



The Good News

**How Christ
Educated His Apostle**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

**EVER KNOW WHY
Money Is the
Root of All Evil?**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

**Lessons from
THE MASTER POTTER**
SEE PAGE 4

The Good News

October-November 1980

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COVER: Just as a human potter fashions clay to produce a beautiful, useful vessel, God, the Master Potter, works with His called and chosen people to produce spirit-born Sons. Be sure to read "Lessons from the Master Potter," beginning on page 4. Photo by Warren Watson.

Letters

Teenager comments

The last issue of *The Good News* was really very helpful and informative, and I want to thank you [Herbert W. Armstrong] for your continued faithfulness and good example you set for everyone. I'm just a teenager, but I still realize that God has set me apart and helped me to realize where His true Church is. Best wishes and prayers for your continued good health.

Donna Levoir
Big Lake, Minn.

Thanks for encouragement

Thanks for the wonderful articles and especially the one on "Women and God's Plan" by Mr. Ronald Kelly in *The Good News* [June-July].

Women are so much put down and even called lazy that stay at home and keep their house and children nowadays. We have to fight for what we know is right and God-given, so many, many thanks for the encouragement once again.

Mrs. R.E. Puckett
Bono, Ariz.

"Close-Up"

I enjoyed so much the "Close-Up" stories of Edward Turppa and "Granny Sue" Sturgill [June-July]. What delightful people! I always enjoy the stories on the people in "Close-Up." They are all lovely.

Mrs. Jim Nevins
Stuart, Iowa

Positive outlook

Your June-July issue of *The Good News* was fantastic! All of the articles contained fruit-building material. But "Christian Living: Ordeal or Adventure?" by Mr. [Lawrence W.] Greider and "What Kind of Example Are You Setting?" by Mr. [David] Carley together focused us on an extremely positive way of looking at trials, which if cultivated will produce fruit from every trial, small or great.

Eloise Coker
Philadelphia, Pa.

Articles helpful

I find the articles in *The Good News* so very helpful and the writers seem so dedicated, it is a joy to read the articles and check them with my Bible.

Mrs. Arthur Hicks
Clearwater, Fla.

Robert Armstrong

How Christ Chose and Educated His Apostle

LIKE THE AD said of the Volkswagen — I am, after all, ONLY HUMAN! At times I have wondered, in retrospect, WHY did the mighty living Jesus Christ call and choose a worm like me as His apostle, to lead His people in our present end time?

King David likewise felt he was unworthy to be God's leader. David cried out, "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people" (Ps. 22:6). David remained small in his own eyes. — MEN would never have chosen him to be king (see I Sam. 16:1-12), but God did.

Men would never have chosen me. I was most certainly NOT born with a silver spoon in my mouth, of wealthy or notable parents. I was born of ordinary but solid and upstanding middle-class parents. My father never had much money — but he never owed much, and kept his bills paid.

My father had an inventive mind. He invented the hot-air furnace about the turn of the century. It would have made him wealthy, had not he gone to the wrong patent lawyer to patent that very useful, later almost universally used means of modern home heating. I had no allowance from parents. I had to earn my own spending money, and work summer school vacations.

But at age 16 ambition for achievement was aroused, and at 18 I had to make a momentous decision. Should I continue on in this world's educational system toward college and university degrees or choose the "school

of hard knocks" and determined SELF-education?

I didn't know it then, but the living Christ did not want me to have this world's materialistic education, swayed and developed from Satan's materialistic approach. I had learned in school the bare BASICS on which to BUILD an education. That is, I had learned to read, to write and figure. But the HEAD of God's Church was planning later to use me, and He couldn't use, as His human leader, one in whose mind had been injected THIS WORLD'S HIGHER EDUCATION!

In the year of 1927, weeks after my conversion, I wrote for the future magazine God had put in my mind, *The Plain Truth*, an article on THIS WORLD'S EDUCATION. It is primarily a process of memory training — the injecting into unsuspecting plastic young minds ready-made and largely false propaganda.

I even had an artist sketch an illustration to go with the article — five years before the first issue of *The Plain Truth* was ever printed. This illustration showed a schoolroom, with children sitting at their desks. Into the heads of each was stuck a funnel. The teacher, with a pitcher filled with "ready-made false propaganda," was pouring this false knowledge into each child's head through the funnel.

As I have written before, the child, or the more advanced student, is expected to accept, memorize and BELIEVE whatever is taught — either from the textbook, or teacher or professorial lecturer.

One illustration of this should suffice. A grandson of mine, in an elementary grade, was asked in class to answer the question, "Who discovered America?"

"The Indians," answered my grandson promptly.

"Why Larry!" ejaculated the teacher indignantly. "You know well that Columbus discovered America."

"No, ma'am, I don't," answered Larry meekly. "Weren't the Indians already here to welcome Columbus when he arrived?"

Larry was FLUNKED for his truthful reply.

This world's education is based on a false premise — the unprovable and false theory of evolution. Evolution — the atheist's attempted explanation of the presence of a creation without a Creator — is the CONCEPT that forms the APPROACH to the KNOWLEDGE taught in this world's educational system.

But there is a serious, basic and fatal MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge as injected by this world's educational system. That missing dimension is the REVEALED knowledge from GOD. Revelation is the basic FOUNDATION of all knowledge. And when revelation (and GOD) is ignored the world of Satan is propagating knowledge WITH A FALSE FOUNDATION. The true basic FOUNDATION of the structure of human knowledge is missing. A FALSE foundation has been substituted!

GOD COULD NOT USE, as the human spiritual LEADER over His people in His CHURCH, one whose mind was first stuffed with this false materialistic and worldly KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO WHAT IS BELIEVED AND UNDERSTOOD!

As soon as my mind had been instilled with the basic TOOLS for an APPROACH to knowledge — that is, ability to read, write and figure — God directed me in the development of knowledge and

understanding through a GOD-directed SELF-education.

For example, I had to learn psychology, NOT as mistaught from theoretical textbooks and impractical and unworkable teaching of theoretical college professors, but from actual EXPERIENCE in dealing with the human and public mind! That practical and workable knowledge of psychology is utilized in the full-page advertising campaign presently carried in the New York Times and other leading mass-circulation high-prestige newspapers.

In the Work of God carried on by the Church it became necessary to establish GOD'S-OWN COLLEGE for training personnel for various operations and administrations of the Work (I Cor. 12:5-6). It of necessity had to be GOD'S college.

But where, back in 1947, was Christ's human leader to go for teachers — for faculty? We had no members in the Church capable of teaching at a level higher than high school. It was a dilemma. God led me in the only way then possible — to employ professors and faculty members trained in THIS WORLD'S higher education — BUT TO TEACH ALL BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL COURSES MYSELF I had to go further! I enforced a one-hour weekly FORUM, attended by students and faculty alike, at which I myself, with CHRIST'S HELP, taught the true BASIC FOUNDATION of education — the REVEALED knowledge of GOD!

Faculty members, already indoctrinated with this world's "higher education," didn't like my forums in which I constantly taught that MISSING DIMENSION of knowledge — the REVEALED basic knowledge from God's Word! In fact, they resented it — they chafed under it — but to receive salaries had to sweat it out.

Of course my purpose was NOT to convert or reeducate that original faculty. The purpose was to COUNTERACT any false teaching from them finding lodging in student minds! Meanwhile I, myself, had to keep student minds open to the BASIC knowledge of GOD. I had to see that students were PROTECTED FROM this world's false knowledge — but made aware of that MISSING DIMENSION from the knowledge of this world's "higher education."

In due time the Ambassador facul-

ty was composed of Ambassador graduates.

But as I said at the beginning, I am only HUMAN. After the first few years we began to receive as students some who had studied variously from one or two years as students in this world's colleges or universities, up to some who held degrees — even up to masters degrees from large universities. They entered Ambassador as freshmen — but usually sufficient of their university credits were accepted to graduate them from Ambassador after three — and sometimes even after two — years with us.

That was the START of Satan injecting into GOD'S college some of this world's false education. It was some of these who brought an unfortunate influence on my son. He was rising to executive leadership in the Church and Work. In due time even some of our graduates enrolled in outside universities to earn higher degrees in the educational system of Satan in his world. These began bringing pressure on me to apply for and gain "accreditation" from the educational system in Satan's deceived world.

Satan has a way of making WRONG seem RIGHT. Of making his deceived world's ways seem SUPERIOR and more desirable. As God's Word says, the truth of GOD appears as FOOLISHNESS to the wise in this world. Their wisdom and false knowledge is FOOLISHNESS in God's eyes — but is far SUPERIOR in worldly carnal eyes. Satan has succeeded in deceiving this world into a FALSE SENSE OF VALUES.

I chose as the motto of Ambassador College, "RECAPTURE THE TRUE VALUES." By persistence, hard work and determination I had begun to see that done in the early years of Ambassador College. But, during the 1960s, Satan was working subtly to make the TRUE VALUES seem inferior. Some, indoctrinated with "higher education" from this world's universities, were moving into chief executive positions at headquarters in Pasadena. Some coveted POWER at the top of what CHRIST had built, through His chosen apostle. It had become a major WORLDWIDE WORK, employing many hundreds of men, handling many MILLIONS of dollars of GOD'S MONEY.

During the 1960s POLITICS began to be played at headquarters in Pasadena.

By 1968 Christ was OPENING DOORS for me to be invited to private meetings with kings, emperors, presidents and prime ministers of nations. Doors were being opened to carry Christ's message of the Kingdom of God to those high up under these heads of state, and then to the grass roots of their peoples. I began to be away from Pasadena more and more — until finally I was away up to 300 out of the 365 days in the year. Orders went out, "Keep what we are doing at headquarters away from Mr. Armstrong." Anyone who got to me with what was going on was threatened with loss of his job!

Looking back, I say again, I have been only human! I have to admit this was allowed to go on — though mostly without my knowledge.

But in His due time, the living HEAD of God's Church awakened me to what Satan had so adroitly, subtly and craftily done.

THERE HAD TO BE A HOUSECLEANING! Most of those who had maneuvered into positions of executive power in so large a worldwide Work are no longer members of GOD'S Church! I had to completely KILL the college Satan had turned Ambassador into. I began the college ALL OVER AGAIN FROM SCRATCH — a freshman class ONLY. Ambassador College is now BACK ON GOD'S TRACK. Once again it has THE HIGHEST ACCREDITATION — that of almighty GOD! I never did want the accreditation of Satan's system of "higher education." But, on continued pressure assuring me we could have "accreditation" and still be God's college, I acquiesced in allowing those under me to go ahead. But never again shall we seek this world's "accreditation." Not as long as Christ keeps me in charge!

God has not used a SUPERMAN as His instrument and servant in building and developing His Church and His Work. But He has chosen and used one who can REPENT of mistakes and sins, CORRECT what has been, wrong and SET IT BACK ON THE TRACK.

Satan has succeeded in leading nearly all people to think that "education" is something one goes to college or university to obtain. It is like buying a loaf of bread. One goes to

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EVER KNOW WHY Money Is the Root of All Evil?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

It all started long before money came into existence. Of course that ROOT of all evil is the LOVE of money!

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a super spirit being named Lucifer. He had been created by the supreme Superbeing, named GOD. He had been taught and trained in the GOVERNMENT of the supreme Creator over all the vast endless universe, at headquarters in heaven.

Lucifer then was placed on the throne of the earth, one of the planets of the solar system in one of the galaxies called the Milky Way. Lucifer was set on earth's throne to administer as chief executive the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — a government that rules the universe.

That universe government is based on a supreme LAW — a WAY OF LIFE — the way of "GIVE," which is out-flowing love, cooperation, serving:

Beginning of competition

But Lucifer, once on earth's throne, cast competitive eyes on the universe throne. "WHY," he reasoned resentfully, "should God sit on the throne of the whole universe, while He gives me only this one little earth? He wants me to COOPERATE. I believe COMPETITION is the better way. I would rather TAKE than GIVE or cooperate. I will have more for myself if I COMPETE, TAKE, ACQUIRE and then HAVE, instead of, GIVING Him love, obedience, loyalty, so HE may have everything.

"I see," Lucifer further reasoned, "He has everything to enjoy, even my kingdom here on earth, while I have only this earth — just like a small dot in His whole vast universe. If I rise up against Him in COMPETITION — if I strive to TAKE from Him His whole vast universe — think what a THRILL — think of the ECSTASY I shall enjoy if I WIN. I realize fully the agony I may have to suffer if I LOSE. But I think the ECSTASY of WINNING is worth the risk of defeat. I believe

COMPETITION is the better way of life — the struggle to WIN — the strategy of DEFENSE against Him as my opponent. It's the one who WINS the race who enjoys the thrill and ecstasy of WINNING. Winning is a goal worth the risk of defeat.

"Therefore," Lucifer concluded: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

And thus the spirit of COMPETITION was born. But the superbeing Lucifer suffered the agony of DEFEAT — is suffering it still — shall suffer it continually forever because he is an immortal spirit being!

Humans should have learned from his experiment. Humans should have learned from the teachings of the supreme Creator GOD — available to all in print in the world's best-selling book, the Holy Bible!

But humans have not learned. Humans *don't want* to learn.

Today in this pulsating end time of the 20th century, COMPETITION is the "life of trade" in commerce and business. COMPETITION is the life of SPORTS, now coming to be the principal interest in human life. COMPETITION is the lifeblood of human governments over nations — the desire to TAKE — to invade, conquer, TAKE, GET. Competition is the basic spirit of this world's society. COMPETITION is the interest-incentive both to contestants and TV viewers of the *Miss America Pageant*, the *Miss Universe Pageant*, and all such contests.

Striving to get

But what is COMPETITION? It is strife to GET from another or from others. Competition has its offense AGAINST neighbor (instead of LOVE toward neighbor as to self). Competition is defense AGAINST an opponent

— a striving to get the best of the other fellow or other side, and enjoy the best for SELF. How? By TAKING FROM another. But what has all this to do with the LOVE OF MONEY?

Money has come to be the world's medium of exchange. We put a VALUE on goods and services in terms of MONEY. One GETS and TAKES from the other usually through the medium of MONEY. And the incentive? The LOVE of that money — the desire to GET — to TAKE — to HAVE!

How about SPORTS?

This article was inspired by a Los Angeles newspaper sports column, by the inimitable Jim Murray. This column was headlined, "Money is the root of all evil in college football." Jim Murray is a super-clever humorist who often dishes forth a lot of truth through his particular style of humor.

This column started out, "Once upon a time there was a game called college football." The game originally was played "for God, for country and for Yale." He intimated it was started by a few students like Frank Merriwell. I was surprised Mr. Murray knew about Frank Merriwell — a fictional character in a weekly paper read by kids long before Jim Murray's time. In my early high school days — 1907-09 — I was an avid reader of the Frank Merriwell novels, devoured by teenagers. I used to try to hide these novels under the mattress of my bed or in the pipe under the furnace heating register in my bedroom — that is, until my mother found them and burned them!

These Yale kids, continued Mr. Murray, corralled some other kids, coming out of Latin class, to form a football team to try to beat Harvard. But soon people paid to see the annual Harvard game. And homecoming old grads were far more inter-

(Continued on page 20)

Lessons from the Master Potter

Life was meant to be full of trials, tests and temptations — all intended to build beautiful, godlike character in man.

By Raymond F. McNair

Many of you have experienced — or are experiencing — severe trials and tests. Unfortunately, some buckle under the pressure instead of learning the vital lessons these trials are intended to teach us — lessons that are absolutely essential for growing Sons of God!

We all want to endure and conquer trials and temptations. But in order to do so, you must understand why your Creator designed your life to be a seemingly unending multiplicity of problems.

The potter and the clay

The prophet Isaiah understood man was merely a clay model to be formed and fashioned by the hand of his Creator. "O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isa. 64:8). The apostle Paul uses the same imagery or symbolism of the potter and the clay in Romans 9:21-23.

God compares Himself to a master potter. And all mankind is likened to clay. "I also am formed out of the clay," said Job's friend, Elihu (Job 33:6). Yes, man is made out of clay — we are just the clay model God created for the specific purpose of molding into the image of His perfect character.

For years I knew one of Britain's foremost pottery sculptors. On numerous occasions he explained to me some of the fascinating aspects of his art. There are seven important steps in pottery making:



Photo by Warren Watson

1) The master potter must first select the type of clay he wants to use in making a specific piece of pottery. There are many types and colors of clays, each with its own particular advantages.

2) The potter then lets this clay age, weather or ferment until it "stinks" and is therefore ready for use.

3) Next, the potter wedges — kneads, beats, treads upon or pummels — the clay to remove lumps and air bubbles and to make it more pliable.

4) The potter is then ready to begin actually shaping and forming the clay into whatever shape or de-

sign he has chosen. Throughout this process it is necessary to add water or oil to keep the clay malleable.

5) Once the potter has shaped the clay, he puts it into a furnace (or kiln) where it is heated until it reaches its "maturing point." This initial baking or firing in the furnace permanently sets or hardens the vessel in its desired form so that it can never be altered.

6) After the first firing of the clay model, it is removed from the fire, let cool, decorated and finally glazed over. This newly glazed pottery is then given a second firing to bake these decorations onto the clay model. There are often several decorations and firings before the pottery vessel reaches its ultimate perfection of beauty.

7) Finally the potter is ready to judge his work. If the clay model hasn't cracked, exploded or become marred in some way during these firings, it is at last ready to be used in whatever manner the designer and creator may decide.

Now let us understand the *crucial spiritual analogy* of these seven vital steps in pottery making. We will thus acquire a deeper comprehension of exactly how the great master Potter deals with us mortal "clay models." Remember, this is God's analogy — not mine!

First: God must choose us

Just as the potter chooses the type and color of the clay he will use, so God chooses the individuals He will use.

Different kinds of clays have different properties. Some are more malleable than others. Some are better for certain types of work than others. Likewise with different human beings. The potter must decide which color and type of clay he will use before he begins his work.

By looking at the illustration of the potter and the clay, we first learn (draw the parallel) that God must always choose us. We never choose Him — any more than the clay chooses the potter who will shape and mold it.

Christ said to His own disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you" (John 15:16). He also told the disciples, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44, 65).

Certainly, no one can say that it is God's will that all mankind must hear and receive the truth during this age. Many have never heard the name of Christ, have never seen a Bible and don't have a chance to be converted and receive true salvation during this life.

Paul shows that it is God who decides what He will do with His creatures — the clay models He has created. "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Rom. 9:16). Paul asks, "Hath not the potter [God] power over the clay [mankind], of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (verse 21).

All right — God has chosen you. But why? Many in God's Church ask this question: "Why has God chosen me? What have I done?" The answer is not what you have done, but what you will do, because you have been chosen for a specific purpose. Our God does not choose at random. Our God does not play roulette. You have been called and chosen for a particular level of responsibility and some very specific jobs in God's Work today, in God's government tomorrow and in God's Family for all eternity.

Second: Our stinking sins.

After a potter selects the clay he wishes to use, he must let the clay weather, age, ferment, sour — and it often literally stinks.

"Aging the clay — that is, keeping it moist in a container for several months — makes it better to work with. (Don't worry if your clay begins to smell bad — that's really a good sign.) Sometimes inoculating a fresh batch of clay with some of an old batch promotes the growth of bacteria and so helps plasticity" (*The Complete Book of Pottery Making*, John B. Kenny).

It is commonly known among potters that clay that matures — that has literally come to stink — is more malleable than unmaturing clay. What lesson are we to draw from this?

Simply this. God cannot really begin to deal with us — cannot begin to convert (change) us and bring us to the place of true repentance — until we have come to "stink" in our own eyes!

Many scriptures show that our sins are a continuous stench in the nostrils of God (Isa. 64:6-8). But it is impossible for the carnal mind to see itself as it really is. Therefore God cannot begin to use us until we come to see ourselves as we really are.

Christ summed it up, "For I am not come to call the [self-] righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13).

A most difficult human being to bring to true repentance was Job — because he thought he was righteous — he thought he was pretty good in God's sight. But eventually, God really did get through — Job was finally whittled down to size. Then Job repented: "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

Many profess to be true Christians, but are still wallowing around in their own self-righteous filth! God cannot really begin to shape and mold beautiful spiritual character in such individuals.

Third: Why beat clay?

Before the clay is ready for use it must be beaten and pummeled to help remove any air pockets and to break up its hard lumps. This makes the clay more plastic and consequently more easily shaped.

What is the significance of this wedging of the clay?

God has to rebuke and chasten us — He has to subject us to some

tough, unpleasant circumstances before we will really repent. This is precisely what God did with self-righteous Job. God allowed Satan to take away all of Job's physical possessions and to destroy his children. Then He let Satan afflict Job with grievous boils — all to pummel Job to his senses, to bring him to real repentance (Job 1, 2).

Just as a potter cannot properly work clay that hasn't been thoroughly wedged, so God can't properly work with us until we repent of our self-righteous hardness of heart and our wind of vanity — both of which puff us up and prevent us from yielding to God (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

Wedging the clay can be done by many different methods: beating or pummeling, kneading, slamming the clay against a special table or bench top, repeatedly cutting it in half by using a taut wire or treading heavily on it with the feet ("as the potter treadeth clay," Isa. 41:25).

Similarly, God has many ways to chasten and correct us. But He never chooses the ones we want — He always seems to find our most sensitive nerve.

Fourth: Molding the pottery

Once the potter has gotten the lumps and bubbles out, he is ready to start molding and shaping his clay into the form he desires.

But there's still a problem: The clay is not supple and consequently cannot be properly molded. The solution is basic: The potter must add the right amount of water (sometimes oil is used instead of water) to make the clay more plastic.

Once God has beaten our hardness of heart out of us and knocked (some of) our vanity out of us, then we must receive the "living waters" — God's Holy Spirit — in order to be properly molded by God's law.

No one can truly yield to God and obey Him unless and until he has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. But when anybody God calls really thirsts for God's Spirit, He will give it to him (Isa. 55:1).

Jesus said: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [or innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of

the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given . . .)" (John 7:37-39).

Without the addition of water to the clay, it will not be malleable enough to be continually molded in the hands of the potter. Likewise, without the addition of the spiritual waters of God's Holy Spirit to our minds, we could never be yielded enough to be continually shaped in the hands of our Creator, the Master Potter.

Fifth: Plunged into the fire

After the potter has molded his vessel and has let it dry thoroughly, he puts his unbaked piece of pottery into a furnace (or kiln) where it must be heated (slowly at first so it won't explode) to a high temperature before it will become sufficiently baked to attain its maximum hardness.

If it is fired at too high a temperature, it will warp. On the other hand, if it is fired at too low a temperature, the pottery will be "soft" and will not attain its maximum "maturity," density and hardness. The master potter has ways of testing to find the proper "firing range" (temperature) at which a particular type of clay should be fired.

There is an amazingly close parallel here between the human potter and the Master Potter. When God allows us to be put through trials, He has to know just how high the "heat" should be "turned on."

If God doesn't allow us to be subjected to enough trials and tests, we get spiritually flabby and never develop the hard, firm character that is absolutely required for Sonship in God's Family (1 Pet. 1:6-7, Jas. 1:2-3).

On the other hand, if He were to let us be tried by such a big temptation that we couldn't cope with it, it would destroy us beyond redemption.

So God knows the precise degree to which each true child of His can be subjected, and He watches over us very carefully to make sure that the trials and tests we receive are neither too light (Heb. 12:6-11) nor too severe (1 Cor. 10:13).

Sixth: Finishing touches

After the clay has been baked in a furnace to give it its permanent

shape, strength and hardness, it is removed from the kiln and decorated, after which it is glazed over. Then what happens?

Back into the fire — back into the furnace it goes so that the decorative work and the glazing can be baked onto the surface of the vessel. This constitutes the second firing.

What should we learn from this decorating, glazing and second firing?

God often puts finishing touches into our character — polishing different aspects of His perfect character within us through allowing additional fiery trials of various types. It is,

If God has permitted
you to be sorely
tried — perhaps repeatedly
— then that's the surest
sign that your Creator
knows you've got it in
you to "endure unto
the end." And that's
also the surest sign
that the Ruler of
the entire universe is
working out some higher
purpose in your life.

remember, through trials and temptations that the most beautiful facets of our character are developed.

Now, even after a piece of pottery has been fired twice, it often has further stunning decorations applied — perhaps fine, pure gold or silver metals. Then after these exquisite finishing touches are added to the nearly finished vessel, it must go back into the furnace.

So, back into the fire this beautifully decorated piece of pottery goes, for the third and (in most instances) final firing.

So it is with God and His children. We sometimes think we have had enough, that we've gone through enough fiery trials, but God, in His infinite wisdom, usually feels otherwise.

He may realize that still more beautiful godlike facets of character

need to be added if we are to have the exquisite, indescribably stunning character that is made in the image of the perfect, holy and glorious God!

Seventh:

At last — a work of art

At this point the piece of pottery has withstood three or more firings. The master potter can now survey his work. And he will judge it very critically.

Has it stood up to the test? Has it come through all of the firings a hard, strong, beautiful creation — something the potter can truly be proud of? Or has it cracked, exploded, sagged, drooped, flaked or become warped somewhere along the line?

Likewise, at the end of our lives, our Master Potter will judge us extremely critically to see how we have come through all our trials — and He will reward us accordingly.

Rejoice in your trials

So take courage!

If God has permitted you to be sorely tried — perhaps repeatedly — then that's the surest sign that your Creator knows you've got it in you to "endure unto the end." And that's also the surest sign that the Ruler of the entire universe is working out some higher purpose in your life. Because it is only by means of severe tests and rigorous trials that God can develop His character in you, and will consequently give you a greater reward in His Kingdom — *if you come through.*

Christ has solemnly promised that those who hold steadfast till the very end — those who endure all their fiery trials — will definitely make it! "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).

Think of that. When a potter finishes his work, he only has a beautiful piece of pottery. But when the Master Potter finishes His work with you, He will have a Son of God! The great Master Potter has reassuringly promised that those who endure their fiery trials will inherit *everything!*

"He that overcometh [sin, trials, tests, temptations] shall inherit *all things*; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). What a fantastic future to look forward to! □

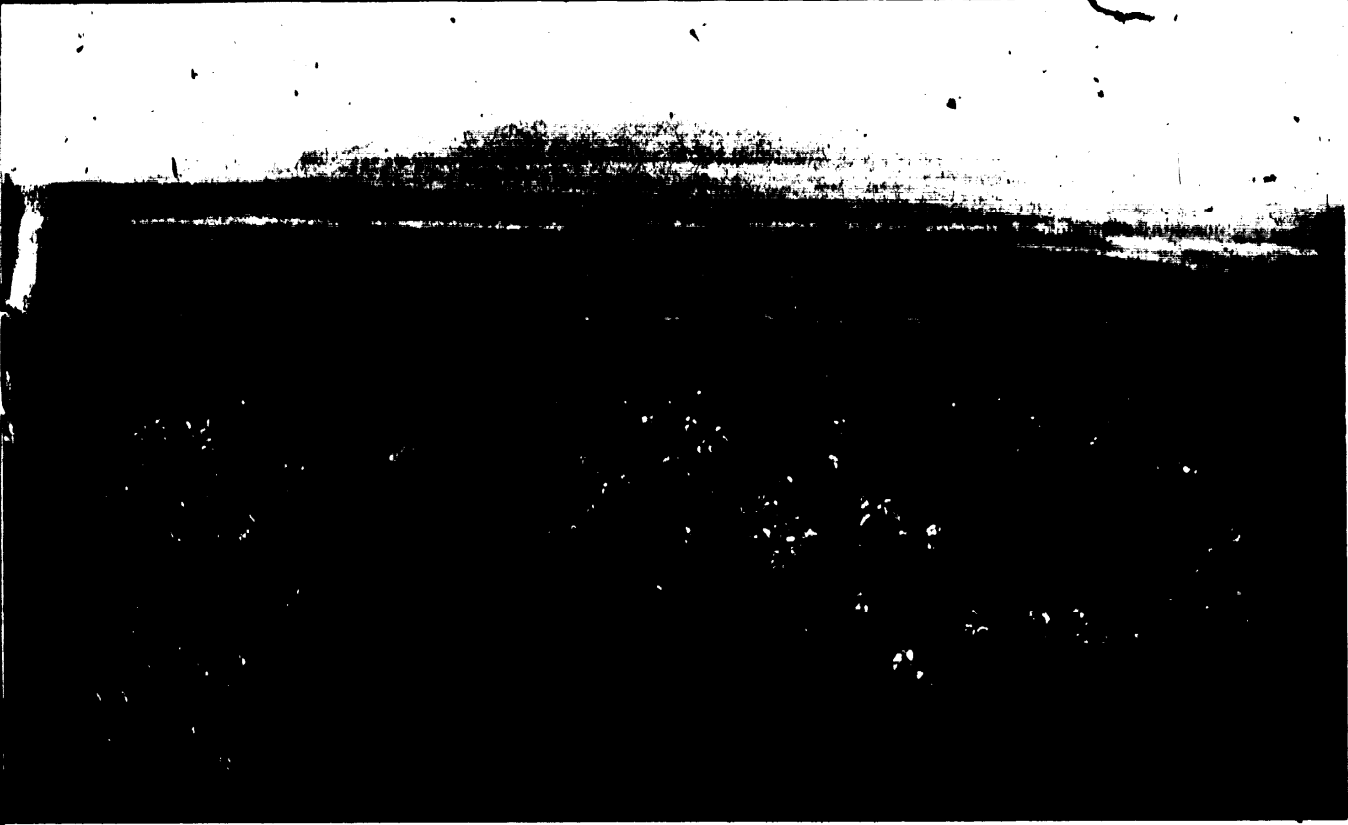


Photo by Roland Rees

Be a Profitable Servant!

By Dilbar Apartian

At the end of the days, can you look back and say you were really profitable, or did you only do what was required of you? Just how much does God expect of Christians?

Do you know what it means to be a worthy or profitable servant?

Do you sometimes feel that, despite your efforts, you are not growing spiritually as you should?

Recently a disheartened Church member admitted: "I'm trying the best I can, but I just don't see much spiritual growth in my life. What's

wrong with me? Am I really an unworthy servant?" These questions concern every one of us in the Church of God.

We are to overcome our carnal tendencies and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:18). But what causes our growth to sometimes be so slow? Can we be good Christians and still be unprofit-

able servants? What does God require of His begotten children?

Christ gave the answer

One of the best known incidents in the Bible is the short conversation that took place between Christ and a young, wealthy man. From all indications, this man was conscious of his duties, faithful and respectful. He

kneel down before Christ and asked Him what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:17).

Christ told him to keep the commandments — and to make His meaning even clearer, He quoted the part of the Ten Commandments that defines man's relationship with his neighbor. Unlike many people today, the man didn't argue with the answer. He recognized the validity of the order and the importance of keeping God's laws. In fact, in his own mind, he considered himself to be a profitable servant. "Master, all these have I observed from my youth," he told Christ (verse 20).

An unusual man, indeed! He loved God and was loved by Him. Not many, nowadays, could stand before Christ and tell Him boldly that they have observed from their youth His commandments. But in his own righteousness, this man thought he had passed the test. What else could there have been for him to do in order to receive his reward?

Christ told him, "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me" (verse 21).

What a harsh order — or so it seemed! Why should anyone be asked to give up so much if he was already doing his best to be good and keep the commandments? No, it didn't make sense. The man was unwilling to go that far, to sacrifice to such an extent. Therefore he went away "grieved," because he had great possessions (verse 22).

Was he a profitable servant? Would you have done better had you been in his stead? Are you actually doing any better with your own possessions right now — however big or small? If your sense of values is no better than his, then you are an unworthy or unprofitable servant!

Does God ask the impossible?

You might be shocked and even irritated if you were told that God expects of you the impossible! That's the way the apostles felt when they heard the answer Christ gave the young man. Would God really ask the impossible? It depends what is meant by *impossible* and who is doing it.

But Christ told His disciples that all things are possible with God — even what seems impossible to us.

What is the greatest gift you can receive in this life? Isn't it God's Spirit? If you are a member of His Church, God has given you something the rest of the world doesn't have. Much will be required of you, because much has been given to you (Luke 12:48).

For instance, you cannot conquer your human nature, however great your human efforts. But God can and does do it through you with His Holy Spirit. You cannot fight against Satan and the lust of the world, but God can and will if you obey Him. Consequently, though on your own you are unable to do much, with God's Spirit you can do the impossible!

Your part is to do God's will — to surrender to Him and let Him shape and use you as He wishes. Some in the Church believe they are doing their share by merely living good lives. They may be members in good standing, willing to serve whenever called upon. Just like the young man with great possessions, they may consider themselves "good Christians," wondering what's left for them to do to inherit eternal life.

But that's not enough to please God. Even people in the world who don't have God's Spirit can be "good Christians" that way. If your righteousness and deeds don't exceed theirs, you won't enter the kingdom. They don't have God's Spirit, but you do. Christianity must have for you a different connotation.

Keeping God's commandments, paying His tithes, observing His Sabbath and His Feasts — all these things are required of you. But they won't make you a worthy servant. You must go over and above these requirements — you must do what others in the world can't do. God's Spirit in you will not only help you obey His commandments in the letter and in the Spirit, but will also help you fight against the things you are humanly unable to conquer.

You must go over and above your call of duty because you have received God's Spirit — a Spirit of love and power that enables you to do what, with human nature, you are unwilling or unable to do. That's why Christ said, "When ye shall have

done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

God's Spirit works through us

Jesus Christ revealed, in the Sermon on the Mount, the difference between what we humanly can do, and the *humanly impossible* things God's Spirit can do through us.

He stated, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill" (Matt. 5:21). This is a law any human can learn to keep if he has received the proper education. He might be able to go through life without ever being guilty of a crime. But if you'll make him a profitable servant in God's sight,

Christ specified, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (verse 22).

Think of it! This aspect of the law is impossible for any human being to keep without God's Spirit. But the Spirit of God gives you the help you need not to insult your brother or not to get angry with him.

Again, Christ said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery" (verse 27).

Many people in the world have learned not to commit adultery. They are faithful to their mates. Are you in this respect a better Christian than they? Do you obey Christ, who said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (verse 28). If you are a faithful husband or wife, but you still lust after another person, you are far from being a worthy servant.

Again, Christ said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shall perform unto the Lord thine oaths" (verse 33).

Any well intentioned human, with the right education can refrain from taking God's name in vain, using foul language and not swearing. But you, as a true Christian with God's Spirit, must do something others can't do.

You must "Swear not at all; neither by heaven... Nor by the earth... neither by Jerusalem... Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black" (verses 34-36).

And how about love? Is your love, as a Christian, different from the love of someone who does not have God's Spirit?

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy" (verse 43). Lots of people succeed in keeping this commandment. It's easy to love someone who loves you or is close to you. And it is just as easy to hate someone who is your enemy or wants to hurt you.

But Christ added that you, as a true Christian, should "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (verse 44).

You can't possibly love your enemies the way you love your friends... unless you have God's Spirit. It's hard to ask God to bless someone who hates you and who will seize every opportunity to hurt and persecute you. But as a Christian you have to help your enemies in need, do good to them and even lay down your life for them.

Indeed, much is required of profitable servants.

Giving and good works

You don't work, give or serve to be seen of men, but of God. Ultimately, your reward is not of men, but of God. You can only strive toward perfection by allowing God's Spirit to do through you what you humanly can't or don't want to do. If keeping the commandments has become routine for you or if you keep them just because it's required of you, then you are indeed an unworthy servant.

A few months ago, a Church member asked one of our ministers if tithes and offerings sent to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong in Tucson, Ariz., were tax deductible. "If not," he added, "I want to send them somewhere else so that I can be given credit."

The spirit of getting won't make anyone a profitable servant!

Of course, that man didn't show much understanding or conversion. If

you are paying God's tithes because you can get a tax deduction, then none of the money you pay — even if you give millions — will make you a worthy servant.

To serve or give because you expect something in return shows carnal-mindedness. Compare that man's attitude with that of a poor widow who gave her two mites as an offering. Did she expect anything in return? Did men see it?

No, but God did, and Christ said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:3-4).

That poor widow was a worthy servant, not because of what she gave, but because of the spirit in which she gave — her godly attitude, her devotion and love. That's what made her do more than was required of her.

Do you know the difference between a good work and good works? Whatever your task, you must endeavor to do a good work. That's required of you. But besides doing a good work you must have good works — works that are not required of you and which you perform without expecting anything in return.

Consider what happened to Dorcas, a widow who did more than was required of her. She was full of good works.

Notice the reward Dorcas received after she fell sick and died (Acts 9:37). Her friends who had seen her good works sent for Peter. They showed him the coats and garments Dorcas had made while she was alive.

Peter prayed for her and God heard his prayer. Dorcas was brought back to physical life because of her good works! She had probably never dreamed, while she was alive, that one day her good works would be a testimony in her favor to be brought back to life. Dorcas had done more than was required of her, without expecting anything in return. She was a worthy and profitable servant.

How about you? Do you have enough good works? Just remember that keeping the commandments, praying every day and living a "good"

Christian life are only part of the requirements of conversion; they won't necessarily make you a worthy servant. You have to do what others can't do without God's Spirit.

It takes effort

Mr. Armstrong has set us a good example; he is putting forth intense effort doing good works. Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., has the reputation of being one of the most beautiful campuses — if not the most beautiful — on the face of the earth. But it didn't just happen to be built that way. It required much hard work, drive, determination and vision.

Mr. Armstrong has often said that it was God who did everything and not himself. That's true. However, as Mr. Armstrong has also explained, he had to work as hard as though he had done it! That's precisely what it takes to be a profitable servant. God is at work, but you have to strive as though you were doing them. You must push harder and harder as time goes on. That's what Mr. Armstrong does!

You cannot be a profitable servant if you are selfish and lazy. You cannot please God if you only do what is required of you or do it in order to be seen by men. If you have God's Spirit, you must live to help and serve. You are a Christian soldier whose fighting is done by God!

Look at Christ's example. Look how hard He Himself worked, how much He sacrificed and what He gave up! More than anyone else, He lived to help, to serve and to sacrifice. He always did more than what was required of Him.

Do your good works without ever expecting anything in return. If the people around you don't see them or if they don't seem to appreciate them, don't worry about it. Perform every task as best you know how. God will always give you whatever help you need. Pray for His Work. Learn to love to serve.

If God sees your good works, that's all that really matters. He will find you to be a profitable servant, and one day you will hear Him tell you: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34). □

Your Children- FUTURE GODS?

Do young parents realize the supreme blessing — and responsibility — of having children? New knowledge is revealed in this article — even more important than a matter of life and death!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT marriage and the FAMILY relationship has not been realized — even in God's Church!

To understand, you need to know all about the spirit in man and how it operates. You need to know precisely what is human nature. You need to know how SATAN operates — especially on children. You need to know in what manner God has set you — AND YOUR CHILDREN — apart from this world.

You need to know at what age Satan gets into your child's mind. You need to know whether your child has access to God — when Jesus said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44) — and God draws only the VERY FEW. He is specially calling to a commission preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD!

But if you — a husband and wife — are in God's Church, have you realized that places your children in a DIFFERENT CATEGORY WITH GOD?

God has revealed exciting, IMPORTANT NEW KNOWLEDGE! It will take several articles to cover it and reveal this wonderful new knowledge to you! So have patience. Receive it

Proper family relationships are vital to the growth of future Sons of God! Here Mr. Armstrong details the special opportunity God gives children of Church members. In the next article, Robert Fahey offers some guidelines on the spirit in man and how it relates to childrearing.

EAGERLY, even as I have. Much of what follows has never before been known or taught in GOD'S CHURCH — or in any other!

While other people — not members of the true, Body of Christ — and all other children are CUT OFF from access to God, YOUR CHILDREN — IF YOU ARE A TRULY CONVERTED MEMBER OF GOD'S CHURCH — can believe in Christ — are not cut off from God — and much of God's truth, even though as yet too young to be converted. But they are a SPECIAL TREASURE to God!

SO READ CAREFULLY in this article — and in others to follow on this subject. REALIZE what a special sacred TREASURE your children are!

Catholics claim that if they can have a child from birth through its first six years, he will always be a Catholic. That is true in a large percentage of cases. WHY?

First of all we need to realize how Satan injects his attitudes into children — and at what age.

Mankind cut off

When Jesus said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him," He was merely emphasizing the fact that God CUT OFF ALL HUMANITY FROM HIM except the VERY FEW He would call for special duty preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Start at the beginning. Understand this NEW KNOWLEDGE thoroughly!

After the great archangel Lucifer had turned a third of the angels into rebellion, and Lucifer himself had become SATAN, God embarked on HIS GREATEST UNDERTAKING! He began the process of REPRODUCING

HIMSELF by creating MAN (and woman) out of dust from the ground! Man was first, as of then, made of MATTER — not spirit.

Now GOD is a Spirit, composed of spirit! God is immortal — has always existed — always will! Lucifer and angels were made of SPIRIT — therefore they are IMMORTAL — but on a lower plane than God. Yet, although God formed MAN of the dust of the ground — physical matter — God has given MAN a far greater potentiality than angels.

In MAN, God is reproducing HIMSELF!

Man has the potentiality of becoming GOD!

MAN shall, when his spiritual creation is completed, JUDGE ANGELS (I Cor. 6:3). Few indeed have ever really GRASPED the marvelous breathtaking potential of MAN! By the very fact that God, through man, is reproducing Himself, we know MAN, when his SPIRITUAL creation is completed, shall actually become GOD! Only, God the Father will always remain supreme in authority and command, and Christ second in command, above all else.

The first man — Adam

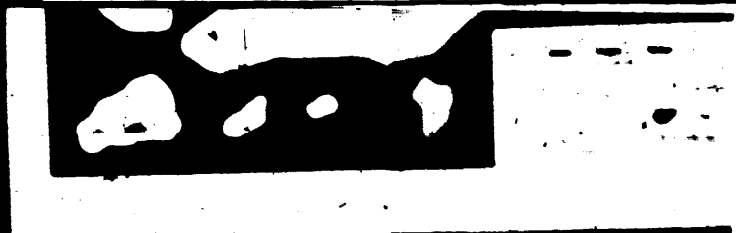
To understand this NEW KNOWLEDGE we must go back to the beginning. Man's physical creation began with Adam. Man's spiritual creation began with Christ — the "SECOND ADAM."

Look, for the moment, to man's PHYSICAL creation in ADAM and EVE. They were created suddenly, in the afternoon of the sixth creative day (Gen. 1:26) as whole and complete ADULT HUMANS! They were suddenly

Photo by Robert Fahey

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A map of a place



A man



created with adult MINDS — as yet, unfulfilled with knowledge.

They were suddenly created with minds capable of receiving knowledge — of reasoning, making decisions. So God began communicating to them KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT — His great MASTER PLAN for man's ultimate spiritual creation — the way of His spiritual law of outflowing LOVE.

God did not allow Satan to contact Adam and Eve in any way until God had revealed His basic knowledge to them. Then Satan turned Adam into rebellion against God, through Adam's wife Eve. Eve was deceived — but Adam wasn't.

Let me here repeat once again the vitally important incident, when God said to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:22-24), in effect (in today's language): "You have made the fateful decision for all mankind — you have rejected me as your GOD, as your LAWGIVER AND RULER, and as Revealer of KNOWLEDGE!"

"You have taken to yourself the KNOWLEDGE of what is good and what is evil. Therefore I cut you and all humankind that shall spring from you OFF FROM ALL CONTACT with me for 6,000 years — EXCEPT the VERY FEW I shall specially call into my service, preparing for my Kingdom!"

That, in modern language, is the sentence God pronounced on HUMAN-KIND for 6,000 years!

HOW Satan has deceived

In Revelation 12:9 we read that ALL NATIONS have been deceived by Satan. God has called to Him a very few — for definite SERVICE preparing for His KINGDOM — yet MANKIND as a whole has been CUT OFF from all contact with God.

Those who have been specially called, up to our present time, have had to OVERCOME SATAN AND SATAN'S WORLD. When God calls EVERYBODY, during the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-12), those called in those latter periods of time will have no Satan to overcome — they will live in a world that is CHRIST'S world — not Satan's.

Now how about CHILDREN?

In the present evil world God calls only a VERY FEW adults into His ser-

vice, to perform a definite SERVICE in preparation for the KINGDOM OF GOD. They must overcome not only Satan, but SATAN'S WORLD — he is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4).

How does Satan keep his world brainwashed into his false beliefs and ways?

Satan begins his work of deception WITH LITTLE CHILDREN! Now let's see PRECISELY HOW!

There is a SPIRIT in every human being. This spirit is NOT part of the person — it is something IN each human, just as (for illustration) a human might swallow a marble. The marble is something IN the person, yet not PART OF that person. This spirit in man is something that is IN him (or her) from birth throughout this life.

I have written much about this spirit in man. It imparts the power of intellect to the physical brain. Yet this spirit cannot see. The brain sees through the eyes, hears through the ears, etc.

When the ancient Cyrus, king of Persia, ruled the world, God wanted a colony of Jews to be sent from the land of Babylon back to Jerusalem to build the second temple. This was 70 years after Solomon's temple had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

HOW DID GOD CAUSE CYRUS TO DO WHAT GOD WANTED? God did not speak to him direct. He did not speak to him as to prophets, by a dream or a vision. But God "STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS" (Ezra 1:1). God is a spirit. God therefore was able to stir up the spirit that was IN Cyrus, and thus cause him to issue the proclamation sending the colony back to Jerusalem.

Now Satan also is a SPIRIT being. And in like manner Satan is able to put thoughts, attitudes, impulses into human brains, through the spirit that is in each human.

Satan does not wait until humans are mature. As soon as a human baby begins to use the reasoning process — in the very first year — Satan pumps into the child through the human spirit, attitudes of selfishness, competition and strife — the desire to GET — to have, to possess. By the time the average child is 15 or 16, in many cases Satan has gotten in his

work. THAT IS WHY SUCH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF ALL CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY TEENAGERS!

Obviously a little child, fully absorbing Satan's attitude of selfishness, resentment and strife, is not yet old enough to be called to special service by almighty God the Father. God may call a few by 16 or 17 — but usually those whom God calls are more mature than that.

God first calls us to REPENTANCE. Then He calls us to FAITH in Christ. Those of us who have been called — truly called and converted — have had to repent of the ATTITUDE Satan had injected through the spirit in each of us. We have to turn FROM Satan's attitude to GOD'S attitude of LOVE OUTFLOWING!

The CONVERTED young couple

But when a young man and a young woman — perhaps in the early 20s in age — fall in love — if they are both converted, and they marry, THEIR CHILDREN COME UNDER A SPECIAL CATEGORY NOT FULLY REALIZED IN GOD'S CHURCH BEFORE!

We in the Church of God did not realize this because a particular passage of scripture was unclear to us until our in-depth research leading to a change in divorce and remarriage problems.

In I Corinthians 7 Paul first speaks to the unmarried (verses 8-9). Next he speaks to those already married (verses 10-11). Then he speaks "to the rest" (beginning verse 12). Here he is speaking to men or women in the Church married to unbelievers (those outside the Church). Then he says, verse 14, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified [set apart in a special category] by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean."

The Moffatt translation here is "Otherwise, of course, your children would be unholy instead of being consecrated to God." This does not mean the children of a believer are converted or "saved" — but rather, that they are consecrated — that is SET APART as in a different category.

In other words, just as NO MAN CAN come to Christ except the Father specially draws him (John 6:44), once (Continued on page 29)

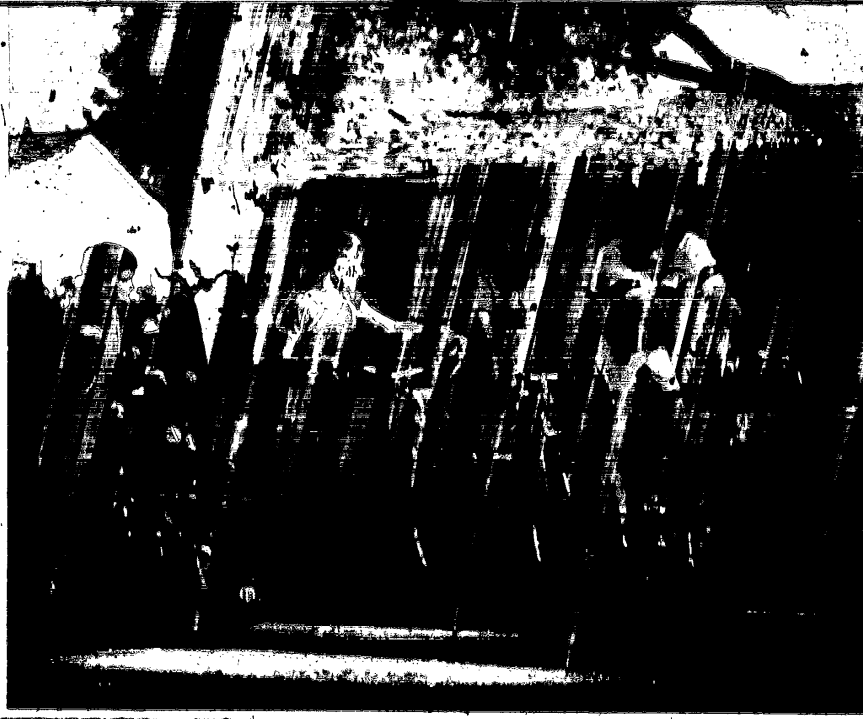


Photo by Scott Smith

Guide Your Children Toward God's Family

Your child — just like you — has the incredible potential to become a perfect, immortal member of the God Family! How well are you as a parent helping him toward that goal?

By Robert E. Fahey

It will happen one day between you and your child.

You will feel a resistance: To no particular thing — and to everything. You will find yourself explaining an instruction that ought to be obvious. You won't be talking heart to heart with your youngster. Instead, there will be disagreement and discord. Suddenly, you will feel you need a

lawyer to talk to your own kid. You will present your case with unassailable facts, but your points will be hurled back at you as proof that you are unreasonable.

Your child will be manifesting a carnal attitude — "the spirit of this world."

Your warfare is not of the flesh! You are up against a spiritual force.

And if you don't know it, there is no way you will overcome it. You and your child will both lose!

The spirit in man and our children

Your child has the spirit in man. When you understand that, certain things become plain. Each human mind is individual. By giving your

child the spirit in man, God granted him freedom of choice.

During his life, he will make his own decisions. At the end of that life, your child, then fully mature, will stand before Jesus Christ and be judged as an individual, according to his works and the character he has developed. Your opinion will not be needed — nor will your justifications, excuses or apologies. Your child will have to stand before Christ alone.

Now, as your baby sleeps peacefully in his bed, he is totally dependent on you for everything. But remember, in a few short years, his mind will decide whether to listen to you or not! Your effective control will cease. Cooperation with and submission to you will become voluntary. He will decide whether to obey the Fifth Commandment — and all the other commandments, too. Your child is a separate person, distinct from all others — even from you!

Because your child has the spirit in man, his mind will begin to absorb human knowledge. For the first few years, you and your family are the only teachers your child has.

Your children set apart

As Christ has revealed through His apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, I Corinthians 7:14 shows that the unconverted children of Church members are set apart — holy (see page 10). The children of Church members have access to God and "the things" of His Spirit!

Knowing about the spirit in man and that our children have access to God's spiritual values provides the key to successful childrearing for members of God's Church. It shows the way to "Train up a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6).

Your child can learn the things of God. You can teach him that God is the Creator and that He placed men on earth for a purpose. You can explain how your child came to have consciousness and tell him of God's generous offer of eternal life to those who obey Him. Your child can begin to comprehend God's plan as pictured by His Holy Days.

Of course, you will not be the only influence in your child's life. At school he will learn mathematics, science, history, art and music. He

will also learn from television, comic books, magazines and other kids. His mind will gobble up information — and all the "things of a man [or woman]."

Sooner or later his mind will also be subjected to the "spirit of this world," which will work to instill vanity, hostility to authority and selfish desires of the mind and flesh. The degree to which he responds to that wrong spirit depends on his recognition of that spirit for what it is and his abhorrence of those attitudes.

Unlike others, Church children do have a choice. They can turn their minds toward God and the things of God — or they can turn toward the bitter, hostile attitude of the adversary. Ultimately, it is their decision.

As a parent in God's Church, it is your job to teach them to make the right choice. You can teach God's values before your child is subjected to Satan's world and its carnal attitudes.

Teaching God's values

Admittedly, it is going to be difficult to teach God's values if you don't appreciate them yourself! If you don't value the personal calling you have to be part of God's firstfruits, to understand His Word, to fellowship with His people, to participate in His Work and to back His apostle, you can't teach anyone else what an enormous blessing it is to live God's way of life and be a member of the Body of Christ.

If you find yourself in that condition, your first step in training your children is to start drinking in God's Holy Spirit yourself! You do that by studying His Word, by following His laws fully from the heart and by rejecting Satan's evil attitudes.

You begin at the beginning. Your children have access to God because His Spirit dwells in you! If you neglect it, keep one foot in the world and reflect Satan's cynical, negative, frustrated attitude, your children's access to God is diminished.

If God's Spirit permeates your life and you delight in being in Christ's Body, your family's access increases. Paul saw that in Timothy's family, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which

dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (II Tim. 1:5).

Give vs. get

God views all human attitudes and subsequent actions in terms of two broad ways of life. Mr. Armstrong has explained these two ways so even a child can understand them — one is the way of give, the other the way of get.

Those with God's Spirit will evaluate attitudes the way He does. True Christians will read which spirit is which and then choose the way that is pleasing to God — the way that leads to joy, cooperation, mutual respect and, most of all, peace!

"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish [of Satan]. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (Jas. 3:14-17).

Teach your child, while you can, to recognize the two distinct ways!

Many everyday experiences can be used to demonstrate the fruits of one way as opposed to the fruits of the other — squabbles between playmates, following rules, thinking of others, telling the truth, care of others' property. You will be astounded how clearly you can teach God's way — and how quickly your child will learn it.

Teach him the pleasant results of God's way. For example, God always tells the truth. Who could trust anyone who lies? Show him by example that your *yea* means *yes*, just like God's does.

It follows that your *no* must also mean *no*. Consistently. If your child is going to respect you, he will have to respect your *nos*. If you regularly must give instructions more than once, your word is not respected. Do not expect a spirit of cooperation or obedience. Expect negotiation or strife. Expect rejection.

Respect and affection will help turn your child's heart toward you.

That's the attitude God wants in you. It is the same one you want to see in your child.

Read your child's attitude

You have to read your child's attitude. There will be times, especially in the early years, when you know you are talking heart to heart in open, honest communication. Those times are priceless! Value and use those occasions to build your relationship. Later, they may not come often enough. Should your child strongly turn his mind toward the spirit of the world, no amount of money will buy it back.

Sooner or later, your child will display a carnal attitude. He may do a specific task you request, but resistance is present. The underlying spirit is critical. Your motives and competency are being questioned — his opinions, wants and grievances fill his mind. Thoughts for others are shut out by a wall of self-pity. Pride and defiance mean the heart is lifted up (Ezek. 28:17). What to do?

The situation is delicate. If you fly into a rage, you will be exhibiting the same wrathful spirit he is. Then you both will descend into a standoff of antagonism and recrimination. Some families, once in that situation, never ascend out of it!

Paul wrote Timothy about how to work with people in that attitude. "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at [to do] his will" (II Tim. 2:24-26).

Keep your spiritual cool. This is where your early teaching comes in. If you have taught your child to recognize Satan's attitude and he does not want to go that way, you can discuss the problem with him. Lift the controversy to the spirit level. Then work back to the particular difficulty. Show the attitude, then the action and the inevitable result. He may see what has happened and reject that carnal attitude. It could be that simple.

Sometimes stronger methods are

needed. If your child has a defiant, hostile spirit, your goal is to replace it with a humble, contrite one. If words don't do it, then some form of discipline is your next recourse. There is nothing that produces contrition, as quickly as realizing that you are not as high and mighty as you thought you were. God sends His prophets — then His armies!

With young children, the usual form of discipline is spanking. Some have overused spanking and turned their homes into virtual concentration camps of punishment and abuse. These parents are oblivious to the fact that they are instilling a hostility and seething defiance that will one day be forcefully expressed. They actually help the adversary.

Or they are producing a cautious, half-hearted, wait-and-see attitude that is the first sign of a crushed spirit. Carried to its fullest extent, it just gives up. It quits. Like Satah, its situation is hopeless.

Others never use any discipline or authority. These parents often delude themselves into thinking that they are in charge. All acts of willful defiance are ignored or rationalized. Should the reality ever hit home, they become the ones with the crushed spirits, staring hollow-eyed at the wall, wondering what went wrong.

People have had these results because they either couldn't or didn't read the spirit and insist on cheerful obedience from a right heart.

Godly discipline

If your child is in a wrong spirit and doesn't turn from it, the results are sure to be evil. If left unchecked it will lead to every curse this God-rejecting world has had to endure.

God is love. God disciplines. Foreseeing the diseased fruit of a wrong attitude, God corrects to bring about contrition. (Heb. 12:5-8).

The Designer of the human body seems to have built it so that a properly applied spanking on the backside of a youngster can produce a change of heart — from proud to humble, from self-willed to cooperative, from self-pity to gratitude. It is comforting for your child to know that someone benign yet firm is in control!

That means before you ever spank,

you should have a good look at your attitude. If your motives are selfish and wrathful, there is no chance of your efforts producing a godly attitude in your child (Jas. 1:20). Be sure you are in control of yourself and are in a right spirit.

Your child has to learn self-discipline. Teach him to recognize and reject the defiant, hostile spirit he has begun to express. Explain the attitude problem you see. Also explain the specific fault. It is a service to let him understand the problem and know what is expected of him, by God and you.

Then spank! The number of swats and force should be appropriate for the offense. You should never cause injury or even come close.

You will be serving your child another way. Most people are unaware of the bad results a selfish attitude brings, because the consequences usually come much later (Eccl. 8:11). By disciplining your child when he needs it, you bring the explanation and the penalty for a wrong spirit closer.

Don't be afraid to make it hurt. You are helping your child avoid the spirit that leads to sorrow and rejection by God. If that attitude continues to adulthood, your chance to help is past! "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18).

With older children, spanking becomes less appropriate. A charitable spirit will know when loss of privileges or blessings or an old-fashioned scolding can replace swats. The principles remain the same.

Don't forget mercy! When the attitude is repentant, God forgives. That means you and I don't get the penalty we deserve. Your children learn about God's mercy from you. Your job is not to punish for every tiny offense; that will only provoke him to wrath — push him into the attitude of the adversary. But God is not mocked either. Don't let your desire to show mercy become a license to disrespect and defy you.

One more caution. Don't expect your children to behave as if they are converted. They cannot have the fruits of God's Spirit until they are baptized and begotten of His Spirit. To expect them to act like fully

(Continued on page 29)

Good News on the Jerusalem Dig

Students Participate

This summer, for the first time since 1976, Ambassador College students took part in archaeological excavations in Jerusalem. Some 29 students, led by college faculty member Richard Paige, spent about six weeks at "the Dig" in the City of David area during June and July.

The City of David project, headed by Dr. Yigal Shiloah of Hebrew University, is the foremost archaeological excavation in Israel. The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) is one of its main sponsors.

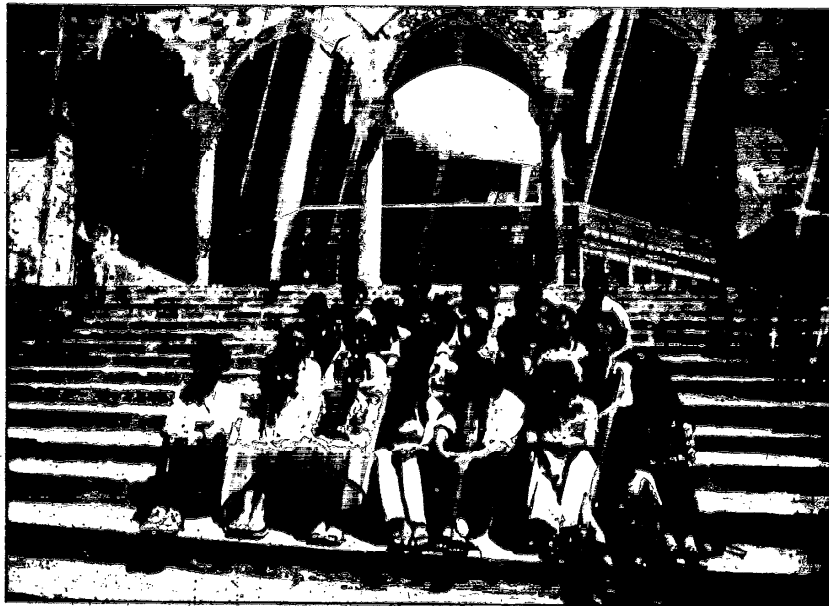
"The big Dig affords Ambassador College the unique opportunity of providing students with this very broadening experience," according to Raymond J. McNair, the college's deputy chancellor. "We believe the students will help to further strengthen the 'iron bridge' which has been erected between the people of Israel and AICF-Ambassador College."

"I think this summer's program was very successful," said Mr. Paige. "The



Ambassador student Darvia Herold

man in charge of the Dig, Professor Yigal Shiloah, never had any experience with Ambassador College students before. He initially expressed in no uncertain terms that the students were going to have to prove themselves. But by the time we were ready to



Ambassador students gather with instructor Richard Paige and his son Michael on steps leading to the Dome of the Rock. This Moslem holy place sits in the vicinity of the second temple, built by King Herod. (All photos by James Capo.)

leave, he was pleased with the conduct and accomplishments of the students. It was clear that the students weren't only going to be missed for their labor — they

were going to be missed as people.

"And I think this was the No. 1 thing we wanted to accomplish — for the students to represent Mr. Herbert

Armstrong and the college in the best way possible."

Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God have been involved in cultural projects in Israel since 1969.

Spirit of Cooperation

In November, 1968, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong traveled to Jerusalem to investigate plans for Ambassador College's participation in the Dig. And on Dec. 1 of that year, the college formally entered into cooperation with Hebrew University and the Israel Archaeological Society on the project. A complete report on the details of that agreement was published in the February, 1979, *Good News*.

In the intervening 11 years a spirit of friendship and mutual respect has developed between Israel's leaders and Mr. Armstrong.

"The university and gov-

ernment people in Israel whom Mr. Armstrong has come in contact with appreciate him very deeply," remarked Richard Paige, the Ambassador College faculty member who accompanied this year's entourage of students to the Dig.

"For example, Professor Binyamin Mazar, a notable figure in Hebrew University, looks on Mr. Armstrong as a very deep, personal friend. A number of other people we've had contact with in past years, including Mr. Michael Ravid [former Israeli consul general in Los Angeles, Calif.], feel very close to Mr. Armstrong.

"The constant question: 'When is Mr. Armstrong going to come back?' [he has already visited Israel on several occasions] met us at nearly every turn. They simply want to be able to see their friend again."

Ambassador students who have worked at the Dig have also left a favorable impression on the people with whom they have come in contact. Israeli officials, according to Mr. Paige, are particularly interested in having the college's students continue to participate in the project, and "In fact, they wish we could send them more in the future."

In addition, said Mr. Paige,

the head of the Tell Dor excavation, located on Israel's Mediterranean coast, expressed his desire to see Ambassador College get involved in his excavation.

Life at the Dig

Participation in the Jerusalem Dig offered students a fine opportunity to visit this land that has played -- and will play -- such a vital role in history. But the experience was also a challenge in every way.

The 29 young people sent to the Dig this summer, accord-



Sculpture in Hisham's Palace in Jericho. An earthquake destroyed much of the palace shortly after it was built in the eighth century.

ing to participant John Curry, found the work hot and dusty, but rewarding. The blisters and sunburned backs were all worthwhile. During their four weeks of excavation, the students worked six hours a day and were required to take classes in Israelite history, geography and contemporary life.

Involvement in the Dig gave Ambassador's representatives an appreciation for the strategic setting of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Following their four weeks of digging, they spent 10 days touring sites of biblical significance in Israel and the Sinai. A three-day trip into the Sinai desert, where the students climbed Mt. Sinai, was a high point.

Students also visited such sites as Gezer, one of Solomon's fortresses; Hazor,

which Joshua destroyed; and the tunnel, built in Hezekiah's time, that brought water from the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam.

The students stayed in a guest house on a kibbutz, an Israeli collective farm, midway between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Various students commented that the chance to experience a different culture -- to see how others live and think -- adds an important dimension to a person's character.

Several guest speakers during the summer offered insight about events in the Middle East, helping the students better understand the Jew-Arab conflict, Israeli government and the role of religious and social groups in the country.

Despite their busy schedules, students also found time for shopping and getting to know some of the nation's citizens firsthand.

Dig for What?

Just what do Ambassador College students dig for at the big Dig?

Over the centuries a wealth of historical information has accumulated beneath the dust of the Holy Land.



Student Joe Maubin works in the hot sun. In the background is the Arab village of Silwan, part of the city of Jerusalem.

Students working at the Dig had the opportunity to shop at local bazaars such as this one and become acquainted with Jerusalem's various cultures.



Those involved in Israel's archaeological projects seek to piece together that information with the help of artifacts they uncover in their digging.

This year's excavations were on the site of the original city of Jerusalem, several

hundred yards south of the Temple Mount, where Ambassador students dug in former years.

During previous seasons of digging here, the upper levels of Jerusalem's history were removed. With the students' help this summer, part of the ruins of the period of the kings of Judah and Israel were uncovered.

Among the relics unearthed were ancient Israelite buildings and several Astarte figurines. The discovery of statuettes of Astarte, a pagan fertility goddess, attests to the Israelites' unfaithfulness in worshipping the true God.

Students also helped clear the Jebusite tunnel and shaft through which Joab, King David's general, captured the city of Jerusalem. The tunnel extended from Gebon Spring in the Kedron Valley to inside the Jebusite city walls and enabled the inhabitants to have a secure source of water in time of siege.

The tunnel, a large section of which was previously blocked, was cleared with the assistance of two South African mining engineers. □



Happiness Is—

What is true, lasting happiness and how can YOU have it?

By Clayton Steep

“Happiness is — a full tank of gas.” “Happiness is — a winning home team.” “Happiness is — finding a \$5 bill.” These and many similar definitions of happiness appear in novelty shops and on bumper stickers, greeting cards, T-shirts and the like.

This article, however, is not about the kind of happiness consisting only of irregular, disrelated, unexpected happenings in life. It is not talking about temporary moments of elation that soon disappear.

True happiness goes far deeper. It is a basic state of mind. It comes from

a sense of well-being, contentment and inner peace.

If a person is truly happy inside it doesn't matter whether or not his or her automobile's gas tank is full. It doesn't matter whether or not a \$5 bill is found or whether the home team wins. These things can *add to* a person's happiness. But they do not in themselves constitute real, lasting happiness.

The popular, “Happiness is —” definitions describe moments of fleeting pleasure. The only happiness the average person ever knows consists of whatever brief periods of

momentary satisfaction he or she manages to seize during a lifetime. Most of that lifetime is a thankless struggle to cope with anxiety, emptiness, boredom, despair, financial problems, health problems and personal problems. Now and then a precious happy moment comes along. But it is soon gone. And then the wearisome pursuit of happiness continues once more.

This is not the way God wants it to be. He wants us to have rich, full, abundant lives (John 10:10). He wants us to be able to “Rejoice evermore” (1 Thess. 5:16).

The happiness God has, that which He offers to us, was meant to be with us constantly. It was meant to become a permanent part of us — of our personality and character.

Here is what the Bible says makes for true happiness.

Giving

Do you know what makes God happy? Giving! Hebrews 13:9



strong has for years pointed out that God's whole plan revolves around the principle of giving instead of getting.

In the beginning God established the laws by which He lives. His government produces a way of life so perfect and so good that God's greatest desire is to share that way of life. He created us because He wants to give us the opportunity to live as He lives, to be in His Family.

So desirous is He for us to be in His Kingdom that He has given that which was of most value to him — the life of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Why? In order to make it possible for Him to give us eternal life, yes, but more — that He might be able to give us "all things" (Rom. 8:32)! All things — let your mind dwell on that for a moment!

Yes, God gets His pleasure — His thrills — from giving to us. Jesus said, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). And to enter into the Kingdom is to enter "into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21, 23).

God is the giving God. He is happy because "It is more happy [the Greek word *makarios* means "happy"] to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). He wants us to be that way.

Not that it is wrong to receive. But receiving for the self should not be our motivation. An unbreakable law is in motion. If a person seeks to give, he will receive automatically. However, if a person seeks only to receive, to get for himself, he will wind up losing everything. Solomon wrote about this law, "One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want" (Prov. 11:24, Revised Standard Version).

"Give, and it shall be given unto you," said Jesus (Luke 6:38). It is extremely important for us to learn this essential key to happiness. That is why in the Christian life there are so many opportunities to give. A Christian is expected to give of himself in unselfish service to others. He is expected to give of his prayers, encouragement and financial support to the Work of God — a Work engaged in giving information about what God wants to give to mankind.

"God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7). He Himself is one.

Being Forgiven

As great as God's desire is to give us His manifold blessings, He cannot do so as long as our sins stand in the way.

Most people do not really feel guilty of anything because they don't realize they are guilty. Nevertheless they are. We all are or have been. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). And sin cuts us off from God and His Spirit.

Only when a person deeply understands this truth can he appreciate what a relief it is to be forgiven. "Blessed [and therefore happy] is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps. 32:1).

Through Christ's sacrifice our sins and iniquities are forgiven, never to be remembered again (Heb. 8:12). We are reconciled to God. That makes for happiness. Therefore we

can "joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Rom. 5:11).

Obedying God

Today governments and individuals alike are burdened with problems. They are groping around like so many blind men, desperately grasping for guidance.

God's Word — the Bible — contains the answers. As David expressed it, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105). Exactly what the world needs today!

Nevertheless, the world has rejected the light it needs so badly (John 3:19-20). Hence the mess it is in. But everyone who will love the light and who will live in harmony with God's Word will be blessed. God's laws are light. Obedience to them brings blessings — spiritually, mentally, physically and materially. And that makes for happiness.

"Blessed are those . . . who walk in the law of the Lord" (Ps. 119:1, RSV). Obedience brings great peace of mind (verse 165). It prepares one to receive eternal life (Matt. 19:17). And that's happiness too!

God's laws are a *delight* (Ps. 1:2). They exist for our good (Deut. 10:13). "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart" (Ps. 19:8). "Blessed is every one that . . . walketh in his ways. . . happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee" (Ps. 128:1-2).

Being Thankful

One of the greatest keys to happiness is being thankful.

We start off each day with a bonus — life — because, let's face it, nobody owes us life! But of even more value than life is knowing God and partaking of His salvation.

Nothing else in life really matters. Other blessings may come and go. Wealth, material possessions, health — they all have wings. We should be grateful when we have them, serving God "with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things" (Deut. 28:47). But when they

are gone, we still have that which counts most: God, His Word, His Church, His Spirit.

The apostle Paul realized this and admonished Christians to always give thanks (Eph. 5:20). "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

Paul always found a lot to be grateful for. He could say, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11). Thankful contentment is happiness!

Anticipating Glory

Christians have the promise of eternal life. This is a hope the people in the world do not have (Eph. 2:12). When we who are called begin to feel burdened down we can remember that the present distress is only a temporary condition. While other people's hearts are failing them for fear and worry, and while the world falls apart around us, we can lift up our heads because our redemption draws near (Luke 21:25-28).

That's why the apostle Paul tells us to be "Rejoicing in hope" even though at the same time we may need to be "patient in tribulation" (Rom. 12:12). For a short season we may be "in heaviness through manifold temptations." Yet knowing we will be grateful throughout eternity for what these trials produce in us, we can "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:6-9).

The world can offer no thrill or happiness as exciting as anticipating the moment when our change will take place and real life will begin.

Trusting God

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3).

Without inner peace there is no happiness. Worries and fears increasingly plague people today. Many are driven to seek relief through alcohol, drugs or suicide. Mental turmoil, anxious days, sleepless nights wear a person down, causing him to get old

before his time, producing indigestion, ulcers and a whole host of psychosomatic diseases — perhaps even cancer. There is no need to bear such burdens. We have a God we can trust. We can take all our problems to Him. He has never failed. "Take delight in the Lord. . . . Commit your way to the Lord: trust in him, and he will act" (Ps. 37:4-5, RSV).

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love [obey — John 14:15] God" (Rom. 8:28). Since the promise is that all things work together for good, there is nothing left to worry about, is there? Talk about freedom! Talk about peace of mind! "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Ps. 34:17).

Jesus Christ proved that He could overcome every obstacle. There is no problem in the world that He cannot solve for us. That is why He tells us, "Be of good cheer [in other words, *be happy!*]; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Having the Holy Spirit

Human beings were created incomplete. There is a natural void, an empty place that needs to be filled. Oh, we are physically complete, but we are not spiritually complete. We were born to need the Spirit of God.

It is not possible to be truly, deeply, lastingly happy without the Holy Spirit. It is only when one has God's Spirit in him that he may have the fruits of that Spirit, among which are joy and peace (Gal. 5:22). "For the kingdom of God is . . . righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17).

The happiness you have just been reading about is genuine and profound and lasting. It does not depend upon physical circumstances. Although there are additional ways in which the Bible describes true happiness, they may all be summed up in one definition: Happiness is — doing God's will. It really works.

"If ye know these things, *happy* are ye if ye *do* them" (John 13:17)! □

Root of All Evil?

(Continued from page 3)

ested in beating Harvard than in a Yale man winning a Nobel prize.

Then entered a new figure in football — the coach. Money began to inject its hand in football. Coaches soon learned that sons of coal miners or high school dropouts were better players than brilliant Latin or psychology students. Soon coaches were surrounded by a staff of recruiters. Where they were barred by the rules from hiring coal miners' sons, they could arrange jobs for the parents to get the kids into college. Then developed every kind of trick to get the brawny players enrolled and through classes — even though they could not read through a book in a year.

Football became a leading national sport — especially since television. Immense concrete stadiums were built. It became big business for the presidents and financial heads of universities. Different means were manipulated to get certain unscholarly players through college — often even without attending classes — as long as they were not found out.

College football became the farm teams to prepare big bruisers for the National Football League and million-dollar contracts. Now five schools of the Pacific Ten Conference have been caught at it and barred from post-season bowl games. But don't expect the University of Southern California to refund the MONEY raked in at last New Year's Rose Bowl game.

Coveting MONEY and that which money will buy is merely the manner of manipulating Satan's WAY OF LIFE — "GET" instead of "GIVE" — TAKE and COMPETE instead of COOPERATE — self-concern and self-gain with desire to WIN, instead of LOVE toward GOD and LOVE toward neighbor.

This world doesn't realize this.

This world is DECEIVED by a clever, subtle SATAN. It can't see any wrong in many of Satan's ways injected into human society to pull it away from GOD and GOD'S WAY!

This article WON'T BE POPULAR! Most who have read it will still think SATAN'S WAY IS BEST. Truly the WHOLE WORLD has been DECEIVED by the wily Satan.

HAVE YOU? □

'And this Gospel shall be preached...'

Matthew 24:14

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

By Richard Ames

The mystery of Oak Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, has defied solution since 1795. The island is even shaped like a question mark. Supposedly, an enormous treasure is hidden on this island, and treasure hunters have spent millions of dollars trying to find it. But all their efforts have produced are three lengths of gold chain and a scrap of ancient parchment.

Legends about the treasure abound. Some say it belonged to Captain Kidd, or that it might be Inca treasure stolen by the Spaniards. Others feel that it might be the French crown jewels of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Some suppose the treasure to be missing manuscripts written by William Shakespeare, or even evidence that Francis Bacon was the author of all of Shakespeare's writings. Others think the "Money Pit" actually contains the Holy Grail, which was the Passover cup.

Searching for riches

In 1795, 16-year-old Daniel McGuinness went exploring on the island and found a depression, about 12 feet deep, in the ground. Above the depression was an old oak tree with a block and tackle hanging from one of its limbs. This excited Daniel, so he went back with some friends the next day and they began digging. Sure enough, about 10 feet down, they hit a wooden plank. They found another plank 10 feet below the first, and yet another one 10 feet below that. They tried to elicit the help of others who were stronger and older, but they were unable to get any assistance because of traditions about the island being haunted.

Ten or 15 years later, when they were older, they went back and began digging in the same spot. Ninety feet below the surface, they found a stone with mysterious markings on it. Cryptologists later translated the markings to mean, "Ten feet below are 10 million pounds buried."

This translation was contested in 1971 by a Professor Wilhelm at the University of Michigan. He claimed that this kind of cryptology was written in 1563 by one Giovanni Battista Porta. Using Porta's ciphers disk, the professor translated this message, in Spanish, to read, "At 80, guide maize or millet into the drain, signed F."

The maize or millet, according to Professor Wilhelm, when poured into the flood tunnels under Oak Island, would absorb water, thereby allowing access to the

treasure chambers. Wilhelm believes the final "F" stands for Philip II ("Felipe" in Spanish), king of Spain from 1556 to 1598.

Well, McGuinness and his friends died without ever getting the treasure. They sank a steel rod into the ground and hit what they thought was a chest about 95 feet down. When they came back the next day, the shaft was filled with 60 feet of water. It is speculated that it must have taken 200 men about two years using ingenious engineering techniques to build flood tunnels in the area, to flood out anyone trying to get to the treasure.

Since then, others have tried to find the treasure. Fred Blair spent 60 years trying to get the gold, or whatever it is, out. Drilling 170 feet down, he found the lengths of gold chain and the parchment, which bore the letters V/I.

In 1970, Dan Blankenship, a construction manager from Florida, gave up his business and went to Oak Island. Using modern mining techniques, he managed to put remote television cameras down about 230 feet. At that depth, he says, "I saw a hand down there, and a treasure chest."

Since 1970, Mr. Blankenship has been working diligently, with all the engineering help he can get, and still is unable to extract the treasure. I called him in 1976 for an update. He hadn't been making much progress. A few weeks later he called and asked if I wanted to invest. I said, "Well, you can send some information, and I'll consider it." He never contacted me again.

A neglected gold mine

But here was a man who was so inspired by a treasure he thought was available that he is still there, after all these years, still digging for it. But I have found other treasure that is much more valuable, and so have you. We have a gold mine that perhaps we've been neglecting. I have been searching the Bible for more than 15 years, and have reaped treasures of far more value than any Dan Blankenship will ever find buried on Oak Island.

God has given us treasures in His promises — golden guarantees that are sure. Let's examine some of these tremendously exciting and encouraging "pearls of great price."

God's great promises

The apostle John recorded these

HIDDEN TREASURE YOU CAN CLAIM

When troubles and emergencies arise, we should be on our toes to do our part, but trust God in relaxed faith to guide us and do His part.

wonderful promises, and this one happens to be the focal point of this entire Work. "Let not your heart be troubled ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

How many of you grew up with that promise in mind? Not me. It was news to me when I read in the Bible with my own eyes that Jesus said, 'I will come again!' To me, that was and still is good news! We all need to look forward with hope to the fulfillment of this promise.

Sometimes we don't receive what God promises because we don't fulfill the requirements. God is willing to give us long life. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise" (Eph. 6:1-2). What promise? "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (verse 3). For honoring our parents, God says we will receive long life.

Our needs provided

God also promises to provide our physical needs. Christ said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). People worry about providing clothing and food for themselves. But Christ said we don't have to (verses 26, 28-29). Notice this guarantee in Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Mr. Armstrong recorded in his autobiography how he had to ask God for a dime. A baby had just been born in 1930, and when he came home, his wife exclaimed, "Hurry! Go to the store and get a quart of milk! The baby has missed one feeding, and it's a whole hour past his second feeding, and I haven't a bit of milk for him."

"Well, I'm broke," Mr. Armstrong replied. "Give me a dime." Milk was then 10 cents a quart.

"But if I had a dime, I'd have sent Beverly [their daughter] for the milk long ago," she replied. "I've been waiting for you, praying for God to hurry you home. I thought you'd have at least a dime."

The baby howled louder than ever. The Armstrongs' credit was not good at any store. "There's only one thing to do," Mr. Armstrong said. "We're helpless of ourselves. There's no human to help us. We'll have to rely on God. He has promised to supply all our needs, and this is a need. Jesus said we should enter into our closet or small room and pray to our Father in heaven in secret, and He will reward us openly. The only small room of absolute privacy in our home was the bathroom. I locked the bathroom door and knelt beside the bathtub. God has promised to supply our every need according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus. I believed Him."

How many of us believe God's promises?

"But we had to have the answer immediately," Mr. Armstrong continued. "I had learned that sometimes God

does not answer at once. He sometimes tries our faith in order to develop patience in us. But right now it seemed that the baby's milk was more urgently needed than I needed patience. I felt that there was not time or need for a longer prayer.

"Instantly the 70th Psalm flashed into my mind. God, by His Holy Spirit, inspired David to record as part of the very Word of God David's prayer wherein he asked God to 'Make haste, O God, to deliver me, make haste to help me. O Lord, I am poor and needy, make haste unto me. O Lord, make no tarrying' (verses 1, 5). I knew that prayer would not be in God's Word unless it was God's will to answer that same prayer for me. So I asked God boldly to make haste.

"I arose, unlocked the door, walked back toward the kitchen. Before I even reached the kitchen one of the girls cried out from the living room window, 'Oh, Mother, here comes the old rag-and-bottle man!' 'Well, quick, Beverly,' called out my wife, 'run and stop him! We have a lot of old things in the basement that we can sell him.' The only entrance to our basement, I remember, was from the outside at the rear of the house. In eager anticipation, we led the rag-and-bottle man down the basement stairs. My wife showed him all kinds of things. We expected to get at least a dollar from him.

"He only shook his head. 'No, nothing here I want,' he said, starting back up the stairs. Our hearts sank. Halfway up the steps, he stopped and glanced at a high stack of old magazines beside the stairs. Slowly he turned and retraced his steps, examining the stack of magazines. 'I'll give you a dime for these,' he said. 'This is all I want.' I had asked God to send us a dime, immediately, in haste. When God sent it, within the very minute I asked, we tried to increase it to a dollar or more. But the immediate need was a dime for milk. God has not promised to supply our wants, only our needs. The need I had asked was a dime, 10 cents. That is what God sent immediately. We had learned another lesson. We gratefully gave God thanks as I ran all the way to the store and back with the milk."

Christ Himself promised that He would be in the midst of any group that met in His name, even if there were only two or three gathered together (Matt. 18:20). So Jesus Christ is, in spirit, in the midst of all the congregations of God, wherever God's people meet. He will also dwell in us and give us the power to overcome (Eph. 3:17-21).

Divine help in trials

I Corinthians 10:13 contains another important 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." God promises that even through circumstances in our lives that we might think we will never be able to bear, He will give us the power and ability to bear them.

God wants to give us the Kingdom, and He will give it to all who overcome . . . God wants to share the universe with all of us!

Mr. Armstrong was sorely tried in 1947, when Ambassador College was being started. He wrote about it in his autobiography.

Mr. Armstrong had purchased the building that is now the library and was told it would only need minor improvements to meet the Pasadena building codes. But when the building inspectors came, they ordered major remodeling work to bring the building into line with fire and construction standards. Mr. Armstrong was presented with a \$30,000 bill that he didn't have the money to pay.

He said, "The pressure was almost unbearable. The final week, early October, the contractor came up with a \$10,000 bill and demanded immediate payment. I had planned for only \$4,000 and had gone through a dozen nightmares to raise that. The pressure was almost unbearable. Everyone except my wife and I knew that the college had folded up before it even opened its doors.

"But of course, the living Head of His Church, Jesus Christ, knew it hadn't. How I finally raised the additional money within a few day's time, I don't remember now. I think that it was this week that a \$5,000 loan came in, but somehow God saw us through the lesson of faith. It became almost impossible to sleep nights. I never lost faith really, never doubted the outcome, yet I had not yet learned that total, implicit, trusting faith that can relax and leave it quietly in God's hands.

"I was under terrific strain. It was literally multiple nightmares condensed into a super one. On one occasion I almost snapped. I weakened to the extent that I actually prayed one night that God would let me die through the night, and relieve me from this almost unbearable agony. By the next morning I was deeply repentant for that, and prayed earnestly for God's forgiveness. Twice, I did give up on going to bed at night, but next morning was another day, and I bounded back repentant for having given up, if only momentarily.

"Yet this \$30,000 headache was only the beginning of troubles. Others were yet to come, from within and from without. It was not until early 1949 that things eased up. By then I had come to the place that I had to pray in final desperation for six months' grace from this constant harassment. I humbly asked God to consider that I was human with human weaknesses, and please to give me six months' rest from the terrible ordeal. He did. And during that respite, I finally learned how to relax in faith, and shift the weighty burden of it over onto Christ ["Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you," as I Peter 5:7 says. That takes faith to do.] And at least up to the time of this writing, God has enabled me not only to trust Him for the final outcome, but to let faith remove the strain of anxiety."

When troubles and emergencies arise, we should be on our toes to do whatever is our part, but trust God in relaxed faith to guide us and do His part. We can be free from destructive strain and worry.

God promises us correction when our lives go off course

(Heb. 12:6-7). Romans 8:1 promises us freedom from condemnation, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." You can't buy that kind of freedom. Healing is promised (James 5:14-15). We're promised God's Holy Spirit, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). We are promised salvation and eternal life. Romans 8:17 says we are joint-heirs, with Christ, of the whole universe. And these all are promises we can stake our lives on.

How to claim God's promises

Now how do we receive all these promises? "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Heb. 10:36). God may not immediately answer your prayers, though when Mr. Armstrong desperately needed 10 cents, God responded quickly. But you will receive the promises after you have done the will of God and have had patience.

Hebrews 11 catalogs historical characters who "through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises" (verse 33). But it also tells of those who "died in faith, not having received the promises" (verse 13). Does this mean that not all of God's promises will be fulfilled?

No. These faithful servants of God are going to inherit His Kingdom and eternal life; but not without us. "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (verses 39-40). God has fulfilled His promises and will continue to do so.

God tells us to seek for these treasures — these golden guarantees. Seventy-five years ago a prospector said of the Oak Island mystery, "I saw enough to convince me that there was a treasure buried there, and enough to convince me that no one will ever get it." To this day, men are mining, trying to obtain a treasure they are sure is there.

Yet we can lay claim to much greater treasures. Remember Christ's comforting words, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

God wants to give us the Kingdom, and He will give it to all who overcome (Rev. 21:7). God wants to share the universe with all of us. And all these treasures are ours for the asking!

Richard Ames is the director of admissions at Ambassador College and a past-president of the Church.



The Battle Lines Are Drawn— Are You Ready for Action?

The Church of God is locked in a titanic struggle with the forces of Satan. But our victory is assured — if we will only follow these steps.

By Neil Earle

December 13, 1939, dawned clearly in the mild, ruffling swells of the South Atlantic. *H.M.S. Exeter*, with her sister cruisers *Ajax* and *Achilles*, were patrolling vigilantly as part of the British Royal Navy forces guarding key shipping lanes between Argentina and Britain. World War II had been declared only three months earlier.

At 6:14 a.m. the small flotilla spotted a dark smudge of smoke on the horizon. Bearing down toward them in the morning sunlight was a veritable floating mountain of armor — the dreaded German pocket-battleship *Graf Spee*.

In 1939 *Graf Spee* was one of the most potent ships afloat. Her diesel engines, formidable 11-inch guns capable of lobbing 670-pound shells more than 15 miles, her electrically-welded hull and dashing speed made her the terror of the Atlantic shipping lanes. She had preyed, wolflike, on defenseless merchantmen and tankers. Now her highly trained crew identified the *Exeter*. Distance was closing fast.

Commodore Harwood on the *Ajax* and Captain Bell on *Exeter* coordinated plans. *Exeter* tore away to the west as a decoy to allow *Ajax* and *Achilles* an opportunity to get in close to the *Graf Spee*. Battle was offered and taken. *Exeter* faced the mightiest ship afloat — egg-shell hull against Krupp steel, 8-inch guns against 11-inch guns, cruiser against battleship.

At 6:20 a.m. an 11-inch shell from *Graf Spee* exploded on *Exeter*.



Winston Churchill congratulates *Exeter* crew members after their stunning victory.

Splinters killed or wounded dozens. Five minutes later another shell tore through her sick bay. The German gunners were finding the mark! Sailors on *Ajax* and *Achilles*, maneuvering their ships for position, watched the unequal fight. Even though *Exeter* was burning amidships, the White Ensigns still streamed proudly from her fore-and-main mastheads. No surrender!

By 6:26 a.m. *Graf Spee*'s powerful salvos were straddling *Ajax*. *Exeter* was shrouded in smoke. All forward guns were cut. All bridge personnel except the captain were killed. The wheelhouse was wrecked — there was no power, no communications. The gallant *Exeter* began to list.

Then, unexpectedly, at 6:36 a.m.

the German battleship, accustomed like a wolf to easy prey, retired from the battle, a battle in which she was still superior. The reason? Her captain now knew that *Ajax* and *Achilles* were cruisers, not destroyers, and he assumed, wrongly, that *Exeter* would never dare engage his capital ship unless a superior British force lay nearby. So the fateful decision was made to head for neutral port.

Only at 7:40 a.m. did the wounded *Exeter* retire from pursuit. She suffered more than 100 hits, three of her six guns were out, 60 officers and men lay dead and even her dauntless captain suffered facial wounds from shell splinters. For four days *Ajax* and *Achilles* hounded the *Graf Spee* to neutral Uruguay, until the most powerful battleship afloat scuttled herself in the Montevideo, Uruguay, harbor! *Graf Spee*'s captain committed suicide.

The heroism and sacrifice of the battered *Exeter* was not in vain. The "superior British force" that *Graf Spee* felt must be supporting *Ajax* and *Achilles* was still a thousand miles away! *Exeter*'s dash and daring had tilted the scales in a deadly encounter. Captain Bell and his battered ship limped home to a hero's welcome in London, England, arranged by the First Lord of the Admiralty himself, Winston Churchill, and attended by King George VI. An overjoyed Mr. Churchill recorded that the *Exeter* "fought one of the finest and most resolute actions against superior range and metal on

record." Courage, daring and skill had given Britain a stunning victory.

The Christian fight

The daring stand of the *Exeter* and the ignominious demise of the *Graf Spee* thrilled the Allied nations. It stiffened their resolve to fight on against fascism. There is a major lesson in this incident for members and co-workers of God's Church.

James, the physical brother of our Captain, Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:10), crisply states our battle orders, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7)! Satan, our relentless adversary, cunning and brilliant, can be defeated. There is overwhelming power available to us through the Captain of our salvation, Jesus Christ (II Tim. 1:7).

Graf Spee turned and broke off in the heat of battle. Just so, we as Christian soldiers (II Tim. 2:3) can savor the joy of withstanding Satan's most devastating assaults and coming out winners. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God; that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:13). How?

As the apostle Paul admonished, we must arm ourselves with God's armor. Satan is clever, subtle, cruel, relentless and experienced. He has many trophies and "battle honors" to his credit. He has overthrown many hapless victims — Cain, Balaam, Korah, David on occasion, Solomon, Judas and sometimes the apostle Peter. He is a foe who works through attitudes of doubt, despondency and negativism. He attacks swiftly and at the most unexpected, inopportune moment, precisely like the "serpent" he is code-named (Rev. 12:9). He will exploit and intensify every rationalizing excuse and every compromising, devious twist of our carnal minds (II Cor. 2:11). Let's never underestimate our adversary (I Pet. 5:8).

But let's not overestimate him either.

Take the offensive

As the *Graf Spee's* experience showed, superiority of armor and firepower is useless without the proper offensive spirit. God has not only equipped us with the weapons necessary to do successful battle but has "briefed" us on the importance of an

aggressive spirit (Deut. 28:1-2). God encourages us to take the offensive. We need not convulse in panic; we have God's express assurance that we can win, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

When *Exeter* drew upon herself the superior firepower of *Graf Spee*, it was in accordance with hundreds of years of British naval prestige and strength. Her sister-ships were close at hand. Stronger forces would soon be alerted. Her job was to engage the enemy at all costs, to buy time for the Royal Navy's more powerful forces to assemble. *Exeter's* marvelous offensive spirit succeeded beyond Mr. Churchill's wildest dreams. Pluck and gall threw the enemy off balance psychologically, which led first to flight, then self-destruction.

Similarly, God has promised us battle (I Tim. 1:18). He summons us to combat with rousing action verbs: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:12). "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3). "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Cor. 10:4).

God knows — and Satan knows — that standing available to Christians at any time is the most powerful force in this universe, the Spirit of God! God Himself infused us with it the day we were baptized (Acts 2:38). Our task is to increase and maintain our supply lines leading to the Holy Spirit (Phil. 1:19). This is why the veteran soldier, Paul, counseled Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (II Tim. 1:6).

Satan tries to discourage us with attitudes opposed to God's way. But the Holy Spirit is identified with three most positive attributes, just as the White Ensigns identified *Exeter* in the midst of battle. What are these insignia? Power, love and a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). Depression, defeat and despair do not emanate from God or His Spirit. Rather, these are "thought bombs" from Satan that are landing too close for comfort.

When we slip into depression, hostility to authority, critical thinking or even the blahs, it is high time for us to reload with God's Spirit. God's

Spirit stiffens our resolve to control our thoughts: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:14-16). God's marvelous power works on our minds from the inside out (II Cor. 4:16), boosting our confidence that ultimate victory can be ours (Eph. 3:12).

And we can have more of that precious Holy Spirit of power for the asking (Luke 11:9-13).

Part of a team

How good to know that we have help in this battle! Along with the spiritual weapons available through our intense personal relationship with God — through prayer, Bible study and fasting — comes the morale-boosting esprit de corps of being part of the same veteran fighting force as Peter, Paul, James and John — the Church of the living God!

Just as *Exeter's* heroic stand was pointless without the close support of her sister ships, so isolated Christians cut off from the main body are fighting a losing battle. *Graf Spee* feared the Royal Navy. Two centuries of gallant naval tradition did its part in making the *Graf Spee* turn tail. Though outgunned, the little *Exeter* had the psychological edge in the bitter engagement.

Similarly, Satan must know in his heart of hearts that he can never defeat the Church of God (Matt. 16:18). Decisive victory eventually belongs to us (II Cor. 2:14). Shouldn't we, then, as individual Christians, seek to identify ourselves with the main body as much as possible? Our baptism plunges us all into a group as God's own people (I Cor. 12:13-14).

The *Exeter*, in her gallant stand, was not alone. Neither are we. True Christians can be bolstered through the chain of command God has built into His Church: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12). The counsel, direction and support of Christ's ministry plays a big part in helping us overcome Satan's clever

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Winning everything

Exeter's exemplary heroism only made sense inside the wider context of the global tasks of the Royal Navy. Why did Captain Bell and his crew risk death to bring a stronger foe to battle? Their job was to gain time for the rest of the fleet to assemble.

In the splendid fighting force known as the Church of God our individual growth takes on vital meaning in the context of God's supreme purpose. We have been called to warn an unheeding, lethargic world of imminent judgment from God while at the same time proclaiming the thrilling news of mankind's only hope — the restoration by Jesus Christ of the government of God to this earth (Matt. 24:14).

The immensity of the task given so small a group (Luke 12:32) requires a relentless determination to persevere in spite of all the attacks Satan may inflict upon us. Growth has been defined as a successful response to a challenge. We have surely been challenged by the great commission. We must respond even more — now and in the immediate future.

Jesus Christ promises that if we submerge our personal goals to the staggering global mission we are collectively assigned, mighty forces come into play (John 14:12, Phil. 4:13). Strength will be provided as we near the climax of this Work.

The spiritual skirmishes will intensify, but they should draw us even closer together. When Graf Spee turned for a neutral port the Atlantic and Mediterranean elements of the Royal Navy's global forces came into play. Powerful forces steamed toward

Uruguay to bottle up the dreaded battleship.

Similarly, the Church of God will be at its fighting peak as we near the end of our great worldwide effort. Revelation 8:3 pictures the prayers of God's people — concentrated and united as never before, — filling God's throne room. Unity and intense effort will help put us over the top in our struggle with Satan.

The apostle Peter showed how Satan's cleverest assaults only succeed in drawing truly active members of Christ's Body together in an invincible brotherhood, "Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Pet. 5:9).

Gaining the upper hand

A Christian wrapped up in himself makes a small package. When our minds focus on the invincible power available to us — when we see our personal problems in the perspective of the colossal stakes involved — Satan is stymied. He is thrown off balance when God's people unitedly give their time, concern and efforts to the matchless ideals and purposes of the Worldwide Church of God. This is why Herbert W. Armstrong has said for years that only those people whose hearts and minds are immersed in the Work of God grow.

Graf Spee's rusting hulk at the bottom of Montevideo harbor testifies to the power of the offensive spirit and the unified teamwork of small forces (Zech. 4:6). We, though tiny and helpless compared to Satan's cruel, refined brilliance, can gain the upper hand. We should fight the good fight — upon our knees — drawing eagerly upon the infinitely greater power and might of the One who has drafted us to mortal combat (1 Tim. 6:12).

The stakes are titanic. A far greater reward awaits us than a reception in wartime London attended by the king of England. We can hear the words of the conquering, resplendent King of kings citing us for gallantry, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

God's bold promise through James is ours to claim, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

the grocery store. He pays for the loaf, it is handed to him and he takes it home. I remember my wife of 50 years used to say to me: "Don't ever let people know you didn't go to college. They will think you are ignorant and uneducated. They will think you are INFERIOR!"

During my early advertising years before conversion, I had an office in Chicago's downtown "loop" seven years — 1915 to 1922. I had contact with presidents and vice-presidents of the nation's largest banks in Wall Street, New York and in Chicago. Actually few of them had been college educated. Few of the presidents and board chairmen of the nation's great industrial corporations at that time were university educated! That's hard to believe today!

Through the years in God's Church, I have learned that God could not use as Christ's chosen apostle, to LEAD His Church and Work, a man whose early training and education had been in the universities of Satan's world! Christ has had to purge out of chief positions in His Church those steeped in such education.

True, as for architects, engineers and specialized professions, the Church has had to employ and use the specialized services of those so trained and having expertise in such particular professional fields — but not as apostle or chief human leader under Christ in the chief spiritual direction of God's CHURCH!

But WHY was Ambassador College founded? God had educated His chosen human leader for our time OUTSIDE OF SATAN'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION. He had shown me that He could not use LEADERS in different phases of His Work who were educated in SATAN'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM! Ambassador College was founded to educate and train needed personnel for the present AS WELL AS CHURCH LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE, in GOD'S EDUCATION. He gave me the motto, "RECAPTURE THE TRUE VALUES"! That is, ELIMINATE THE EVIL and the knowledge of FALSE VALUES and INCLUDE THE TRUE VALUES — RESTORE THE MISSING SPIRITUAL DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE!

Ambassador College — UNLIKE ANY OTHER ON EARTH — had to be **BASED ON** the REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD FROM HIS WORD, THE BIBLE! All who should be given LEADERSHIP in God's Church and Work — even in operational and administrative departmental leadership — MUST BE BROUGHT UP IN ALL ADVANCED EDUCATION IN THIS GOD-KIND OF EDUCATION. But **WHY** was this so vitally important to the future of God's Church and Work?

This question is extremely VITAL TO UNDERSTAND! SO UNDERSTAND THIS! Satan has DECEIVED THE WHOLE WORLD — ALL NATIONS! But HOW?

Satan has deceived this world at two levels: 1) Starting in the very first year of the life of a child, as soon as the MIND begins to drink in knowledge and to think, Satan, through the "human" spirit, subtly injects the ATTITUDE of carnality — selfishness, vanity, coveting, jealousy, envy, resentment of authority. Then, 2) in later education, Satan injects into unsuspecting minds his system of materialistic education — with the anti-God approach of evolution (in the modern world of the 19th and 20th centuries). This "HIGHER" education is a spiritual DRUG that renders one hopelessly ADDICTED! He is as one hooked on heroin. Withdrawal is more difficult than withdrawal from such hard drugs. It is withdrawal from a *spiritual* addiction!

I have said before, in the Millennium, ruled by the Kingdom of God, one of the greatest problems will be a system of reeducation — a system of unlearning what has been taught in modern "higher education" of this world's universities! I have said it is 10 times more difficult to UNLEARN a false untruth than it is to first LEARN a NEW TRUTH!

Let me here repeat a very significant case in point. On conclusion of my in-depth study of the theory of evolution, in early 1927, I wrote a fairly short paper PROVING evolution a false hypothesis. I showed this paper to the head librarian of the science section of the public library at Portland, Ore. After examining it, this librarian head said she had to admit I had PROVED evolution a false theory. But, she added, she had been so steeped in it — having graduate degrees, including Ph.D.s, from great

universities such as Columbia and the University of Chicago — that, even on PROOF it was false, she COULD NOT GIVE IT UP! She was hooked on it. She could not UNLEARN it!

Now CONSIDER! What is conversion in this life — the time when one first receives God's Holy Spirit? How does GOD's process of conversion and salvation begin? It STARTS with REPENTANCE (Acts 2:38), which is a "change of mind" in regard to sin. It is followed by FAITH, a new direction of MIND. Then the repentant believer receives the HOLY SPIRIT, which is the RENEWAL OF THE MIND (Rom. 12:2). It is all a matter of MIND — carnal or spiritual!

How well Satan knows this! So Satan starts working on the human mind from newborn infancy. He injects the SELFISH attitude. Then as the human mind matures toward and in early adulthood, Satan has developed the modern system of education that instills in the human MIND the higher carnal, materialistic, anti-GOD knowledge that POISONS the human mind against the things of God.

Once "hooked" on this "higher education," the human mind must undergo a supremely difficult and painful "WITHDRAWAL" process, or an UNLEARNING procedure, before the mind can be CHANGED by and filled and led by the Holy Spirit of God!

Thus Satan, through organized modern HIGHER education, has rendered human minds INCAPABLE OF BECOMING TRUE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OVER THE PEOPLE AND THE WORK OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

How cunning — how diabolically CLEVER is the wily, evil SATAN!

How, in such a world, was CHRIST, the living HEAD of the Church, to raise up a LEADER as His chosen apostle for His END-time Work? How was He to train needed departmental-head personnel and future LEADERS over His Church and His Work?

IT WAS PARAMOUNT — absolutely vital — that such leaders be educated GOD'S WAY — outside of Satan's modern educational system! That's why the living almighty CHRIST put me through a different upbringing, and a different GOD-directed means of "SELF-EDUCATION" — UNbrainwashed and "hooked" on modern "higher education!" That's WHY God raised up Ambassador College as He

did! That's WHY Satan sought desperately and subtly to turn Ambassador into one of Satan's world colleges, conforming to standards of receiving accreditation of Satan's "higher education" universities!

That's WHY Satan tried to maneuver to inject into positions of leadership those under the training and influence of Satan's brand of "higher education"!

That's WHY Satan has brainwashed this world to look upon those university-educated as "educated," "superior" or "leaders," and those GOD-educated outside this world's universities as "ignorant," "inferior," "uneducated."

What kind of men did Jesus choose as His first apostles and leaders in founding God's CHURCH? Men CHRIST-EDUCATED, yet considered by the public as "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13).

One may ask, "But wasn't the apostle Paul a man educated in this world?" The answer is NO! Paul was privately tutored by Gamaliel, a Jewish Pharisee. Paul had been taught according to the Jewish religious law, and was "zealous toward God" (Acts 22:3). Paul was not indoctrinated in atheistic evolution or anything resembling today's materialistic "higher education." When Jesus struck Paul down and later in Arabia taught him in person, Paul had no poisonous mind-addiction to unfit him. Christ could not use one of such 20th-century educational injection as the spiritual leader over His people.

That's why Jesus Christ had to choose as His apostle for the present time one UNINOCULATED with this world's satanic educational poison, but whose SELF-education Christ directed — who was finally educated BY JESUS CHRIST as were the original apostles — except by the SAME Word of God in print instead of the Word of God in Person!

And that's WHY God raised up AMBASSADOR COLLEGE to disseminate CHRIST's education for leading personnel in the Work today, and to raise up *future leaders* for God's Church and His final-end-time Work! Do not let Satan deceive us again in the future! Ambassador College, as well as God's CHURCH and its Work, is BACK ON GOD'S TRACK. Let's KEEP IT THAT WAY! □

FUTURE GODS?

(Continued from page 12)

"drawn" by God through the Holy Spirit, the man **MAY**, if *he* is willing to repent and believe, be converted. In other words, once called by the Father, such person is no longer **CUT OFF FROM GOD!**

Now see how that applies to the children of converted parents. It does not mean they may be converted while still too young. It **DOES** mean they are **NOT**, like children of unconverted parents, **CUT OFF FROM GOD**. It means that they may be taught about God by the believing parent.

Just as the converted adult is, as part of the **BODY OF CHRIST**, one of a **SEPARATE AND PECULIAR PEOPLE** (1 Pet. 2:9). We live in the world, but we are not of the world. We labor to carry Jesus' Gospel to the world, yet our fellowship is with God and Christ and other brethren — **NOT** with the world. **HOW WONDERFUL!**

A believing, converted parent places his or her children in a **SPECIAL CATEGORY** — apart from the world.

Let me make this **CLEAR!** The most widely believed **ERROR** in "Christianity" is that God is calling **ALL** to conversion, and Satan is trying to keep them "lost."

But Jesus said plainly, "**NO MAN CAN** come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." At creation, God **CUT ALL HUMANITY OFF FROM HIM**, except for the **VERY FEW** He would specially call. And those few are **NOT** called *just* for salvation. They are called for special service preparing for the **KINGDOM OF GOD**. That special service is the **REASON** why they are called now.

Those **NOT** called now will be called to **SALVATION**, either in the Millennium — if they still then live — or by being resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgment after the end of the Millennium.

Those called now — and for special duty preparing for the Kingdom — have **SATAN** to overcome. And *that's tough!* Those **NOT** called now will be called after Satan has been put away from humanity.

When Jesus said (John 6:44), "**NO MAN CAN** come to me, except the

Father which hath sent me draw him." He meant that **ALL OTHERS** simply **CANNOT** come to Christ as Savior, even if they wanted to — but in all cases I have observed the un-called **DID NOT WANT** to come to Christ — except the many who have been deceived by the false gospels of nearly all the sects of "Christianity." There is much *false* conversion.

Now look again at 1 Corinthians 7. For example, in this passage, in verse 16, regarding the unbelieving husband, sanctified by the converted wife, "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband?" It is speaking of an unbelieving husband being "**CONSECRATED**" (set apart in a special category), whom the believing wife, by keeping the marriage intact, *may* save.

The same is true of your children. They are "consecrated," but that does **NOT** mean "saved." Yet it means they are in a special category where they **MAY BE** converted when sufficiently mature.

BUT WHAT A WONDERFUL TRUTH!

Your children are in a special (consecrated) category. You may **TEACH THEM** about Christ — about the things of the Bible. Their chances of being **CONVERTED** when sufficiently mature are **MULTIPLIED!**

Although Satan is going to influence your children, almost from birth, toward his rebellious attitude, **YOU** may counteract this by **YOUR TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD!** And when sufficiently adult **THEY WILL BE CALLED!** None of this is true of children outside truly converted parents!

How precious is your child?

Jesus picked up little children — infants — and said that "of such is the kingdom of God," and except we repent and become humble as a very small child, we shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Brethren, God's Church is not showing even *half* the growth it should have from the oncoming generation of our members. This shows we have **NEGLECTED** the teaching of our children! When God has called **YOU** for special service in loyally backing the proclaiming of the Gospel to the world by God's Church, He intended that your *children* should also be called and enter into the Work of God's Church. □

God's Family

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mature Christians will only frustrate and discourage them.

Your child's servant

It is tempting to think you are more important than your child. That is how this world thinks. People always want to know, Who is the greatest? The oldest? The biggest? The smartest? But God says the greatest is the servant.

Your child's heart must be won! You can serve him most effectively if he knows you seek his welfare above all else. He should love and respect you for your wisdom, justice, high standards and mercy. It also helps if you are broadminded and have a sense of fun. Life shouldn't always be a heavy burden. A cheerful, positive spirit lifts everyone.

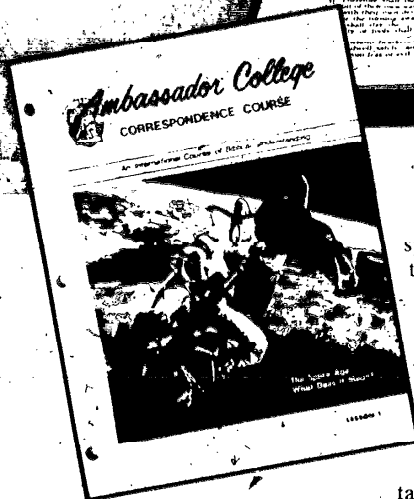
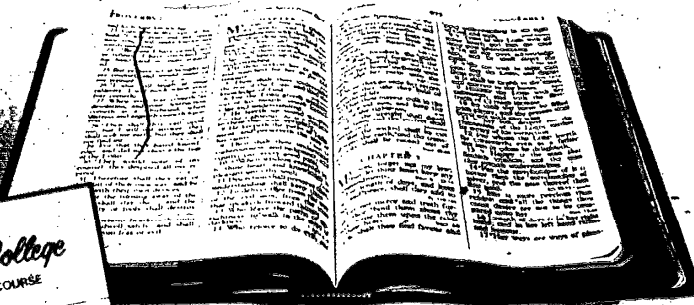
To win a young heart requires communication, affection, time. It can't be done overnight. Don't be a nervous novice and expect everything to be right immediately. You will drive everyone crazy. Have patience.

Most of you parents did not grow up in the Church. Yet you are still here, trying to do God's will. Your child must ultimately decide which way he will go. But God did not give him the spirit in man for nothing. God intends to make your child a member of His Family! Even if he goes the wrong way for a time, when he starts to return to God, as he is almost sure to, he will have a head start on what you knew when you started.

Your children could be among the pioneers of the world tomorrow — some of the first to live in Jerusalem under the rule of Jesus Christ and all His saints. Some time during the Millennium, they too will be changed from mortal to immortal and join you as full Sons of God.

There will be no such thing as age for you. You all will be fully mature members of the Kingdom of God. Picture a discussion you and your child might have then about your former physical lives together. What you want to be able to say then should have a significant impact on your relationship now. □

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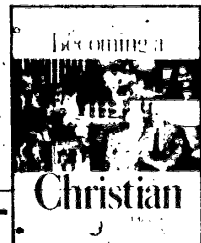
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