

The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God





More About Our Cover...

The Richard David Armstrong Memorial Hall is the main classroom building of Ambassador College in England. This building—with these lovely formal gardens—forms the heart of the campus. Here we see students soaking up the sunshine on a bright summer day.

Read Mr. McNair's article giving the history and development of the British College and campus—an integral part of God's worldwide Work!

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Good Mistake

"We just had to write a note to tell you of an amazing coincidence—it seems as if it were almost 'planned' by Someone. The very same day we received your emergency letter, my husband came home with a paycheck much larger than usual because of prior errors in FICA deductions. I had been wondering all day where the 'something extra' to send was going to come from, but God works in strange ways! So here is our regular tithe plus the 'mistake.'"

Mrs. C. H. J., California

Priest Ignorant

"Because we left the Catholic Church we were paid a visit by the priest. We dreaded this meeting, but it turned out we weren't afraid at all. We remembered facts you taught us, so the words came out easily. We know things in the Bible that the priest didn't know and he admitted he didn't know."

Mr. and Mrs. John W.,
Massachusetts

Starting Right

"I am 14 years old and I am sending my first two pay checks. This is my firstfruits for my first job with regular pay. Already I have been blessed with high hourly wages. In Malachi 3:10-12 we are told by the Eternal that if we pay our tithes and

offerings we will be blessed with an overflow of blessings. Isn't it remarkable how practically every home has a written solution to their financial problems and yet few know it?"

Robert L. C., Virginia

"I enclose my tithe a little early this time, with deepest gratitude to God, who is blessing me. I was not formerly sending the whole tithe, as I had so little and felt I could not afford to. Then I had a visit from Mr. Ronald Dart and I told him about this, and also that I felt guilty about it, and he said, 'Why not trust God?' This made me think, and I decided in my heart, so that I must and would trust God. So for the past 3 or 4 months I have sent the whole tithe and some over to make up for when I didn't. I write this with a humble grateful heart, and I thank Him for all His mercies, for He is indeed helping me in all my difficulties, and I cannot tell you how much this means to me and how deeply I repent for not trusting Him before."

Mrs. A.L.A., Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire

Another Light

"Through a friend I have had the opportunity to read quite a number of PLAIN TRUTH magazines which have

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The Good News

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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

SENIOR EDITORS

Roderick C. Meredith

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Associate Editors

Albert J. Portune

Ronald Kelly

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W. A. Berg	Ernest L. Martin
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Foods Consultants

Velma Van der Veer	
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Rose McDowell	

Editorial and Production Assistants

Paul W. Kroll
James W. Robinson
Donald G. McDonald

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

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Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should address the Editor, Box 345, North Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

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impressed me very much and I would like to receive the magazine myself if you would consider sending it to me. Also, I wonder whether you would be good enough to send me your Bible Correspondence Course. You will appreciate that being an agnostic it means starting right from the beginning and having seen one or two of your lessons, again through my friend, I know the course would be a great help. I was fortunate enough to be at my friend's a few weeks ago when he was visited by your Mr. Martin. I just sat in and listened and the power of his personality made me realize that at 40 years of age I've been sitting on the fence far too long."

Denis H.C.,
Cheshire, England

Eyes Healed

"This last year my eyes had become far-sighted and so blurry they wouldn't focus at arm's length. After deciding it would be necessary to get glasses because of my close bookkeeping work, I remembered the promise of healing God had made. I went to my minister to have him pray for my forgiveness. I wish to share the joy that was mine the following day. I am now reading with ease and stand in awe of this great Power that works in our lives."

Mrs. Lillian H., California

Repentant Ex-Minister

"The Correspondence Course, the articles, *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the broadcast have meant more to me than I could ever say. I have been a licensed minister and member of the Church of God of Prophecy for a number of years. About a year and a half ago I was praying and begging God for more understanding. When *The PLAIN TRUTH* came into my life, I refused it at first, but something about it was like a fire that burned within my mind and heart. Now I know this is God's Church and I want with all my heart to be a part of it. I resigned my ministry and asked the local church to exclude me from their roll because I want to obey God. I won't say 'I hope you understand' because I know God's ministers will understand how I feel and why I write this way."

Kenneth R., Florida

Changed

"I don't know the words to describe the feelings I get when my bank statement comes. Last year most of the checks were cashed by hospitals, doctors, and druggists. Now I find those cashed by the Radio Church of God, and I have seen many proofs that it is truly God's Work. We have experienced Divine healing through your ministry after modern medicine failed and the doctors gave up. Only a little over a year ago I openly and emphatically denied the existence of any God. I now attend Sabbath services and Bible study in the 'True Church.'"

Robert E. F., North Carolina

"I wish there was a word that could properly express my gratitude to you. I was one of the lucky and fortunate young people who were able to attend the Summer Educational Program at Orr, Minnesota. This was one of the most enjoyable and educational summers that I ever expect to have in this lifetime. The first thing I did when I returned home was to get *The ENVOY* and look through it to see how many of the faces I knew. I found that I appreciate *The ENVOY* much more now because I know a lot of the college students who were counsellors or staff members at the camp."

Richard A.M., Minnesota

A Light

"My son, aged ten and one-half, started school out here across the river. Our troubles began because we ran into considerable bigotry. Michael suffered, was made ridiculous before the class, and because we went to Holy Days was put in the lowest group. The same material is not given. Sight reading was taught in the whole SS system. Michael couldn't learn and in desperation I went to God and prayed that I might help him read. We changed here at home and went to 'phonics.' In 2 months' time he was reading, not only regular material but also with ability to sound unfamiliar words. His vocabulary improves steadily. His English has been bad, for he picked up the vernacular of other children who seem to

be using atrocious English. After I taught him to read, his teacher asked my boy by what method he had learned. The answer—God and phonics. Immediate plans were made in that summer, and phonics was begun in all SS schools."

Marguerite D. W., Oklahoma

Another Tithing Lesson

"This is our tithing for the week. I had stopped tithing about 7 months ago and had also stopped attending church services and Bible studies. Soon afterward everything I did seemed to go wrong. I was always unhappy since leaving the church. I couldn't manage my wages; I couldn't find any true friends and was involved in two accidents. I quickly came to the conclusion that I had better start giving God His tithes and start attending church, which is the only way for a person to follow."

Edward C., Washington

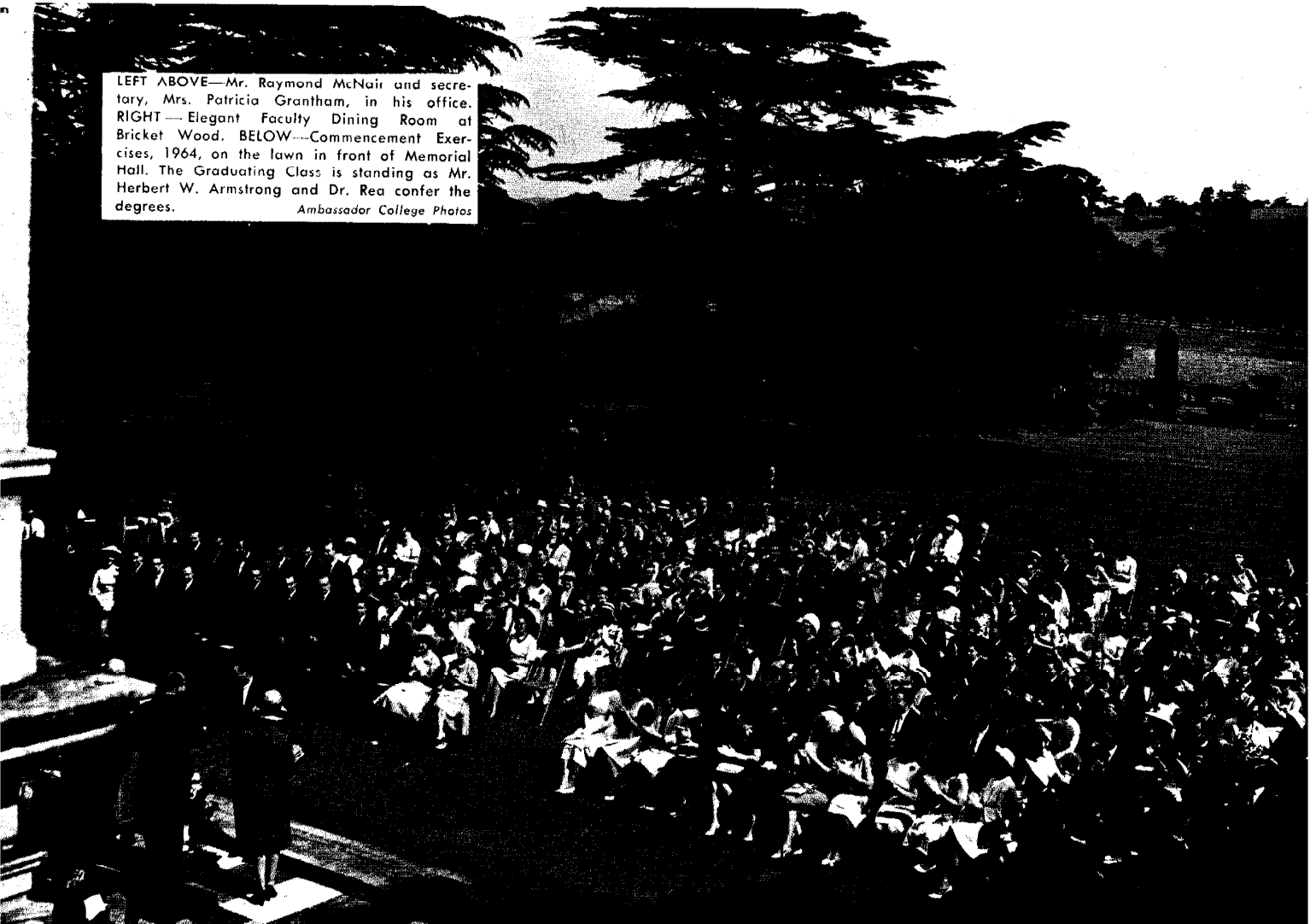
Learning Young

"I just want to tell you that I think your organization is 'tops.' I am just 12 years old and the only type of contribution I can make is that left over from my allowance. Believe me, ever since I started tithing, I've had so many blessings. My mother and brother tithed also. My father got a new and better job in a much nicer town since we started giving contributions. My brother alone has received an awful lot of blessings. He got to go to a national track meet in St. Paul, Minnesota. Though he didn't win anything, he acquired so much confidence and good experience. I believe one reason that we have had so much luck (or is it just luck?) is because we don't tithe in the way most people do—in the confidence that they will get something back. We don't expect anything back. I certainly hope that the Work you are doing will expand and grow so that others like us will begin to wake up that time is running out. I look forward to Christ's second coming with much enthusiasm. I just hope that my love for Him won't grow cold."

Kenneth K., Missouri



LEFT ABOVE—Mr. Raymond McNair and secretary, Mrs. Patricia Grantham, in his office. RIGHT—Elegant Faculty Dining Room at Bricket Wood. BELOW—Commencement Exercises, 1964, on the lawn in front of Memorial Hall. The Graduating Class is standing as Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Dr. Rea confer the degrees. *Ambassador College Photos*



IT HAPPENED IN BRITAIN

They said it couldn't be done—to thunder Christ's Gospel by radio DAILY to Britain! It COULDN'T—by human planning or maneuvering. But the living Christ DID IT! Read how God's Work now leaps forward in Britain!

by Raymond F. McNair

STOP AND THINK A moment! The British people are, after all, God's chosen BIRTHRIGHT people. In a sense the Birthright promise went to Ephraim and Manasseh jointly—yet God placed Ephraim ahead of Manasseh! Britain is modern 20th Century Ephraim. The United States is Manasseh.

WHY, then, should the all-important last great Work of God, preparatory to Christ's coming, start in the United States? Why not in Britain?

And WHY did it appear, even three short years ago, utterly IMPOSSIBLE to get this all-important last Message of this age in massive power to the chosen Birthright people?

We could understand why God *began* His End-Time Work in America. ONLY in the United States was there the general widespread prosperity to finance such a Work by the tithes and offerings of God's own people. ONLY in the United States was there a free currency, with the doors open for sending money to carry on the Work in *other* countries.

But WHY was every door slammed shut, so that, even from America, we could not *reach* the very Birthright chosen people of God? Had God forsaken His people Ephraim?

Seemingly Impossible

Back in 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong went to Britain, France, and Switzerland for the dual purpose of checking sites for an overseas branch of Ambassador College and surveying possibilities of broadcasting the Truth to Ephraim-Britain. What did they find? All radio *government*-owned or controlled. NO POSSIBLE CHANCE to broadcast *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

Then, late in 1952, Mr. Armstrong learned of opportunity to get the program, one half-hour a week, on Radio

Luxembourg. It was an afternoon time on a wave-length reaching Europe—with very few listeners in Britain. Then a little later, a Monday night time opened on Radio Luxembourg's famous "208-meter" band, beamed directly into Britain. But the time was very late—11:30 to midnight.

But people did begin to listen. An office was opened in London to handle the mail—send out *The PLAIN TRUTH* and requested literature. The Work grew—very slowly and gradually. A second half-hour opened on Radio Luxembourg—the same late 11:30 p.m. hour, on Tuesday nights. A small church was established in London in 1956.

The Work in Britain grew—slowly. Very slowly. Luxembourg is a long way off. 11:30 to midnight is very late—after most Britons have gone to bed. Two nights a week at that late hour was not getting Christ's Message to Birthright Ephraim in great POWER.

The College was started in 1960. The broadcast time was changed to 6 p.m., competing with BBC news (7 p.m. daylight time in summer)—but reception at that hour was very poor. The mail response dropped sharply. As late as 1962 or 1963 it looked as hopeless as ever that any facilities could open for hitting the British Isles with Christ's Message IN REAL POWER—and DAILY! But we were PRAYING. We relied on GOD!

Then it happened! The *unexpected!* The IMPOSSIBLE! The INCREDIBLE! They called them "pirate ships." They were *not* pirates. But they were not legal. On the other hand, they were not illegal. They were anchored just *outside* any nation's *legal* boundaries or jurisdiction.

TODAY, God's Work is LEAPING AHEAD in Britain!

Christ has NOT forsaken "His people which He foreknew."

The living, miracle-working, all-powerful Christ has OPENED DOORS!

But the ever-vigilant Satan has been angered by all this! He is especially angry with God's people right now (Rev. 12:12, 17). Outright persecution has appeared a few times from certain elements of the British Press. There has been effort to besmirch, discredit, and destroy God's Work in Britain! We in Britain need the earnest, prevailing PRAYERS of our Brethren around the world!

On the other hand, in better elements of the British Press, some very favorable things have been said.

The Oldest Branch

The British *branch* of God's Work is the oldest of this Philadelphia era of the Church of God. From the beginning, this branch has grown slowly but surely. Cutting through notorious British "red tape" has not always been easy! We have had many delays, hindrances—and quite a bit of outright persecution! It has been an uphill climb all the way, but God has continued to prosper His Work in Britain.

The fruits being borne through this branch of Christ's Work are very gratifying. Already literally dozens who attended Ambassador College in Britain have been used full-time in the rapidly expanding, worldwide Work of Christ. About twenty who attended the British College have been ordained into Christ's ministry.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong have both made numerous trips to Britain since the Work of God started. Their continued, direct, on-the-spot supervision has been necessary in working out many details of this branch of God's Work.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong usually

spend two or three months of each year here at the college in England. God's people in Britain have greatly appreciated the love, inspiration and guidance which we have all received through their presence here at the college. We've been grateful that they have been willing to make these many tiring trips between England and the United States in the interest of furthering God's Work!

A thorough understanding of the development of God's Work in Britain will surely inspire you to pray more fervently for the Work of God and for His people—our own brethren—in Ephraim!

Gospel Thundered to Europe

The British branch of God's Work began to bud on the first *Thursday* in 1953. On that day (4:15-4:45 p.m.) *The WORLD TOMORROW* program was first beamed into Britain from Radio Luxembourg, Europe's most powerful radio station with about 450,000 watts. (In October, 1965 the power of Radio Luxembourg was increased to 750,000 watts.)

From that moment, as Mr. Armstrong's voice was *thundered* into Britain, thousands of lives began to be changed. The people of Great Britain were once again privileged to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached in power—for the first time since the days of the New Testament apostles! This was truly *good news!*

At a later date, *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcasts were moved to *Tuesday evenings*. Still later, we were able to get time cleared on Radio Luxembourg on both *Mondays and Tuesdays* at 11:30 p.m. And in the early part of 1962, *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast acquired the earlier and better time of 6:00 p.m. each Monday and Tuesday.

The results of our broadcasts over Radio Luxembourg the past thirteen years have been very encouraging. Until this very day, Radio Luxembourg has remained the main door which God has opened for us in reaching the people of the British Isles.

Evangelistic Campaigns and *The Reader's Digest* have also been employed by God's Church to reach the

people of Great Britain. But it is mainly through Radio Luxembourg that this branch of God's Work has been built.

Commercial Radio at Last!

While here in Britain in February, 1963, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong—the Director of all the Overseas Branches of God's Work—urged us all to pray fervently for God to open up commercial broadcasting in the British Isles.

Our united prayers have already been partially answered; but let us continue to earnestly pray that the doors of British Radio will be opened still wider!

Members of the Church of God understand that God often works out His plan according to the 19-year time cycles which He Himself set in the heavens.

The Gospel was preached in Palestine and Asia Minor for one 19-year time cycle (31 A.D.-50 A.D.), after which God opened a door by which His Gospel was preached to Europe during the second 19-year time cycle.

God opened a door to the apostle Paul in 50 A.D. (see Acts 16:9 and II Cor. 2:12, 13) by which he was permitted to *begin* preaching the Gospel to Europe for the first time. This commenced the second 19-year time cycle during which God's early New Testament Church was empowered to preach the Gospel to the world at that time.

At the end of the second 19-year time cycle (in 69 A.D.) the Church of God, with headquarters in Jerusalem, fled that city. Jerusalem was razed to the ground the following year, in 70 A.D. This ended the organized, dynamic preaching of the Gospel.

During the centuries that followed, the Gospel has continued to be preached here and there in small ways—by a persecuted and scattered Church.

But in this end time, God Almighty raised up Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to direct the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world before the close of this age, as Jesus Christ prophesied (Mat. 24:14, Mark 13:10).

In January, 1934, God opened the door of radio by which the Gospel was preached to North America during

the first 19-year time cycle—ending in 1952.

The second 19-year time cycle began in January, 1953. It is interesting to see how God opened the mighty door of Radio Luxembourg by which the true Gospel once more began to be preached to the peoples of the continent of *Europe*—at the beginning of the second 19-year time cycle allotted to God's Church in this end time.

The Gospel was preached to Britain through Radio Luxembourg for twelve long years before any further doors of radio were opened to the British Isles.

But on January 5th, 1965—almost twelve years to the day after the Gospel first began to be preached on Radio Luxembourg—a commercial ship-station, *Radio London*, broadcast the first *WORLD TOMORROW* program.

By a special arrangement, many of the ministers of God's Church (who were at Headquarters for the Annual Ministerial Conference) were assembled in the Radio Studio in Pasadena, California, in order to hear this first program relayed to our Pasadena Radio Studio via telephone.

Then on May 9th, 1965, another commercial ship-station, *Radio Caroline*, began broadcasting our program. Next, *Radio City* started broadcasting *The WORLD TOMORROW* program on July 19th, 1965; and finally *Radio 390* began broadcasting the first *WORLD TOMORROW* program on November 1st, 1965.

And on Sunday, December 12th, 1965, *Radio 390* started broadcasting the program *twice* daily, seven days per week.

These four stations—together with *Radio Luxembourg*—now bring nearly 300 letters a week from people who write in for the first time!

Will Commercial Radio Be Silenced?

These daily broadcasts, plus the twice-weekly broadcasts from Radio Luxembourg, are stirring up Satan's wrath! He would like to scuttle these ship-stations—to silence our programs once and for all!

Recently, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Britain's Postmaster General,

(Continued on page 12)

JUDGING and DISCIPLINE in God's Church

What is Christ's way of protecting His church from trouble-makers? Is there a way we can "judge" evildoers who creep into local congregations?

by Roderick C. Meredith

MILLIONS of sincere but misguided people are *mixed up* about the meaning of Jesus' words recorded in Mat. 7:1-5.

How often have you heard someone reprimanded for stating his belief that someone else had done wrong by the exclamation, "Judge not, brother. Jesus said we shouldn't judge other people, you know."

What about this? Is it wrong, for example, to warn your friends about a certain youth in the neighborhood who is a thief and whom you *know* is a thief because you have caught him in the very act of stealing?

The Bible commands us *not* to bear false witness against another (Exodus 20:16). A talebearer is condemned in God's Word (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 18:8). You should always try to help others overcome their sins, and not expose them *unnecessarily*. But is warning your neighbors about a persistent thief "talebearing"?

Of course not! What, then, did Jesus mean when He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged"?

Read Entire Passage

The way this passage of scripture has been misapplied is a good example of how most professing Bible students often *pervert* the intended meaning of God's word. Their principal trouble is that they *stop too soon*. They read just *part* of a passage of scripture, and then *they* interpret it.

This leads to *confusion* and *differing human ideas*. You should *let the Bible interpret the Bible*. Read ALL the passage in which a verse is contained, and then read the *other* places in the Bible

which further explain the subject. This way you will get *God's* interpretation—not somebody's human opinion.

Using this "key" to unlock the meaning of scripture, we find that Jesus was referring primarily to people like the hypocritical Pharisees who were accusing others of the very things they themselves were doing (Mat. 7:3-5). Jesus said that such people should not "judge" or "condemn" others.

The Fenton translation renders this phrase "condemn not" instead of "judge not."

In the Old Testament, God gave civil statutes to Israel and the judges had the authority to condemn evildoers to a death sentence. Later, God sent Christ to bring "grace and truth" (John 1:17). "Grace" is the free, unmerited pardon extended by God to sinners.

Jesus showed that instead of pronouncing sentence upon sinners, as Israel's judges had in the past, it was now the duty of God's representatives to teach them the *right* way and command them to repent of the *wrong* way.

In the case of the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-10), Jesus showed the Pharisees that they were not fit to condemn anyone (verse 7). He was ushering in the dispensation when God's people would no longer be fleshly Israel, but Spirit-begotten sons who would be held accountable by God for obeying even the *spirit* of the law (Mat. 5:28).

Jesus did not "judge" or *pronounce sentence* upon the woman at that moment. But He commanded, "Go, and *sin no more*."

Human beings are not capable of reading another's mind and heart. But by first *overcoming* your own major faults, and acquiring spiritual wisdom and experience, you *can* become qualified to help others recognize and overcome their sins.

Speaking of one still laden with faults, Jesus said, "Thou hypocrite, *first* cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and *then* shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Mat. 7:5).

First, overcome your own major faults and *grow* spiritually. *Then* you will be able to *rightly discern other people's sins* and *help cast them out*. Christ—the living Head of the true church (Col. 1:18)—expected His children to help each other *overcome sin*. When you read *all* of this passage where Jesus spoke about "judging," you get a far different meaning than those who just read and then *humanly interpret* the first verse.

The real meaning of this passage, then, is that Christians must first grow in the character of God before they are qualified to discern the sins of others and help them to be overcomers as well. But mature Christians *should* help their weaker brethren overcome their sins. This will naturally involve *pointing out sins* in others and giving advice and help in overcoming them. Jesus *meant* what He said. But this must all be done God's way.

Old Testament Examples

If you study the subject of "judging" throughout the entire Bible, you

will see clearly why Jesus said what He did on this subject.

Glancing back into the Old Testament, you will find that one of Moses' principal duties was to "judge" the children of Israel (Exodus 18:13-26). He became so over-burdened with this responsibility that he was forced to appoint other God-fearing men to judge the minor cases (verses 17-22).

After Moses died, Joshua acted as a Judge in Israel. But later (Judges 2:10-17), a generation arose which rebelled against the judges God set over them. The result was the bloodshed and national suffering described all through the book of Judges. Twice God gives us the major *cause* of all this suffering: "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:25).

Since they refused to hearken to God's judges, Israel suffered because every man acted on human reason—doing what he thought was right. Relying on human reason instead of on God's chosen representatives always leads to disaster. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25).

The congregation of Israel is a fleshly type of the spirit-begotten church of God today. The leaders in Israel judged the people, but trouble came when the people refused to hearken unto those whom God had set in authority. Speaking of the children of Israel, the apostle Paul was inspired to write, "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11).

A Look Ahead

Looking toward the future, you will find that the reward of the Christian is a position of *ruling* and *judging* the nations. In Rev. 2:26-27, Christ says that those who overcome will be given rule over the nations. The scene depicted in Rev. 20:4-6 shows that the resurrected saints will be given positions of *judgment* and *rule* under Christ during the millennium. This thousand-year rule of

Christ and the saints will take place *on the earth* (Rev. 5:10).

A brief glance at I Cor. 6:1-7 reveals that the saints will not only judge the world, but *we will even judge angels!* If this be so, "how much more things pertaining to this life?" wrote Paul.

Both the example of ancient Israel and the promises of our future reward clearly reveal that God's servants *in all times* are called on to "judge" and to direct those under their charge. Our whole Christian life is to prepare us to make wise decisions when we are called on to help *judge* and *rule* the world under Christ. Our willingness to accept God's judgments and directions in our personal lives—and, when called on, to render them wisely and justly—will be one of the deciding factors which will determine our position in the kingdom of God.

How does God's judgment work at this present time? How does it function in His church?

Church Discipline

Jesus said, "I will build MY church" (Mat. 16:18). Christ is the living, active head of God's church (Col. 1:18). He rules the church through His called servants to whom He has committed the keys of the kingdom of heaven. He has given them authority to "bind" or forbid certain things, and to "loose" or permit certain things. This "binding" or "loosing" may also be applied to permitting or forbidding the admission of persons into the fellowship of the church.

Christ gave Himself for the church and is cleansing it "that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). Jesus is going to purge sin out of his church that it may be spotless before God.

How?

The answer reveals the process of judgment or discipline which God has instituted in His church.

Jesus taught the disciples how to keep sin out of the church in Mat. 18:15-20. Read these verses carefully.

Verse 15 contains an error in translation. Instead of "if thy brother shall

trespass against thee," the verse should read "if your brother sins, go and tell him his fault..." Thorough investigation into the Greek text *proves* that the words "against thee" should be left out.

Jesus was simply teaching his disciples how to bring back a brother who was *sinning*—whether against them, or someone else, or God only. Notice the three steps Jesus said to take in such a case.

Jesus' Instructions

First, tell the other person his fault between you and him *alone*. Don't gossip or tell others. Don't become upset or bitter over your brother's sin. Just go and tell him about it privately. Don't pick at your brother or pester him about trivial matters. But if he sins, go and tell him about it with the attitude of *helping* him. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Secondly, if he will not hear you then take with you one or two other brethren and rehearse the matter again in their presence. Be sure they are mature Christians—men of understanding who will be able to make your sinning brother realize the seriousness of his mistake.

Thirdly, if he will not heed their warning to repent, then tell the matter to the church. Since there is order and government in God's true church, you should take the matter up with the pastor. He will carefully review the case, probably have a long talk with the party in error, and will then bring the matter before the entire congregation if he deems this wise.

If after all this the sinning party still refuses to repent, Christ said that you are to treat him as an unbeliever. Does this mean you are to hate him or to hold him in contempt. *It certainly does not.* It simply means that you are to treat him as an unconverted outsider and have *no fellowship* with him.

Naturally, you should continue to love your erring brother and pray that God will bring him to repentance. But you are *not* to talk to him about it or fellowship with him any more until he acknowledges his error and gives evi-

dence that he has *repented*. If your brother finally does repent and turn from his error, he may later be readmitted into church fellowship. So his expulsion from the congregation is simply to *wake him up* before it is too late.

Bound in Heaven

Notice that in this same passage about church discipline, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be *bound in heaven*: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mat. 18:18). Jesus gave His called servants the *authority* to make binding decisions in such cases. But he went on to say, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (verse 20).

Speaking of exercising church discipline, Jesus *promised* that He would *be with* His servants in carrying out this function. Christ himself will *inspire* and *direct* His chosen ministers in all such decisions. It is really Christ who is governing and judging God's church.

Even the judges in the Old Testament were promised divine guidance in rendering their decisions. In II Chronicles 19:1-7 is an account of how righteous King Jehoshaphat appointed judges over the land. He was inspired to instruct them, "Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, *who is with you in the judgment*." Seeing this example of how God directed his fleshly people, how much more will He *direct* and *inspire* His servants today in directing and judging matters within His Spirit-begotten church? Christ will certainly guide His ministers in judging His people today. He intends to present the church *holy* and *blameless* before God. The Bible form of church discipline is one of the means Christ is using to keep His church free from corruption. All such judgments by God's servants will be *bound in heaven*. Christ directs His ministers in governing His church. Then *He backs them up* with His divine authority and power.

Are there further instructions on exactly how this should be carried out?

Paul's Instructions

The apostle Paul was inspired to write further instructions about church discipline to the churches under his care. He instructed the Galatians. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of *meekness*; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

Notice that Paul admonished them to be *meek* or *humble* when helping a brother to see and overcome a sin. We must never be overbearing or self-righteous in such a case, but should humbly try to help our brother correct his error—realizing that we ourselves may be tempted in the same manner.

Paul gave inspired instructions to the Thessalonian Christians in his epistles. Knowing that some obstinate persons in the congregation might refuse to recognize his authority and instructions, he wrote, "if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and *have no company with him*, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (II Thess. 3:14-15).

If a person gets in a *wrong spirit* and refuses to heed the instructions of God's called servants, Paul showed that they are to be disfellowshipped *that they may be ashamed*.

Learning to obey the *government of God* is the very basis of true Christianity. People *must* be taught to respect and fear the authority God wields through His ministers. If a person refuses to obey God's government now, how can he be expected to obey it in the kingdom?

In Romans 16:17, Paul warned the saints: "Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark them which cause divisions* and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; *and avoid them*." Troublemakers and false teachers are to be marked, and, if they persist, to be *put out* of God's church and *avoided*. How much trouble and anguish can be avoided if God's people will *heed this warning!*

An Example

In the third and fourth chapters of I Corinthians, Paul was warning the

saints against following any individual instead of Christ and pointing out some of the fruits of a true apostle. He warned them not to take his authority as God's servant lightly.

Paul had undoubtedly heard that some of them had become followers of men and were denying his apostolic authority. They were refusing to recognize God's government through him. So Paul wrote, "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" (I Cor. 4:18-21.)

Do you see that Paul was calling attention to the fact that God grants *authority* and *power* to His true servants? Paul knew he had the authority to come "with a rod"—to chasten or *put out* stubborn sinners from their midst. The *POWER* of Almighty God would back him up in this! Any who resisted would be *struck dead* as Ananias and Sapphira if necessary. God's government is with *divine power* and it is well for all of us to realize this!

Paul continued in his letter (I Cor. 5:1-7) to note that a kind of abominable fornication was being practiced among the Corinthians. He commanded them to *put out of their midst* the one who was committing this sin. He said they should "Deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (verse 5).

The clear implication of this passage is that once an obstinate sinner is put out of the church, God will permit Satan to afflict him until he repents—if he will repent. How *fearful* is the judgment of God on those who know the truth and then let themselves be led into *sin* and *rebellion* against God's government!

But strict discipline is *necessary* to *preserve the church*. Tolerating a small amount of sin will only lead to more. "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (Verse 6.)

Paul commanded, "*Purge out there-*

fore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump" (verse 7). Out and out SIN *must not* be tolerated within God's church! Our human reason might tell us otherwise, but *God knows best*.

Reinstatement

Some churches of this world have forms of "excommunication" whereby the object seems to be to hurt and defame the one who has been put out of church fellowship. This is *not* God's way.

As we have seen before, a sinning brother is to be disfellowshipped in order "that he may be ashamed" and come to repentance. The object is to *help* these people—to *wake them up*—not to hurt them.

In II Corinthians 2:1-11, we find that Paul asked the brethren at Corinth to accept the repentance of the fornicator he had commanded them to put out. "Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow" (verses 6-7).

These verses indicate that the man had now repented and was sorrowing greatly over his error. He had learned his lesson. So now he was to be brought back into the fellowship of the church and completely forgiven—just as God forgave him.

Paul said they must forgive him "lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (verse 11). If God's people continued to shun this man, he might have committed suicide or perhaps yielded himself to a demon. In either case it would only work harm to the man and bring reproach on the work of God.

Here we have found in God's word a complete example of how church discipline should be carried out. It must be *strict* with persistent sinners or troublemakers, but mercy and complete forgiveness must be extended to those who learn their lesson and repent.

Purpose

The *purpose* of this form of church discipline is to *prevent* God's children

from becoming careless and lukewarm about SIN—which God *hates*—and to *protect* God's church from becoming infiltrated with sinners or false teachers who will lead others into *sin*. The *object* of church discipline should be LOVE—the desire to protect any of God's children from being led astray.

Jesus—the living *Head* of God's Church—gave the over-all principles of church discipline to *protect* the church He was beginning to build. If God's ministers and people today love one another and the *truth*, they will want to carry out God's form of judgment in His church to mutually protect each other from falling into the snare of Satan.

No true Christian has anything to fear from this command of God. It is a procedure designed to protect God's children and keep them bound together in *truth* and *love*.

Scope

In I Corinthians 6:1-7, the apostle Paul commanded the saints *not* to go to law before unbelievers, but to bring any disputes before the saints for judgment. This would include disputes over material matters as well as the spiritual problems which we have already discussed. Paul wrote, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? *how much more* things that pertain to this life" (verse 3).

Paul is *not* writing about cases involving outsiders who are unconverted. This chapter deals with converts only.

So when two converted brethren have a disagreement over some material matters—even converted people are still *human* you know—they should bring the matter before the leaders in God's church. Verse 4 of this passage is incorrectly translated and most modern translations show that it should be in the form of a question. Paul was asking them *why* they were bringing their disputes before those who were little esteemed by the church. He continues, "I speak to your shame." (Because they were doing this) "Is it so, that there is not a *wise man* among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?" (Verse 5.)

It is the *wise men*, then, the ministers and elders in the church, to whom these problems should be brought. Instead of going before worldly courts, Christians should want to have their disputes settled God's way, according to the principles of God's righteous laws. They are commanded to bring all such disputes before the church for judgment.

God's judgment will ensure full justice for everyone concerned, and will save the church from bearing any reproach over such matters in the outside world.

The apostle Paul specifically states that Christian leaders should be best qualified to judge these matters because they are training to judge the *world*—to judge *angels*. Don't you see the great wisdom of God's government and judgment in His church? He is preparing us to *rule the world* by giving us practical *experience* in administering and obeying God's government now.

The scope of God's judgment includes physical as well as spiritual matters. It is designed to promote and preserve harmony and righteousness among God's people, and to prepare us by experience to become kings and priests in the kingdom of God.

The Reward

Up until recently most of us didn't fully understand the necessity of purging the evil out of God's church. We thought that perhaps God would take care of it without us doing anything. And it *seemed* like it would be showing more love if we just tried to tolerate evildoers in our midst and hoped for the best.

But can we show more love than God? Are our ideas wiser than God's plan?

The answer is obviously "no."

In his early ministry among God's people, Mr. Armstrong found by hard experience that if sinners are not *put out* of God's church as Christ commanded, a little leaven does leaven the whole lump. Sin spreads like wildfire if it is tolerated. *We must obey Jesus'*

command to disfellowship those who persist in an outright violation of God's law after they have been warned.

False teachers must be "marked" and refused further admittance and association in God's Church. This is the command of Almighty God. People who rely on human reason may think this is a lack of love. But this is God's way—and God *is* love.

Each of you brethren will have a part in carrying out God's judgment and discipline in the church as He directs. You must be very careful to do it *God's way*. Be sure to follow all the steps Jesus gave when you warn a brother of a sin he is committing.

Church discipline must be exercised in LOVE. In any such matter, always try to *help* the other party—not injure him. Ask God to give you *wisdom* and to help you do everything His way.

Study carefully all the scriptures in this article. Realize that you have *no excuse* for continually criticizing or "picking at" anyone in God's church. You are only to go to them in love and point out their mistake if they are literally and definitely *breaking God's law*.

In material disputes, you are to go directly to God's ministers instead of a worldly court. If you love God, this will always be to *your best interests* in the end. This is God's way—God's *command*.

In all cases, remember that the final *responsibility* for all decisions rests with God's ministers whom He has called. Christ has promised to "be with" and guide them in every judgment. The judgment is of *God*. It will be "bound" in heaven.

You may be tempted to criticize or disagree with some decision that God's ministers will bind. *Be very careful* lest you let this turn you against God. You may not understand all the facts. But God's called ministers probably do and they are responsible to Him—not some human—for their actions in directing His church.

It is human nature to disagree with God. When the children of Israel rejected Samuel as their judge and leader

(I Sam. 8:1-9), God told Samuel, "They have not rejected thee, but *they have rejected ME*, that I should not reign over them." Be fearful lest you reject God by rebelling against His called servants.

God holds His ministers responsible for teaching you His word, and for

directing His church and carrying out *church discipline*. By following *God's way* of church discipline and judgment, the church of God may go forward in peace and love—and will be purged of all sin to be presented "holy and without blemish" to Christ at His coming.

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered
in this column to the Editor.

Is God all powerful? Matthew 19:26 says God can do everything, but Judges 1:19 says He couldn't drive out the inhabitants of the valley. Why couldn't He, if He is truly all powerful?

Jesus Christ plainly stated: "...but with God ALL THINGS are possible" (Mat. 19:26). He repeated this statement on several occasions in the course of His ministry. Almighty God is the great Creator God who MADE the Universe, and everything within it. Isaiah 40 gives a vivid description of His Creative POWER!

In Revelation 19:6 we read that the Eternal GOD is *omnipotent*—which means, ALL POWERFUL!

But then WHY do we also read in Judges 1:19, "And the LORD was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but *could not* drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron"? Isn't this rather *strange*?

Yes, it is! But let's really understand what we are reading! If you read carefully, you should clearly see that this verse says JUDAH—the tribe of Judah—drove out the inhabitants of the mountain, but was unable to drive out the inhabitants of the valley. Why? Because they had iron chariots—great war-making machines, in that day! This verse does NOT say God Himself was unable to drive out the inhabitants of the valley!

Such a thought would be preposterous! God created the heavens and

earth; He brought the Flood upon mankind; He delivered His people Israel from bondage in Egypt through many mighty miracles; and He destroyed pagan armies to save those who relied on Him!

Surely, then, GOD could have driven the people with iron chariots out of the valley. But the fact remains, for some reason He didn't.

Why?

The Bible itself gives the PLAIN answer. Read the entire first chapter of Judges. You will see that several other Israelite tribes also did not completely drive the Canaanites out of the land. Rather than have confidence in God, and FAITH in His power to help them, the Israelites *lost* faith—they lost their nerve. When they saw the iron chariots, and the Canaanite fighting men, they decided the best thing to do was CO-EXIST with them. They did not relish the thought of more bloodshed—maybe their own!

Instead of being strong in faith, like Moses and Joshua, the children of Israel compromised with the commandments of God. They settled down side by side with the remaining Canaanites in the land. They did not have FAITH that God was on their side and would deliver their enemies into their hand.

Notice how God rebuked the Israelites for this wicked attitude.

"And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I

(Continued on page 23)

GOD'S WORK IN BRITAIN

(Continued from page 6)

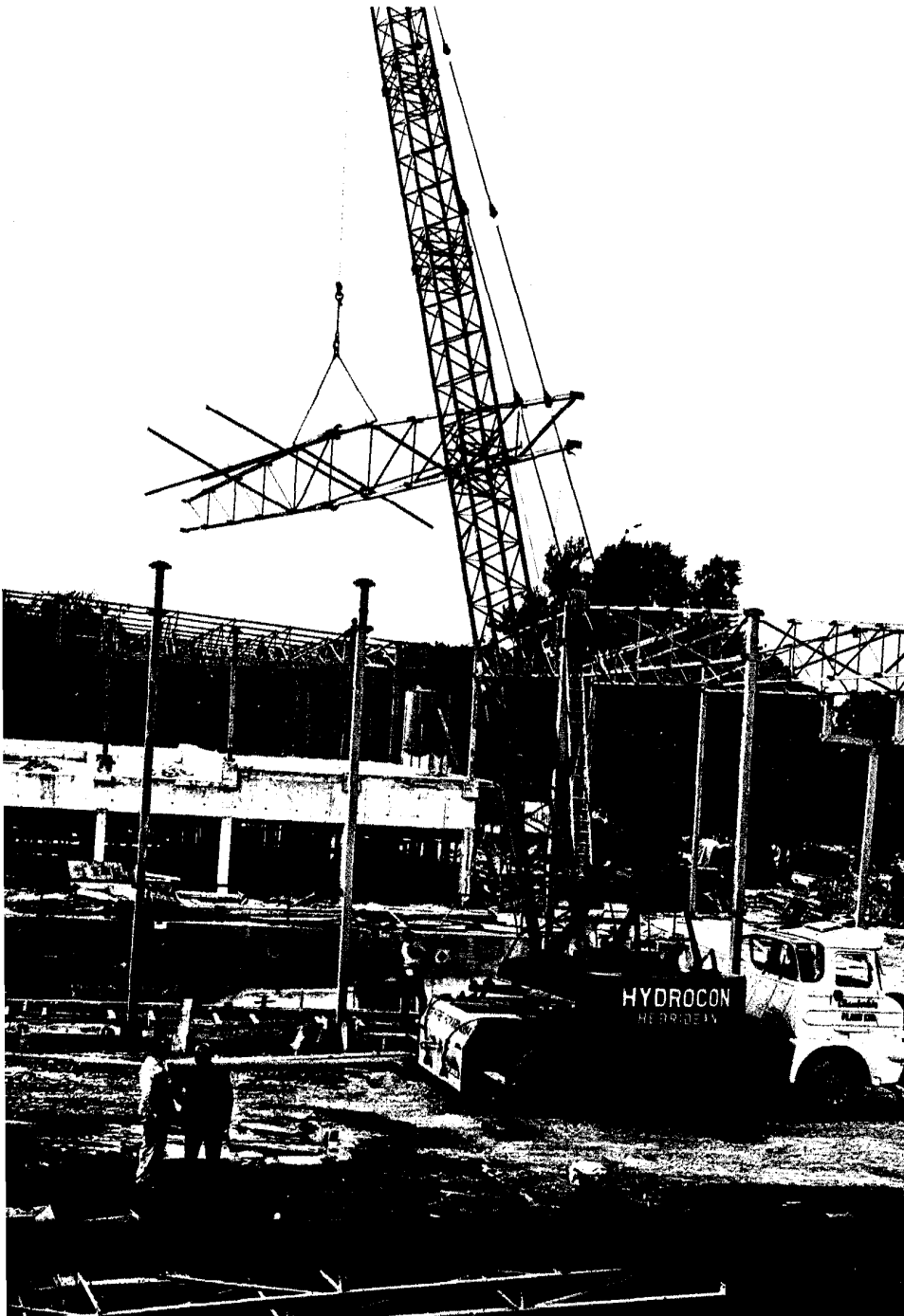
said that certain off-shore commercial radio stations (undoubtedly referring to Radio 390 and Radio City) would be prosecuted unless they quit broadcasting immediately! These stations currently carry *The WORLD TOMORROW* programs (*The Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 9, 1965).

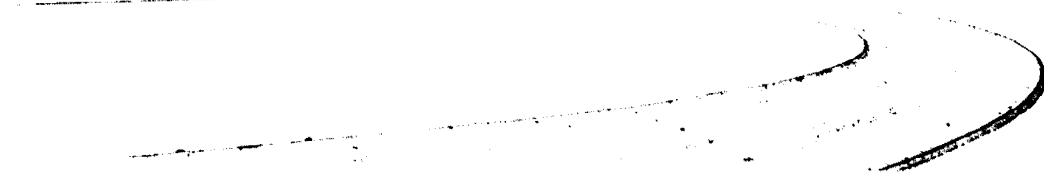
The Postmaster General also mentioned that Britain's Parliament is considering legislation which would enable

the Government to stop all commercial off-shore stations from broadcasting.

But the British Government is in a real dilemma. Millions of Britons have expressed their enthusiastic support for these commercial stations. Many are tired of listening to stuffy programs aired by the BBC.

And the British Government is well aware that any legislation which would rock the boats of commercial ship-





ABOVE—In the latter stages of construction the gymnasium begins to take shape. Notice the McAlpine construction firm's sign beside the scaffolding at the right. LEFT—Huge crane lifts steel girder cross beam toward its position in gym roof. CENTER—Complicated network of reinforcing steel rods insure structural strength—a factor unseen in the finished building.

Ambassador College Photos

stations might also topple the Labour Government from office.

This has been of real concern to Mr. Harold Wilson's Labour Party—whose majority is now down to two! And the British Government has had more urgent matters to occupy itself with, namely, its economic problems and the perplexing Rhodesian crisis.

A recent article concerning these off-shore stations mentioned that the Government might even consider granting them a license to begin broadcasting from land-based stations in England. However, the Postmaster General has denied this report.

"The Cabinet's broadcasting committee, whose Chairman is Mr. Herbert Bowden, Leader of the Commons, has taken what it regards as the realistic position that *it cannot advise Mr. Wilson to introduce legislation outlawing the existing 'private' stations.*

"The overriding political situation is simply that *so many Labour voters as well as people too young to vote yet like the "pop" programmes, and IT COULD BE SUICIDAL FOR ANY GOVERNMENT (present or future) TO STOP THEM*" (*Evening Standard*, Dec. 3, 1965).

It looks as though God has maneuvered the British Government into such a position that it will be unable to take any effective action against these off-shore stations for some time to come. But, let us urgently pray that God will keep these radio doors open in Britain!

Mr. Armstrong's Evangelistic Meetings

In September, 1954, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong conducted a series of meetings in some of the major British cities. This was primarily for the purpose of sounding out the interest which *The WORLD TOMORROW* program had aroused in Britain.

Mr. Armstrong's first one-night meeting was held in *Belfast*, Northern Ireland. Nearly 750 attended that meeting. About 450 to 500 attended his next meeting in *Glasgow*. He then conducted a one-night meeting (his third) in *Manchester*. Approximately 350 to 400 attended. In *London*, he held a series of three or four meetings. About 250 to 300 attended.

British response to the broadcast from Radio Luxembourg was at first very slow. Soon, however, mail slowly began to trickle into our Pasadena office from Radio Luxembourg.

I well remember how Mr. Richard David Armstrong (who was first appointed Director of the Overseas Work of God) was able for some time to keep all of the files for the British Work in a shoe box! This was the small beginning of this branch of God's Work. "For who hath despised the day of small things..." (Zech. 4:10).

Not long after *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast began to be thundered from Radio Luxembourg, this trickle of mail increased until it became a sizeable amount of mail. (In 1965 we received about 135,000 letters!) It then became necessary for us to acquire the BCM AMBASSADOR address in London, so that all our Luxembourg mail could be channelled to that address. From London it was forwarded on to our World Headquarters at Pasadena, California. This proved to be a slow, tedious process!

London Office Opened

A few months later, it became apparent that we would have to open an office in London to handle the Luxembourg mail. *The PLAIN TRUTH* and other literature which were mailed from Pasadena took many weeks (sometimes several months) to arrive at their destination in Britain. This was seriously hampering the British branch of God's Work!

Mr. Richard David Armstrong, and Mr. George Meeker, Jr., were the instruments whom God chose to open His office in London, late in 1955.

In the summer of 1956 (about July) Mr. Armstrong conducted a four-weeks series of nightly meetings in London. This resulted in a very small Church of about eight or ten members being raised up and left under the charge of Mr. George Meeker.

Late in 1956 Mr. Roderick C. Meredith was sent to England to become the Director of God's Work in Britain. Mr. Meredith conducted a three- or four-weeks nightly campaign in London in order to help establish the small, struggling London Church.

After Mr. Meredith's campaign, regular attendance in the London Church rose to about 20.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Meredith was needed to assist in the Work of Christ in the United States, and was then transferred from London back to Pasadena—shortly after the Passover in 1957.

Mr. Gerald D. Waterhouse (who had arrived one week before that same Passover) had been sent to England to become the new Director of God's Work in Great Britain. He and Mr. George Meeker lived in London, where they continued serving in God's Work in Ephraim.

Under the dedicated ministry of Mr. Waterhouse, the London Church of God continued to grow until, by the end of July, 1958, it reached a regular attendance of about 45 each Sabbath—at which time Mr. Waterhouse returned to the United States to take up a ministerial assignment there.

On July 15, 1958, my wife and I and our 13-month-old daughter, Ruth, arrived in England. I had been sent to assume charge of the British branch of God's Work. (I might add that God has blessed us with two British-born sons since we've been in England. All three of our children speak English with a decidedly "British" accent).

A few weeks before my wife and I got to Britain, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Martin arrived in England. Mr. Martin was scheduled to become the Business Manager when Mr. Waterhouse returned to America. Mr. George Meeker was to remain for a while in Britain, to assist in the office and in the visiting.

First Full-scale Baptizing Tour

During the summer of 1958, Mr. George Meeker and I conducted the *first full-scale British baptizing tour* in which we covered most of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. (Mr. Gerald Waterhouse had previously visited and baptized a few scattered individuals in England, but most of his time was taken up at the London office). I forget the exact number baptized on our 1958 tour, but I believe it was about 60.

If I recall correctly, in July, 1958,



Aerial photo of the Ambassador College grounds near Bricket Wood. Physical Education plant and Olympic track are in upper right with the Richard David Armstrong Memorial Hall left of center. In the center are the new dining hall facility and the women's dormitories. To the right are the new men's dormitories and International Common Room.

Ambassador College Photo

there were only about 30 baptized members of the Church of God in all of Britain! Today British membership is over thirty times that number—over 1,030!

Besides being the Director of the British branch of God's Work, I was also appointed the Pastor of the Church of God, London, England.

Mr. Ernest Martin was able to supervise most of the office details of God's Work. This left Mr. Meeker and me free for visiting not only in the Greater London area, but also in other parts of Britain. Soon the London Church began to have encouraging growth—at least by British standards. And not long afterward bi-weekly Bible Studies were established in Bristol and Birmingham.

College Property Purchased

In the early summer of 1959, I received instructions from Mr. Armstrong to begin looking immediately for a place suitable for a college. At first Mr. Armstrong did not intend to establish a full co-educational college in Britain. In fact, he had thought Switzerland might be the place where God wanted to locate another college. But,

as Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly stressed, *it is God who is the Overall Director of this Work!*

Mr. Ernest Martin and I checked with scores of Estate Agents, diligently looking for a location for the college. At first we confined our search to Greater London, but later began to look for a place within a thirty-mile radius of the center of London.

Later during the summer of 1959, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong arrived in England. We were just about to purchase a fairly large building in the center of London, near Regents Park, when we were led, providentially, to purchase the very beautiful Hanstead Estate where the college is now situated.

Here are a few facts concerning the wonderful, ideally located property which God led us to purchase in 1959. For the purpose of God's Work, the present 175-acre Ambassador College grounds are undoubtedly located in the most suitable part of all England.

The college is situated only about six miles from the edge of Greater London, or about nineteen miles from its very

heart. By auto, it takes only thirty to fifty minutes (depending upon traffic conditions) to drive to the very center of London.

Furthermore, Ambassador College is nearly equi-distant between the quaint old Roman cathedral city of St. Albans (population about 50,000) and the fairly modern town of Watford (population about 75,000). So one can easily "pop into" either Watford or St. Albans in order to do needed shopping. Both are only about five miles from the Ambassador College campus.

The college is in Hertfordshire—one of the most beautiful counties to be found anywhere in Britain—or the whole world! It is situated in the beautiful Green Belt district which encircles Greater London. The beauty of this part of Britain is very inspiring—but especially so in spring and autumn.

The college is only a four-minute drive from the main British super-highway (called the M.1) which leads directly to Birmingham, Manchester and further north. Other major highways are nearby, and a railway line runs near the College. The Bricket Wood railway station is in fact only about one-quarter of a mile from the main



Mr. Gerald Waterhouse at his desk in the London office in 1957.

Ambassador College Photo

entrance to the college. It only takes forty minutes to drive to the London Airport. Two smaller airports are near—one only a ten-minute drive from the college.

Architects have informed us that the main college building (called Memorial Hall—in memory of Richard David Armstrong—who first pioneered the British branch of God's Work, when the going was really difficult) would now cost about ten times as much to build as what we paid for it in 1959.

Facilities at Ambassador

In addition to Memorial Hall, Ambassador College now has a new Women's Dormitory (housing 28 women students); a brand-new Men's Dormitory and International Lounge—accommodating 140 to 150 men students; an older, but more stately dormitory building, which houses 30 to 40 women students; an Administration Building with many offices; a beautifully constructed Music Hall; a large, new Dining hall big enough to accommodate over 200 students at one sitting—and many other smaller buildings.

In order to keep the students physically fit, we have a fine athletic field with an Olympic-standard quarter-mile track, basketball court, three tennis

courts, soccer field, cricket pitch, two squash and handball courts and numerous other athletic facilities.

In March, 1966, we expect to complete construction of our badly needed, ultra-modern gymnasium and six-lane, Olympic-standard swimming pool. The gymnasium will be large enough to accommodate two basketball courts or two

indoor tennis courts. It will also serve well as an auditorium.

Other buildings which we hope to construct in the fairly near future include: an extension to the women's dormitory, an administrative building, an auditorium to seat about 500 and a large classroom building.

(To be continued)

Our first British Mailing office. Here are the Addressograph plate files for the PLAIN TRUTH subscription list, the booklets and PLAIN TRUTHS ready for mailing.

Ambassador College Photo



CAPABLE, DEDICATED EMPLOYEES!

The Work of God at Headquarters in Pasadena desperately needs QUALIFIED personnel to fill SPECIFIC job needs! You may be the solution to a troublesome problem that slows the Work of God.

by Paul S. Royer

LISTEN to this sample telephone call to the Personnel Office here at Headquarters: An executive's voice booms out—"Mr. Royer, I need two secretaries immediately, one to work in the executive office who can take short-hand, 90 to 100 words per minute, type 75 to 85 words per minute, one who is alert, must be a good, accurate speller, able to properly punctuate and capable of top-level responsibility. I would like to have her by this afternoon or by tomorrow at the latest. The other secretary can wait until the latter part of the week!"

A Great Need

Sound unbelievable? The above call did happen—just a few minutes ago!! It happens all the time, week after week—and we do not have enough suitable applicants to fill the vacancies.

The men that God has placed in the executive responsibilities of His Work believe in getting the job done NOW, not tomorrow, but *today!* This is the Headquarters of the Living God!! It is a Work that mushrooms at the astounding rate of 30 percent per year! It is the most rewarding Work on earth!

Work Hampered

Yet the Work of God is hampered in ALL fields because of a lack of QUALIFIED personnel! Many of our top employees are holding down two, three, four or more full time jobs because there is no one else available who is capable of doing the work. All of

God's Work is important, yet many extremely important decisions, and the work to carry out the decisions, must wait because of even greater, even more important, higher priority work!

Often decisions are made, the work is outlined in detail and it still cannot be carried out because of a lack of capable assistants, including qualified executive secretaries.

Unless we find replacements, unless we do find qualified men and women to fill vacancies, the Work of God will suffer more and more each year. We *must* keep pace with the fantastic work load that God has given. The time of the end is rapidly overtaking us!

Future Growth May Shock You

This Work may not continue the present rate of 30 percent per year increase. Don't be surprised if God suddenly increases the rate by *another* 30 percent, 60 percent or even 90 percent! It has already happened in some aspects of the Work.

Yet if we continue to double-up on jobs, with each employee performing an extra job or two and then, if we limit our growth in new personnel to 20 percent, we will *still* need to hire *one thousand four hundred and seventy new employees between now and 1972!* (Not counting the eight hundred students presently employed.)

We might get by with 1,500 new employees if *The PLAIN TRUTH* increases from 630,000 copies this month to the *normal* expected 3,500,000

monthly copies by 1972. With a *normal* increase we will be printing over 40,000,000 copies yearly of the English edition alone in just six more years!!

The *normal* increase should shock most of us into the reality of the work to be done. Yet, none of us should *expect just a normal increase*. What is going to happen when our new improved full-color PLAIN TRUTH brings its response? How great an impact will our new, completely illustrated, full-color booklets mean to us in growth? Recent changes in the format of the broadcast has already brought a *tremendous up-surge* in mail from people writing in for the first time.

The PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions are and have been increasing at almost 30 percent per year for the past thirty years or more. But when we go on television, who will read the avalanche of letters that it will produce? There are now seventy-seven men and women who are involved in reading the more than 100,000 letters received each month. We recently had a record day of 19,626 letters in a *single* day! That's over 250 letters per person for those in the department, and not all seventy-seven are *directly* involved in reading the mail. Who will read and answer all of the letters when our *normal* day's receipt reaches 19,000 each day?

Immediate Need and A Solution

The future is another problem. What about our present problem?

Right now, as I write, Headquarters could use at least seven *top-level* secre-

taries, two department heads, numerous executive and department assistants, one experienced mechanic, several specialized tradesmen, to say nothing of the appalling need in the ministry itself.

What is the answer? Ambassador College is the answer to the major needs of the ministry supplemented with dedicated men from the field who are willing to give of themselves and mature to the point that they can be ordained as Deacons and Local Elders.

The question is, where do we find capable, qualified personnel to fit the needs of an ever-expanding, unheard-of, mushrooming business that grows at the rate of *30 percent per year*? Ambassador College is not the full answer—and never was intended to be—to the *tremendous need* for printers, carpenters, electricians, cooks, mechanics, plumbers, keypunch operators, professional gardeners, secretaries and other similar jobs. Where will we find experienced cinematographers, film editors and men with television experience when we begin producing our own WORLD TOMORROW TV program!?

We already employ *all* graduates and all students that qualify. Yet our graduates and students come nowhere near supplying the total need. The specialists, the qualified secretaries, mechanics and tradesmen must come from you, the people that are right now reading this article. They will be dedicated, capable, *experienced* men and women who are, at this moment, *successfully* employed in a capacity *similar* to our job needs here at Headquarters.

Must Be Qualified

You will note, if you read back over the foregoing material, that the stress is on *experienced, qualified and trained* personnel! We have large numbers of applications from dedicated, sincere members who are willing to work at anything, "Whatever you can find for me to do," they say. All they ask is board and room and perhaps a few dollars for spending money. Their heart is right, but they are not *qualified* to be secretaries, electricians, carpenters, printers—in many cases they are not qualified for anything other than a general laborer.

The inexperienced, uneducated are not qualified to fill the vacancies that were created this past week in the many new jobs here at Headquarters when all departments were called upon to help staff *two totally new departments!* The existing departments, of necessity, gave of their finest, most valuable employees to help supply the new departments even though they were already *understaffed*.

The two new departments have been needed for *over ten years!* Yet we have never had the right men to staff them. When Mr. Armstrong looked around for men to head the new departments he was unable to find one new department head, let alone two. The solution, another department head, already overworked, was given a new department that doubled his existing work load!

Work WILL Be Done!

The Work of God is not going to slow down or stop because of a lack of personnel. The Work will go on as more qualified men and women realize the need and step in to assume the heavy work load that must be done NOW! The capable, qualified men and women already on the job here at Headquarters have about reached their limit. There is a limit to what one individual can accomplish in one twenty-four-hour day.

Many are called and chosen and given a first opportunity to participate in this, the Greatest of all Work, The Work of God! Yet many others are asleep at the switch. They are allowing the most colossal opportunity of all time to slip right through their fingers. The opportunity is to those who are awake spiritually. It is *our* opportunity, our future. It is the Kingdom of God! We, who are responsible, must act NOW! Tomorrow may be too late!!

God makes it clear that He will get the Work done and get it done on time. If we, who are called and chosen, were to neglect or fail to do the Work of God—then God says in Luke 19:40 He will raise up *stones* and complete the Work.

You may be the one we are looking for to fill one of the many specific needs here at Headquarters. There are

men and women right now in God's Church *who are qualified* and can serve in these most vital jobs.

If you are one of these, then you are *right now* employed and you have been steadily employed for several years on the *same* job. If you qualify, then you are one who is now earning a good substantial living. You are doing excellent work and are happy in your present job. If you are of the caliber that qualifies for one of the many skilled jobs here at Headquarters and if you were given the job, your present employer would be *very unhappy to lose you!* You would leave a vacancy that would be difficult for your present employer to fill.

The kind of people that we are searching for have their *heart and mind* in the Work of God. Nothing else matters. They are wholeheartedly diligent and dedicated and given to this Work. Yet they are human. They make mistakes! But they usually do not make the same mistake *twice!* They understand God's government and authority in His Work. They would, if hired, work to *please* God first and foremost!

If you qualify as an experienced worker in any field needed at Headquarters, then write in and ask for an application blank. Send us a picture and let us know who you are!

We are especially interested in applications from those of you who live in the vicinity of the West Coast. Because of your proximity to Pasadena you would, if qualified, be able to move to Pasadena more quickly and with less expense to fill an *immediate* need!

We may not hire you! But we'll know about you and your talents—and when the need arises, we will know where to go for the proper employee.

One word of warning: Do *NOT* come to Pasadena assured the Work needs you. Send in for an application first—we will contact you when there is need for your talents.

Yes, the Work of God is going to continue to grow until it covers the whole earth even as the waters cover the sea! It will never slow down or falter. How would you like to be an even greater part of the greatest Work on Earth?

The Unpardonable Sin— Fact or Fallacy?

Here is a commonly misunderstood subject. Many have been confused by misinformation. Can you discern the difference between the facts and fallacies of this vital doctrine? This article makes it clear.

by Richard F. Plache

IS THERE a particular sin which God CANNOT forgive? Some sin so heinous and despicable that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to pardon?

For many, the question of the *unpardonable sin* is a dark and foreboding subject fraught with grave doubts and fears.

Maybe you have fearfully considered the possibility that God may not have forgiven you of some sin—that He has decided to “wash His hands of you”—that you have been cut off from God!

Some have suffered for years under this agonizing uncertainty. Others have decided to give up and quit, because they felt that all hope for salvation was gone.

Do you thoroughly understand the TRUTH about the unpardonable sin? Or have you been confused and disturbed by misunderstanding and superstition? You need to know the difference between the fact and the fallacy of this often-misunderstood doctrine. Your eternal life may depend on it!

The Common Assumption

Many people assume that the unpardonable sin is a particular act that God is either *unable* or *unwilling* to forgive. Some have even speculated as to what it might be. The list includes such acts as adultery, murder, blasphemy and suicide. To them, these sins appear to be so loathsome and base that God just couldn't bring Himself to ever forgive them.

This common but erroneous view focuses attention on the act itself rather than the attitude. It pictures God

as being utterly oblivious to the fervent prayer of the sinner for forgiveness. The person has gone too far—sunk too low—for God to bother wasting His time on such a worthless individual.

Here God is seen as the One who determines whether or not a person *can* be forgiven based on the seriousness of the offense. The *attitude* of the one having committed the sin becomes secondary in importance.

GOD's Nature At Stake

Few seem to realize that this concept of the unpardonable sin is actually a satanically devised scheme to impugn the very character of God—to belittle and limit God's bountiful and merciful offer of forgiveness of sin. It pictures a God who is *TOO SMALL*—who isn't *BIG* enough to pardon *ALL* our sins!

Instead of being unwilling to pardon sin, God reveals that He is *ready to pardon* (Neh. 9:17). God is ready, willing and anxious to forgive us of our sins. God is the One who masterminded the entire plan of salvation. He is the One responsible for sending Jesus Christ to die for the sins of mankind (John 3:16). We don't have to beg, plead or agonize in order to persuade God to “break down” and forgive us. God *wants* to forgive us even more than we want to be forgiven!

Forgiveness is not something which is alien to the nature of God. It isn't something He *reluctantly* does. Rather,

it is actually a direct reflection of His tremendous love for all mankind.

Neither is there some sin which God *can't* forgive—which He stands powerless to forgive, even though He desperately desires to forgive it. God leaves no doubt in our minds on this point. David was inspired to write that God forgives *ALL* our iniquities (Ps. 103:3). He then continues to describe God's effectiveness in forgiving sins: “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities [God's forgiveness removes the penalty that we deserve to receive because of our lawless ways]. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:10-12).

God also reveals that when He forgives He also *forgets*. “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isa. 43:25).

How wonderful it is to understand the greatness of God's mercy and the all-encompassing scope of His forgiveness!

The FACT of Unforgiven Sin

It becomes abundantly clear then that God is both *ready* and *able* to forgive *any* and *all* sin. There is no such thing as a sin God can't forgive. There is no sin which is beyond the scope of God's mercy. Therefore, the

common idea of the unpardonable sin is a FALLACY!

Does this mean, however, that all sin WILL be forgiven?

Despite God's gracious offer of forgiveness, the Bible reveals that all sin is *not* going to be forgiven.

Jesus Christ warned the Pharisees about a sin which would *never* be forgiven. Notice Christ's statement in Matthew 12:31-32: "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

WHY wouldn't this sin be forgiven? Who is responsible—who is at fault? Is God to be blamed and His mercy impugned? Or does the answer lie in the *attitude* of the Pharisees who received this warning?

Man's Responsibility

There are definite *conditions* man must meet *before* God will forgive sin. If one refuses to meet these requirements, then his sins will remain unforgiven.

What are these requirements which God has set forth?

God makes it very clear that He will not clear or pardon the *guilty* (Ex. 34:7). As long as a person *continues* to transgress and rebel against God's laws, God absolutely will not forgive him, even though he might go through the pretense and formality of *asking* God for forgiveness. The prayer of such a person will not even be heard (Lam. 3:42-44).

We must REPENT of our sins *before* we can ask God for forgiveness. The apostle Peter commanded: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, *that* [in order that] your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19.) It is obvious that our sins aren't going to be forgiven UNTIL we have repented.

Isaiah said: "Let the wicked *forsake* his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him *return* unto the Lord, and [after he has met the prior

conditions] he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7).

When we come to God in a RIGHT ATTITUDE—one of humility and true repentance—God has promised to "forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from *all* unrighteousness (I John 1:9). His mercy is offered only to those who *confess* and FORSAKE their sins—not to those who try to cover them (Prov. 28:13).

Unforgiven or unpardoned sin is the result, therefore, of an UNREPENTANT ATTITUDE. It is the ATTITUDE that causes the particular sinful act to go unpardoned. It is the *person* who is to blame. God *never* refuses to forgive a repentant sinner. It is only the UNrepentant sinner, who stubbornly and deliberately *refuses* to forsake his sin and *ask* God for forgiveness, whose sin remains unpardoned.

Seriousness of Blasphemy

Christ warned the Pharisees of the danger of blaspheming God's Spirit. What constitutes blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? And why should it be so irrevocable and final in nature?

The Pharisees were guilty of refusing to acknowledge the miracle of healing Jesus Christ had just performed through the power of God's Spirit. Instead, they falsely and maliciously attributed it to Beelzebub or Satan the Devil. In so doing, they repudiated and rejected the very *work* of Almighty God.

God works through the agency of His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the very *mind* of God *in action*. Through it, whatever God purposes is carried out. As electricity flowing out from a generator or light emanating from a light bulb, so God's Spirit proceeds forth from God, performing the *work* of God.

Jesus Christ showed that no one can come to Him and receive salvation unless God the Father *draws* him (John 6:44). This takes place through the operation of God's Spirit. It is through His Spirit that God begins to open a person's mind to the reality of His truth. Until this occurs, man is hopelessly incapable of grasping and understanding spiritual principles. The apos-

tle Paul showed that "the natural man [the average, normal person] receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). It is only through God's Spirit *working with us* that we can understand.

It is God's Spirit which *reproves* us of our sins (John 16:8) and *convicts* us of the need to repent. We come to understand the necessity of *changing* our way of life and of beginning to obey the laws of God. God is thereby *bringing us* to repentance.

Our responsibility is to *respond* to God as He works with us through His Spirit. As free moral agents, we must decide to *accept* God's offer of salvation. We must yield ourselves to Him. We must surrender—not rebel.

If we fail to respond by hardening ourselves to the influence of God's Spirit, we then become guilty of the very same sin of which Christ warned the Pharisees. We would be rejecting God's call. We would be refusing to permit God to work with us. A mind which has been *opened* by God's Spirit and is therefore able to REALLY understand God's truth is the result of a *supernatural miracle* as much as the healing which the Pharisees refused to acknowledge. To understand the truth and be privileged to obey is such a priceless opportunity that anyone who deliberately rejects it has repudiated the God who has offered it to him.

To blaspheme God's Spirit, therefore, is to deliberately and totally denounce, blaspheme, and reject the very Spirit, or Power, by which God might bring one to the very repentance required to obtain forgiveness. It means to deny, reject, speak against, blaspheme the very AGENT of forgiveness. This is tantamount to a total rejection of God. It automatically cuts the individual off from God, because he has rejected and *severed* himself from the *only* method by which God deals with man—through His Holy Spirit.

This sin applies to an unconverted person who has come to a *knowledge* of the reality of God, and of God's Holy Spirit, and realizes what he is

doing. A carnal-minded person, not really comprehending the reality of God and His Spirit, might say things against the Holy Spirit in his ignorance and still NOT condemn, blaspheme, or falsely accuse God's Spirit. Such a one could later be brought to this *knowledge*, and then brought to real repentance by God's Spirit.

But when the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan, they **KNEW** Jesus was the Christ. They **KNEW** He was the Son of God—the Messiah—and therefore that the power He used *could not* be that of the devil, but the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He spoke of the Pharisees in general when he said, "Rabbi, **WE KNOW** that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except **GOD** be with him" (John 3:2). The Pharisees **KNEW** these miracles could not be done except by the **POWER OF GOD**—which power is the Holy Spirit! (See also Matthew 22:15-16; Mark 12:13-14; Luke 12:47-48.) Of course the Pharisees did not **KNOW** Christ—or **KNOW** God, in the sense of having reconciled contact, as a true Christian does. They *did* know *about* God, and they did know Jesus acted on God's Power.

This sin, of course, could also be committed by a person who had been converted, had the knowledge, but had become embittered and of deliberate hostile, rebellious, antagonistic attitude. It is an **ACTIVE** sin.

There is another sin, possible of once-converted persons, who turn deliberately and intentionally from God and His WAY, which might be a more **PASSIVE** sin—or one of neglect, referred to in Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-27. If one has received God's Spirit, tasted the joys and blessings of fellowship with God, but through neglect, worldly interests, or other cause falls clear away until God's Spirit has completely left him, he has cut himself off.

It is impossible to ever renew such a person to repentance (Heb. 6:4, 6). Repentance comes as the result of God's Spirit at work in a person's life. And this person has rejected its influence and refused to respond in

obedience to God. It is **REPENTANCE IN REVERSE!** Instead of determining to surrender to God in loving obedience—which is repentance—the person hardens himself and determines to deliberately disobey God.

The apostle Paul warned, "For if we sin *willfully* after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation" (Heb. 10:26-27). When this happens, the person is destined to be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14-15).

Does this mean that if we ever sin, once we have come into a knowledge of God's truth, it is automatically unpardonable? If you *know better* but go ahead and commit a sin, is this willful sin?

The apostle John wrote that "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth isn't in us" (I John 1:9). Christians do sin! If anyone says that he doesn't sin, he makes God a liar (I John 1:10).

If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that most of the time we sin we understand that what we are doing is wrong. In other words, **WE KNOW BETTER!** Why then isn't this unpardonable? Isn't *knowledgeable* sin the same as *willful* sin? Not necessarily!

Why Do We Sin?

There are other factors which must be taken into consideration. Stop for a moment and consider David's sin with Bathsheba and his subsequent plot to murder Uriah, her husband. You can read the entire account in II Samuel 11-12. Remember that David at this time was the king over all Israel. Don't you think that he was well versed in the laws of God? Didn't he realize that adultery and murder were sins, deserving capital punishment? Of course he did! He was the one responsible for seeing that God's laws were enforced as the law of the land.

Therefore, David *knew* better! He understood that what he was doing was **SIN**—yet he went ahead and did it anyway. He *knowingly* broke God's law.

Did this, however, constitute *delib-*

erate or *willful* sin? *Were David's actions unpardonable?*

It might appear that David's sins were so despicable and irreparable that God should have totally cut him off. However, God did not reject David—as He had previously rejected Saul from being King of Israel.

What was the difference? Both men admitted that they had sinned (compare I Samuel 15:24 with II Samuel 12:13). Yet God rejected Saul, but didn't reject David. In addition, God's prophet, Nathan, told David that "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." Was God guilty of "playing favorites"? Did God forgive David because He "liked" David more than Saul?

The reason God forgave David and refused to forgive Saul was that David *repented* and Saul did not! Saul had *lied* to God's prophet in an attempt to cover up his sin by claiming he had obeyed God, even though he had not (I Sam. 15:20). Next, he tried to justify his lack of leadership by shifting the blame onto the people (I Sam. 15:21). It was only after Samuel had severely rebuked him for his **REBELLION** and **STUBBORNNESS** (I Sam. 15:23) that Saul reluctantly and half-heartedly admitted that he had sinned. This is **NOT** repentance! Saul's confession was a mere mouthing of words and not a deep, heartfelt repentance of sin. God knew what was in Saul's heart, and God could see that he was anything but repentant. Therefore, God did not forgive Saul and rejected him as king of Israel.

David's attitude was *totally different* from that of Saul. When Nathan confronted David with the enormity of his sin, David didn't try to cover up his sin by lying or self-justification. His confession was a sincere and straightforward response resulting from a broken and deeply repentant attitude of mind. David's repentance was so total and genuine that God actually inspired his prayer of repentance to be recorded and preserved in the Bible as a *perfect model* for all future generations to follow (Ps. 51). Who could ever doubt the genuineness of David's repentance and the validity of his

forgiveness after reading this Psalm?

If David's sins had been deliberate and intentional acts of rebellion against God, he would never have repented of them. Remember the apostle Paul's statement, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened . . . if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance. . . ." (Heb. 6:4, 6). The very fact David *did* repent PROVES he had not willfully sinned!

When one is guilty of willful sin, he can never again come to repentance because he has WILLED (set his will) NOT to repent! He has so hardened himself against God that he absolutely refuses to obey God, much less pray to God for forgiveness of his sins.

Why then *did* David sin?

David was human. He had carnal human nature and so was subject to all of its *weaknesses*, drives and pulls. Instead of *resisting* the temptation aroused within him by the sight of Bathsheba, David permitted himself to be caught up in a vortex of human passion and swept along until his human lusts *overpowered* his better judgment. David fell prey to his own human nature.

Having committed the sin of adultery, David once again allowed his deceitful human nature to *trick* him into an even more disastrous mistake. When his plan to cover up his sin failed, he engineered a scheme by which Uriah would be killed. Yet even in this, it was very easy for David to *deceive himself* that he wasn't really to blame since—he could reason—Uriah was just another unfortunate military casualty (II Sam. 11:25).

Despite the heinous quality of these sins, David never once hardened himself against God. Overpowered by human lust and tricked by deceitful human reasoning, David fell prey to his own human weaknesses. Yet at no time did David *maliciously* and *intentionally* turn away from God. When he finally came to himself and felt the full impact of what he had done, David felt crushed beneath the weight of guilt and turned to God in total repentance. Yes, David repented and was forgiven.

David faced the same problem as we do—mastering self and overcoming human nature. The apostle Paul

graphically describes this struggle in the seventh chapter of Romans: "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (vss. 14-18).

Whenever we drop our spiritual guard and fail to *use* God's Spirit, we are going to encounter the same difficulties David did. We, too, will break God's laws—not deliberately, but out of human weakness.

Another Factor

It is also possible to sin out of *carelessness*. In Psalm 119:10, David prayed for God to keep him from *wandering* from His commandments. Here again, there is no deliberate turning away from God; otherwise, there could be no repentance and return to God.

Does this then justify or excuse our sin? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Sin is sin, whether it is done out of weakness, carelessness or ignorance!

In order to avoid sinning, a Christian must be absolutely alert and constantly aware of the various pitfalls into which he could fall. We are constantly being bombarded by many different temptations. Our own human nature is continually exerting a downward pull. Our carnal minds are an inexhaustible source of wrong thoughts. The society in which we live provides an environment replete with wrong influences and allurements. And if this weren't enough with which to contend, Satan the Devil is going about as a "roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet. 5:8). Satan is the Tempter (Mat. 4:3), and he very cleverly makes sin appear to be very attractive and desirable.

Nothing short of alert and careful vigilance can succeed in the face of such powerful opposition. We must be thoroughly aware of our enemies and be on guard against them.

What would be the chances of survival for a soldier who fell asleep on guard duty in a critical combat zone? Very slim indeed! In fact, the Army has a very stringent penalty for any man found asleep on guard duty, whether in combat or not.

The very same principle applies to the Christian. We are at war! The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy about how to wage "a good warfare" (I Tim. 1:18). As such, we are not to become careless and drowsy. Notice Paul's instructions: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us WATCH and be *sober* . . . putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (I Thess. 5:5-8). Here the Christian is pictured as wearing combat *armor*. He must not go to sleep on the job. He must be watchful and alert—prepared to defend himself at all times against any attack.

Many a traffic accident is caused by a driver carelessly wandering either off the road or across the middle line into the oncoming traffic. Carelessness can also be responsible for causing one to temporarily wander off "the way" of righteousness and into an "accidental" breaking of God's laws. David understood this tendency and prayed for God to keep him from *wandering* from the way of righteousness.

Once again, it is obvious that this type of sin—like that of sinning out of weakness—is NOT willful and deliberate. Therefore, when the person regains his "spiritual consciousness" after the accident (sin), he can repent and receive forgiveness.

No one in his right mind is going to go out on the highway and deliberately jeopardize and imperil his own life. Yet some in God's Church have not yet *awakened* to the imminent peril in which they are placing their spiritual lives. Some have gone spiritually *to sleep at the wheel* and are careening through life on a collision course with disaster!

Possibly some of you feel relieved to know that not all knowledgeable sin is unpardonable. That sin due to weak-

ness and carelessness is forgivable—if repented of.

God is patient and He is merciful. Christ is a merciful High Priest who thoroughly understands all the weaknesses and flaws of human nature. However, don't allow this to lull you into an attitude of excusing and *living with your sins*. God also DEMANDS OBEDIENCE! Jesus Christ stated: "To him that *overcomes* [not merely to him that tries to overcome] will I give power over the nations" (Rev. 2:26).

The apostle Paul stated: "Be not deceived [some are deceiving themselves on this very point]; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:7-8).

Do you think that you are ever going to qualify for God's Kingdom as long as you are losing more than you are winning in the struggle against temptation?

Weakness is NO EXCUSE for continued and repeated sin. Whereas the sin may not be deliberate, nevertheless, *continued* disobedience lessens the pangs of conscience, so that the person feels less and less troubled and guilty about his sin. The end result is an absolute *searing* of the conscience (I Tim. 4:2)—an "I don't care" attitude, which places him beyond the influence of God's Spirit and therefore constitutes blasphemy against God's Spirit.

Though there are certain sins which seem harder to resist than others, if a person *earnestly wants* to overcome his weaknesses and character flaws, he WILL SUCCEED.

We can have this confidence because God is the One who gives us the spiritual power to overcome through His Holy Spirit. God's Spirit is a spirit of POWER (II Tim. 1:7). Through this power, we CAN overcome. No human weakness is more powerful than God's Spirit. The apostle Paul said that he could do ALL THINGS through Christ who *strengthened* him (Phil. 4:13). Sin will not have dominion over us if we use this power and put it to work in our lives (Rom. 6:14; 8:4).

Neither is carelessness justifiable in light of the awesome and overwhelming offer of salvation which God has set before us. As heirs of salvation, "we ought to give the more EARNEST HEED to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip . . . How shall we escape, if we NEGLECT [let carelessly slip through our fingers], SO GREAT SALVATION" (Heb. 2:1, 3).

Brethren, this is *our* day of salvation. We will have no other. Unless we qualify NOW for the Kingdom of God, we will face the ultimate fate of all those who have either through weakness, carelessness or deliberate rebellion turned their backs on God's gift of life and chosen the way of death.

No longer should anyone be confused concerning the unpardonable sin. God is ready and anxious to forgive us of any and all sin we might commit. It is only the stubborn and unrepentant attitude of the sinner which would ever result in a sin not being forgiven. When we humbly and fervently beseech God for forgiveness, our sins *will* be forgiven.

We must not question God's promise of forgiveness. Neither should we go on living with guilt complexes over past sins, which we have *already* asked God to forgive.

Instead, we should face the future with *total confidence* in the all-encompassing mercy of God. We must do *battle* with our sins and overcome them.

God desires more than anything else that YOU be born into His Kingdom! It is not His will that any single one be lost. However, the choice is entirely up to YOU!

Bible Questions

(Continued from page 11)

made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: *but ye have NOT OBEYED MY VOICE: why have ye done this?"*

Losing faith in God, the Israelites

stopped obeying Him. He had commanded them to cast the pagans OUT of the land—but they didn't think they could. For this reason, God sternly warned them, "Wherefore I also said, *I will not drive them out* from before you; but they shall be as THORNS in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you" (Judges 2:1-3).

Since the children of Israel compromised with God, He did not use His great POWER to drive the inhabitants from the land. He left the Israelites to their own devices—until they would repent of their sins and unfaithfulness, and turn to Him.

The lesson is plain: God *has* ALL power—But, God will not USE His great power on behalf of His people, *unless* they put their trust and FAITH in Him—and OBEY Him!

My ten-year-old daughter is feeling bad because of her poor grades. Her teachers lowered her grades because she took off time to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. What can I do to help her?

First, you need to ask yourself, what is the REAL reason your daughter received poor grades? Has her schoolwork been inferior? Did she neglect to keep up with her studies while at the Feast?

Frankly, as a parent, *how much interest* and concern do you take in your child's grades?

Often, a child's poor showing in school can be directly traced to the environment at home! If parents take no real interest in properly disciplining and TEACHING their children at home, this fact is often evidenced in poor grades at school.

Remember, God holds the PARENTS directly responsible for the education and especially the religious instruction of their children (Eph. 6:4). This is a vital, serious responsibility! Don't neglect it!

Parents should always take a direct interest in the studies and schoolwork of their children—perhaps even discuss it at dinner once in a while. Their children should feel free at the right time to approach Mommy or Daddy to receive proper help and encouragement in studies. If parents will treat this re-

sponsibility seriously, they should be able to give their child vital help, a positive attitude toward learning, and communicate to their children a vital enthusiasm toward education.

Also, if parents are really interested in their children's welfare, they should REALIZE the problems which come to a child due to missing two weeks of school in the Fall. They should, therefore, approach the child's teachers *prior* to the Feast, and politely explain that they will be attending a "church convention" and that the children also attend, and politely ask permission for their child to be excused from classes for the duration. They should let the teachers know that they will be very *happy* to see to it that the child keeps up with any required schoolwork—and even ASK the teachers for advance assignments which they could then give the child during suitable hours during the Feast itself.

When approaching a teacher about the Feast, parents should use wisdom and NOT make it sound like some crank religious assembly. Just using the term "church convention" will often be the best way to avoid stirring up unnecessary questions or problems.

In certain cases it might also be necessary to see the school principal and explain the situation to him. If approached in a positive, friendly manner, everything should work out all right. But be friendly! DON'T try to "preach a sermon" about the FEAST! Make your explanation *personal*, and friendly, without implying that the whole world is wrong and everybody should attend the Feast. Avoid all religious argument—and you will avoid trouble!

In most cases, if parents will treat their responsibility seriously, and HELP their children to keep up with their studies, the children will not be left far behind when they return to school. In a very few cases, however, certain particular teachers may give the child lower grades out of religious spite.

Then what? Naturally, the child would feel "bad" about it. Here is your chance, as a parent, to really help your child build character, and instill within her (or him) certain valuable lessons in life.

By gentle teaching, help the child

realize that the grade itself isn't the important thing—the important thing is the *knowledge* learned. And, through patient teaching, help her realize that the knowledge she learned at GOD'S FEAST OF TABERNACLES is the most important, most VITAL knowledge available anywhere—knowledge which simply does not come from textbooks at school!

Another lesson which such persecution affords is a chance to teach your child how to *withstand* persecution and trials—the lesson that God's people can expect persecution from the world. Teach the child that a certain amount of such persecution is good for us—it strengthens character, teaches us patience, and helps us to really realize that the world is in deep ignorance of God's plan and purpose in life!

Therefore, when persecution comes, we should radiantly REJOICE—with gratitude and thankfulness, knowing that trials and tests are necessary in life, and that having the knowledge of God's truth and being able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles to worship the TRUE GOD is far more important than a few undeserved grades in a few classes!

Teach your children to have an outgoing, positive attitude toward their trials in school. Teach them to let their lights shine forth in GOOD classroom work and study habits. Teach them to ALWAYS maintain a respectful, good attitude toward *all* their teachers, both the friendly, and the unfriendly. This way, you will be helping THEM lay the groundwork for the future, in their personal lives, teaching them lessons which will be VITAL to them in later years!

Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (Jn. 2:19). Jesus was speaking of His own body—but how could He resurrect Himself?

When Jesus Christ died, He was totally DEAD. "Christ DIED for us," the apostle Paul wrote (Rom. 5:8). And, "... we were reconciled to God by the DEATH of His Son" (v. 10).

Jesus was dead and buried for three days and three nights in the tomb

(Mat. 12:40; I Cor. 15:3-4). Since He was dead and in the grave for three days, He obviously had no power to resurrect Himself, by His own power! According to Solomon, those who are in the grave "know not anything" (Eccl. 9:5). He declared, "... for there is NO WORK, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, *in the grave*, whither thou goest" (v. 10).

Those who are DEAD have no power, no consciousness—no knowledge. Since Christ was dead, He was in the very same literal condition. Yet Jesus plainly said in three days He would raise up His body. Since He could not have done it through His own power, how was this tremendous miracle accomplished?

Notice Jesus' own explanation. He declared, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of *my Father*" (John 10:17-18).

The living Father in heaven resurrected Christ and gave Him POWER to ascend out of the grave! The apostle Peter also explained, "Whom GOD *hath raised up*, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24). Again, "This Jesus hath GOD RAISED UP, whereof we all are witnesses" (v. 32).

Long before His crucifixion and resurrection, Christ KNEW that the Father would raise Him from the dead. Jesus had absolute, unwavering confidence that God would perform His promise. He laid down His life with assurance, knowing that God would perform His part.

When you, for instance, deposit money at a bank, you have confidence that you can return to the bank and withdraw your deposit. Why? Because the bank has given you its word—it has promised. Even so, God the Father had given His Word to Christ that He would raise Him up. Jesus relied on this absolute PROMISE of the Father. Therefore He spoke with authority and conviction whenever He spoke of His coming resurrection!