AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 7

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Ending Your FINANCIAL Troubles

THINK OF IT!—1000 years of peace and *prosperity*, a happy new world in which nobody has any financial troubles. That is the coming UTOPIA—the wonderful World of Tomorrow!

But why isn't there a utopia *today?* Why is there no *one* thing that plagues more people *today* than the constant worry of making ends meet—the constant round of serious financial difficulties in which MANY of *you* find yourselves?

Let us UNDERSTAND!—there is a reason, a CAUSE for it!

Stupendous DEBT

When you stop to think about it, never in the history of the world were any nations so *seemingly* rich as are the English-speaking and the western European nations today. Our people possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people *ever* had before. Yet these very nations *owe* public and private debts so HUGE that the next ten generations will not be able to pay them off!

America alone owes about $600,000,000,000 in public and private debt! That means that every individual averages a public and private debt of over $3,600. *That is about a $14,400 debt for a family of four!* This debt has been piled up because of preparation for war. WAR IS A *CURSE!*

SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! We have lost all sense of the value of money. And no wonder. What most people simply don't know, today, about their financial problems is that the ETERNAL CREATOR set definite LAWS in motion—invisible, yet inexorable laws, which regulate personal economic conditions. A KNOWLEDGE of these *laws* would teach us to recognize the right value of money—would give us joy and happiness by keeping us from *life-long financial slavery*.

A recent poll of thousands of Americans revealed that not more than 3% of the people ever heard about these divinely established FINANCIAL LAWS. And not even 1% of the people follow these laws that regulate our prosperity!

World Ignorant of these LAWS

Let's understand how these *FINANCIAL LAWS* would operate to bring about a utopia—both national and individual—if we obey them.

Everything produced—money and the things money will buy—comes from the earth. You didn't produce the earth—GOD produced it! You merely apply certain energy in thinking and planning and in labor to the EARTH, which GOD created and *OWNS*. Where does the energy you expend really come from? It comes from God. *You* do not create it. You merely *utilize* what GOD supplies.

God even set your thinking processes in motion. You are entirely dependent on Him for your life —for every breath you breathe.

Yes, all has come from God. It is GOD who sustains, preserves in motion, guides and directs all the natural forces and energies. God is not merely a Creator of long ago. He is the living DIRECTOR *today*. It is GOD'S LABOR—His thinking, planning and creating—that *really* produces all.

Therefore, GOD HAS A *CLAIM* TO *OWNERSHIP* OF ALL YOU HAVE *taken for granted that* you PRODUCED. His claim is VALID. It is PRIOR to yours. God Almighty says: "The earth is the ETERNAL'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." These inspired words are repeated in the New Testament in I Cor. 10:26.

Yes, even the money—the gold and silver—is God's. "*The silver is MINE, and the gold is MINE, saith the Eternal of Hosts*" (Haggai 2:8).

Only the foolish would DARE to deny this claim of God! Let us admit, then, that our income BELONGS to God! It is HIS to do with as HE wills in carrying out HIS PLAN.

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How God's Law Regulates Your Wealth

God is concerned about you. He has your interest and welfare in mind. Therefore God set FINANCIAL LAWS in motion regulating that portion of His WEALTH which *your* thinking and *your* labor extracted from the earth and developed.

God's LAW concerning what you earn is like a contract. He allows you to work on HIS EARTH, to use a part of the earth for food and other materials for your livelihood—to utilize its soil, its timber, its water, its coal and oil, and to manufacture products from it. In turn, God wants YOU to understand *you are WORKING WITH GOD IN PARTNERSHIP*—MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING WHAT HE CREATED.

But GOD IS GENEROUS. In this partnership, God TURNS OVER TO YOU as your own not 5% or 20% or even 50%—but NINETY PER CENT of all that you produce! And even the small fraction which He reserves for Himself He spends for the purpose of disseminating to the PEOPLE His message, His laws of life, that free us from financial fears and worries and give us peace of mind and enduring happiness, abundant joy and LIFE ETERNAL!

Think of it! GOD USES THE ONE TENTH of all that we produce *TO HELP IMPROVE US* materially and spiritually, and to reveal to this UNHAPPY STARVING WORLD THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS LAWS WHICH, IF OBEYED, WOULD PRODUCE UTOPIA! He keeps NOTHING for Himself.

God's financial laws are for MAN'S GOOD. OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS BRINGS BLESSINGS. "*PROVE ME* [by returning to God His tenth] now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, *that there shall not be room enough to receive it*" (Malachi 3:10).

When we violate His laws, we bring CURSES upon ourselves—fears and worries, frustration, unhappiness and death! "*You are CURSED with a curse:* for YOU HAVE ROBBED ME, even this whole nation." "'Wherein have we robbed Thee?' 'IN TITHES and OFFERINGS'" (Malachi 3:9-10).

But God has ordained it that if He receives His rightful 10%, as a partner, of what is produced from the earth, the 90% which He gives us will soon grow bigger and accomplish more for us than we alone could ever have done with the entire 100%. God actually pays us for keeping the CONTRACT! "And all nations shall call you BLESSED: for you shall be a delightsome LAND, saith the Eternal of Hosts" (Malachi 3:12).

It is time we understand the duties we owe God. The nations today have robbed God by withholding their tithes and are under a curse. BUT *YOU*, INDIVIDUALLY, CAN *PROSPER* BY TITHING!

God's Commission To His Church

Today you are seeing *prophecy fulfilled* before your very eyes! You are beginning to realize that only an all-powerful God could *foretell* the present state of world affairs.

Now dire events are about to fall on an unbelieving world unless those in it repent of their ways which have brought conditions in this world to a chaotic climax. Prophecy shows the vast majority will *not* repent—only a *few* will. Christ knew this.

Nevertheless, in spite of the poor reception which Christ knew this world would give the Gospel Message, what did He command His apostles to do? He *commanded* them, "Ye shall be witness unto Me [witness that Christ would return to put down *rebellion* and *rule* the world] . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:6-8). (See Lesson 2, page 5, also.)

Do you grasp the meaning of this?

THE APOSTLES WERE COMMANDED BY CHRIST TO *WARN* THE PEOPLE OF THE WRATH CHRIST WILL ADMINISTER, AT HIS SECOND COMING, TO THOSE WHO WILL NOT TURN FROM THEIR CRIMES. Also, WHEN THE UNREPENTENT WILL SAY, WHEN THE PLAGUES FALL, "BUT WE HAD *no warning* FROM GOD," THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WHICH THEY HEARD WILL BE A *witness* AGAINST THEM THAT GOD *did* WARN THEM, BUT THAT *they* WOULDN'T HEED!

Did Christ command the faithful—His disciples of *our* day—to carry out this same command? Yes! Here it is: Christ, addressing the disciples of His day concerning the spreading of the gospel warning, said, "Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man come" (Mat. 10:23). Obviously, this was addressed not only to His apostles of that day—*for they are dead and Christ did not come before they died*—IT IS A COMMAND FOR CHRIST'S *PRESENT-DAY* DISCIPLES—AND THEIR CO-WORKERS *NOW!*

Remember also that Christ said, "And the gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world

for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the *end* come" (Mat. 24:14). (See Lesson 2, page 5.)

Right *now*, at the *end* of this age, the true ministers of God *are doing this. You do not hear other ministers warning this world of the dire things God is going to inflict upon an unbelieving and disobedient world*, do you? No! It is not a pleasant thing to do—to preach an *unpopular* message. Yet, time and again we have seen in these lessons that is just what Christ has commanded his TRUE followers to do. Are *you* one of the true followers of Christ?

This is the great commission of God's church today—to see that this warning—this witness message is carried to all corners of the earth just before Christ comes. With His unchanging foresight, God has provided a WAY by which this great worldwide work is to be FINANCED—FOR IT *does* TAKE MONEY for God's ministers to carry the message FREE *to all the world* by radio, press, and television and personal evangelism.

God could provide the money miraculously. He could even have His *angels* proclaim the message to the world now. But that is *not* His way, for He is working through us—we humans—so that each of us can gain experience and show our obedience.

This lesson, like the others, is extremely important to you. HAVE YOU PRAYED to God that He will give you understanding of this lesson?

LESSON 7

Christ Has Work to Do

1. Does God the Father have *work* to do? John 5:17. Does CHRIST HAVE *WORK* TO DO also? Same verse.

2. Who created all things? Heb. 1:2; Gen. 1:1. Who did the *actual* work? Heb. 1:2.

3. In addition to being Creator, what great office does Christ hold today? Heb. 4:14. Is He merely a priest or is He *high* priest? Same verse. Who *appointed* or called Him to this office? Heb. 5:8-10. Note especially verse 10.

COMMENT: A PRIEST SERVES GOD ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE. Christ is the Father's great high priest—the one and only great *high* or *chief* priest. He is the heir to *all* things (Heb. 1:2).

4. What *order* or *rank* has Christ? Heb. 5:6.

5. *To whom* did Abraham pay tithes in the Old Testament? Heb. 7:1-2; Gen. 14:18-20. Was he God's *priest?* Heb. 7:1. *What* did Abraham pay? Heb. 7:2. *How much is a tithe?* Lev. 27:32.

6. *Who* was this Melchizedek mentioned in the Old Testament?—was He to *live always?* Heb. 7:3, first part. Was this priest "King of Righteousness"? Verse 2. Only *God* is completely righteous. Therefore this Melchizedek *had* to be one of the Godhead and would *have* to be *high* priest.

7. Abraham *saw* this person. Then could this person have been the Father? John 5:37. What was this Melchizedek to be "made like unto" later? Heb. 7:3. And was He to *remain always* (abide . . . continually) *a priest?* Same verse. Then, as there could not exist *two* great HIGH priests of God in Christ's day, doesn't this show that *CHRIST* WAS *MELCHIZEDEK*, THE HIGH PRIEST of the Father *IN* OLD TESTAMENT TIMES?

COMMENT: "MelchiZedeK" is the Old Testament *Hebrew* word for the New Testament *Greek* word "MelchiSedeC." The foregoing facts clearly indicate that *Christ existed as the high priest of the Father in Old Testament times.*

8. Did Christ exist as the "Lord God" of Israel then? Compare I Cor. 10:4 with Deut. 32:3-4. Is Jesus Christ who is the "Rock" also the "Lord"? Has anyone *ever* seen the Father? John 1:18. When will the Father come down among His people? Rev. 21:1-3; 22:1.

COMMENT: *Christ* was the God whom the people knew in the Old Testament. Nowhere does the Bible show that the Father has ever come down *visibly* to intervene in the affairs of this earth.

9. Didn't Melchisedec—the God of the Old Testament who became Christ—*personally* speak to Adam and Eve? Gen. 3:9.

10. Did Melchisedec, *in HIS OFFICE as the Father's High Priest*, INSTRUCT ADAM AND EVE in the *laws* of the Father, after creating them? Gen. 2:16-17, 9. Did Adam sin? Job 31:33; I John 3:4. Is there sin when God has not given a law commanding a course of action? Rom. 5:13.

COMMENT: Adam and Eve had the choice of doing the things which God allowed. Or they could do the things God did *not* allow, and thereby sin. They chose to *sin*. They broke His *Law*. Melchisedec's work was to *instruct* them.

11. When Abraham was traveling toward the land of Palestine, where was Melchisedec—the one who in the future became Christ—located? Gen. 14:18. What was Melchisedec's position in addition to being the Father's High Priest? Same verse. What does "King of Salem" mean? Heb. 7:2.

COMMENT: The name "Jeru*salem*" means "City of *Peace*." Here we find the "King of Peace" ruling over Jerusalem, the "City of Peace" as the High Priest of the Father.

12. What did God do when ABRAHAM PAID TITHES TO MELCHISEDEC? Gen. 14:19-20. How plain *that tithing was known from early times!* Was Melchisedec *personally* conducting His duties as High Priest of the *order* of Melchisedec even

into Abraham's time? Gen. 14:18, 19.

13. Was the King of Sodom present with Abraham and Melchisedec? Would the Bible have termed the Sodomites, wicked SINNERS unless they had *heard* the *law* as a result of Melchisedec's *ministry?* Rom. 5:13.

14. Did Abraham continue to obey God's laws, which included the law of tithing? Gen. 26:3, 5.

COMMENT: It is evident that Melchisedec had taught God's laws—*the law of tithing among them* —in considerable detail, long *before* Moses. MELCHISEDEC USED THE *TITHES* HE RECEIVED IN *FURTHERING OF GOD'S MINISTRY.*

15. God has given to Abraham more *material blessings* than any man on the face of the earth. Read Gen. 12:1-3. Why has He done this? Gen. 26:3, 5. Isn't this, in part, because Abraham *tithed?*

Tithing Always Done

1. Did Abraham's grandson, JACOB, *TITHE?* Gen. 28:22. WHAT IS A TENTH? Lev. 27:32. Will Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob be resurrected into the Kingdom? Luke 13:28.

2. What did Melchisedec promise to do for Abraham's offspring because Abraham kept God's commands? Read again Gen. 12:2-3.

COMMENT: Later, in Jacob's day, there was a drought. Abraham's descendants went to Egypt to escape it. There they became captives of the Egyptians for over two hundred years. Then Melchisedec (the Word, the Lord or Eternal God of the Old Testament, the Christ of the New Testament) had Moses deliver them from their long captivity.

3. Had Abraham's descendants, ISRAEL, FORGOTTEN the *commands*—the SPIRITUAL LAWS of God—while in this long captivity? Ex. 16:23. God had to identify again *which* day was the Sabbath. Did GOD *begin* to REVEAL HIS SPIRITUAL LAWS *AGAIN* TO THE PEOPLE *BEFORE* they CAME TO MOUNT SINAI? Ex. 18:15-16. Why did Melchisedec have to rebuke some of them? Ex. 16:28.

4. Did Melchisedec, shortly afterward, make known *in full* the laws of the Father? Ex. 20. Did MELCHISEDEC MAKE KNOWN *AGAIN* the fact that *TITHES* MUST BE GIVEN? Lev. 27:32.

5. Did Israel continue to *keep* these laws (including *tithing*)? Jer. 7:22-24. Note verse 24 especially.

6. Then, because they broke His laws, what did Melchisedec command them to do? Read Lev. 4, the entire chapter. These were *only a part* of the old Mosaic law of rituals. *Why* were these ritualistic laws added? Gal. 3:19. Doesn't this verse then prove that there were *other* laws *already in existence* which were being TRANSGRESSED?—God's spiritual laws of righteous, prosperous living? Verse 24.

COMMENT: It was only *after* Israel disobeyed the laws for righteous, prosperous living (the Ten Commandments, *tithing*, and others which define right from wrong) which Melchisedec had again made known to them, that Melchisedec commanded Moses to establish an endless routine of backbreaking rituals and sacrifices. These ceremonies involved *HARD WORK* for all concerned.

These ceremonies were *ADDED* as a result of sin —as reminders that the people were already breaking *spiritual* laws regulating human life. Read again Jer. 7:22. The apostle Paul designated this added *ceremonial* on *ritualistic* law as a "law of *works*."

TITHES Furthered Old Testament Ministry

1. We have traced *tithing* from the time of Adam and Eve down to the time of Moses and have seen that God requires the first tenth of all that is produced. *Why* can the Father claim this amount? Psa. 24:1; I Cor. 10:26.

2. *Does the Father consider this as RENT?* Compare Job 41:11 and Rom. 11:34, 35. THEN SHOULDN'T *ALL* PEOPLE *EVERYWHERE* PAY TITHES?

COMMENT: Because God found in Abraham a man of great obedience, God honored Him and his descendants by revealing His *Spiritual laws* of righteousness and joyous living to them more fully than to any other people on earth. But God's laws are living forces—they are in action at all times. They apply to *everyone everywhere*, throughout all time!

3. As we have seen, up to the time of Moses, this *tithe* had been paid directly to Melchisedec who used it *for the service of God's ministry*. What GREAT CHANGE did Melchisedec command in the time of Moses—JUST AFTER THE PEOPLE REFUSED TO OBEY GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAWS FOR JOYOUS LIVING—*AS TO WHO was* TO RECEIVE THE TITHE? Num. 18:21.

4. Did Melchisedec set apart *one whole tribe* out of the twelve tribes of Israel to *minister* these hard rituals? Num. 3:6; 8:11. This tribe composed the Levitical Priesthood.

5. What *different use* was to be made of this tithe *for that time?* Num. 18:21. Did Melchisedec let the *Levitical* ministry receive the first tithe with which to carry on the physical work, *instead of* Himself?

COMMENT: Remember, the tithes belong to Melchisedec. The tithes were paid *directly* to Him in patriarchal times for the purpose of carrying on God's ministry to *individuals*. But in the days of Moses, MELCHISEDEC ORDERED *SOMETHING NEW—the tithes were PAID TO HIM* THROUGH MEN *ACTING AS HIS REPRESENTATIVES*. God's ministry through the Levites became a material, ritualistic ministry of *reminding* a NATION of their failure to OBEY His laws. Consider! TODAY GOD'S MINISTRY MUST REMIND THE WHOLE WORLD!

The Levites USED THE TITHES TO MINISTER TO the PEOPLE IN THE MANNER GOD HAD COMMANDED FOR THAT *TIME.* Melchisedec still supervised BUT *stepped into the background, letting* MEN *carry out the plan of God.*

6. What were even the Levitical *priests* commanded to do? Num. 18:26. *Tithe?* Had you ever noticed that before?

7. What is *anyone* who refuses to tithe? Mal. 3:8. COMMENT: God, as owner of all things, does not need anything. TITHING TEACHES MAN OBEDIENCE!

Freewill Offerings

1. In addition to tithes, did the ISRAELITES GIVE FREEWILL OFFERINGS? II Chron. 31:14.

2. Will offerings be "required" in the soon-coming millennium? Ezek. 20:40. *What does the word* "REQUIRE" *mean?* SEE YOUR DICTIONARY!

Many have misunderstood the subject of tithing because of certain Scriptural references to two other tithes commanded ancient Israel. Now let's see how the Bible differentiates these tithes.

3. In addition to the *extremely important* FIRST TITHE, did the High Priest Melchisedec – the Christ of the New Testament – command Israel to lay aside any other tithes? Deut. 14:22-26. What were they to do with this tithe? Verse 23. Why? Same verse.

4. *Where* did they have to go to eat? Deut. 14:23. Was it a time of *rejoicing?* Verse 26. How often was it to be saved? Verse 22.

5. As the first tithe was taken of the very *first* fruits of any income, wouldn't it be the *first* tithe? And as this was yet another tithe coming *after* the first, wouldn't it be the SECOND TITHE?

COMMENT: Unlike the second tithe, the first tithe belonged to *God.* The second tithe belonged to the people to be used as He commanded them.

6. Was Israel commanded to lay aside one other tithe in addition to the first and second tithes? Deut. 14:28-29.

Was it to be done as often as the first and second which were yearly? Note *carefully* verse 28. What was it to be used for? Verse 29. What would one receive for doing this? Same verse.

As this tithe was to be laid aside at only lengthy *intervals,* wouldn't it be the THIRD TITHE?

COMMENT: The three tithes just mentioned cover all the tithes Melchisedec commanded Israel.

7. Did Melchisedec *command* any "free will offerings" of Israel? Deut. 16:16, 17. How does the BIBLE interpret its phrase "NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE LORD EMPTY"? Verse 17.

COMMENT: The three times mentioned here were *outstanding* festivals which God commanded be kept in commemoration of His great PLAN. Freewill offerings were made on the three occasions.

Israel gradually refused to obey God. Their sins cut them off from Him. Captivity followed.

Melchisedec Ministry Reappears!

MELCHISEDEC of the Old Testament next REAPPEARED AS THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE *NEW* TESTAMENT. As High Priest, He came as the Lamb of God to *sacrifice Himself* for the sins of all those who had lived before His coming and for the sins of those who would live after Him, so they could enter the coming Kingdom of God.

He came to qualify over Satan as ruler of this world. He came to train messengers who would proclaim to an unbelieving and slumbering world His imminent return to establish His government here on earth. HE IS CHRIST–OUR PRESENT HIGH PRIEST!

How is He furthering God's great PLAN in *our* day?–the time of the crisis at the close of this age? What has He commanded YOU to do as your part?

1. Did Christ Himself *clearly* explain the coming Kingdom to the people of His day? Mat. 13:10, 11, 13, 15. How did He speak to keep them from fully understanding it? Verse 10. Read also Mark 4:11-12. Did He *ever* speak to the multitude except by a confusing parable? Mat. 13:34.

2. Did Christ, however, explain *clearly* to His disciples, *in private,* the meaning of His teachings regarding the Kingdom? Mat. 13:36. Note the words, "Then Jesus sent the multitude away." Compare this with Mat. 24:3. Did the disciples come to Him openly?

How plain it is that Christ was *TRAINING* His DISCIPLES to carry the message of the coming Kingdom of God CLEARLY to the people.

3. After Christ had taught His disciples, what did He COMMAND them? Mat. 10:5-7, 27. Did they *carry out His commands to PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD?* Acts 8:12; 19:8.

4. Where did Christ command His disciples to carry their message *later?* Mat. 24:14. Christ's second coming was not in the apostles' day, was it? *Then, isn't this a COMMAND FOR CHRIST'S DISCIPLES of TODAY?*

5. What else did Christ command His disciples to do? John 21:15-17. Aren't they to "feed the flock of God" spiritual knowledge? I Peter 5:2.

6. *Why* didn't Christ preach the gospel to the world Himself instead of assigning the work to His disciples? Luke 19:12, 15. Also, Heb. 4:14. Where is He now? Heb. 4:16; Mark 16:19. What is He doing? Heb. 7:25. Isn't this *His* work now?

7. Doesn't the work of Christ as High Priest involve administering the Holy Spirit to His disciples throughout this church age? Acts 2:33, 38. Does Christ give the Holy Spirit to those that *obey* Him? Acts 5:32.

8. How did Paul say he had the *power* to perform *mighty wonders?* Rom. 15:19. Did Christ tell

the disciples to wait for it? Acts 1:4, 8. Did they receive it? Acts 2:4. Did Christ have it? Mat. 1:20. Do Christ's followers have it today? Acts 2:39.

9. Were there also to be false disciples—*false* ministers or disciples (of the Devil)—who will teach different (false) gospels? Gal. 1:6-9. And who will preach about a different spirit? II Cor. 11:4.

Support of New Testament Ministry TODAY

Let's compare the *support* of the Old Testament Levitical Priesthood with the support of the New Testament ministry which has followed it *today*.

IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES—between the time of Moses and Christ—under the Old Covenant, God's ministry was purely *national*, for Israel alone. Its blessings were purely *material*—promises of *earthly* wealth and power in return for obedience. There were no *spiritual* promises for salvation. A constant round of animal sacrifices were required as a reminder of sin, so they could be *allowed* to remain in their land. They had no promise whatever of salvation, for the Holy Spirit, which makes a change of nature and salvation possible, was not promised until *after* Christ came and ascended. John 14:26; 16:7; Acts 2:38.

Melchisedec (the one who became Christ) selected the Levites as His ministers. Every Levite was a priest, or minister. MELCHISEDEC ORDAINED A CHANGE IN THE TITHING LAW—HE *TURNED THE TENTH* HE HAD ALWAYS PERSONALLY RECEIVED *OVER TO THE LEVITES* FOR MINISTERING HIS WORK.

He thereby transferred receipt of the tithe from Himself to the support of the LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD. There was *no* spreading of the Gospel. God's PLAN *then* called for the LEVITES to teach the people the *law in the* LETTER. *THE PEOPLE WERE COMMANDED TO GIVE TO THEM.*

TODAY, there is no Levitical priesthood—the Levitical ministers are gone. Melchisedec, "who abides High Priest continually," assumed the form of a mortal man, and sacrificed Himself for the sins of all mankind. So the Father has made available His own Holy Spirit, the *power* which makes possible the keeping of God's LAW IN THE *right* SPIRIT—or *attitude*. Christ came to this earth to inaugurate A NEW KIND OF MINISTRY—A SPIRITUAL MINISTRY!—a ministry of SALVATION, a ministry of WARNING, of PROPHECYING of His imminent return as world ruler!

Christ chose His original twelve disciples, or ministers then. Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are *called* by special spiritual call from God through His Holy Spirit. Christ, commissioning His ministers today, says "This GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD for a witness unto all nations; *and THEN shall the END* (of this age) *come.*"

Has Christ *commanded* YOU to do *your* part today by *supporting* God's *new* ministry in its *new* work, just as He commanded the Old Testament people to support His ministry then?

What is YOUR Part?

1. Does Christ belong to an ORDER of priests? Heb. 6:20. Who made Him so? Heb. 7:21. As *High* Priest of the Melchisedec *order* (Heb. 6:20), has Christ added other ministers to this priesthood since His first coming? Acts 1:2. *How* did He appoint them? Note the last word in this verse.

Comment: How plain it is that CHRIST'S *MELCHISEDEC* ORDER OF PRIESTS EXISTS *TODAY*. Naturally, *it would have to!* For the true ministers of this order will "not have gone over the cities of Israel [ancient Israel's descendants *today*] till the Son of man [Christ] be come" (Mat. 10:23).

THESE MINISTERS ARE THE *true* MINISTERS OF GOD—CARRYING ON A MINISTRY BEGUN BY THE APOSTLES AND CONTINUED BY THEIR SUCCESSORS—US TODAY! We, today, are carrying on Christ's commanded ministry of salvation, warning and prophesying!

2. Who *actually* does Christ's work? John 14:10. (Notice the words "in me.") Through what *force* is this work done? Luke 4:14; Mat. 1:20. Did he promise His disciples great power to aid and guide them to carry out His commands? Acts 1:8; 2:4.

3. HOW DOES GOD *COMMAND* HIS WORK TO BE *FINANCED* TODAY? Heb. 7, verses 1 through 13 gives the answer! Read each of these verses carefully. What is God talking about in these verses?—TITHING? Read verses 2 and 5. How did God say He had the *Melchisedec* order financed in ancient times to carry on His work when (He who was to become) Christ was its only member? Heb. 7:1-2.

4. How did God say He had the Levitical priesthood, which followed it, *financed to carry on His work?* Heb. 7:5.

5. As the Levitical priesthood has now been replaced by the Melchisedec order of ministers, *what CHANGE has God commanded made in the old* TITHE LAW *SO that His new MINISTRY can* RECEIVE *YOUR* SUPPORT *to carry on the work He commands for* TODAY? Heb. 7:12.

6. Didn't Christ verify the fact that people should TITHE today? Mat. 23:23. Note the words, "These ought ye have done."

7. Should a minister today be allowed a livelihood through preaching the gospel? I Cor. 9:14.

Tithe to WHICH Church?

There are over four hundred denominations in the United States alone today. Christ said, "I will

build My *Church"—one* Church! Mat. 16:18. *He did not say He would build* MANY *churches!* ONLY *ONE* CHURCH—the *one* Church that is preaching the true New Testament gospel of the Kingdom of God of which Jesus is the *living Head* and High Priest—MUST receive your tithes and offerings. Which church?—*God's* Church!

God's *true* Church must "*teach* all nations" (Mat. 28:19), "*preach* the gospel in all the world for a *witness*" (Mat. 24:14), and "*publish* the gospel among all nations" (Mark 13:10). "And then shall the end come" (Mat. 24:14). How else can you tell which is His Church? God describes it vividly to you in your Bible so you will not err. *To give to a different church would be WORSE than not giving at all!*

1. What was to be the HISTORY of *God's* Church after Christ's time?—was it to be *PERSECUTED* by the Devil and to flee into the wilderness after the apostles died? Rev. 12:4-6, 13.

COMMENT: A woman is used by God to symbolize His true Church. God's true Church has always been *SMALL IN NUMBER* and has suffered much persecution. Toward the end of this age, though, it was prophesied to *GROW IN POWER* until its MESSAGE—*the warning, witness, and gospel*—would reach the entire earth!

2. The word "church" means "crowd" or "group." God's Church is the Church which *follows God.* What did *GOD NAME* HIS OWN TRUE CHURCH? Acts 20:28; I Cor. 1:2; 10:32; 11:22.

This is important! This name *identifies!* Did God say that *His* own Church in these last days would deny His name—would deny being the Church of God—or, WOULD THEY *keep* IT? Rev. 3:8. *Note the last five words!* WHAT IS THE NAME OF *our* CHURCH —THE *"CHURCH OF GOD"?*

Could the church of *Smith,* then, be *God's* Church? *So isn't it obvious, then, to* WHICH *Church God's* TITHES SHOULD GO TO *in these latter days?*

3. The FIELD is NARROWED down to the churches having the name of "Church of God." BUT did Christ WARN that there would even be some churches bearing the name of "Church of Christ," or "Church of God" which would NOT be His Church? Mat. 24:5. Read it! Doesn't this show that there would come those who will say they are Christ's ministers, acknowledging that Jesus is the Christ, deceiving the people—perhaps because THEY, THEMSELVES are deceived—making their churches appear as God's Church, while teaching *dis*-OBEDIENCE?

COMMENT: Today, there are churches bearing the name of "Church of God," and "Apostolic Church of God" which are *not* doing God's will in carrying out His commanded witness-warning in these end days. They have *appropriated* God's name. Therefore, *in addition* to seeing that God's true Church *does* bear the name of Church of God, let's notice *FURTHER IDENTIFICATION in God's own description* OF HIS CHURCH—ITS CONDITION IN *OUR* DAY!

4. Is GOD'S CHURCH *TODAY* to have great power? Rev. 3:8.

COMMENT: Notice how God identifies His Church. God's Church *does not* consist of a vast organization of great churches with large membership. On the contrary, those who compose His Church are FEW IN NUMBER. It is not, one might say, even well known, despite all the *influence* it is exerting.

5. What has God NOW set before *His* Church? A DOOR? Rev. 3:8.

6. Does God say that because we are not powerful, the powerful ones of the world will be allowed to *shut the door* on our use of their television, radio, and printing press facilities? Rev. 3:8. TODAY, WE USE MORE KILOWATTS OF POWER FOR OUR RADIO PROGRAM THAN ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH—either commercial or religious!

7. Does a "DOOR" signify the opportunity to carry the Gospel TO FAR COUNTRIES? II Cor. 2:12, 13.

COMMENT: Paul preached the Gospel *19 years* in his own country, Asia Minor. Just 19 years later " a *door* was opened" (remember, the Bible *interprets itself*) to him to go to a far country—Europe—and preach the Gospel. Now NOTICE! Starting in 1934, **Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong** preached the Gospel over the radio to America *only,* for *19 years. Then* a "door was opened" to Europe in 1953—*exactly 19 years after he first began preaching,* and now his voice is heard around the earth. The Bible teaches *dualities.* The similarity of cycles is remarkable.

COMMENT: **Mr. Armstrong is pastor over the *Radio* Church of God.** His voice—and those of our other ministers, are now carried *WORLD-WIDE BY RADIO AND TELEVISION TO REACH MILLIONS THROUGH OUR "WORLD TOMORROW" PROGRAM.* He is founder and president of Ambassador College. Ambassador College and the Radio Church of God work in close cooperation. Our publications, The *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine and the *AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE* have great international circulations, and are beginning to be translated into many foreign languages. They are read by hundreds of thousands.

The true gospel is being preached, the sick are being healed—the works of Jesus are being performed by this Church today as Jesus prophesied.

We are SUBSIDIZED BY NO ONE! OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE *ONLY* THROUGH *TITHES* AND *OFFERINGS* RECEIVED FROM THOSE WHO, AS CO-

WORKERS, ARE INTERESTED IN FURTHERING THE WORK *GOD* HAS COMMANDED TO BE DONE AT THIS TIME—THROUGH THE ONES *HE* HAS CHOSEN TO DO IT! *We do not ask the public for contributions, but we are commanded by God to tell the people His LAWS. It is up to them whether they wish to OBEY GOD!*

8. Is Christ to *COME QUICKLY* after the "door" has been opened to *us* and we have spread God's message? Rev. 3:11.

9. Do you know, *from your own experience*, any other organization *anywhere* which is *CRYING OUT* as BOLDLY as this one is, to the people to *REPENT* before God smites this world with the destruction He has prophesied? Read Luke 24:47 for proof that God's Church today is fulfilling Jesus' command. What does God command His *real* ministers to do? Isa. 58:1.

10. How DOES GOD TELL YOU TO RECOGNIZE *HIS OWN* MINISTERS? Mat. 7:15, 16.

COMMENT: *No church*, since the time of Christ, has grounded a greater number of people in *true* Bible knowledge than has this true Church of GOD today. God has used *this* work to BEAR *MUCH* FRUIT.

What human figure does God use to describe the *GREAT RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS* of this world today? Rev. 17:1, 5. Has SATAN his CHURCHES and ministers? II Cor. 11:13-15.

COMMENT: *God commands*, "Go . . . teach all nations . . . to observe *all* things whatsoever I have *commanded* you: and lo, I am with you always" (Mat. 28:19, 20). The ministers of the great religious systems are shirking God's commanded duty! They are TEACHING *CONTRARY* TO WHAT GOD *COMMANDED*.

It is now obvious that the Radio Church of God fulfills *all* of God's qualifications to be His true Church. NO OTHER GROUP does. Each of these other groups fall *seriously* short at some point in FULFILLING the DESCRIPTION GOD GIVES of *His* Church as it would be in the time of the end.

GENERAL SUMMARY

God has commanded that *we* carry His warning-witness message to all the world. But God knows it TAKES MONEY to pay for radio, printing press and television services. *We can not charge* for our publications. *God has commanded that His GOSPEL GO FREE to all:* "Preach saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand . . . freely ye have received, *freely* give" (Mat. 10:7-8). God places the *financial responsibility* of furthering His gospel work upon *you!* He commands you to do this and will hold you responsible.

You owe your allegiance to God ahead of that to the worldly governments of men. So after expenses you incurred in producing your profit are paid, the *FIRST* TENTH of the remaining profit BELONGS TO GOD.

Soon, as we have just seen in previous lessons, the United States, Britain, and other descendants of ancient Israel, are to be in national captivity—just prior to Christ's coming. Why?

Malachi 3 gives the answer. This prophecy can be for no other time—look at the date! It can be for no other people than modern-day Israel, for God addresses it to the people living in the day of Christ's second coming (verse 2). *Always* Israel has erred (verse 7). God says to those in our land today —*you*, if you are guilty, "Ye are cursed with a *curse*, ye have *ROBBED* ME, even this *whole nation . . . in tithes and offerings.*"

What do you think God will do? Something different than He has *always* done for disobedience? No! Listen! Joel 1 says He will weaken us with famine, then Ezek. 5:5, 12 shows He will raise a foe against us who will *remove us from our land.* The United States hasn't paid God His rent, so our people will be removed from this land!

What do you think God will do to *you*, IF YOU *PERSIST* in disobeying His commands? The treatment will be no different—He will REMOVE YOU *FOREVER* FROM THE EARTH.

THIS IS A SERIOUS THING—*and the time is not far away when this nation is to experience God's first step in removing our people from their land.* BUT *you*, individually, can *escape* IF you study God's commands and bring your actions into line with them. GOD SAYS HE HAS COMMANDED US TO PAY TITHES AND OFFERINGS, BUT MOST HAVEN'T!

If you desire to obey God in this vital matter, send your tithes and offerings to the **address** given here for your country or area.

In the United States, send your tithes and offerings to *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California.*

In Canada, send your tithes and offerings to *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Post Office Box 44, Station A, Vancouver I, B. C., Canada.*

In the **United Kingdom, Europe, or Africa,** send your tithes and offerings to *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts., England.*

In **Australia,** the **Philippines, China,** or **southeastern Asia,** send your tithes and offerings to *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Box 345 North Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.*

Whether you do or do not send money will make *no* difference in your receiving the Correspondence Course. The Gospel *must go free!*