May 14 '64

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Bible

LESSON 26

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Avoid a COUNTERFEIT Baptism!

DO YOU KNOW most churches today baptize their members in a way *not* commanded by God?

Do you know that they have *SUBSTITUTED* "BAPTISMAL" FORMS which ARE THE IDEAS OF *MEN* for the *one true form* of baptism which God commands?

What is *wrong* with these deceptive forms of "baptism"? — *how* ARE they FAULTY? To know is vital. *It CAN AFFECT YOUR SALVATION!*

How can you know God will *accept* your baptism? Be baptized in the manner *GOD* commands! God *WILL ACCEPT* the FORM *HE* has COMMANDED! Know the false forms and beware of them.

Many "FALSE" Baptisms Taught

There are many doctrines of baptism being taught and practiced today in this world's "Christianity." On the surface, these may appear to be quite scriptural. *But are they?*

All cannot be right! For the Bible teaches ONLY *ONE* DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM! It teaches only *one* way in which baptism is to be done—the *proper* way! Just notice the world's CONFUSION REGARDING BAPTISM:

There are denominations that practice *infant baptism.* They sincerely believe an infant is eternally doomed should it die unbaptized. Another sect believes one must receive an *additional* "*baptism*" of *the* "*spirit*" after one has *already* received the "spirit." It is claimed that the only evidence proving one has received this special "baptism" is that of speaking in "tongues"—the so-called "power to witness for Christ." *But is this what your Bible says?*

One religious movement insists that you must receive the "*baptism by fire*" in order to be "saved." Do *you* want it? Another teaches their members to be *baptized on* the *behalf of* their *friends and relatives* who died unconverted. *Are* all these ideas and practices *really* scriptural? Or are they merely the *inventions*—the doctrines and commandments—of *men?* WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

NOW WE'RE READY TO FIND THE TRUE *BIBLE* ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER VITAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING BAPTISM, as revealed in your Bible! But first let us see that we go about this study *correctly.*

This Lesson is intended to direct you to *your Bible.* Here is the METHOD OF STUDY.

Remember—you are to OPEN your Bible TO EVERY PASSAGE. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what the Lesson is referring to"—and then pass over the Scripture. You need to "*keep your nose in the Bible,*" so to speak. You must READ *and* RE-READ and THINK OUT EACH PASSAGE you read. *MEDITATE* ON IT in your leisure time in the following twenty-four hours, and in your time of prayer—before you forget it. *MAKE it a PART OF YOU!* Don't forget, this is a *Bible* study Course—not just a study of these words we send you.

Here is the method of making EFFECTIVE NOTES: WRITE down neatly on your paper the SUBJECT OF THE LESSON and underscore it. Next write down the LESSON NUMBER. Then as you come to each QUESTION SECTION, write down its TITLE and underneath, NUMBER EACH QUESTION as you come to it. *For each* QUESTION WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER, together with any pertinent ideas that come to your mind.

Be sure also to WRITE OUT THE SCRIPTURE which answers each question, if you have not done so before, in previous questions. Writing down your material—the answers, and every word of each Bible passage, and any COM-

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LESSON 26
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MENTS you wish to make as you go along—will *AID* you greatly in *reviewing* and *REMEMBERING.*

Now READ THE LARGE TYPE WORDS in this Final Instruction section right down to the end of this section—*pay no attention to the small type.* AND SUDDENLY—YOU HAVE A FLASH REVIEW OF ALL THE IMPORTANT POINTS! These serve as *an* INDEX *too*—simple and effective. *All the material in the Lessons is written this way.* BE SURE TO *USE* THE LARGE WORDS THIS WAY *regularly!*

And NOW FOR THE LESSON itself!

LESSON 26

"WRONG TIME" Baptisms

How soon must we be baptized? One or two denominations insist that baptism should be put off until the candidate has "proved he *has* the Holy Spirit and *is* living a righteous spiritual life"—or has come to a "certain *spiritual* knowledge."

Now let's notice whether the ministers Christ appointed in His time put those who wanted to be baptized on A SIX MONTHS' TRIAL PERIOD FIRST, or checked TO SEE IF SUCH WERE ALREADY *DOING* GOD'S WILL, or had great knowledge of God's ways.

This is *NOT* WHAT GOD COMMANDS! Notice now how plainly *false* this is:

Paul says God's "law is *spiritual,*" and that the carnal—unconverted—mind is not subject to the law and cannot be (Rom. 7:14 and 8:7). This plainly says it is *IMPOSSIBLE* TO truly understand and FOLLOW the SPIRITUAL APPLICATION OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAW UNTIL ONE *HAS* the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. Yet this sect demands that one must be doing both of these things which *God* says are impossible, before they will baptize him! How far man can *twist* the clear teachings of the Bible!

ANOTHER DENOMINATION will NOT *BAPTIZE* one *UNTIL* such a ONE comes to "SEE" AND ACCEPT "GOD'S LAW" AND MANY of this denomination's DOCTRINES. AND the individual is then PLACED ON A SIX MONTHS' PROBATION period to "see if he is really worthy of baptism." *Is* this according to God's commands? No! Understand:

The command of God is (1) preach the gospel. This leads to the convincing of those called by God, of the sins in their hearts—which, in turn, leads to repentance and faith in Christ. (2) baptism; and (3) such ones shall receive the *Holy Spirit, which* renews their minds and *teaches them by helping them to understand spiritual truth* which was IMPOSSIBLE FOR their CARNAL MINDS TO COMPREHEND *before!*

So, here we have two different sects—the first demanding of the ones desiring baptism that they *already* be *keeping* the *Spiritual* Law of God, before they will baptize them so they can receive the Spirit. And the second demanding that those desiring to be baptized *already understand* the *Spiritual* Law of God before they can receive the Spirit. HOW STRANGE of these two denominations TO REQUIRE AN *IMPOSSIBILITY!* Then just what *does* GOD DEMAND BEFORE BAPTISM? A COMPLETELY SURRENDERED AND REPENTANT *ATTITUDE!—That's all He wants!!*

Everyone knows he himself has sinned, and lived contrary to God's will, though he may not have spiritual understanding of God's will. God grants *repentance* to a carnal mind before the actual conversion of that mind by the Holy Spirit. One does not need a college education in Bible *knowledge* in order to know how to repent and be baptized into Christ. Yes, GOD DEMANDS a SURRENDERED *ATTITUDE!* Jesus instructed His apostles to preach the Gospel, *baptize* repentant believers, and *then* teach them the *commandments* (Mat. 28:19-20). NOTE NOW the CRYSTAL-CLEAR TEACHING OF *WHEN* TO BE BAPTIZED:

1. On the day of Pentecost, did the repentant believers have to put off their baptisms for some reason, or were they all baptized that *same* day? Acts 2:41.

2. Did Philip BAPTIZE the believing Ethiopian eunuch AT ONCE? Acts 8:35-36, 38.

3. Was the Apostle Paul—formerly known as Saul—BAPTIZED only A SHORT WHILE AFTER Christ CONVICTED him of his sins? Acts 9:8-9, 18.

4. When did Paul baptize the Philippian jailor and those of his repentant household? Acts 16:25, 30-33.

COMMENT: Notice that they were baptized the same hour after midnight! They did not

even wait until daylight! Baptism should never be delayed without reason. It might be neglected until too late! In every case recounted in the New Testament, repentant believers were BAPTIZED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

COMMENT: Just as soon as one has been convicted in his heart of his past sins and sinful life—JUST AS SOON AS one REALIZES that his OWN WAY OF LIFE has been WRONG, and becomes SICK AND TIRED OF it, and turns from his own ways AND WANTS TO FIND GOD'S WAYS AND LIVE THEM; truly repents of his past life of sins, and believes in and accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and the One whom he must obey henceforth; wants to turn to the changed to a different, new and happy life of faith in Christ Jesus, and become a child of God—then that person should be baptized *as soon as possible* by God's ministers or their personal representatives.

But what about those who are not able to be baptized for reasons completely beyond their control? The simple answer is that water baptism is not the thing that saves us from the death penalty, makes us righteous, or imparts eternal life. While God commands it "for the remission of sins," yet it is merely symbolic of that which remits our sins—the *death* of Christ. While it also pictures His resurrection, by which we ourselves are finally saved, it is merely the symbol, not the reality. Therefore, *God makes allowances for cases of individuals absolutely not able to be baptized.* You need not worry about anyone *utterly unable* to be baptized.

But GOD DOES COMMAND WATER BAPTISM FOR THE ONE WHO IS ABLE. IF ONE DEFIES the command and REFUSES, or neglects, or even puts off obedience to this command UNTIL TOO LATE, it certainly would be AN ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE which would impose the penalty of sin, AND COULD CAUSE THE LOSS OF SALVATION!

Hundreds of our **radio listeners** have been **baptized by our baptizing teams.** Many are waiting until we can send men to them, or until they can come to us. When necessity prevents **your** immediate **baptism** or when circumstances are completely beyond your control, God will understand and make allowances. But to avoid all unnecessary delay, **contact Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong** *just as soon as you make your decision.*

Infant Baptism is PAGAN!

Where did the "command" that infants be baptized ORIGINATE? Is it a commandment from God? *Or* is it a "commandment" of *men?* Let us examine *history* and understand!

The common practice of infant baptism gradually evolved FROM THE FALSE *PAGAN* CONCEPT that all are born with the inherent sin ("original sin") of Adam, and unless baptized, the individual is lost for all eternity because of Adam's sin.

Infant baptism SEEKS TO MAKE GOD OUT AS UNFAIR because it implies that sin, and the resulting eternal death penalty, is due to *one man and woman*—Adam and Eve—and has been passed on to all their descendants. Satan likes this! But it is not true. Through Adam "sin *entered* into the world" because Adam was the *first* man to sin. But the death penalty has come on everyone because "*all* have sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

In his work on the HISTORY OF the Christion Church, the well-known church historian, Neander, accounts as follows for the early introduction of infant baptism:

". . . from the want of duly distinguishing between what is outward and what is inward in baptism—the baptism by water, and the baptism by the Spirit—the opinion [of the Catholic Church] became more fully established, that without external baptism no one could be delivered from that inherent guilt [original sin], or could be saved from the everlasting punishment that threatened him, or raised to eternal life; and when the notion of *magical influence*, a *charm* connected with the *sacraments*, continually gained ground, the theory was finally evolved of the unconditional necessity of *infant baptism.* About the middle of the third century this theory was generally admitted in the North *African* Church . . . but while in theory the necessity of infant baptism was admitted, still in practice it was very far from being generally prevailing." (Vol. 1, pp. 313-14—Torrey's Translation).

MANY OF THE "FATHERS" OF THE EARLY CATHOLIC CHURCH who believed in various pagan traditions and beliefs, PROMOTED THIS PAGAN THEORY *of infant baptism!* Among them were Origen, Chrysostom, Clement of Alexandria, Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage in North Africa, and Augustine, who was its chief defender and promoter. NOTE THAT CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES *DID NOT* ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE IT, BUT *CARNAL MEN!*

Rheinwald, in *The Christian Review*, says: "Though its [infant baptisms] necessity was asserted in Africa and Egypt in the beginning of the 3rd century, it was, even to the end of the 4th century, by no means universally observed—least of all in the Eastern Church. Notwithstanding the recommendation of it by the fathers, it had NEVER BECOME a GENERAL ecclesiastical institution UNTIL the AGE OF AUGUSTINE" (Vol. 3, p. 193).

On the other hand, there were also many Catholic Church leaders that stormed against infant baptism, but it was not until the *6th century* that it finally became a universal practice.

"The administration of baptism to infants was

subsequently rendered compulsory by an edict of Emperor Justinian, who reigned over the Eastern Roman Empire from A.D. 527 to A.D. 565. He enacted 'that such pagans as were yet unbaptized, should present themselves, with their wives and children, and all that appertained to them, in the church; and *there they should cause their* LITTLE ONES *immediately to be baptized.*' " Cote's *Archeology of Baptism.*

The evidence of recorded history alone proves that infant baptism is MERELY A DOCTRINE OF *MEN* which was inspired by pagan Egyptain beliefs and practices!

WHY Infant Baptism is NOT Commanded

What is *wrong* with infant baptism? Notice just *how wrong* it is:

In contradiction to the teachings of uninspired *men*, GOD REVEALS in His divine Word that BEFORE ONE MAY BE BAPTIZED, he MUST FULLY REPENT of having broken God's laws. He must thoroughly *abhor* and be sorry for his past sinful life! Then he must *believe* the true *gospel* of the *Kingdom of God* and believe on Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

It is actually A MOCKERY of God's Word to submit newly born INFANTS to water BAPTISM. They CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO *THINK* FOR THEMSELVES, LET ALONE *REPENT* OR *BELIEVE!* And older children have not reached the maturity where they have the self-discipline to truly repent, and believe.

The *AVERAGE* MIND does NOT MATURE UNTIL ABOUT AGE 25—though there are often exceptions. SOME VERY FEW MATURE and become sober and serious in life's outlook BY AGE 16, or on exceedingly rare occasions even younger.

An immature mind may experience an emotional feeling of *temporary* remorse. This may often be falsely construed as repentance, when it is only momentary, and soon forgotten. It is much like "puppy love." How many youngsters, 13 to 18, have a number of temporary emotional experiences of feeling sure they are "in love" and cannot be talked out of it. They usually grow out of it, but in rare cases, of course, they may really "know their minds"—though this is the rare *exception*, and *not* the rule. So it is with repentance and belief.

The IMMATURE child baptized around age 12 to 15 may be ever so serious about it at the time. But when the child reaches the age between 16 and 21, he or she matures —"comes to himself or herself"—undergoes an entirely new experience in life. They come under "teen-age" influences which are quite different today than one or two generations ago. They must meet many temptations peculiar to energetic, dynamic, reckless, excitement-craving youth in the blossoming flower of sex appeal. Experience shows that not one in perhaps a hundred can be truly "converted" prior to this age and still remain converted and constantly growing spiritually, closer and closer to Christ and His kingdom, through these trying years.

There can be no set rule about the proper age for baptism. But it is ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 21 or so—especially under 18. Unless positively sure that such a one has really repented and is tired—not momentarily, but permanently—of self-will, self-desire, and the ways of this world, he or she should be encouraged to live according to God's Word, but *REFRAIN* FROM BAPTISM *UNTIL SURE.*

Some present the argument that the infants and older children of Cornelius' household were baptized by Peter (Acts 10). This is merely an *assumption.* The Scriptures nowhere indicate whether or not Cornelius' "household" included any children under adult age. Those baptized in Cornelius' house must have been *mature enough to understand* the conditions of salvation and able to truly repent and believe! Children, *if* any were present, were *not* baptized. The same explanation applies to the baptism of the Philippian jailor's "household"—Acts 16:31-33.

Jesus' EXAMPLE For Infants

Jesus set us an example of what we should do regarding infants and little children. What did He do?

1. Did Jesus baptize infants and young children, or did He, instead, pronounce *blessings* upon them? Mat. 19:13 and Mark 10:13-16.

COMMENT: JESUS DID *NOT* BAPTIZE CHILDREN! And His early Apostolic Church did not perform such baptisms either! NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE is there an example or command for this practice.

BUT JESUS DID *BLESS* LITTLE CHILDREN BY THE LAYING ON OF HIS HANDS ON THEM AND PRAYER FOR EACH. He undoubtedly prayed to His Father in Heaven FOR divine PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE of their young lives, and that the parents who brought these children to Him would be given wisdom to properly train them in the ways of God.

This is Christ's own EXAMPLE FOR the MINISTERS OF HIS TRUE CHURCH. TODAY, God's ministers *do* invoke this same type of blessing upon infants and young children of Christian parents.

Now let's understand WHAT GOD DOES EXPECT FROM Christian PARENTS and their children BEFORE THE CHILD REACHES THE *MATURE* MIND ESSENTIAL FOR BAPTISM.

2. Does God command parents to TEACH

their children OBEDIENCE to His laws? Deut. 6:6-7 and Eph. 6:4.

3. Are children also commanded to obey and HONOR their PARENTS? Prov. 1:8, Ex. 20:12, and Eph. 6:1-3. Should they obey in everything? Col. 3:20.

4. As a child, did JESUS also set the EXAMPLE of perfect obedience to His parents for all children to imitate? Luke 2:51.

COMMENT: Jesus OBEYED HIS EARTHLY PARENTS in all things, as well as His Heavenly Father! He was "subject" or obedient to their wishes. When children obey their parents, they are ACTUALLY OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.

5. Should CHILDREN who disobey—sin against—their parents BE CHASTISED and CORRECTED? Prov. 19:18 and 22:15. Is this chastisement to be administered IN LOVE? Prov. 3:12 and Heb. 12:5-7.

COMMENT: Contrary to the diabolical teachings of modern child psychologists, GOD COMMANDS PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN. But notice that God does not punish His spiritual sons in anger. His punishments are just and IN REAL GODLY LOVE and consideration for their welfare—to teach them lessons. Likewise, parents are NOT to punish their children IN ANGER, but in the love of God—explaining that they are being punished because they have done wrong! This point is so important it cannot be overstressed. Punishment must be in love—not in anger! This is the only way to instill obedience in a child.

Unless the children of God's Spirit-begotten parents are obedient to their parents and God, they will not escape God's coming plagues! This certainly behooves all parents to diligently train their children to be obedient so their children too may escape.

6. If children are properly taught the ways of God and are punished in love, will they depart from Him and His laws when they are older—when *mature* in mind? Prov. 22:6. Do we find a good example of such an individual? II Tim. 3:15.

COMMENT: Even though Timothy's parents had only the Old Testament scriptures, they PROPERLY TRAINED him during his childhood. He did NOT DEPART FROM GOD WHEN he grew OLDER, but continued with such fervency in the ways of God, that he became converted and was later ordained as a minister in God's Church!

Timothy's example shows children properly trained and instructed in the ways of God CAN COME TO REAL *REPENTANCE* and belief in Christ WHEN they become *MATURE* IN MIND. They will then, through personal conviction and by free choice, seek the ways of Christ and baptism in real sincerity from the heart!

The "NO Works" Baptism

Through his false ministers (II Cor. 11:13-15), Satan has devised many clever counterfeits for God's true doctrine of water baptism. He has even deluded millions who have submitted to the true scriptural form of baptism by immersion, into believing they have been true Christians for years, when actually they have never begun to start on the way to *real* conversion!

The MAJORITY OF PEOPLE have grown up in, been baptized into, and attended some church or another. They hate to think, let alone admit, that they have NEVER REALLY BEEN CONVERTED. Human nature impels them to stubbornly maintain their *own* righteousness.

TODAY, BAPTISM in most worldly churches is LOOKED UPON AS MERELY a ritual or INITIATION INTO a CHURCH ORGANIZATION, INSTEAD OF A *BURIAL* OF the OLD SINFUL LIFE AND the BEGINNING OF A NEW WAY OF LIFE. The forgiveness of sins has been made A MERE MECHANICAL PROCESS without any real meaning, through a counterfeit *physical* form of baptism that has RESULTED IN thousands—yes, even MILLIONS, — OF FALSE *SO-CALLED* "CONVERSIONS"!

Most baptized church-going "Christians" of this world never really knew what to repent of. At the time of their "baptism" they intended to "do better" or to "make their peace with God." But their "MINISTERS" NEVER REVEALED God's definition of sin to them—*WHAT* they MUST REPENT OF! CONSEQUENTLY, their BAPTISMS have been nothing more than mechanical rituals or initiation into church organizations — MERE DUNKINGS! For since they have never been taught God's definition of sin, they have FAILED completely TO REALIZE what ROTTEN AND SINFUL LIVES THEY HAVE LED.

These individuals HAVEN'T REALLY *REPENTED*. They have never been broken up about the wretched state of their lives. And they have not detested and utterly abhorred their own vanity and selfishness.

Such people don't immediately begin to study and understand the Bible after baptism. THEY JUST CONTINUE to go along WITH the CUSTOMS, the ways, and the TRADITIONS OF THIS WORLD. Their lives are not *actually* changed. They don't come to know God personally. And they continue in most of their sins!

The CARNAL NATURAL MIND with which man is born WILL NOT TAKE, NOR PREACH, the COMMANDMENTS of God UNLESS it is IMPELLED TO. "The carnal mind IS *ENMITY* TO GOD." This is *why* this "No Works" baptism persists.

BAPTISM IS a MOST VITAL step on the road to real conversion, and IT MUST BE DONE

PROPERLY—at the right time and in the right way—AFTER TRUE REPENTANCE!

The sad truth is that MOST "PROFESSING CHRISTIANS" HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED PROPERLY AND HAVE NEVER RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT! THEY HAVEN'T EVEN BEGUN TO GET READY TO START ON THE ROAD TO REAL CONVERSION! (Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:13).

Perhaps you were baptized in a worldly church and are wondering about your previous baptism. ASK YOURSELF WHY YOU WERE BAPTIZED IN THE FIRST PLACE. Were you baptized simply because many of the members of your family were baptized, and you felt looked down upon, or had that "left out feeling"? Did you stand in the water and go through the ordinance of baptism simply to "join" the group with whom you had been fellowshipping? Were you baptized because you temporarily thought it was "right."

IF YOU WERE BAPTIZED FOR ANY OF THESE REASONS — YOUR BAPTISM WAS PROBABLY NOT VALID, *because your motives were not right!* YOU NEED TO COUNSEL WITH A TRUE MINISTER OF GOD ABOUT THE MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"Tongues" NOT Proof of Baptism and Holy Spirit!

Is speaking in "tongues" a *proof* of having been baptized and of then having received the priceless gift of God's very own Holy Spirit? Many think it is. What is the *truth?*

There is A MODERN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT that *erroneously believes* Peter, James, John, and the other apostles were all converted and had received the Holy Spirit either when first called by Jesus, or while He was yet alive. Then, having *already* received the Holy Spirit *before* Christ's ascension, His disciples, so they erroneously believe, had to "tarry," and "pray down Pentecost," until, finally on Pentecost, they "got their *baptism*"—a *special* dispensation of spirit power—and consequently spoke in *unknown* tongues.

Based on this assumption, they SAY ONE FIRST "JOINS" THEIR CHURCH BY "REPENTING OF HIS SINS" and BEING BAPTIZED by immersion, after which he IMMEDIATELY RECEIVES THE "HOLY SPIRIT." *(But what constitutes real sin and real repentance they do not know. This voids their receiving the Holy Spirit of God!)*

And they go on to *erroneously* TEACH THAT some time AFTERWARD such a baptized one, if he "seeks" it diligently enough IN A "TARRY MEETING," may RECEIVE "*the* Baptism"—a *SPECIAL* enduement of "SPIRIT POWER"—*an entirely separate and later special act or blessing from God.*

The teaching is that WHEN such a one RECEIVES this latter "baptism," he ALWAYS "SPEAKS IN *UNKNOWN* TONGUES"—that is, "UNKNOWN" *LANGUAGES.* Often THRILLS and SENSATIONS are FELT SURGING IN OVERPOWERING WAVES THROUGH THE BODY. From that time all timidity and BASHFULNESS in "witnessing for Christ" is GONE. The TONGUE is LOOSENED. The recipient now boldly and LOUDLY TESTIFIES in open meeting. Often in a JAZZY MANNER and with a FLUENCY and FLIPPANCY of speech NEVER BEFORE POSSIBLE! *This* results from their erroneous teaching. This is their "baptism." WHAT *IS* THIS STRANGE PHENOMENON of speech? *IS* IT FROM *GOD?* Is it used according to *His* purpose? Or—is this unknown speech from *another* source than *God?*—FROM the DEVIL!

What is the plain and simple truth which *your Bible* teaches? Let us understand what GOD *WARNS* YOU about this matter!

1. Does the Bible really teach anything about speaking in "unknown" tongues as these "tongues seekers" *assume?*

COMMENT: A VITAL KEY to our understanding is that the WORD "UNKNOWN" has WRONGLY BEEN ADDED BY THE TRANSLATORS of the King James Version. You'll notice that this word appears six times in I Corinthians 14 and that it always is in *italics* when used in connection with "tongues." Whenever the translators inserted additional words which *they thought* would make the intended meaning of the Scriptures clearer, they *italicized* them so the reader would know that they were not a part of the literal word for word translation. Most of the time these additional italicized words do help in making the meaning clearer, but in this case, the use of "UNKNOWN" is A GROSS *ERROR!* Let us understand:

2. Is the ability to speak in "TONGUES"—one or more *KNOWN* FOREIGN LANGUAGES—a special gift God might bestow upon some Christians, especially ministers, through the power of His Holy Spirit? I Cor. 12:1, 10-11.

COMMENT: Remember that in the New Testament, the *original* inspired Greek word that was translated into the English language as "TONGUES," is *glossa.* This word MEANS "LANGUAGES"—*KNOWN* TONGUES!! If a "language" were *unknown* it would *not* be a language, but only a *noise!*

3. ON the day of PENTECOST, 31 A.D., did GOD BESTOW THIS SPECIAL GIFT OF BEING HEARD IN *LANGUAGES* UPON THE DISCIPLES AT THE *SAME INSTANT* THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT? Acts 2:4. Was this gift given SO *ALL* THE PEOPLE COULD *UNDERSTAND* THEM? Verses 5-8. Wasn't *this* then GOD'S *SPECIFIC PURPOSE* FOR GIVING the disciples the gift of tongues? Verse 11.

COMMENT: Remember, you have already learned in Lesson 20 that the apostles did not receive the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost—*after* Christ's ascension to heaven—*not* before, as this sect teaches.

On that day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., there were people from many *foreign* countries gathered in Jerusalem. Therefore, it was necessary for God to bestow the gift of *various* languages upon His disciples IN ORDER THAT THEY COULD MAKE *KNOWN* TO THESE *VARIOUS LANGUAGED* PEOPLES THE GOSPEL — THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S FUTURE RETURN TO RULE THIS EARTH!! Notice carefully that there was a *specific purpose* for this gift of languages. And *nowhere* do we find even the remotest indication of *unknown* languages being spoken by the disciples!

4. Did God later bestow the gift of speaking in foreign languages upon certain other Spirit-filled individuals in His true Church? I Cor. 14:12, 26. Why?

COMMENT: The CHURCH AT CORINTH was a Gentile Church composed of many individuals from different *foreign* countries. God, therefore, gave certain ones in His Church there the gift of speaking the languages of these people so they could *understand* God's Word more clearly and be *edified* — be strengthened and built up more perfectly in the grace and knowledge of God.

Notice especially that GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL GIFTS *ONLY* WHEN THEY CAN SERVE A SPECIFIC *NEED* IN THE CHURCH!

5. Did Paul encourage the Corinthians to desire the spiritual gift of "prophesying,"—preaching by means of being inspired by God — rather than having the gift of tongues? I Cor. 14:1-5.

COMMENT: "Prophesying," in this instance, refers to *inspired preaching*. Paul said that INSPIRED PREACHING is a far GREATER GIFT THAN speaking in *tongues*—various foreign languages! But IF ONE DID receive the gift of SPEAKING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, and spoke to a certain nationality in the Church, he SHOULD INTERPRET or have an *interpreter* convey the *meaning of his words* to the rest of the congregation that would not have been able TO *UNDERSTAND* him. Or else he was to *keep silence!*

6. Is the gift of languages the *last* one of a list of gifts mentioned by Paul? I Cor. 12:10, 28. Doesn't this indicate it is the *least* gift of the Holy Spirit?

Tongues and Tarry Meetings

1. Are THOSE WHO RECEIVE GOD'S TRUE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, such as tongues, CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THESE GIFTS IN an INTELLIGENT and *SANE* MANNER? I Cor. 14:32-33 (the word "spirits" here is used in the sense of *spiritual gifts*).

COMMENT: This certainly is *not* the case at a "TARRY MEETING" in the churches of this "tongues movement"! Each "tongues seeker" in such meetings repeats such phrases as "Glory! Glory!" *over and over again.* Senseless! Constantly they are urged to "say it a little *faster.*" Variations of this phrase are "Hallelujah!" or "Praise you Jesus!" Constantly the seeker is told to keep it up *faster and faster* and not to become discouraged.

Sometimes they are told to LIFT THEIR ARMS above their heads and *hold* them there. When they become so TIRED they are unable to hold them up any longer, others will come and support their arms. ALL PRAY ALOUD AT ONCE, begging God to give them the "blessing." HOUR AFTER HOUR, often lasting UNTIL THREE OR FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING they continue to beg, PLEAD, and AGONIZE.

Occasionally, perhaps after many of these "tarry meetings," one or more of a company will begin to "speak in tongues," and are then acknowledged by all as having reached and received "their baptism." Nothing but "speaking in tongues"— *unknown* tongues — will be accepted as evidence of "the baptism."

When they do begin speaking in "*unknown* tongues," it really is unknown utterance. NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND IT. It is usually nothing but ridiculous BABBLING — UNINTELLIGIBLE GIBBERISH—unlike any known language of the world! Often the INDIVIDUAL FALLS BACKWARD and ROLLS upon the floor, RANTING and RAVING and FOAMING at the mouth like a maniac. Nothing but UTTER CONFUSION presides! GOD SAYS HE IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION!! (I Cor. 14:33). If not, who? *Demons?*

2. WHAT CONCLUSIVELY PROVES that ONE HAS truly received the baptism of GOD'S HOLY *SPIRIT?* Mat. 7:20, Gal. 5:22-23 and I John 3:24. *God's Spirit gives peacefulness, gentleness!*

COMMENT: The LIVES WE LIVE ARE the BIBLE *EVIDENCE* of WHETHER or not WE HAVE RECEIVED the BAPTISM OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT. Only the *Holy Spirit* can produce *GODLY* "FRUITS" in our individual lives.

3. So *are* "tongues" evidence of one's having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? I Cor. 13:1. No! *Charity* is *LOVE.*

COMMENT: There are fallen angels—*demons*—of Satan the Devil—and without a question many of these "tongues seekers" today are speaking in the "tongues" of these demons! DEMONS HAVE NO LOVE FOR PEOPLE. "Tongues" are no evidence whatsoever that anyone has received God's Holy Spirit. For God's Spirit is LOVE! Demons *deceive!*

COMMENT: There is *NO* statement or example

in the SCRIPTURES THAT SHOW ONE MUST SPEAK IN *TONGUES* TO *PROVE* HE HAS RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT of God.

All we have to do now is just ask God to give us the HOLY SPIRIT if we have not yet received it. YOU NEED NOT PLEAD AND BEG AND AGONIZE FOR God to give you this greatest of all gifts. God needs no begging! The Holy Spirit is here—and GOD tells us in His Word He is more WILLING TO GIVE US THIS GIFT than we are to give bread to our hungry children! (Luke 11:13).

The diabolically inspired idea that man *has* the priceless Holy Spirit of salvation if only he goes through the motions of being baptized and speaks an "unknown tongue" of unintelligible gibberish, persists through the efforts of Satan. SATAN DELUDES MAN INTO THINKING HE IS SAVED WHEN HE IS NOT. The "Unknown Tongues" procedure thereby TEACHES REAL REPENTANCE and *true* baptism—the *true* desire to bury the old sinful self—and REAL OBEDIENCE, are NOT NECESSARY. DO NOT BE DELUDED! You could lose your salvation by believing such!

This concludes the subject of "tongues." Now let's understand another erroneous concept regarding baptism—*baptism with fire.* Are you ready?

The Baptism With FIRE

John the Baptist, speaking of Christ, said: "He . . . shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with *fire*" (Mat. 3:11).

PEOPLE just DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE ASKING FOR WHEN they SEEK "the BAPTISM WITH *FIRE*"! Let us understand!

1. Just what did John the Baptist prophesy concerning "baptism with fire"? Mat. 3:11.

2. To whom was John speaking? Mat. 3:5-6. Are we to assume from this that all Jerusalem and all Judea, and all this region was righteous, or at least repentant and seeking salvation?

COMMENT: Not at all! The whole population came in great crowds to see John—mostly out of *curiosity!*

3. Did John baptize *all* of this group who came to him? Let us see. Read Mat. 3:7-8. What is to be the ultimate fate of the TREE—ONE who has NOT TRULY REPENTED and shown forth the "fruits"— proof in the lives they lead—of true repentance? Verse 10 and last word of verse 11.

COMMENT: John was speaking to the *unrepentant* hypocritical Pharisees whom he *refused* to baptize, as well as to those who did repent and whom he *baptized.* So notice carefully that *some* of those there to whom John spoke—the repentant— were to be *baptized* with the *Holy Spirit* later. But that the others—the *UNREPENTANT* there—were AWAITING THE WRATH TO COME, which SHALL BURN THEM WITH—BAPTIZE THEM INTO—A *FIERY* DEATH (verse 11, last word)! This fire is the ULTIMATE FATE OF THE WICKED, who shall be cast into the LAKE OF *FIRE*—THIS EARTH BURNING UP—which is the second and *FINAL* DEATH (Rev. 21:8).

4. Did John also compare the EVIL to CHAFF? How did He say He would separate them from the good, so they could be burned? Mat. 3:12.

COMMENT: At the final judgment Christ's fan is to be in His hand. With it He will purge His floor. Of what? Of chaff which He will *fan away* —remove. CHRIST will gather His WHEAT INTO the GARNER—the Kingdom of God. Then He will REMOVE the CHAFF BY *fire.* That is the fate of the chaff—UNQUENCHABLE *FIRE!*

COMMENT: Those who believe Christians should seek this "baptism with fire" erroneously believe the "floor" of Matthew 3:12 represents the life of the individual Christian. They say Christ will purge such a one's life of sin by fanning up the flames with the fan in His hand thus burning out the "dross"—the chaff—from one's life, thus leaving only the good part of the man—the wheat. *But* that is merely *man's* interpretation read into it! We see that this is *not* at all the obvious meaning as *interpreted* by the *Scriptures!*

5. Did Jesus compare the EVIL to TARES? —weeds which are a menace to the good? What are Jesus' own words concerning His gathering of HIS WHEAT—THE GOOD—and the burning of the tares — the evil? Mat. 13:30. Also scan quickly the rest of this parable, beginning with verse 24. Did Jesus elaborate on what the symbols of this parable represent? Mat. 13:36-42.

COMMENT: "His [God's] floor" in Matthew 3:12 is the same as "His field" of Matthew 13:24—both are this earth. "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his *field.*" But while he slept, the enemy, the devil, came and sowed tares—sinners. Now He lets both the wheat and the tares (the chaff) —saints and sinners—GROW TOGETHER in his field—his floor (this earth)—UNTIL the HARVEST. THEN He will SEND the ANGELS TO *BAPTIZE* THE TARES—THE UNREPENTANT CHAFF — WITH *FIRE* THAT BURNS THEM UP; but the wheat—the saved —are gathered into His garner which represents His Kingdom.

The expressions used in this parable are almost identical to those John used in addressing the group containing the repentant people and the unrepentant Pharisees and Sadducees. Before John were gathered the children of the devil, and also some of those to be heirs of salvation.

COMMENT: Surely that settles it. John the Baptist was speaking to both those ultimately to receive salvation and to the unrepentant sin-

ners. When he said Christ shall baptize "you," the "you" included *both* groups. THE REPENTANT HE would BAPTIZE WITH HIS SPIRIT—THE OTHERS WITH *FIRE* AT the time of the FINAL JUDGMENT! You do not want baptism with fire, do you!!

Baptism for the DEAD

Another false "baptismal" DOCTRINE is that of Baptism for the Dead. It, like infant baptism, has a clear history of descending FROM PAGANISM. It is widely practiced and taught by one large denomination. Its members have themselves "baptized" for dead relatives and friends who died unbaptized. This custom of this church is BASED ON their *MISREPRESENTATION* OF I CORINTHIANS 15:29. What is the fallacy of this "baptism"? Let's learn the plain truth.

First notice how this custom crept into the professing Christian world.

HISTORY SHOWS that THE HERETIC MARCION, about 150 A.D. INTRODUCED an idea of his own—THE PRACTICE of baptism of the living for the dead. Chrysostom describes the procedure as follows:

"When a catechumen [one just starting to learn so-called "Christianity"] dies, they conceal a living person under the bed of the departed. Then they stand before the dead, and ask the dead person whether or not he is willing to be baptized. Instead of the dead, who is unable to answer, the person under the bed replies in the affirmative. Whereupon they baptize him instead of the deceased, and thus make quite a farce of the whole matter. Such power has Satan over the minds of foolish men. And if you complain of this transaction, they appeal to the words of the Apostle Paul, who speaks of being 'Baptized for the dead' " (Hom. xl in I Cor. by Chrysostom).

Now let's learn the truth!

1. Can the dead possibly be aware of someone being baptized on their behalf? Eccles. 9:5, 10. Does GOD COMMAND that we AVOID religious CEREMONY with or *FOR* THE DEAD? Isa. 8:19.

In this particular sect those living persons who are baptized *for* the dead ACTUALLY BELIEVE THEY'RE BEING BAPTIZED *FOR* (on the behalf of) the FLITTING "IMMORTAL SOULS" OF THEIR unconverted FRIENDS or relatives! Such baptism is supposed to automatically *save* those "souls" and send them straight to Heaven! *How strange!* HOW FOOLISH!

But we have already clearly proved BY SCRIPTURE that the doctrines of the immortal soul and that of men going to heaven are of Satanically inspired pagan origin, and not from God's Word! With this knowledge alone, the *man*-made doctrine of vicarious baptism crumbles!

COMMENT: Baptism is for the *living, not* the *dead!* Only the *living* can *repent* and repentance is a *prior condition* to baptism. The DEAD ARE DEAD — they "KNOW NOT ANYTHING"!

Now, UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL *REALLY* MEANS WHEN HE SPEAKS OF "BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD" in I Corinthians 15:29.

2. Do Christians have any *hope* of a future resurrection if Christ had not been resurrected? I Cor. 15:16-19, 32. But don't verses 3-8, 20 prove Christ was resurrected and therefore that *we* can have *hope* of being *resurrected* too?

COMMENT: The subject of the ENTIRE 15TH CHAPTER OF I CORINTHIANS IS the CHRISTIAN'S *HOPE OF* the RESURRECTION.

3. Exactly what does Paul say about "baptism for the dead"? I Cor. 15:29.

COMMENT: This verse is not correctly translated from the original inspired Greek. Paul is *not* talking about being BAPTIZED "in the place of" the dead, or "in behalf of" the dead, or "*FOR*" THE DEAD. The inspired GREEK WORD TRANSLATED "*FOR*" IS *HUPER. HUPER* IS A VAGUE WORD — HAVING SEVERAL MEANINGS: "above, over, instead of, for the realization of, for the *hope of*"—TOO MANY MEANINGS TO ACCURATELY CHOOSE FROM. Therefore, the CONTEXT OF the *ENTIRE CHAPTER* MUST DETERMINE the *ACTUAL* MEANING OF THE WORD as Paul intended! Here is the result:

As one proof of the resurrection, Paul cites in verse 29 the example of those who were baptized, symbolizing their *hope* in the *resurrection.* He is actually asking the question 'why be baptized *if* the dead rise not?' Therefore, since Paul is speaking of the *hope* of the resurrection in the context of chapter 15, the Greek word "HUPER" SHOULD BE TRANSLATED "FOR THE *HOPE OF.*" The verse then should properly read: "Else what shall they do which are baptized *for the hope of the dead,* if the dead rise not at all? ~~WHY ARE THEY THEN BAPTIZED FOR THE~~ *HOPE OF* THE DEAD?"

What is the hope of the dead? THE RESURRECTION! In verse 29, Paul is writing about baptism which illustrates the *hope* of the *resurrection!* ~~BAPTISM~~ — arising out of a watery "grave"— is ~~a SYMBOL~~ of the HOPE of the *dead,* the HOPE *of a future resurrection* which they had when they were alive. To SURRENDER ONE'S LIFE TO CHRIST now, to CRUCIFY the SELF NOW, to BE *BAPTIZED*—ALL this is FOOLISH *UNLESS* there is HOPE THEREBY OF A RESURRECTION!

This VERSE has absolutely NOTHING TO DO WITH the false doctrine of BAPTISM IN PLACE OF OR "FOR" the UNBAPTIZED DEAD! The Holy Spirit-inspired New Testa-

ment Church did *not* practice this custom! And the Apostle Paul *did not* teach it!

AUTHORITY to Administer Baptism

WHO is authorized to ADMINISTER baptism? It is important to know.

1. Are THOSE who are SENT FORTH BY CHRIST — by His CHURCH — the ones He commands and gives authority to do baptizing? Mat. 28:18-19. Did CHRIST previously AUTHORIZE HIS DISCIPLES to BAPTIZE *FOR* HIM? John 4:1-2.

COMMENT: Jesus commissioned His disciples to baptize *for* Him—BY HIS AUTHORITY.

COMMENT: PAUL baptized very few! He HAD OTHERS DO IT for Christ. He was the called minister by whom Christ carried the gospel to the Gentiles—through whom Christ, as head of the Church, ruled the churches which had been raised up by the preaching of Paul and the YOUNG MEN he had taught and SENT OUT under his direction. Paul did not consider it important or essential that he, personally, baptize all those being converted under the ministry God carried on through his supervision. "CHRIST SENT ME NOT TO BAPTIZE," PAUL SAID.

Many, today, being converted under the ministry God is carrying on through the supervision of Herbert W. Armstrong, seem to think it is important that Mr. Armstrong baptize them. But, as in the days of Paul, there is a DANGER that some PEOPLE may begin LOOKING TOO MUCH TO the person of the HUMAN INSTRUMENT GOD is USING, INSTEAD OF looking TO CHRIST — the HEAD OF the CHURCH OF GOD.

The principle to REMEMBER is that IT is *CHRIST* WHO is BAPTIZING YOU! The MAN WHO PUTS YOU UNDER the water is MERELY PERFORMING this PHYSICAL ACT *FOR* CHRIST, in His stead—BY HIS AUTHORITY.

Consider that it is *Christ* who is baptizing you by a *HUMAN* INSTRUMENT who has been COMMISSIONED BY *HIS* CHURCH! And even if His human instrument turns out to be imperfect, remember all humans are imperfect, and that the baptism was *done for*, and *in the name of* the only One who ever was perfect. And since it was in reality done by Christ, it should never be done again.

What YOU Should DO

Thousands have come to realize they are receiving the truth and message of God through this work and the *Ambassador* College Bible Correspondence Course. They are beginning to REALIZE that the RADIO CHURCH OF GOD IS GOD'S TRUE CHURCH on earth—the *ONLY* CHURCH that is preaching Christ's *true* Gospel to the world.

But they have never thought of actually *doing* very much about it.

If we are the servants of the Most High God, then should you not FOLLOW AND OBEY our teachings and example AS YOU SEE AND PROVE it is ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE? Yes, you should APPLY this and other LESSONS MORE LITERALLY and PERSONALLY IN YOUR OWN LIFE!

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: "BE YE FOLLOWERS of me even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). The Greek word here literally means "IMITATE." You need to imitate the EXAMPLE OF Jesus CHRIST AND of GOD'S MINISTERS. But unless the HOLY SPIRIT is abiding WITHIN your mind, you will not be completely willing to obey new and deeper spiritual truths as you come to learn and understand them! Instead, your carnal mind will want to automatically rebel and go contrary to God's word. Remember this!

Sad it is but true, you may have never been counseled with by one of God's *true* ministers about REAL CONVERSION AND BAPTISM. You may still have doubts about a previous baptism. YOU NEED BE SURE! **Every year, Ambassador College sends out nation-wide baptizing tours to personally visit and counsel with hundreds of people from coast to coast who have written in requesting a personal interview with God's ministers.** *These people who are visited* KNOW *this is the work of God's true Church today.* And they REALIZE the IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE MINISTERS of Jesus Christ. These ministers are doing His work of preaching the message of the Kingdom as a *last witness* to this earth.

If you have truly repented of your sins and realize the vital necessity of this personal contact and guidance of the true servants of Jesus Christ regarding being baptized, and other matters — not just having seen the "argument" of the doctrine of baptism proven to you — **then send your name and address immediately to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109. If you live overseas, then send your name to our London office, B.C.M., Ambassador, London, W.C.1, or to Box 345, North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia—whichever is closest, addressing it to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.** He is pastor-general of the Churches of God with world headquarters here at Pasadena, California.

You need to fully realize the VITAL importance of coming to a real conversion now! *Don't put it off any longer!* For "the night cometh, when *no man* can work"!

Remember, God does not do His work through false ministers! Your eternal salvation is at stake.