before them, they replied, "... All that the ETERNAL hath spoken we will do..." (Ex. 19:8). But they broke their word and rebelled!

They were in a "husband-and-wife" relation with God. But God said later of them, "Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the ETERNAL" (Jer. 3:20).

BUT — nevertheless, the old covenant with Israel at Sinai was a type and forerunner of the NEW COVENANT to be made with the New Testament CHURCH, which is the spiritual Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31, Heb. 8:6, 10).

However, a few in Old Testament Israel did obey God and by becoming God's prophets, they became part of the very foundation of the New Testament CHURCH OF GOD. The Church is built on the solid FOUNDATION of the prophets (Old Testament) and apostles (New Testament), "Jesus Christ himself being

the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20).

Among them, Elijah probably will be head, under Christ and Abraham-Isaac-Israel, over the Church, worldwide, in the Kingdom of God, with John the Baptist under Elijah. There are indications that the prophet Daniel will be head over all gentile nations, and under Moses and Christ.

But in what manner did the ancient nation Israel play a part in preparation for the KINGDOM OF GOD?

I have already mentioned how the intellectuals and scholarly of this world feel that, given sufficient KNOWLEDGE, human carnal MAN could solve all problems.

God let several generations of ancient Israel and Judah PROVE by hundreds of years of human experience that the best of humanity, without God's Holy Spirit, CANNOT SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS AND EVILS!

Man needs Holy Spirit

I have spoken, during the past 10 years, to many heads of governments over Europe, Asia, Africa, South America. In China, I believe the Communist heads of government believe that communism; once it gains control of the earth, will solve all problems and evils. But many kings, emperors, presidents and prime ministers I have conferred privately with now realize the problems are beyond human ability to solve.

The problems and evils are of a spiritual nature. And a carnal mind, without God's Holy Spirit, cannot come to grips with spiritual evils.

The many decades and centuries of ancient Israel PROVED THAT! The scholarly think they do NOT NEED God's Holy Spirit. But, until Israel, God withheld knowledge of the right ways of government from mankind. But to Israel God gave His statutes and judgments, as well as His spiritual law. But these perfect laws did not, sans God's Holy Spirit, solve the nation's problems!

God could say: "I am GOD. Take my word for it." But God gave PROOF, through Israel, that WITHOUT the Holy Spirit, MAN IS HELPLESS! They even had GOD to appeal to. But they did not have His Spirit within. Only their prophets had the Holy Spirit!

That lesson PROVED, God has given those in His Church His Holy Spirit! □

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ask Germaine Damore

Germaine Damore, of Hacienda Heights, California, is a freshman at Ambassador College. She came here, she says, to receive a broad, well-rounded education and to learn more about God's way of life.

"At Ambassador College we are taught concepts and given guidelines that lead to true happiness. Here you can actually learn *how to live*—how to achieve lasting success in life. And the instructors really care about you as an individual. They make learning fun and interesting."

Germaine believes that the best education is gained in an environment that stresses the positive aspects of life, such as beauty, quality, and individual worth—that's why she chose Ambassador College.

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sharing...

'IT'LL NEVER COME!'

Nobody likes to wait. When you're anticipating some exciting event in your life — next year's vacation, buying a new car, meeting old friends again — even a wait of a few months seems like forever.

But the people of God have waited over the centuries, living and dying in the hope of a future occurrence. And those of us in God's Church today follow in their footsteps, basing our lives on the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth.

Scoffers will come

To people without our understanding, this behavior seems odd, even ludicrous. The apostle Peter warned: "Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation'" (II Pet. 3:3-4, Revised Standard Version throughout).

How many times have you come face to face with this same line of reasoning? "It's always been like this," people will tell you. Yet, you

know it really is *different* now. The world is far more dangerous, far more volatile than ever before.

Peter is writing about nonbelievers who cynically scoff at the fact that Christ will return. But what about members of God's Church — true Christians who look to and believe in the return of Jesus Christ? The Bible *does* show that if we are not careful, we, too, can drift into a state where Christ's return seems so distant as to be unreal.

Ideally, our zeal for the Christian way of life should not be polluted by others' speculations and doubts. But we're all human, aren't we? Any of us could fall into the attitude of the evil servant:

"But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful" (Luke 12:45-46).

Certainty of divine promises

The evil servant's mistake was that he confused divine promises and di-

vine timing with human promises and human timing.

With human beings, it may indeed be true that "it'll never come," but with God this isn't the case. The word of God is absolutely certain. Notice this testimony from one of His prophets:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and returns not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:10-11).

Whatever God's Word tells us about Christ's return and His Kingdom is real — just as real as our day-to-day lives — just as real as the magazine you now hold in your hands. God's promises are true.

As God also recorded among His prophecies about the future: "Still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seem slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay" (Hab. 2:3). — By Ralph Levy □

Christian Burn-Out

(Continued from page 6)

company, to exhort each other and bear one another's burdens.

For someone who has never experienced it, it is hard to describe just how reassuring and encouraging it is to have a close friend who can say, with genuine compassion and understanding, "Yes, I know how you feel, and I care," and then take the time to help you out of your discouragement. Not because they *have* to, but because they *want* to. Those friendships are there for the asking, if we let God knit us together.

It may sound simplistic, but one of the best defenses we have against burning out is the close friendships we can build with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fellowship and friendship are not a substitute for the Holy Spirit and contact with God. But they are a supplement. Just as the Holy Spirit is a down payment or foretaste of what we shall eventually have (Eph. 1:13-14), the friendships we can make now with each other can be a foretaste of the close, spiritual, family relationships we will share for all eternity.

Christians need never collapse

So a Christian is not helpless in the face of burn-out. God called us to live forever. Why, then, should we self-destruct before our eternal life has even begun?

Maybe there is just one time when a person is entitled to feel burned out. Mr. Armstrong, when describing how God brought him down to repentance, said that he came to realize that he was nothing but a "burned-

out, hunk of junk." We can all identify with that. But that is before baptism — before that past is forgiven and we are begotten with the Holy Spirit that gives life.

From then on, life will still have its ups and downs, but it should *never again* collapse into helpless defeat.

But even so, the prophecies show that some of us will continue to burn out — quietly, unexpectedly, giving up to become as useless and disappointing as a burned-out light bulb. And tragically, it is happening even as God is using His Church more strongly than ever before.

And with the end time closing in, with the world teetering on the brink of the great tribulation and with Jesus Christ even now preparing for His return, you can almost hear God say, "Why did that have to happen just now?" □

A Lasting Love Affair



William and Hebwig have been married for 60 years, and they still exemplify the fact that marriage can be a real and lasting success, filled with happiness, harmony and enduring love. But the veritable plague of divorce and family disintegration in our society shows that most people do not know how to build their marriages into the beautiful relationships they should be. Our booklet, *Why Marriage? — Soon Obsolete?*, offers some timely insight into the real meaning of marriage — a meaning that has been utterly overlooked by modern science, education and religion. Whether you are only contemplating marriage or have been married for 60 years, this booklet contains vital information everyone needs to consider.

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