

The Good News

The National Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. III, NUMBER 9

OCTOBER, 1953

Does GOD Have a Headquarters Church Today?

Where is the central church of divine authority to which scattered members and local churches should look for TRUE DOCTRINE or to settle disputed points?

by Herman L. Hoeb

INCREASING numbers are now being added by God to His Church. The establishment of local congregations is steadily increasing. God's church is growing.

BUT it is inevitable that with such wonderful growth, there should also be new problems. Decisions must be made to settle questions and confirm the faith of new converts.

God's church is a *holy* church. No person can "join" it. We are inducted into it by God through receiving and being led by the Holy Spirit. In God's church there is not to be confusion, antagonism, or quarrelling. "For God is NOT the author of confusion, but of peace, as in *all churches* of the saints" (I Cor. 14:33).

Although we who have been truly added by God have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us and guiding us, yet we are human. We still have to master and overcome our fleshly minds and passions. We have not yet attained perfection in character, which is our goal. With human nature striving against God's Spirit in us, it is inevitable that questions and controversies will arise—that disputes would flare into bitter contentions unless God should provide a way to preserve the church in unity.

Problems Are Inevitable

Paul wrote that "there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (I Cor. 11:19). There will always arise contentions between those who have not totally yielded themselves to God and those brethren who are fully obedient to the faith. Almost the entire New Testament is devoted to the way to handle these disputes, to bring about harmony in the spirit of love, that the work of carrying the gospel to all the world may be completed through the arduous zeal of ALL the members of the church of God.

In order that no disharmony should develop today, let us notice how Jesus governed the church of God at its inception in 31 A.D. Remember that *Jesus Christ RULES our church today* in the same manner as He ruled it from the beginning. He does not change in conduct. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Church at Jerusalem a "Headquarters Church"

The church of God at Jerusalem was a "headquarters church" to whom all looked for TRUTH! Other local churches

often became confused. Controversies and disputes on certain points entered. It was to the Jerusalem church, *which had God's authority*, that they all turned.

Let's notice it.

In Acts 15:1 and 2, we read of a dispute that arose in the local churches in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. In their midst were Paul and Barnabas, both of great authority in the church. Yet to whom did the brethren turn in order to settle the dispute? TO THE HEADQUARTERS CHURCH — JERUSALEM — WHERE THE OTHER APOSTLES AND ELDERS WERE GATHERED!

At Jerusalem the question would be considered and *decided*—why? Because the brethren *knew* that Jesus had given special *authority* to His ministers who were at the headquarters or mother church—Jerusalem.

Jesus conferred upon His representatives the keys of the kingdom of God and authority to guide the church through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They could "bind," or *forbid* certain things; and they could "loose," or *permit* certain things. In Matthew 18:18, Jesus gives his ministers the authority to make *binding decisions*, based on the revelation of God and under the *inspiration* of the Holy Spirit, in order to preserve the

unity of the church in *love and truth!*

This explains the reason that the brethren mentioned in the book of Acts turned to the mother church at Jerusalem to settle their questions and disputes. They knew Jesus had promised to guide his apostles into all truth (John 16:13). The apostles had been thoroughly trained and fitted for their responsibilities through the personal correction, reproof and instruction of Jesus.

The apostles in turn had thoroughly instructed the elders and the congregation at Jerusalem in the way of truth. The church at Jerusalem was kept *pure* by the constant admonition and correction of the elders and apostles *so that it might be the example to all other churches*. Christians, like all human beings, need to learn *by example*. In New Testament times the churches in Gentile nations "became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14); and the churches in Judaea were to pattern themselves after the headquarters church, the church at Jerusalem.

The congregation at Jerusalem, recognizing this responsibility, acted in her capacity. The apostles and elders, with the whole church, made the decisions and they were binding on all other churches (Acts 15:22). They sent letters to the various local congregations explaining what "seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us" (Acts 15:28). Again, in a previous situation, when it was known that certain individuals had preached in Antioch and news of "these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem . . . they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch" (Acts 11:22).

Notice how the Jerusalem church, acting in her capacity, watched over, corrected, and even *intervened* in the affairs of her daughter churches.

No other church could claim this right which God had conferred on the Jerusalem church alone.

The Example at Ephesus

Let us call to mind the example of the church at Ephesus, where Paul had spent three whole years instructing and training the elders and the brethren. He *knew* even at his departure that false teachers and disloyal elders would soon "arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:30).

This is exactly what happened. Ephesus, and all the local churches in the surrounding Roman province of Asia, were soon turned against Paul *personally* by false teachers and *disloyal* elders who sought personal power and prestige themselves (II Timothy 1:15). The

church was torn by divisions and controversies. It was *not* the example after which all the other churches were to pattern their conduct. It was not the central or mother church from which the gospel of the kingdom or government of God was sent forth into the world.

Jerusalem Church Was Headquarters

The Jerusalem church was the mother church especially because it was the headquarters from which the apostles carried on their work of evangelizing the world. It was to the Jerusalem church that the apostles and Paul often returned after completing their journeys.

Jerusalem remained the mother church during the entire apostolic period, when the gospel was first carried to the known world. The apostolic church was given TWO 19-year cycles in which to spread the gospel of the Kingdom to the nations. During the first cycle, its spread was confined to Asia; but at the beginning of the second cycle, God opened a great DOOR for the spread of the gospel into Macedonia *in Europe!*

The meaning of this DOOR is defined in II Corinthians 2:12-13. "I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a DOOR was opened to me of the Lord"—a means to preach the gospel abroad. The gospel then spread until 69 A.D.—during the second 19-year cycle. In that year the organized power of the church to preach the gospel abroad was stopped. The central church at Jerusalem was forced to flee immediately before the final siege of the city by the Roman armies.

Today's Church Prophesied

Now, just before the second coming of Christ to restore peace to this war-weary world, God has again given His church two 19-year cycles in which to carry the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world in fulfillment of Jesus' commission. Just as the early church was granted two 19-year cycles FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION OF JESUS TO HEAVEN, so now He has granted His church two 19-year cycles PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO THIS EARTH in which this gospel must finally encircle the globe.

Jesus gave a message for His church today (Rev. 3:7-13), a prophetic letter telling precisely what we would be accomplishing at this very moment. We are doing the *same work* as the early true church—carrying the gospel of the kingdom to the world. We have less human power and strength, we are smaller in number than that early church; but we have the same power of GOD, and God has opened before us a DOOR—the door of radio and the print-

ing press—which multiplies our power to reach today's increased world population.

The first 19-year cycle has already passed, and we are now spreading the gospel abroad to Europe and finally the entire world in this last 19-year cycle.

What wonderful and momentous times!

BUT, as the work of the church progresses, and as new converts are being added constantly and new local congregations established, *where* is the central church to which the scattered members and church congregations should look for TRUE DOCTRINE, or to settle disputed points?

The Answer Made Plain

The church at Jerusalem was the mother church because it was the headquarters for carrying out the gospel. At that church were those who were especially called and trained by Jesus, who were filled and led by the Holy Spirit. That church was *not* torn by factions and false doctrines, by disputes and controversies. In its midst was the main body of ministers to whom Jesus had committed the authority to make *binding decisions!*

In our day, when the same gospel is being preached, *there is again a headquarters church, PROVEN BY ITS FRUITS*—a church to whom *you* scattered brethren can turn in times of doubt and controversy, a church to whom God has committed *the authority* to make *binding decisions* in order to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love (Eph. 4:3).

This central church is at PASADENA!

From the church at Pasadena emanates the broadcasts and the magazines that go to the world. It is at this church that the main body of ministers either constantly remain or continually return. At Pasadena is a church *not* torn by strife and division, but one thoroughly instructed in the faith, composed of faithful ministers and members. At Pasadena there is the Spirit of God—there is LOVE and PEACE—there is complete agreement, harmony, unity, under the leadership of Christ.

The church at Pasadena, in exercising its God-given AUTHORITY as the headquarters church, has already made *binding decisions* which had dissolved the doubts and problems of many brethren and even of local congregations.

It is marvellous how God guided and directed His church through the past years. Having begun the work of spreading the gospel in 1934, in Oregon, Jesus Christ caused the headquarters to be moved to Pasadena in 1947. Many of the most faithful brethren came to Pasadena

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Who Should Young People Date?

Is it best for your children to date unbelievers? Here is the BIBLE answer to a crucial problem our young people have to face.

by Roderick C. Meredith

DATING is a custom which has been practiced, in differing ways, since the beginning of history. If rightly directed, it can be a natural and helpful means of enabling young people to become better acquainted with the members of the opposite sex.

It is God who has made us male and female. It is God who created sex and ordained marriage. God *intended* that young people come to know each other, fall in love, and marry. Therefore, a true Christian should have no "prudish" feelings about the varied aspects of courtship and marriage. But he *should* determine how to glorify God in all these things. It is God, after all, who made us male and female.

Dating Necessary

The Bible does not enjoin any particular method of acquainting young people with one another, or of bringing about a marriage. Even in the Bible history, customs have varied in this matter. In many instances, in ancient times, the parents of a young couple arranged for their marriage. The laws in Exodus and Deuteronomy indicate that men often selected their own wives, and courted them as they do today. Consequently, our present custom of courtship and marriage is certainly not wrong, and it seems to be the best practice among modern peoples who are not living in large family groups as in patriarchal times.

Dating, then, is a very necessary custom not only socially, but to enable young people to make a wise choice of a life partner. It is a practice which tends to broaden social interests, to develop personality, and to give that needed experience and companionship with *many* members of the opposite sex.

No one should date as though he were "looking for a wife." It should be a natural means of fellowship with the realization that some day a life partner will be discovered, and that the practice of dating will give that experience with the opposite sex which should serve as a valuable guide in avoiding hasty decisions based upon "infatuation," and not real love.

God's Warning

Since dating is a form of intimate fellowship which may lead to marriage, Christians should exercise great care in whom they date.

Christians are COMMANDED by God: "Be ye *not* unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14). We are to AVOID anything which would cause us to *fellowship* or to be "yoked together" with unbelievers.

Marriage is certainly the closest form of being "yoked together." And dating is a kind of close *fellowship* which usually precedes and may lead to marriage.

Is God trying to impose His harsh will on you when He *forbids* this kind of fellowship?

NO! This instruction is a great BLESSING designed to help you live the happy and abundant life that God intends (John 10:10). True Christianity is a *way of life*. It is the *way* that will bring greatest happiness at this time, and *eternal life* in God's kingdom. It is the way of *surrender* and *obedience* to God and His commands, and of spiritually growing each day more like God that we may finally be *born* into His family and kingdom.

But an unconverted husband or wife is going to oppose and fight the *way of life* God reveals. Why? "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7).

If you marry an unconverted person, *you are tying yourself to ball and chain* for the rest of your *natural life*! God wants to *spare* you from such a mistake!

The Bible Principle

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible shows that God's people are to remain separate from this world. In Deut. 7:1-4, God commanded the Israelites *not* to marry the heathen, "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods" (v. 4). Joshua warned that if they married the heathen, it would be as scourges in their sides, and thorns in their eyes (Joshua 23:10-16).

I Kings 11:1 shows that King Solomon's foreign wives turned away his heart from worshipping God. The Bible shows *time and again* that marrying a carnal, unconverted person will lead to retribution, misery, and may well prove to be an *obstacle* to prevent you from serving God as you should.

Many of you whom we have met on the baptizing tours can testify to this

fact. How many times you have wished that your mate were converted so that you could share your lives more fully. What a wonderful BLESSING it is when both the husband and wife are converted. All of you who are blessed in this way should get down on your knees *every day* and thank God for it.

A converted couple can encourage one another in prayer, in Bible study, in keeping the Sabbath, in rejoicing together during God's festivals. They can share all the little things in life in a way that is impossible when one party is unconverted.

True Christianity involves the things you eat, the places you go, your interests and hobbies—your *entire life*. God intended that a husband and wife be a *help* to each other in all things. That is why He commands: "Be ye *not* unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

What About Dating Unbelievers

Knowing the definite command of God not to marry unbelievers, what about dating them?

As we have mentioned, dating is a very intimate sort of fellowship which may possibly lead to marriage. Should you *tempt* yourself by dating those whom you know that God *forbids* you to marry?

You should NOT!

And regardless of possible marriage, a Christian is not to have fellowship with unrighteousness (II Cor. 6:14). Unrighteousness is simply sin—*breaking God's commandments*.

In Ephesians 5:1-17, the apostle Paul shows that Christians are not to be partakers with the children of this world in their wrong ways. He exhorts: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (v. 11).

Paul wrote to the saints at Rome to present their bodies a "living sacrifice" to God and to "be *not* conformed to this world: but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:1-2).

If you are seeking God's will and His guidance in your every thought and action, you will find it a GREAT HINDRANCE to be closely associated with a carnal-minded person—whether on dates, or in any other form of fellowship.

There will always be the tendency to let them *pull you away* from obeying and serving your Creator. They will con-

The Good News

The national magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
 scattered abroad, and
 reporting on campus happenings
 at Ambassador College*

VOL. III NUMBER 9

Herbert W. Armstrong
Publisher and Editor
 Herman L. Hoch
Executive Editor
 Roderick C. Meredith
Associate Editor

Address communications to the Editor,
 Box 111, Pasadena, California.

Copyright, October, 1953
 By the Radio Church of God

tinually be urging you to break God's Sabbath, to eat unclean meats, to attend the wrong kind of movies or spend your time in night clubs and other *wrong* kinds of amusement.

A carnal-minded companion will exert just the *opposite* kind of influence from what you should have, IF you love God more than this world, its carnal people, and their *wrong* ways.

Draw the Line

James tells us, "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the *enemy* of God" (James 4:4). As a Christian, put God *first* in your life. Have the courage to *draw the line* on whom you will, and will not, date.

You are to have *no fellowship* with unbelievers.

Who is an unbeliever?

Christ said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Mat. 12:30). A "believer" is not merely one who believes in Christ as Saviour. Jesus himself prophesied that many would come *in His name*, preaching about Him, and would *DECEIVE many* (Mat. 24:5).

A "believer" is one who believes in Christ and His message. Faith that is not *acted upon* is DEAD (James 2:26). Notice Acts 2:44, "And all that *believed* were together, and had all things in common." They had *acted upon* their belief, and were sharing the material things with one another during their stay in Jerusalem.

One who *knows* much of the truth, and yet *refuses* to obey it is not to be regarded as a true believer at all. Such

people are often more slick and clever in *misleading others* than one who is in total ignorance of God's precious truths.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:3). One who really *knows* God will *believe* that His way is right and will obey Him. People who refuse to do this are *not* believers. Therefore, *you should have no regular dates or fellowship with them.*

Use Wisdom

Once you understand the *principle* of having no fellowship with the world which might weaken your faith, you can apply this to any case which arises.

For instance, there might be a rare occasion when a converted young person would be visiting in another city and a date might be arranged for him by friends who didn't understand his views. In such a case, he should carefully survey the circumstances. If he knew that the date wouldn't involve participating in any wrong form of amusement, and would *not* involve him in any future dates of this nature, he might

accept in order not to offend others. This would not be a *regular* association or *fellowship* with unconverted persons. But even then, the Christian involved should *carefully avoid* a recurrence of this practice, and ask God's guidance in the whole matter.

To cite another example, it would be permissible to date *occasionally* someone whom you felt quite sure by the "fruits" was being called to repentance and obedience to God. You might have good reason to believe that you were helping such a person learn more about God. But here too, be extremely careful that the association is not *regular fellowship*, and that the other party is not just "putting on" in order to date you. If you are deceived into marrying such a person it may *wreck* your life!

Also, some of you who have been married and divorced may wish to date even though you know that it would be **ADULTERY** to marry again. Common sense should tell you that you are playing with *dynamite*! You are putting a very *serious temptation* in your own path, and in the path of whoever you date. If you value *eternal life*, you will not date except under very rare circumstances or until you become free to marry again through the death of your husband or wife. You may need God's Spirit to master yourself, but His power is without limit!

Your Children

If you are converted and your children are not, should you force them to associate only with converted children?

In the first place, *very few* people are really converted until the ages of eighteen to twenty years. You should *not* deprive your child of the opportunity of developing a balanced personality and interests through association with others.

The *ideal* thing would be to have your children in association with the children of other converted brethren. Although still unconverted, the children would at least have an easier time learning the truth about pagan holidays and other worldly practices. It would certainly be a *better* means of fellowship. All of you who are able to move near the tabernacle and school at Gladewater, Texas, will certainly be blessed with this environment for your children.

But the parent's responsibility is to "train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). While he is young, teach him God's truth in a reasonable and tactful manner.

But after your child reaches high school age, if he or she is bound to have a "fling" and date worldly fellows or

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RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO ALL OF EUROPE:
 RADIO LUXEMBOURG—4:15 P.M.
 Thursdays Luxembourg time.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:
 XERF—1570 on dial (extreme top of dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Central Standard time.

XEG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.

XEIO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 Mountain Standard time.)

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST:
 XERB—50,000 watts—1090 on dial —7:00 P.M. every night.
 XEDM—1580 on dial—6:30 P.M. Sundays.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—9:30 A.M. Sundays.

KXL—Portland—10,000 watts. 750 on dial—2:30 P.M., Sundays.

KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M., Sundays.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. Sundays.

KVSM—San Francisco—1050 on dial —4:00 P.M. Sundays.

OTHER STATIONS
 WAIT—Chicago—820 on dial—1:00 P.M. Sundays.

KMAC—San Antonio—650 on dial —7:00 P.M. Sundays.

Should You Attend Church on Sundays?

Once we have been converted and put into God's church, should we continue to meet with our acquaintances on Sunday, or send our children to Sunday School?

by Herman L. Hoeb

ON THE recent baptizing tours, it has come to our attention that one of the most important problems that new converts face is *how to separate from the world*—its foolish practices and religious customs.

Many recent converts have been assembling in churches of this world on Sunday morning. They have sent their children to Sunday school because of friends or relatives. It seems to them that they ought to continue to assemble. "We might be able to convert our friends," it is usually reasoned. "Besides, our children DO need personal instruction."

But is this the right way to win friends or instruct our children?

Christians to be Separate

Truly converted Christians belong to God's church, not a church of this world, organized by men, teaching false doctrines that seem right to the carnal mind. Let us notice the instructions of Jesus and Paul.

Christ said: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your *good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 5:16). He did not say "hear your arguments," but *see your GOOD WORKS*,—living *God's way of life*.

We are to let the world see that we have the *love of God* in our hearts—which means our *keeping ALL* the commandments (I John 5:3)—that we have *no part* with this present lawless society. *We are to be in the world, but not OF the world* (John 17:14). The only way we can let the world understand that God's way is right and that this civilization, its politics, its society—yes, even its religious organizations, are wrong, is to be *SEPARATE* from this world. If we take part in worldly politics and social functions, if we assemble for religious purposes on Sunday—which God *forbids* as *SIN*—we are not letting our light shine in this dark world.

WE MUST APPEAR AS LIGHTS FROM *above*, separate and pure from the errors of this age, observing ALL the com-

mandments in humble obedience to God's authority.

World Has Its Churches

There are hundreds of organized denominations throughout the land. These churches are *not* the true Church of God, even though some of them appropriate that name to themselves. They are the churches of *this world*, this order or society, under the sway of the *god of this world!*

This explains why Paul admonished us: "Be *not* unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness . . . Wherefore *come out from among them*, and be *SEPARATE*, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Cor. 6:14-18).

Notice that it is impossible to have *true* fellowship with unbelievers. How can two walk together, except they be agreed? But the members of this world's churches do not agree with God; they teach unrighteousness, which is the breaking of God's law. They condone divorce and remarriage, they reject the gospel of the kingdom of God, they refuse God's sabbath and instead assemble on Sunday—a day on which God commands us to work!

The sermons preached from the pulpits of this land on Sunday mornings are not of God, but of *human* origin. We are *not* to go to them for instruction in the word of God.

Send your children to Sunday School? Hear what God's Word commands you: "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge" (Pro. 19:27). Observe that Solomon, in this verse, wisely advises us not to listen to preachers on Sunday morning who teach against the faith delivered once for all time to the true church of God.

It is inevitable that if you continue to assemble and to listen to false teaching, that you will soon become confused, then doubts will enter your mind, and

soon you will be overthrown. God will then *REJECT* you because *you* have rejected Him. This is more serious than you may have first believed.

Assemble with Other Converts Only

Instead of assembling with the unconverted, with whom we can have no real spiritual fellowship, we are admonished not to forsake "the assembling of *OURSELVES* together, as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25).

It does not say we are to assemble with the world, but with *OURSELVES—those who are truly converted*. God has *not* convoked weekly religious meetings on Sunday morning; neither are we to assemble on Saturday with a carnally minded sect which sees the *argument* about the Sabbath but which follows the visions of a woman "prophetess" and rejects the gospel of *the kingdom of God*. God is not in these churches. They merely assemble themselves together, by their own authority and not by the command of God's ministers.

Our Heavenly Father knows that most of His people are scattered, as salt of the earth. Many do not have places to assemble each week. When there is no trained minister with whom you brethren can assemble, then God does not expect you to assemble on the weekly Sabbath.

But there are special times in which God *does* want you to meet with other brethren, and those are at the annual festivals when hundreds gather to hear the *TRUTH* and enjoy their only fellowship with other converts.

But beside the annual festivals, you can hear the truth *each day* of the week through the power of radio, as Mr. Armstrong comes into your home to speak directly to you. Then throughout each month of the year you are receiving two magazines to assist you in your studies and Bible reading. What a marvellous opportunity to acquire an understanding of God's way.

No, there just wouldn't be time to assemble with the unconverted, if you
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A Headquarters Church Today?

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dena, together with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. Here at Pasadena, Ambassador College was founded to provide adequate ministerial help in spreading the good news of the kingdom—the *government and rule of God*. Already seven ministers have been ordained, most of whom constantly remain here because of their duties. They have all been thoroughly trained in the TRUTH.

Instead of having confusion, as we find in so many denominations, God's way is a way of love and order, a way of obedience to His will as He reveals it in the Scriptures—His revelation to man. It is *the government of God*, not the will of men or of a dictator professing to bear God's authority. Peter explains God's rule in the church very simply: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, BUT BEING ENSAMPLES TO THE FLOCK" (I Peter 5:2-3).

Who Shall Determine Dates and Places?

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY: Consider, now, one concrete example.

Does God intend each individual member to decide where, when, and how *group activities* of the whole church shall be held? Or does Christ, the living HEAD of His Church, determine these things, and inspire the apostles and elders *whom HE has chosen* and installed in office, at His headquarters Church, to know His truth and set such dates, places, and ways of observance?

Jesus truly said we may KNOW people by their fruits—and we may know this answer by the fruits of experience.

As an illustration, just one of God's annual holy days falls on a day which must be calculated by COUNTING. All other holy days are set calendar days. But when we come to the very day which *pictures* our Church in this age as God's first fruits of salvation, and the symbol of the reception of His Holy Spirit within us—the day called "Pentecost," we are instructed to COUNT from a definite calendar day.

Are all people competent to make this calculation? Certainly God would not have each individual calculate it for himself *unless every individual is competent* to come to the right date!

The carnal-minded pagans from an early year after the dispersion of the headquarters Church from Jerusalem calculated this day always to fall on a

SUNDAY. The Roman Catholic Church adopted this calculation, and also the Protestant churches.

The Jews, whom God used in spite of their apostacies and errors to preserve His sacred calendar, have counted this day *from* the morrow after the first annual holy day, instead of from the morrow after the weekly Sabbath, as Israel did originally. Consequently the Jews count to a day which *always* falls on a set calendar day, just like all the others—the 6th Sivan. If they were correct, God would never have told us to "COUNT" to the day of Pentecost.

Some, today, begin the first day of the first month with the wrong new moon on certain years, and have ALL the holy days calculated one month astray.

Some, not knowing that the word "from" means "away out of," and in their ignorance of the English language absurdly supposing it to mean "beginning with," count only 49 days instead of 50. Others, not understanding the Hebrew language in which Lev. 23 was written and ignorant of the fact that the Hebrew "Sabbathon" means "weeks," and is so translated in the Jewish translation, count only 49 days to the "morrow after a Saturday," instead of counting 50 days to the morrow after the seventh WEEK. And these observe the same day observed by the devil's churches!

"Private Interpretation" Leads to Division

What are the FRUITS of this "private interpretation," by individuals whom God has *not* called as His instruments in ruling HIS CHURCH? The fruits are DIVISION, dissention, confusion, bad feeling, resentment, LOSS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! Those who have followed these practises have PROVED by the FRUITS of experience that *this is not God's way*.

JESUS CHRIST RULES HIS CHURCH! His Church must meet on the *right* day, and all on the SAME day, and the "place which the Eternal thy God shall choose." God does not rule thru individual lay members, but they are ruled BY Him *through* God's own chosen servants whom He has educated and trained as His leaders.

Such matters as deciding whether the Ten Commandments are binding today, whether the blood of Christ will, upon repentance and faith, remit our sins, must be *seen*, and understood by each individual personally—otherwise how could one *repent* of his transgressions if he did not know what that transgression consisted of; and how could he believe, unless convinced *in his own mind*, personally, of the efficacy of the blood of Christ?

Each individual is commanded to STUDY the Scriptures, so that he may *live by them* as a WAY OF LIFE. The truth is that most of God's children do not study the Bible enough.

But on all matters affecting the COLLECTIVE GROUP ACTION of the entire Church, *there can be no division*, or else the whole Church will be divided and a house divided against itself cannot stand! Therefore, God has placed GOVERNMENT in His Church to RULE in such matters, and to PUT OUT all such contentions and causes for divisions from His Church! In all such matters, and even many decisions affecting private conduct, God RULES in His Church, thru Jesus Christ the Head of His Church, and in turn thru the apostles and elders whom HE has called and trained thru experience and education for the office.

We are in the last days—the "TIME OF THE END"—when knowledge is being increased, and God is revealing hitherto hidden truths in His Word. It has taken time, and experience, for those whom God has called as His instruments in the rule of His Church to GROW to the fullness of such knowledge (II Pet. 3:18); and human reluctance to assume such authority, prior to the time God made us see it, has resulted in some sad experiences in the past.

God commands us (Eph. 4:27) not to give place to the devil, who deceives people into practises that produce confusion, and division which would KILL God's Church! The time has come when, seeing clearly what God has revealed, we must be obedient to Him. His Church must be rid entirely of contention, strife, or division! The time has come to FEAR GOD, and to TREMBLE before His Holy Word! The POWER of God was manifest in backing up the authority of His chosen apostles and elders by striking dead Ananias and Sapphira!

God's servants must act in humility and all love and patience, and in WISDOM, first knowing the will of God—but they must act, by God's power and authority!

The church at Pasadena is *your headquarters church*, and as her children, all the brethren scattered abroad should feel free to ask for the advice and counsel of her ministers and elder brethren. This is God's way to preserve love and harmony, to preserve the faith in purity, to preserve the TRUTH, among God's people. Through Christ as living HEAD of the Church, and from Pasadena headquarters, the government of God is administered with divine authority in rendering decisions, in binding or loosing, in ruling the churches of God in our time.

Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have discussed those problems pertaining directly to members of God's church.

Should You Spend Your Second Tithe at Home?

If for some unforeseen circumstance you are unable to attend the Feast of Tabernacles, what should you do with your second tithe? Many that we have met on the baptizing tours, and others by letters, have asked about this problem.

First, let us understand the purpose of the second tithe. God, in His Word, commands us to assemble at His set feasts. In order to make our attendance possible, God ordained that we set aside a second tithe to cover expense to and from the festival (Deut. 14:23-26; 16:13-15).

In ancient times, when travel expenses were of little consequence, the tithe was used to cover food expenses primarily. But today, since the purpose of the second tithe is to enable us to attend the festivals, much more of it has to be spent for transportation than for food.

Now let us notice *where* the second tithe was to be spent. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there . . . that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into money . . . and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose . . . and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice." (Deut. 14:22-27).

The second tithe—the tenth that God wants us to use, which is another and separate tenth from the first tithe that He reserves for Himself for the carrying out of the gospel—the second tithe we are to use to attend the festivals. But let us read further: "Thou mayest NOT eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine . . . but thou MUST eat them before the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter" (Deut. 12:17-18).

Here is a positive command *not* to use the second tithe at home if you are unable to attend. You *must* use it to enable you to attend the festivals at the

place which God chooses. If the money is spent for any other purpose, then you are breaking a command of God—you are not learning to fear His authority—and you are cheating yourself of the wonderful blessing of fellowship with others of like faith.

If for unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend the festivals, and if you are prosperous, it would be the right and brotherly duty to enable others to use your tithe. It can be sent to Pasadena, with an explanation that it is to enable others to attend the festival. But if you are like most of the brethren, not having many worldly goods, and a small income or none at all, and if you are unable to come to the festival, you should save it until the next year or for two years, if necessary, when you will then have enough to assemble where God has chosen to place His name. Meantime, you will be observing the festivals at home just as you would at the feast.

In many cases we try to aid the poorer brethren through the extra second tithe of those few who have more than enough. But only those who have faithfully saved their insufficient second tithe deserve the extra help. If you haven't tried to save your little, God can not deem you worthy of His extra assistance.

What Books Are Needed for Bible Study?

In the September issue of "The GOOD NEWS," we mentioned that God has led us to see that His ministry must provide the sturdy tools for a basic understanding of the Bible. However, we realize that there are a few books which you will find valuable to begin your Bible study. Even these few which we are recommending contain *human errors*.

Here is the list in the order of their usefulness:

Webster's Dictionary: The most essential book, second only to the Bible.

Cruden's Concordance: Necessary for locating every important passage of Scripture. Price \$3.00.

Rand McNally's *Current Events World Atlas*: This small atlas will help you locate places where prophecy is being fulfilled today! Price 50¢.

Smith's Bible Dictionary: One of the most helpful single-volume Bible dictionaries. Price \$3.00. It has a few errors.

A Harmony of the Gospels, by A. T.

Robertson: Mr. Armstrong has often used this book in preparing his radio sermons. It is highly useful in comparing the events recorded in the four gospels. Price \$3.00.

Halley's Pocket Bible Handbook: This small book of nearly 800 pages is jam-packed with helpful facts on obscure Old Testament texts and church history. It contains a miniature commentary, much of which is filled with common doctrinal errors. Price \$2.00.

Ancient History in Bible Light, by Dorothy Ruth Miller: An exceptional publication for more advanced study, containing very few basic errors. Price \$3.50.

Hurlbur's Historical Atlas of the Bible: A most practical atlas for thorough study of Old Testament and New Testaments. It has dozens of maps and pictures that make Bible reading simple, even for children. Price \$5.00.

Attend Church on Sundays?

(Continued from page 5)

really spent your time in listening to the truth on the "World Tomorrow," and in studying your Bible with the help of the magazines and the booklets, and in teaching your children regularly.

Of course, it would not be wrong if there is special reason to attend, occasionally, a worldly religious gathering as an outsider. To learn what others believe is sometimes necessary, but to listen to them as though they were God's representatives, to fellowship with the unconverted, or to worship God through their rituals is *sin*. You should *never* make a practice of going to religious services of this world.

"Come out from among them and be SEPARATE." You can't reform the churches, or convert those who are blinded to the truth; *it can't be done*.

Let us, instead, use our every opportunity to let the world see that we belong to His church, and that we are separate from the lawlessness of this world, and from its churches who defame the holy law of God, which brings us inward peace and happiness. Let us show the world that we know how to find the *time* and that we have the understanding to train our children properly at home. This is *God's way!*

Bad Example for Children

In connection with this is the practice of a number of newly converted brethren who have allowed their children to attend Sunday school. This is not the right kind of example for our children. How will they understand what is right when the parents explain the truth at home and then deny the

faith by sending their children to Sunday school to hear exactly the opposite.

It is the duty of you parents to teach your children at home. A good example of this I can cite from our recent baptizing tour. We met a wonderful lady who had solved the problem of child instruction very well. She studied with her children each day of the week. Then, since there was no local church which God had established, she spent an extra portion of the sabbath, not only in study, but also in *reading* the Bible to them. This impressed upon the minds of her children that the Sabbath was a special day, to be devoted to rest, prayer, worship, study and reading.

Many of you older brethren, and most of the newer converts, can profitably follow this shining example—and this lady and her children *are* shining examples in their community, respected by all for their good works. If any of you have difficulty in finding the time or acquiring the ability to teach your children, then you ought to kneel before God and ask him for wisdom, and begin to study *how* to attain this ability. It may take time and effort, but *God expects it of you*—whether fathers or mothers—if He has committed children to your care. *This is your most important parental duty!*

Special Helps for Children

(Editor's Note)

The Church is now actively at work planning *special helps* for you to use in teaching your children in your own home. One of our girl students has been making special preparation to speak on the radio program once a week, bringing approximately a seven-minute Bible-instruction talk *just for children*.

These talks are being written by one of our ordained ministers, with Mr. Armstrong's help and collaboration. They will be presented in a manner which radio experience has shown most effective in getting messages over to children, and in arousing and holding their interest, but they will be carefully prepared by God's called ministers, and the speaking done by a specially-trained, fully converted and consecrated young woman who has a very special love for and interest in your children in her heart. These talks will appear on a definite night or day of each week, so that at the regular time you can assemble your children before your radio each week. The time will be announced later.

Beside this, one of the elders of one of the churches, a nationally known artist whose work has appeared twice in several-page sections in "Life" magazine, is now devoting full time to preparing the first "Bible Story" book for children. The first book, to be published very soon, will illustrate in vivid picture form the story of Noah and the Ark, and the great Flood.

This first book is designed for smaller children, under nine. But it is planned to publish, later, continuous books showing powerfully in cartoon-strip style—(like the newspaper comic-strips, only these are not worldly "comics," but dynamic and fast-moving action pictures of the Message of the entire BIBLE)—the TRUTH of God's Word, and of the TRUE GOSPEL of Jesus Christ, made practical by tying it constantly to TODAY'S life, average family problems, and world conditions. There has never been anything like it.

We are planning to give you continuous and increasing HELP in teaching

your own children AT HOME, which is the Bible way for instructing children.

Who Should Young People Date?

(Continued from page 4)

girls, you may *prejudice* his mind against God if you are too overbearing about this. Use discretion as any intelligent parent should do, but don't expect your child to *act* converted when he is not. Just be sure he is in *decent* company, and then ask God to convert him in His time and way.

God has provided excellent means for converted young people to become acquainted with one another. This is through attending the annual festivals of God. We are to "rejoice" in these feasts, and they provide a wonderful opportunity and atmosphere for mixed fellowship. Also, giving your child the advantage of a college education at Ambassador College—*God's* college—may also prove a priceless blessing in the matter of finding a truly converted life partner. This is far more important than most parents realize.

The entire matter of dating, then, is to be approached by understanding and obeying *God's purpose* in making us male and female, and in ordaining marriage. A converted mate is commanded to love and remain faithful even to an unconverted husband or wife (I Cor. 7:10-14). But to those yet unmarried, God has blessed us with the knowledge that we MUST NOT marry unbelievers, but that we should choose a mate who will truly *help* us grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

The GOOD NEWS

Printed in the U.S.A.

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