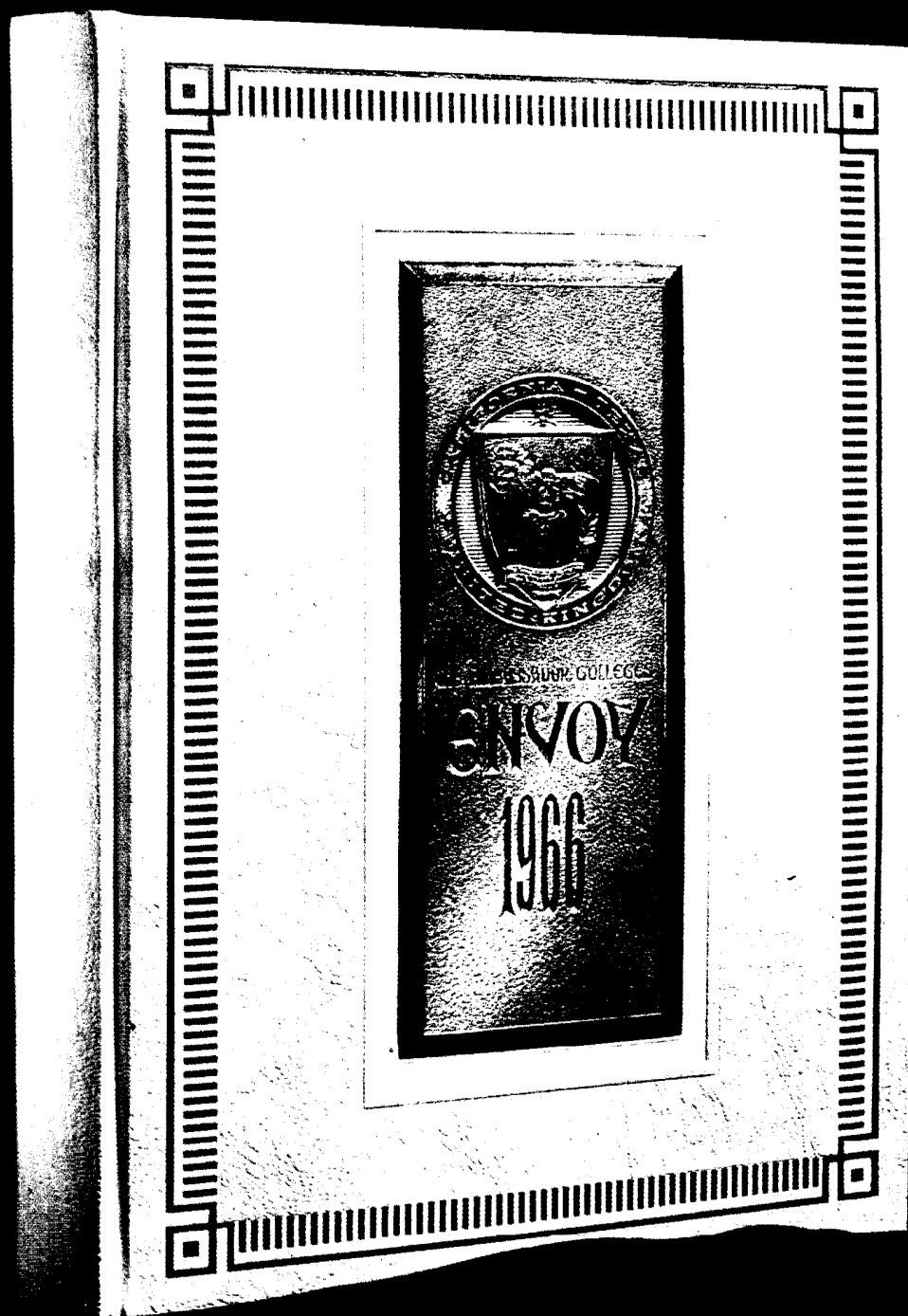


The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



JANUARY, 1967



More About Our Cover...

Your 1966 ENVOY is now ready for distribution! It will be in the mails by the time you read this announcement. Thank you for your patience — we feel it will be rewarded. We have spent a year and a half of careful effort to make the '66 ENVOY the very best we could. The striking cover portrait of this largest, most colorful edition ever can only hint at the quality and beauty carried throughout the book. Two-hundred-ten full-color pictures are sprinkled through 440 pages to give you a complete, life-like pictorial chronicle of the year's activities at the three Ambassador Colleges and the Work of God around the world.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY . . .

Grateful for "Ruling on Women's Dress"

"I think your article in *The GOOD NEWS* about 'The Ruling on Women's Dress' was a very eye-opening article. I think it was very eye-opening because I am guilty of having my skirts too short. Believe me, they are going to be lengthened because I really love God and His laws and to be of this world and not God's Church will never be my choice. Thank you so much for such a great article of more of God's Word. Thank you for everything. My life would be worthless without God's Word and laws. Thank you!"

Miss C. D., (age 15)
Arizona

New Texarkana Church

"I just had to write and tell you how glad I was to get the letter to go to Texarkana for a Sabbath Service. Thank you for raising up the church there. It's 55 miles from home and I have to ride the bus and cab, but that really is nothing. I can hardly wait for the next Sabbath day to come."

W. M. L., Arkansas

Mr. Waterhouse's Tour Appreciated

"We do wish to say how much we enjoyed hearing Mr. Gerald Waterhouse as well as seeing the movie slides he brought. It was truly worth seeing. We can see very well why other people think the colleges are very beautiful. They are very beautiful and well kept. We do wish he would have had

some pictures of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and his family. That would have been real nice. Maybe they will next time. Anyway we think it was really something worth seeing. God's Work is really growing. And we can't thank God enough for all He has done to help us, and to help you in every way."

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. H.,
South Carolina

"Mr. Gerald Waterhouse has been visiting our church area (Greensboro and Fayetteville, North Carolina) for the past week. The sermon given by him and the slides shown made me really realize the importance of God's Work. I realize more that God is there and means business."

M. H., (Co-worker)
North Carolina

Eager to Stay "In Touch"

"The recent broadcasts have been even *more* dynamic, the *best* ever. Mr. Ted Armstrong makes the truth so clear, so logical, so easy to grasp. We depend upon this ministry, as many others must, since we are not near a congregation. We eagerly await every letter, every magazine, pamphlet — even a tithe receipt — to reassure ourselves that we are 'in touch' with other brethren. We are so happy to be a small part of this greatest endeavor on the whole earth — and we are just *beginning*."

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. S.,
New York

The Good News

International magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD
ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE

Ministerial Conference convenes — new truth and new doors opened. More Churches and Bible studies begun. Greatest growth ever planned.

by David Jon Hill

“**W**E ARE going to have to accomplish more in the *next two years* than we have in the *past thirty-three!*” This sobering yet thrilling statement made by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong set the theme for the 1967 Ministerial Conference at Headquarters here in Pasadena. From January 9, through January 19, the key ministers from around the world convened for the thirteenth time in the most important conference on the face of the earth!

I have been blessed in being able to attend each one of these Conferences and feel qualified to say that this year's Conference was *outstanding!* Just as each Feast of Tabernacles seems to get better than the last, so does each Ministerial Conference — but *this* Conference was not just “better than the last”—it was **OUTSTANDING!** This seems to be the year God's Work goes into *high gear!*

From The Conference

You will be reading articles in *The GOOD NEWS* in future months which will be the direct fruit of this Conference. A very thorough study of the farming situation has been taking place on our Ambassador Campus in Texas, and a thorough report of all their findings will be presented to you in the months following. A thorough and better understanding of God's tithing laws and the *real purpose* for them

came very clear in this Conference. Articles on this subject will be coming your way. Also many more principles of family relations—the husbands' and wives' responsibilities to each other and their children—were thoroughly discussed and more articles are already assigned to cover these discussions and decisions.

Subjects ranging from the understanding of God's laws on mixed fabrics to the milking of cows on the Sabbath were expounded and each of these will find its way into sermons in your local congregations and later into articles or question box answers in the pages of this magazine.

Most important of all was the mas-

sive work on the subject of warfare and a complete understanding of God's command “Thou shalt not kill” that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong presented to the Conference ministers. A great deal of time and energy—both physical and spiritual—has gone into the preparation of this subject. New light from God's Word and a most thorough understanding of the subject has come out of that time and effort. As soon as the finishing touches are put on by Mr. Armstrong, he plans to run the product serially in the pages of *The GOOD NEWS*.

There were also many reports made from around the world regarding the state of the Work—there were ordi-



Our Pastor-General, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, presided at the majority of the meetings.

Ambassador College Photo

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong addresses the conclave of ministers during an afternoon session.
Ambassador College Photo



nations (which will be covered individually in the next issue of this magazine) — the most productive Ministerial Conference to date has adjourned and the new life that it inspired in the men responsible for carrying out the commission God has given to His Church will be felt more dynamically in this year to come than in any other past year!

1966 In a Nutshell

A very succinct annual report on the growth of churches, Bible studies and ministers in the Church of God worldwide in 1966 was given at this Conference. Following are some excerpts from this report.

The total income increase this year fell below the usual 30 percent to a 24.7 percent — this should drive us to our knees more often and more fervently and make us more diligent in our own tithes and offerings, sacrificing more than ever for the Work in this year to come.

In the calendar year of 1966, 26 new churches were raised up, 18 in the United States and 8 in foreign countries. This brings the total number of churches worldwide to 146. In this same year there were 34 *new* ordinations and 26 raises in rank in God's Ministry, bringing the total number of ordained men to 210. In addition to these ordained men, there are 41 unordained men serving full time ministering to the churches throughout the world.

The total number of people attending church in the United States at the end of 1966 was almost 35,000 and there were 5,100 plus attending in foreign countries giving a worldwide total of over 40 thousand people at-

tending services each week in God's Church worldwide!

In the United States alone there are a total of 115 churches with an average attendance in each of these of 304 persons. Although there are 134 men visiting full time in the United States, each is responsible for serving an average of 261 people! Overseas, taking charge of the 32 churches, are 27 full-time men each serving an average of 189 people! In addition to these church locations there are 39 separate Bible studies worldwide available to brethren who do not have a local church to attend.

New Churches

Three new churches have been begun since the fall 1966 report on worldwide distribution of manpower which you all received with the October-November GOOD NEWS.

On November 12, of last year the Manchester, New Hampshire Bible study became the Manchester Church! Mr. Raymond Cole, the District Superintendent and an Evangelist in God's Ministry was on hand for the first Sabbath service there. Mr. Reg Platt is the resident pastor serving the more than 170 people in attendance each Sabbath.

Later that same month Mr. Frank Schnee raised up a new church in Munich, West Germany. There were 30 people in attendance on that Sabbath, November 26. Mr. Frank Schnee and the Local Elder, Mr. Gunar Freibergs, have a unique situation in Germany. With the new church in Munich there are now four churches for these two

Mr. Dale Schurter gave a full report on the tremendous progress being made in the Texas Farm Program.

Ambassador College Photo

men to pastor. Each of these churches is from 100 to 200 miles from the others and in Europe that's a long way!

Therefore, the four German churches each meet only once a month. Mr. Schnee finds himself traveling on a circuit through Assyria just like Samuel did going through a circuit in ancient Israel stopping at Beth-el, Gilgal, and Mizpah each year. In today's Germany Herr Schnee and Herr Freibergs travel in circuit to Frankfurt, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, and Munich, month by month!

During the successive Sabbaths in all four cities the day begins around nine in the morning. After a little fellowship, a Bible study begins at 9:30, and during the next hour and a half or so the German members are able to have questions they have accumulated during the month answered straight from God's Word by God's Minister. The meeting place in each instance is a fine hotel and the people adjourn from the Bible study to have a pleasant luncheon together. Then a sermonette is delivered, special music and announcements are given, then a full sermon just as in any Sabbath service anywhere in the world in God's Church. After Sabbath services in the afternoon the brethren again get together for fellowship and personal counsel — this time over cake and coffee! Mr. Schnee reports it is usually about 6:00 p.m. before the last member leaves! The membership of each church runs some-

(Continued on page 24)



WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

Many of you brethren have never fully realized what your goal ought to be. Desiring merely to make it into God's Kingdom is not enough. You need a much higher goal than this!

by Raymond F. McNair

WHAT SHOULD the real Christian goal be? Most members of God's Church will automatically answer, "Why, my goal is to enter the Kingdom of God!"

Isn't this what Christ showed the Christian goal should be? He commanded, "But *seek ye first the KINGDOM OF GOD, and His righteousness; and all these things [material necessities] shall be added unto you*" (Mat. 6:33).

Content To Be A Doorkeeper?

But—is this goal sufficient? Should zealous Christians have an even higher goal, *within* the overall goal of entering God's Kingdom?

Should the Christian seek more than just *entering* the Kingdom of God—just making it into God's Kingdom?

Or, should a Christian be quite content to seek no higher goal in the Kingdom of God than merely to be "a doorkeeper"? Didn't King David say, "I had rather be a *doorkeeper* in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Ps. 84:10)?

Did David mean that he was content to seek the lowest place or position in God's Kingdom?

No, brethren, this is not what David said or meant!

He merely showed it would be far more desirable to be a mere doorkeeper in the Kingdom of God than to have what some might think to be a more honored position *in this world*.

God's Word clearly reveals that He is not pleased to see us seeking merely to *enter* His Kingdom. He wants to see us enter with "flying colors"! He hopes we will lawfully strive for more than just making it into His Kingdom!

The apostle Peter made this point very clear.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give

diligence to *make your calling and election sure*: for if ye do these things ye shall never fall: For so *an entrance shall be ministered unto you ABUNDANTLY into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (II Pet. 1:10, 11).

The apostle Paul clearly showed that, at the judgment, God will reward every man "according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:5, 6).

Seek for Glory?

But, should a Christian seek more than eternal life? More than a mere place in God's Kingdom? Notice the apostle Paul's answer: "To them who by *patient continuance in well doing SEEK for GLORY and HONOR and IMMORTALITY, eternal life*" (Rom. 2:7).

God Almighty promises He will give us much more than immortality—more than mere eternal life in His Kingdom! In addition to eternal life He will give us "*glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile*" (verse 10).

Yes, brethren, God's Word clearly reveals that we should seek for more than mere eternal life.

Some will make it into God's Kingdom, but will not receive a very great reward—because they have not diligently served God to the utmost of their ability! They have not served Him with all their might—have not sought, lawfully, for a greater reward in God's Kingdom!

God wants us to receive a *full* reward. "Look to yourselves, that we *lose not* those things which we have wrought, but that we receive **A FULL REWARD**" (II John 8).

Is it possible for people to enter God's Kingdom, yet not receive a full reward? It certainly is!

If we seek the bare minimum—mere

entrance into the Kingdom of God—then we will probably not even make it! We could even lose the crown which God has waiting for us. "Behold, I come quickly; *hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take THY CROWN*" (Rev. 3:11).

Yes, God Almighty will reward us according to the actual *fruits* which we have produced—according to our *works*! At the second coming of Jesus Christ every Christian is going to stand before Him to personally receive this reward. "For *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*" (II Cor. 5:10).

Some in God's Church are not yielding to God as they should. They are not really *striving* to enter God's Kingdom (Luke 13:24). Such indolent Christians (spiritual drones) are not producing as much fruit as God Almighty expects of them.

Produce a Hundredfold!

Jesus Christ, in the Parable of the Sower, revealed that some will produce *no fruit* whatsoever; others will bear only *thirtyfold* or *sixtyfold*. *But some will produce ONE HUNDREDFOLD*.

Should we be content merely to produce thirtyfold? or sixtyfold? or ninetyfold? or should we strive to produce one hundredfold—thereby making God supremely happy?

Remember, Christ revealed that it is God's will that we bear—not thirtyfold, or sixtyfold—but one hundredfold! "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye *bear MUCH fruit*; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).

But *how* will Christ judge us? How will He determine whether we have borne much fruit? Whether we have

borne thirtyfold, or sixtyfold or one hundredfold?

It is vitally important that each Christian know *how* God Almighty, in the person of Jesus Christ, will judge him at Christ's second coming. Be absolutely certain of this: Christ's judgment will be completely honest, fair and true.

Talents According to Ability

God Almighty clearly reveals to us, especially *through Christ's parables*, how we will be judged.

The *Parable of the TALENTS* (Mat. 25:14-30) reveals part of the answer as to how Christ will judge us.

This parable clearly shows that *we are NOT all born equal!* We are not all born with the same innate talents and abilities! "And unto one He gave *five* talents, to another *two*, and to another *one*; to every man **ACCORDING TO HIS SEVERAL [individual] ABILITY**" (verse 15).

Certainly, some people are born with far greater talents and abilities — greater *mental* and/or *physical* dexterity — than others.

God expects each one to make the most of whatever He has given him.

This Parable of the Talents reveals that God expects each one of us to employ our talents in some gainful way so that we can gain other talents in addition to what we have been given by God at birth!

Finally, the Lord reckons with the ones to whom He has given the talents (verse 19). The one who had been given *five* talents, *doubled* his and now had *ten*. Christ said to him, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord*" (verse 21).

Likewise, the one who had received only *two* talents had *doubled* his, and in like manner, the Lord said to him: "*Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord*" (verse 23).

Did you notice that Jesus Christ said, "Well done" to each of these diligent servants? Each had *doubled* the talents given to him, and *each was highly*

commended by the Lord for so doing.

But the one who had received only "one talent" looked upon God as "an hard man" — thought He was dishonest, and didn't do anything with his talent (verses 24, 25). Christ commanded, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness" (verse 30).

Reward According to Effort

The *Parable of the POUNDS* (Luke 19:12-27) shows a different aspect of *how* God will judge His people.

In this parable Christ called His *ten* servants and delivered unto *each a pound*. He told them, "*Occupy till I come*" (verse 13). This word "occupy" means to gainfully use or profitably employ by trading.

Verse 15 reveals that when Jesus Christ returns, after having received the Kingdom, He will call His servants to an accounting to see "*how much every man has GAINED by trading*" (verse 15).

The most diligent of the ten servants will come saying, "Lord, *thy pound* hath gained **TEN** pounds. And He said unto him, *Well, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful over little, have thou authority over **TEN** cities*" (verses 16, 17).

Yes, this diligent servant was given a great deal of responsibility — because he had already proved he was able to wisely use the responsibility placed upon him.

The second servant came to reckon with his Lord. He hadn't been quite so diligent. He said, "Lord *thy pound* hath gained **FIVE** pounds. And He said likewise to him, *Be thou also over **FIVE** cities*" (verses 18, 19).

Notice that Christ doesn't call him "thou good servant"!

But what will Christ think of the *slothful* servant — the one who looked upon God as "an austere man"? The one who thought God was unrighteous (verse 21)?

Christ will severely rebuke this indolent servant, saying that he should have gainfully employed the pound which he had been given, so God could have received His original investment plus interest [usury]. "Take from him the

pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds" (verse 24).

The servants who were standing by thought this seemed unwise, if not unjust. They said, "Lord, he hath *ten* pounds" (verse 25).

But Jesus will plainly reveal that those who have already proved they can exercise greater authority — greater responsibility, greater rulership — are more deserving and capable. They are to be given added responsibility.

This same lesson is also pointed out by Christ in the Parable of the Talents (Mat. 25:28). The one who had only *one* talent (and who didn't do anything with it) had his talent taken from him and given to the one who had "*ten* talents."

It is certainly *right* that God should do this! The one who had only proved capable of handling *five talents* (or *five pounds*) would certainly find it more difficult to manage an additional talent (or pound) than would the most diligent servant — who had already proved he could manage *ten talents* (or ten pounds).

This Parable of the Pounds reveals that (of those who have *equal* talents and abilities) God will give the greater reward to those who develop their talents and abilities to a greater extent. This parable was not intended to show that everybody in God's Church is born with the same innate talent and ability. It merely points out that those in God's Church of approximate equal ability will be judged according to what they do with their "pound."

All-important Time Factor

The *Parable of the LABORERS in the Vineyard* (Mat. 20:1-6) plainly reveals that God Almighty will take another very important factor — the time element — into account when judging and rewarding His people.

In this parable all Christians are likened unto laborers in a vineyard. The householder hired some laborers "early in the morning." He agreed with them to pay each a penny a day. Later others were hired "at the third hour" (9:00 a.m.) and still others were hired at "the sixth" (12:00 noon) and "ninth" (3:00 p.m.) hours of the day.

(Continued on page 19)

TEN RULES TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS!

Here are some of the basic rules and principles you need to know in order to make ends meet!

by David Jon Hill

WHY CAN'T your family make ends meet? Why are so many members in God's Church in debt—while others are seemingly never able to rise above the tide of their financial burdens? God's ministers in every local church encounter all too often *real serious* money problems! Is this God's will that His people should be perennially "in the red," never quite able to make those ends meet at the end of the month?

You need to know the answers to these and other questions! In this article are ten basic principles on handling money—whether you are the head of the house providing for as many as a dozen, or a student working only part time—these rules apply just the same! There are certainly many other principles regarding income that we cannot possibly deal with in one article, but these are definitely ten of the most *important* principles. Read and study these rules—analyze *where you* are falling short, then make the necessary *changes* which will bring *results* and end your worries once and for all!

First Things First!

The *first* rule governing our incomes is the basic, trunk of the tree principle revealed by Jesus Christ in Matthew 6:33! Surely you have frequently heard that we must seek *first* the Kingdom of God—but brethren, too many of us are not *really* applying this great cardinal rule in our lives *daily*! Read Matthew 6:33 *again*. Notice the *emphasis* Christ puts on putting *first things first*!

Keeping this one prime principle in mind, ask yourself if you are guilty of putting your *physical concerns* above God's Kingdom? Are you mainly in-

terested in the same mundane pursuits after which the world seeks? Notice verse 25, "Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, nor yet for your body..." Are these *your* chief concerns—the material, temporal cares—or is your *main* and first concern seeking God's righteousness??

Here is an example of members who *applied* rule number one—they put obedience to God *first*, regardless of the consequences.

In this particular instance, a father and son, both members in a local church, began their roofing business shortly before the Feast. It may not have been the most opportune time to begin a business, but the way conditions occurred they were forced to begin then. At the time of the Feast they were faced with the decision of keeping the Feast Days, or of working. Leaving a new business UNATTENDED at this crucial time, the very beginning weeks—for several whole days—would be suicide—*without God*! Brethren, you *just don't* start a new business then turn right around a couple of weeks later and leave it! But these members did just that and they kept the Feast with their *whole* hearts and DID NOT LET the business cause them undue concern!

What would *you* have done? Many of you would have put the physical, immediate goals first and would not have fully kept the Feast Days, even to the point of *requiring* new employees to miss several vital days of work—just to keep the Feast and to *put God first*!

What were the results? Is God REAL and able to intervene DIRECTLY to bless those who obey Him in a *tangible*,

material way? The answer, as this example vividly points out, is a resounding YES! These members—on returning home found that in the interim, *while they were keeping the Feast*, a large-scale hailstorm had totally or partially damaged approximately 50,000 roofs in the immediate vicinity! Staggering isn't it—yet it *actually happened*!

Needless to say there was much more business than the already established roofing companies could handle and these *members* in God's Church, because obedience to God came first, were blessed *beyond* measure and, in fact, are *growing monthly* to the point of possibly becoming a major factor in the roofing business in their area! Accidental? Coincidence? You *try* to tell *them* that it was a mere accident or just coincidence, or that God did not intervene and give them the *real* start into a successful business venture!

Don't misunderstand—hard work, drive, initiative, resourcefulness, perseverance, proper training for the job they were tackling were all present. But without their complete trust in God, yielding to *His will* when it conflicted with all the *physical* signs was what brought God's blessing—and *more* important than the financial blessing, *created right character*!

This then, brethren, demonstrates, at least for those of you who are *converted* and can see God's hand in such matters, the first cardinal rule! If you don't follow this rule the others will be of NO value! Put God and ABSOLUTE *obedience* to His laws FIRST—and HE will provide the material blessings!

"Prove Me Now Herewith"

"Here is my regular tithe. I want all of you to know that from the first time

I started tithing until now, I have actually doubled my income and have been able to triple the size of God's first tithe. I am certainly thankful God has revealed His laws to me"—so writes a co-worker from Ohio. Here, brethren, is the second of these rules—the LAW OF TITHING. We as members in the Church of the *Living God*, already know the promises God makes in Malachi 3 regarding our tithes—but the real question is: *why aren't more of you being faithful and paying ALL of your tithes?* This law concerns not only the first tithe, but the *second* and the *third* tithes as well—in fact, the principles in God's Word also COMMAND us to go *above and beyond* these tithes and offerings.

All too often members or prospective members ask God's ministers for counsel concerning their finances when they are having problems. During the conversation, it often becomes apparent that the individual is not being completely *honest* with God and paying ALL of his tithes! *How can you EXPECT to be blessed?* Can you consistently break a man-made law and *expect* to get away with it? Then how do you expect to break the *inexorable* LAWS OF GOD and still be blessed?

The *obvious* answer is that you cannot!

Here is another recent example of one who put God to the test—"We are farmers, raising wheat and cattle, so we do not have a monthly income, but at the year's end we figure out our books and see if God has gotten at least 10 percent. We have tithed for over 15 years. We know that those who refuse to yield to God on this are missing a blessing. Since coming into contact with your preaching, we know some of the tithes we formerly paid were not used to the best advantage. But, God blesses the giver on the basis of his understanding and obedience to what light he does have. Besides all the spiritual blessings, we have asked for rain in dire need, and God has granted it. Ofttimes it never rained but on a few square miles, and *we* got the needed rain! A number of years our crops were much better than even those right across the fence. We have much more with 90 per-

cent than we would have with 100 percent without God."

Rather than spend more space here on this important rule, let me encourage you to re-read and *study* the booklet, *Ending Your Financial Worries* and the article which appeared in the July, 1960 PLAIN TRUTH, "The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe." These and other articles very thoroughly cover this rule and should be *studied* by those of you who may still be breaking God's tithing laws and yet expecting God's blessings.

Remember Jesus Christ's own words in regard to this: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). This is the way we PHYSICALLY express the extent to which our HEART is in God's Work!

Resist The Urge!

Rule number three is the vital principle of *self-discipline!* Too many are guilty of "impulse buying" and are now suffering the serious consequences. Others have borrowed from "loan sharks" and find themselves in an even *worse* predicament! *Part* of your conversion and overcoming is the *capacity to control yourselves!* God promises in Galatians 5:23 as one of the *fruits* of His Holy Spirit the strength to be temperate, the ability to control the natural desires and pulls of the flesh.

Are you not different from the world? The unconverted people around you are *totally* subject to their passions—they are *unable* to resist the urge to "impulsively splurge." This natural weakness directly affects their finances and is one of the major CAUSES of debt and complete financial failure! But YOU have the knowledge of God and the power of His Holy Spirit which gives you the *strength to resist!* Why then, don't more of you *utilize* this power? God intends for you to OVERCOME the *natural* urge to purchase on impulse!

Why do so many husbands even in God's Church come home to find that their wives have foolishly purchased more and costly clothes, the latest gadgets, and a dozen other *unnecessary* things?

The same is true of men. They too, are subject to *vanity* and *lust*. Often they will desire to have what the other

men have—perhaps a sporty new car, a fine expensive rifle, etc., all of which *add up to MONEY!* Brethren, the lack of self-discipline is *costly!!*

It has often been said of the average middle-class American that he "buys things he does not really *need*, to *impress* people he may not even like—with money he *does, not* have." How *shockingly* true! This is *the world*, but can't *you* with the strength of God's Spirit rise above human vanity that says you must "keep up with the Joneses"? Yet because many have consistently broken and violated this vital law, failing to control their lusts, they are paying bitterly for it!

Economists in the world generally classify our possessions and purchases in three categories: (1) **Needs**—such as food, clothing, furniture, etc. (2) **Comforts**—this includes the devices which make life more comfortable. For example, an *automatic* washer and dryer, a phonograph, perhaps a second car, etc. (3) **Luxuries**—this should be self-explanatory . . . items like an *expensive* camera, *elaborate* hunting and fishing equipment, a *color* TV set, a stereo, a motor scooter for the kids, scuba-diving equipment for yourself, and perhaps a private flying license. Understand—these things are *not* wrong *per se*, but frequently we encounter members who own such items while not being able to properly clothe their children! Brethren, this is all due to vanity and an *expensive* lack of self-control!

Analyze your recent purchases or for that matter *all* your possessions. Classify them in these three categories. Do you then begin to *see* the problem? Space does not permit us to make a complete list for you but you can take the initiative and *honestly evaluate* your present possessions—and future purchases. Are you taking care of your family *needs* first, then the *comforts*, and as your income allows, a *FEW luxuries?*

Undoubtedly a few words need to be said about credit cards because of their recent popularity. The principle is based on temporary borrowing, which according to God's Word, is not wrong. Many have misunderstood the scripture in Romans 13:8 which says "Owe no man anything . . ." Paul is speaking of

being diligent to pay what you owe — such as in verse 7, “. . . tribute to whom tribute . . .” He is not forbidding to borrow, *when* there is a real need.

A credit card offers a number of advantages, such as when genuine need for something arises at a time when you lack sufficient cash. If such a purchase can be made now with the credit card and paid for later, then no principle of God is violated. Many who travel a great deal (such as God’s ministers) find these cards advantageous. It alleviates the necessity, for example, of having to carry around large sums of cash—an unsafe practice in this day and age!

The credit card principle differs from strict borrowing in that on most cards there is no *interest* charged. It is merely a *convenience* and should be utilized as such. If you have them, be cautious not to make purchases because it is *so easy* and convenient. You may want to ask yourself if you would normally make this purchase if you had the cash with you and if it is an obligation which you will be able to meet when the actual bill comes.

But remember the rule: *Resist the urge!*

Live Within Your Means

The fourth of these principles some of you may already be employing, but we can surmise from the problems, that *many* are not applying it—and may not even be *aware* of it.

This is the need for a *definite budget!*

Webster defines budget as “a financial statement of estimated income and expense” . . . whether it be a country, a business or a family. Every successful business is run on a certain budget. The income is figured and the outgo (expenses, overhead, etc.) is calculated and the difference tells the story of profit or loss. Yet many of you have never really figured your income dollar for dollar, and accounted for all your living expenses—and if you ever did have a budget, the chances are you have long since abandoned it. Yet, brethren, you cannot really learn to rule and build character without a definite budget for your income!

If you were to make such a budget you may even find yourselves *living beyond your income!* We find this quite often among new members who have recently come from the world, and because of the social pressures around them found themselves living *considerably* above their means—primarily to “keep up with the Joneses.” Mr. Armstrong has said in the past that we will be judged by “what we do with what we have.” You as an individual have the *responsibility* to budget *your* income! How well you learn to handle your money while in the flesh may well determine how you as a spirit being will handle much larger responsibilities!! In verse 17 of Luke 19, Christ said, “Because you have been *faithful* in a very little, have you authority over ten cities.” The ten servants were rewarded by what they did with what they had! How are you doing, brethren, with what you have? Are you diligent in properly handling your income? Are you learning to *stay within* your budget?

Establishing a budget is the best way of finding the “loopholes” and for knowing where every dollar is going. *Then* you can begin to spot *wasted* dollars from your income, cut down on the unnecessary spending, and quit making the same costly mistakes each month. You will probably be *utterly flabbergasted* to see where much of your hard-earned money is going!

A word here should be said about the children. A budget is a *tremendous* way for your children to learn many of these principles! If your budget will afford it, allocate certain amounts to each of your children and teach them to “live within their means.”

This is not to say, however, that they should be given an allowance *for doing nothing!* This happens too often; consequently, many children grow up thinking that the world, like their parents, “owes” them a living! What a tragic and costly mistake to make with a young, pliable mind! But *your* children, properly taught the value of a dollar—*hard-earned*—will be much better prepared for adulthood and financial responsibility. Give them an allowance regularly if you can afford it, and, even

though it is small—teach them how to use that money *properly*. Make certain they have done their household chores properly and have *genuinely earned every penny!* It is a lesson of character they will never regret when they grow up! As Proverbs 22:6 so plainly says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Write for the reprint of *The Good News* budget article for specific information on how to set up a budget.

Pay Cash

In today’s “Great Society,” built on inflation and war spending, built on the buy-now, pay-later basis, built on planned obsolescence—a completely materialistic society—it is difficult to pay cash for anything. Even grocery stores have charge accounts to entice you to overspend. It has been developing so long now that it is virtually *impossible* for the vast majority of people to pay cash for a *home* or an *automobile*. BUT IT IS *NOT* IMPOSSIBLE TO PAY CASH FOR NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE!

Revolving charge accounts tempt people to purchase things they do not really need at thirty to fifty percent (counting interest and carrying charges) above the price they should have to pay if they shopped around with *cash* in hand. Eventually all the dollars come out of the same income. The only gain you make is in *time*—and you pay for it *dearly!*

An established budget gives *you* the advantage. Just a few months of belt tightening to make up for the false economy you now live on, will give you cash in the bank to deal with. Just a little at first, but it grows. And if you put certain portions of your regular budget money in a savings account (such as clothing and household sections, where purchases *needn’t* be made each paycheck) then *you receive interest* (which adds to your percentage of gain when you do purchase)—your entire financial profile looks better to those from whom you *must borrow* (for house or car) and you *feel better!*

This teaches you self-control, creates

character. In turn your children learn the vital lesson that you should not buy those things you *cannot afford!* It removes that false, irresponsible attitude of "easy come, easy go," it teaches them respect for the things they do have, and will probably give them a higher regard for the property of others than the others themselves have for their own possessions. It teaches care in the selection of any item, to check it for quality, durability, beauty.

A major blessing of paying cash is that if you should lose a job or have an accident and have your paycheck cut off you do not have those pesky monthly bills to torment you.

Take Advantages of Sales

With a proper budget established and a little money in the bank, you will be able to take advantage of *genuine* sales. My wife and I were discussing just this year how thankful we were not to have to be all entangled in the Christmas rush and yet are able to reap a benefit even from this pagan observance. Every year after this season there are genuine sales in nearly every item. Imagine the frustration of some fellow who picks up a nice gift for his wife for Christmas only to read in the Christmas morning papers that it has been reduced in price a full 50 percent! The converted husband is now able to pick up the same item if he wished—and at half the cost, and none of the pressure!

The wife in the family is generally the one who should be involved in searching out the bargains, through ads in the local papers, contacts with merchants, chats with other housewives. Solomon says of the ideal wife: "Her husband may depend on her, and never lose by that; she brings him profit and no loss . . . she looks out wool and flax, and works it up with a will. She is like merchant ships, fetching food-stuffs from afar . . . She talks shrewd sense, and offers *kindly* counsel. She keeps an eye upon her household . . . Charms may wane and beauty wither, keep your praise for a wife with brains; give her *due credit* for her deeds,

praise her in public for her services" (Prov. 31:11-31, *Moffatt* translation).

In almost every area now, there are discount houses. Exercise care in all these things, however, because there is many a shyster around to sell you inferior goods as a "bargain." Check each item for its going price in the local department stores. Determine ahead of time what brand you want . . . you can always check up on any merchandise at the local library in the *Consumer's Guide*. Just explain what you want to the librarian.

What this all boils down to is that as in everything else in a Christian's life, the spending of his money should be done with thought, care, concern, planning.

Many items of daily use such as groceries can be purchased at a 10 percent discount if you buy by the case or gross. Most people don't ever get enough ahead to be able to make this savings. Actually you'd be ahead to *borrow* at 6 percent in order to buy at a 10 percent discount, but you have to *think it through first!* Think about it, plan ahead—you'll discover many other ways you can take advantage of sales. It's fun, and it gives a feeling of satisfaction—just be sure the sale is GENUINE!

Care For What You Have

When God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He instructed them to dress and keep it. It was the finest of places, in most excellent condition, and God's command was to care for and maintain its excellence and beauty.

All too often, in the modern times we live in, we are accustomed to be careless with what we have. It's too easy to fall in line with the theory of planned obsolescence. Clothes are roughly treated, not hung or folded neatly. Little thought is given to storing woolens where the moths won't eat them up before they're needed the next winter. Little concern is spent on *preventive maintenance*—a *scheduled* check on the car, the window screens, the washer, the stove, the roof, the bi-

cycle, the camping equipment for the Feast, etc. At Ambassador College Press this "PM" as we call it, is an absolute *law!* Whenever we have a spare moment on a press waiting for a new job, the pressman automatically begins to run down a checklist—many a sad and expensive experience has been prevented by this practice. This will work in your life too!

Polishing shoes the right way, learning how to remove spots from rugs, tablecloths, using pads for hot things, using coasters on glasses and cups so rings won't be left (and all of these things are important to know and practice when in others' homes), wiping your feet when you come in the door, picking up after yourself around the home, personal cleanliness—the list is practically innumerable and involves everything we own or use. It is this personal effort and care that illustrates outgoing concern for others—true love—and at the same time preserves the good things we have.

The longer you maintain something in good condition the less it costs you, the fewer you have to buy, the more quality things you will own.

"To Save or Not to Save"

The eighth of these vital rules is *saving!* Usually those who have money problems are the same ones who don't save a certain amount from each check. Perhaps you hesitate to place much importance on saving because of not understanding what Christ meant in Matthew 6:19 when He said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . ." Christ obviously was speaking of a totally selfish and unbalanced individual who would store up great sums of money and material possessions thinking that these would bring him security! He condemned the same attitude in Matthew 19:23, when He said: "A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." If you don't understand this scripture, write for the article, "Does God Hate the Rich?" Though God clearly shows we must not set our hearts on physical riches, He nowhere forbids the principle of sav-

ing. As we will see, the Bible encourages the *right type* of saving!

Turn to Proverbs 6:6-8 (also Proverbs 10:5). "Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways, *and be wise:* which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provides her meat in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest." Here is demonstrated the lesson of *saving*—the ability to foresee the future needs and prepare for them now, *little by little!* This lesson applies to prospective husbands who need to prepare for the financial burden of marriage by *saving* while still single—to students who anticipate the mounting expenses of a college education—to young married couples who desire to be financially ready when children come along, and so on it goes—the evident need for *saving!*

Saving is a rewarding experience!

The man (or family) who will faithfully extract a certain amount from each paycheck and with a *real purpose in mind* see that small amount grow, will be building character, as well as amassing capital to "weather his financial storms." But saving should always have a *real purpose*, a tangible and visible goal, such as marriage, etc. Those who don't have the regular habit of saving have never experienced seeing a dream come true and money in the bank for a rainy day!

Yet *never* should we develop a false "sense of security" merely because we possess material wealth! And *certainly* do NOT cut down on your tithes and offerings to develop a savings account.

Seek Guidance

This brings us to rule number nine, equally important as the first five, especially because it can involve large sums of money and can be the difference in failure or success. This is the principle of *counseling!* Asking the advice and suggestions of others and particularly of God's ministers *before* making any major financial decisions involving your job, income, or the security of your family. Too many have rashly made major decisions *on their own*—without sufficient *counsel*—and later have found themselves in trouble!

All God's ministers have heard the tragic tales of *failure* or near-failure resulting from *unwise* business, family and personal decisions, made with little or inadequate *counsel*. God says in the Proverbs that "in multitude of counselors there is safety," "he that hearkens to counsel is wise,"—also "without counsel purposes are disappointed" and that is certainly *very* true.

Look in your own personal life for a minute or two. Consider several major decisions which involved money. The chances are you have made several *costly* mistakes. In some instances the mistake was not that you failed to apply the *principle* of counseling, but rather failed to *apply the counseling!* Some have disobeyed God in that they felt they knew better than His ministers, and have "paid" bitterly! Brethren, when you counsel for wisdom from God, either in prayer, or through His ministers—*follow it!* They cannot and do not legislate character or *force* you into any decision—but they are *God's* servants and He reveals His will through *them!*

Every one of us at one time or another is faced with *momentous* decisions, the outcome of which may even affect our eternal lives. Frequently they are of a nature which involves our financial situation. For example, you should pray and trust God (Proverbs 3:5), as well as talk to His ministers before changing jobs, or even before taking on a time-consuming second job, before you buy a new home, or go into a business—whatever it may be—use wisdom! Seek counsel! And always remember that once you make your bed of thorns *or* roses, then *you* must sleep in it!

Do Not Stagnate

Now we come to the final rule of these ten rules. Needless to say there are many *other* sound principles and Divinely revealed laws which govern our finances. This is the importance of *improving* yourself and, consequently, improving your income! Many men in the Church of God, because of conversion, a change of standards, and real growth in the Spokesman Club have found themselves earning more money

—yet others have never *driven* themselves enough to make the necessary character changes! God does not expect us to be satisfied with our present state once we have been converted, nor does He expect us to be slothful and *unproductive!*

We know that there may be only a few years left before we go to a place of safety, but Mr. Armstrong says to "think big!" Have you thought of ways to better yourself; such as through more education, looking for a better job, or even changing the area in which you live and earn your livelihood? Recently one young man moved from a low-income area in the South, where his wage was less than one dollar per hour, to a large metropolis in the Midwest and within one week had landed a job making over two dollars per hour! He *counseled*, read the articles on the subject (including *The Seven Laws of Success*) and *followed* them. God has blessed his efforts because he knew he could do better and did *his part* to improve! Brethren, some of you need to at least consider such a move in order to ever get ahead financially and live the full abundant life God intended you to live, *in addition to being able to send more tithes and offerings directly to God's Work!*

Don't just PLOD along on your job with a ho-hum, humdrum, every-day-the-same-routine attitude—be a *fireball*, a *go-getter*—CHANGE, GROW, PRODUCE, apply yourself and *prove* to your employer that you *EARNESTLY* desire to do more, to have more responsibility and that you have the *capacity* and the *will* to work! Reread Mr. Armstrong's autobiography—follow his example. Do your part *first* and God WILL bless you! He NEVER fails!

Don't just sit back in your chair and agree with this article—*resolve* to TAKE ACTION and get out of the rut you're in. APPLY the principles given here—put the *first* things *first*, *prove* God, use wisdom, seek counsel—ask God's help and *absolutely* FORCE yourself to get on the ball!!

Remember—God has created you to be an OVERWHELMING SUCCESS—not a *dismal* failure!!!

New!

Mechanical Marvels

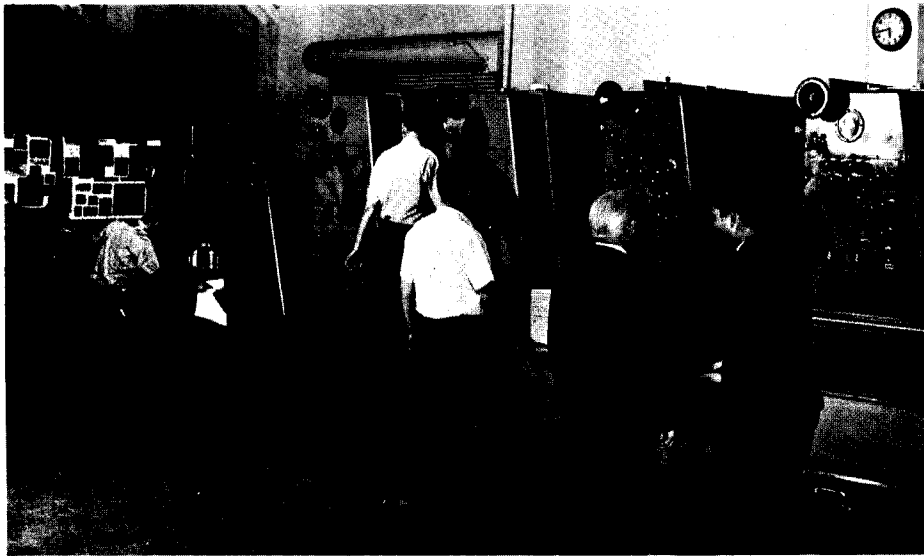
The Work of God is constantly growing in manpower and machinery to send the Gospel Around the World! Here are three of the latest new machines to help fulfill that great commission.

AUTO-TYPER

RIGHT, The most frequently used letters from the L. A. D. master file are "typed" on a perforator, which punches holes in a roll of paper. Then this paper is played like a player piano, and out comes a perfect form letter. It looks as good as the hand-typed version, but cuts the time in half. This finger-less typewriter speeds along at 120 words per minute, saving God's Work both time and money!



A roll ready to be perforated.



Mr. Justus points out the benefits of the new Nebiolo Press to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

FOUR-COLOR PRESS

Last September, two train-carloads (38 tons) of boxes, cylinders and rollers were assembled into a new ultra-modern Nebiolo four-color press. The press just finished the last ENVOY pages, and is now in use daily, printing *Plain Truth* covers, and full-color booklets.

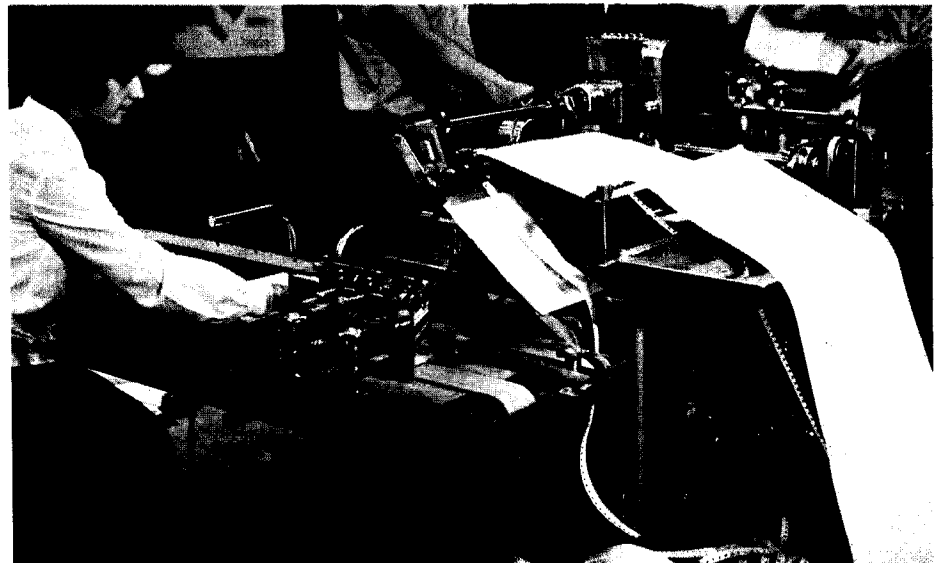
This giant step forward in God's Work will open the door for tremendous growth in top quality full-color publications to warn this world of the catastrophes to come and tell them of the wonderful World Tomorrow.

SPEED LABELER

The new *Plain Truth* labeling machine, by Cheshire, increases *Plain Truth* labeling from 15,000 per hour to 22,000! When it tackles the semi-annual letter this speed is increased even more. The old mailing machine could only handle 6,000 per hour, but the new Cheshire quintuples that rate, with a blurring 32,000 semiannual letters per hour!

That's not all! The labeler automatically "reads" the labels and separates them into different cities and towns. This is done by an intricate electric eye which reads a predetermined code.

With the fastest machine available, God's Work is set to LEAP ahead.



Here's the Cheshire mailing machine in action with a stack of PLAIN TRUTHS entering on the right and labeled for mailing at six per second!

Are You Blameless In Your Conduct?

Are you measuring up to God's standard of conduct? Is your life really a good example to others? Could someone follow you and be assured of entering God's Kingdom? Read this article and learn what God expects your conduct should be.

by Richard F. Plache

HAVE YOU ever had the uneasy feeling that someone was watching you—that a pair of eyes was trained on you, carefully scrutinizing your every move? Almost instinctively, you've glanced in the direction of the person, more often than not, only to catch a fleeting look before the eyes are hurriedly turned in another direction.

This is distracting — annoying. Feelings of resentment often arise — especially, if the person persists in “cyeing you.” It makes you feel nervous and self-conscious. You suddenly feel “on the spot.”

Brethren, YOU ARE ON THE SPOT!

You are being watched. At times, you are being followed!

Teaching by Example

God has called us to be *living proofs* that His way of life is the very finest available to man. It is unsurpassed by anything this world offers. We have the fabulous opportunity of influencing people through the *power* of our example.

When God called Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He intended for them to be a **MODEL** nation — a kind of national “showcase” — through which the surrounding Gentile nations could learn of God's laws by *seeing* the **PRACTICAL** benefits of obedience on a national scale. Moses explained this awesome responsibility to Israel just before they entered into the promised land. “Keep therefore and do them [the statutes and judgments of God]; for this is your

wisdom and your understanding **IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS**, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?” (Deut. 4:6-8.)

The tragic chronicle of Israel's history is that she *consistently failed* to measure up to this high calling. Instead of remaining faithful to God's laws — which was Israel's *greatest claim to fame* — she repeatedly borrowed the pagan ideas and customs from the surrounding Gentile nations. These nations didn't learn righteousness from Israel, because *Israel was too busy learning WICKEDNESS from them!* Instead of overcoming the world, Israel was overcome by it!

God's Church — the *spiritual* Israel of God — has been given the very same responsibility. The apostle Peter wrote, “But ye [Christians] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar [purchased] people; that ye should **SHOW FORTH** the praises [virtues or excellence] of him, who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Pet. 2:9).

We must succeed where Israel failed. People are to see through you the **LIVING PROOF** that God's way is the best way to live. Your lives are the *showcases* into which people are looking.

Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling

What a responsibility! Have you ever stopped to fully consider the awesome implications of this commission?

People are going to be *watching* you. Your words and your actions are going to be the mirrors by which God's truth is reflected to others. They will judge God's way of life by your example.

Paul wrote, “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **WALK WORTHY** of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1). Here is our real vocation — our **JOB** — to live so close to God that our lives give no occasion for reproach to be brought on God's Church.

Paul also wrote to the Philippian Church, “Let your conversation [conduct] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27). We are living examples of the Gospel of Christ — the good news of what God has purposed to ultimately achieve in *all* mankind. We are to demonstrate the happy, abundant lives which all men are to experience in the World Tomorrow. We are the advance guard — the forerunners — the **PACESETTERS**.

Yes, **PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE FOLLOWING US**.

You Must Be Blameless

Last month, you learned what kind of attitude you should have toward your ultimate job in the Kingdom of God. You are not to be seeking a position of rulership for a selfish motive. Personal pride and the vanity of position

must be crushed. A true servant of God is driven forward by a SELFLESS, outgoing concern for other people. His mind isn't on himself but on serving others. You must desire God's Kingdom so that you can give the matchless benefits of God's way of life to future sons of God. No one is going to qualify as a king or priest unless he has developed the *mind of a servant*.

However, there is more to qualifying for the Kingdom of God than just having an attitude of service. There are definite QUALIFICATIONS you must meet. Just anyone isn't going to be in God's ruling family—only those who have *qualified*.

The qualifications for the ministry are spiritual guidelines that can be used by *every* member of God's Church to evaluate his own personal spiritual growth. It is remarkable how many of the qualifications God has set for His ministry—which in principle involve each member who is to become a part of God's ruling family—involve the matter of personal conduct and how that conduct can influence others.

The apostle Paul *begins* the list of actual qualifications in both I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 with the most important one of all. "A bishop [overseer in spiritual matters] then must be BLAMELESS" (I Tim. 3:2).

What does this mean? Is this referring to spiritual perfection—complete sinlessness? Must a man finally reach the point that he never sins before he can be ordained to the ministry? Does his character have to be absolutely flawless?

No, brethren, such is most certainly NOT the case. If it were, there would never have been anyone in the ministry except Jesus Christ, who is the *only* One who has ever lived a sinless life.

The apostle John openly admitted his *own* sinful nature when he wrote, "If *we* [he included himself] say that *we* have no sin, *we* deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in *us*" (I John 1:8). He had been in the ministry over *half a century* when he wrote this. The apostle Paul wrote, "Not as though I had *already* attained, either were *already* perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which

also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12).

Blamelessness does not mean spiritual perfection. God is well aware of our spiritual flaws and weaknesses. Our sins are not hidden from God (Heb. 4:12-13). However, when we sincerely repent of our sins, God promises to completely forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). We are no longer *guilty* before God, because our sins have been pardoned and blotted out (Acts 3:19). God has even promised to remember them no more (Heb. 10:17). It is as if these sins had *never* been committed! Our past becomes, therefore, sinless or BLAMELESS through God's mercy. Even though we continue to break God's laws through weakness, God will not impute these sins to us IF we repent of them and *strive* to OVERCOME them (Rom. 4:7-8).

Blamelessness has another important dimension. It also involves your conduct as *seen by other people*.

The actual Greek word for blameless could just as correctly be translated "irreproachable" or "not open to censure." It refers to a person who has been sufficiently successful in overcoming that all the *obvious* or *glaring* character flaws, which would make him liable to censure or criticism from those about him, have been overcome.

A Reliable Example

He is one whose example can be SAFELY FOLLOWED! This is a primary consideration before any man can be ordained to the ministry.

We find the apostle Paul making such statements as these: "Be thou [Timothy] an *example* of the believers, in word, in conversation [conduct], in charity [love], in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12). "Remember them which have the rule over you [God's ministers], who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith *follow*, considering the end of their conversation [conduct]" (Heb. 13:7).

A minister of God is one whose example can be followed. In him, people can see LIVING PROOF of God's laws in his life.

Some might say, "I thought we

weren't to follow men but only follow Jesus Christ." Of course, we are to follow Jesus Christ. However, since Jesus Christ is no longer living on this earth as a human being, it is impossible for you to personally follow Him. You cannot live with Christ as His original disciples did. You cannot listen to Him speak or observe His every move.

God knew that we needed *human* examples to follow. That is one reason why there are ministers. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Be ye followers [imitators] of me, *EVEN AS* I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). He also wrote to the Thessalonians, "And ye became followers of *us*, *AND* of the Lord" (I Thes. 1:6).

Is this following a man, instead of Jesus Christ? Absolutely not! It is following Jesus Christ *through* the example of a man, who himself is faithfully following Jesus Christ. You are to follow God's ministers only in so far as they follow Christ. Nothing could be safer.

Is This True of YOU?

Is *YOUR* personal conduct blameless and above reproach? Can others SAFELY follow *your* example? Can Jesus Christ be seen through *you*?

Yes, brethren, these questions *do* apply to you! God's ministers aren't the *only ones* responsible for the impact of their lives on others. Your example also plays a vital role in fulfilling your CALLING.

You weren't called merely to have your erroneous doctrinal concepts changed. You were called to *CHANGE YOUR WAY OF LIFE!* God's truth is something to be LIVED, as well as learned. Right knowledge is worthless unless it changes the *way you live!*

Your calling is "an HOLY calling" (II Tim. 1:9). God has chosen you to "be holy and WITHOUT BLAME before him in love" (Eph. 1:4).

Your conduct is to be BLAMELESS! This is the very purpose for which you have been called.

God is creating sons. And He demands that you *grow up spiritually* into His very character. The apostle Peter wrote, "As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in *ALL MANNER* of conversation [conduct]; because it is

written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:15-16).

Some in God's Church have utterly failed to grasp this purpose of their calling. Too many have been excusing their shameful conduct. They are NOT striving to be blameless in all manner of conduct.

Could you be guilty of such careless disregard for your personal example and its impact on others? Are you conscious of your influence on others in every aspect of your behavior?

Paul wrote, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be *blameless* and harmless [innocent], the sons of God, without rebuke [above reproach], in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye SHINE AS LIGHTS in the world" (Phil. 2:14-15).

You are an example to others — whether you like it or not. You cannot escape influencing others. Jesus Christ made this very clear: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill CANNOT BE HID" (Mat. 5:14). You cannot afford to be unconcerned about your conduct. People are going to be watching you. What will they see? You are an example. The major question is whether you are a *good* or *bad* example.

Take This Seriously

This is SERIOUS BUSINESS! It is a grave responsibility!

Paul showed that a servant of God must be *sober-minded* (I Tim. 3:2). Do you take your calling *seriously*?

THIS IS NO GAME! Yet some are "playing around" with salvation. Do you realize the *ultimate* stakes which are involved? Your conduct — the way you live *day after day* — is going to determine whether you end up in the Kingdom of God or the lake of fire! This is nothing to take lightly.

You need to awaken to the tremendous *urgency* of conquering those sins which have been so *easily* besetting you (Heb. 12:1). You need to begin a CRASH PROGRAM to overcome every one of your character flaws — beginning on those which are most obvious to those around you.

You cannot afford to continue compromising with sin — to let your weaknesses be a public spectacle for others

to witness. Some have brought scorn and ridicule on God's Church because of their wrong example. Such conduct is a REPROACH to the very body of Christ.

Don't let this happen to you! Begin to *seriously* apply yourself to the task of being blameless in your conduct.

Be On Guard

Another qualification — that of VIGILANCE — goes hand in hand with being serious-minded (I Tim. 3:2). If you earnestly desire to be blameless in your conduct — to be a real overcomer — you are going to be alert and ON GUARD against your enemies. You will not become spiritually *careless* and fall asleep on the job.

Satan is one of our major enemies. The apostle Peter explains how to resist his attacks. "Be sober, be *vigilant*; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom *resist* steadfast in the faith" (I Pet. 5:8-9). No man being stalked by a man-eating lion hot on his trail is going to become careless and forget that he is the *hunted* — not the hunter. Satan is bent on destroying YOU. Nothing short of absolute *alertness* can avoid disaster.

Not only must we battle Satan, but we must also be on guard against the alluring pitfalls of this world — a Satanically devised society well calculated to bombard you with the most enticing ways to sin.

Finally, we are subject to these temptations because of our biggest enemy of all — HUMAN NATURE. Within you are pulls and drives which run totally contrary to the laws of God. These make you a potential prey to Satan and the influence of this world. You must resist them — PUT THEM TO DEATH through the power of God's Spirit (Col. 3:5).

This is not the time to go to sleep on the job. The apostle Paul warned the Church at Rome against this very tendency. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is *high time* to AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP: for now is our salvation *nearer* than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the *armour*

of light. Let us walk honestly [live blamelessly], as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

If this was true in Paul's day, how much more applicable it is today. You are now living at the *very close* of man's LONG NIGHT of spiritual ignorance and rebellion against God's laws. The night is almost over. A new day is about to dawn. Christ will soon return to usher in the happy World Tomorrow. No era of God's Church has ever been so close to its ultimate reward. Christians in other eras have had to wait in their graves — in some cases, thousands of years — before receiving what you are on the very threshold of receiving.

Even as a runner nearing the finish line is spurred on by the prospect of victory, all in God's Church should be inspired to put forth a MAXIMUM EFFORT, since our salvation — the reward of being born into the Kingdom of God — is "NEARER THAN WHEN WE BELIEVED." Are you hard at work — striving to be blameless in every aspect of your life — so you will be *qualified* to receive this crown of life?

Self-Control Is Necessary

In order to really master your human nature, you must be TEMPERATE (Titus 1:8). Too often this word has been misunderstood. It should better be translated "self-control." This is one of the most important of all qualifications for a potential king or priest to possess.

This attribute is, however, sorely lacking in today's world. More and more, we see the evidence of *undisciplined minds* — the skyrocketing crime rate, the deterioration of the home, the undisciplined and delinquent children, the lack of respect for authority at all levels of our society and the appalling increase in mental breakdowns and even suicide.

This was prophesied! The apostle Paul described *our* day when he wrote of the conditions which would exist in the "last days." One characteristic he

(Continued on page 22)

"I KNOW"

by Fred R. Coulter

"I *know* I have a temper! I *know* I am hard-nosed, gruff, and lacking in love! I know these are wrong, but I haven't changed." Another member of the Church of God said, "I *know* I am rebellious, not in submission to my husband, I *know* my children are monsters, I *know* my house is FILTHY and has been for years. I *know* I should *pray*. I *know* I need to study . . . but I just can't seem to do it. Too many *OTHER* things interfere." I know . . . I *know* . . . I **KNOW!!**

Does this sound like you? Do *you* KNOW?

We have been given the most precious, stupendous, awesome knowledge, the *greatest* LAWS, way of life, and purposes *ever given to any people*. God has begotten us with His HOLY SPIRIT! This is the purpose of the ages!

THINK ABOUT THIS! YOU ARE TO BECOME GOD!

What kind of an *effort* are you making in the light of what *you know*? Are you zealous, driving, changing, growing, *overcoming*? Or are you slow, lazy, slothful, stagnant, passive, compromising with sin? Do you *know* to do good but are *not doing it*?

How God Looks at This

God says, "He that *knows* to do good and does it not, to him it is *SIN*." So in saying "I **KNOW**" and not acting upon that knowledge *you are SINNING!* Did you realize that you might as well be saying, "I am sinning" as to say, "I know I should do good, but don't"?

In Matthew 25:24-30 is the parable about the servant who *KNEW!!* He said, "I *knew* You required me to overcome, Lord, but I just never got around to doing it." Analyze that attitude for a moment! He was slothful, wicked, fearful, stubborn, rebellious, proud, accused God of being unfair, justified self, deceived self, and went his own *caral* way.

Notice! Because he *knew* and did not even put forth the smallest effort required, he lost his eternal life and reward. He was cast into outer darkness . . . the wages of sin is death! "He that *knows* to do good and does it not . . . IT IS SIN" (James 4:17).

A Major Cause Waiting on God

Why is there this attitude? Why will members in God's Church say they **KNOW** they are sinning and make no effort to change, all the time *knowing*, they **MUST** change? Many times it is because they are "waiting on God," somehow expecting Him to swoosh down in a magical, instantaneous show of blazing power to totally do it *all* for them. God will change **NO ONE** that way!

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has said that to carry the Work of God forward he has had to put forth the maximum effort . . . then what he was lacking God would intervene and provide, but **NOT UNTIL!**

Christ had to pray with *strong* cryings and tears to overcome the flesh, and never sin. The apostle Paul *beat* his body *into subjection* overcoming **SELF AND SIN**. Yet, he said, "I can do **ALL** things *through* Christ which strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Notice, it was *through* Christ, not that Christ did it **ALL!!**

Know That You Know

Instead of saying like so many, "I know I am sinning but can't change," stop yourself and say "I *know* this is sin and I **AM** going to *CHANGE!*" Repent and quit sinning. Put forth *more* EFFORT on your part and then God will help you change and overcome. God says, "And hereby we *do know* that we **KNOW** Him, *IF* we keep his **COMMANDMENTS**" (I John 2:3). This requires a *maximum effort* on your part. This includes daily prayer and Bible study, rooting out sin, proper family and husband-wife relations, child rearing, serving the brethren in every way possible. Put your *whole heart* into overcoming; into God's Work.

This is **HOW** you can **KNOW** that you **KNOW** Christ if you do the things He commands. So really work hard to *root out* the things you **KNOW** are sins, and do the good you **KNOW** you should. Don't delay . . . **DO IT NOW!** Then you will know that you will be in the Kingdom of God. "He that *OVERCOMETH* shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be **MY SON**" (Rev. 21:7).

NOW YOU KNOW!

PERSECUTION OVERCOME IN BROTHERLY LOVE

Brethren in the Winnipeg area of Canada were forced to leave their homes. Here's how the Philadelphia Era of God's Church, which depicts brotherly love, proved it in a heartwarming solution to a heartbreaking situation.

by Dean R. Wilson

DOES this era of God's Church have the same zeal, love and driving desire to serve God that the early New Testament Church had?

This is undoubtedly a question that has gone through the minds of many of you. What if we were to be subjected to the same trials that the early New Testament Church was subjected to? Would we pass the test and remain true and loyal to God?

Most of us in God's Church today have not been required to go through the things we find recorded in the book of Acts and in various other scriptures. We live in an affluent society where many of the physical things we have are taken for granted, where really we are not deprived of any of the necessities of life. We also live in a society where basically we have freedom to practice our religious beliefs. Religious persecution usually is restricted to past friends, associates or relatives.

Philadelphia Era

We are called the Philadelphia era of God's Church. Interestingly enough this word means brotherly love or love of the brethren. Do we have that love for the brethren that this word denotes? Do we have that same zeal and love that the early Church had as recorded in Acts 2:44-45, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

What if circumstances presented themselves today so that there was a dire need for help by some of the brethren in God's Church in a given

area? What would be the reaction in the Philadelphia era?

According to I John 3:16-18, we know what the reaction should be, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in Him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth."

Brethren Persecuted in Winnipeg

Recently here in Canada this part of God's Church was put to this test with an amazing and gratifying result.

Over the past few months and years about 90 to 100 people in the Winnipeg Church area have been called out of another religious group into the Church of God. Due to circumstances over which they had no control they were required for a period of time to remain in the circumstances where they were called.

The story goes back several years. It began with Mr. Schnee, Sr., who now works in the German Department in Pasadena, and his son Frank, who is now a minister of God and over the German office in Germany. In the process of doing business with the various farmers in Manitoba and other areas of northern United States they came in contact with a group of people known as the Hutterites. The Hutterites are a group that practices the belief of having all things in common, based on an erroneous interpretation of Acts 4:32.

They live on communal farms of approximately 100 to a farm including children. There are many of these farms scattered in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Canada.

These people have a standard dress that all adherents wear. They also have various other doctrines such as forbidding radios, newspapers and other modern conveniences to be used by members. The farm is owned and operated by the members, each sharing in the responsibilities as well as living off the proceeds. They have a common dining hall where all eat as well as having their own schools, ministers and churches right on the colony. For all practical purposes, other than for doing business, these people are supposed to be virtually cut off from the outside world.

These peculiar doctrines and practices, of course, are "the way that seemeth right to a man" (Prov. 14:12 and 16:25). Such ways are, as Israel of old did, following the way that is right in their own eyes, instead of the ways God instructs and commands. (Deut. 12:8, Judges 17:6 and 21:25.)

In the process of doing business with these people, the Schnee's had several occasions to be in their homes and become well acquainted with them, and in the process introduced several to *The PLAIN TRUTH* as well as the broadcast. Several years went by, but as usual in the process of time God began to call some of these people. They took the usual course of action and upon learning from the Bible many new things, began to take it to their ministers with exactly the same results many of us have experienced — outright rejection, along with a stern warning of

the consequences if they persisted in their course of action.

They persisted in studying their Bibles, reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, taking the Correspondence Course and listening to the broadcast as they could by secretly bringing in radios where possible. In due time the obvious happened — they were ejected from the Hutterite Church which meant that they would also, if they did not change, be asked to vacate the colony.

One group that God had called in one colony proceeded with court action in order to obtain what they felt was their fair share of the property and proceeds of the colony. During this period of time they were obliged to remain in the colony while the court action was in process which took a long period of time. Others in other colonies also remained in their respective colonies awaiting the results of the court action before moving. As it turned out, this meant that from 90 to 100 brethren in God's Church were living in Hutterite colonies under very adverse circumstances awaiting court action in the province of Manitoba to determine the distribution of property.

Court Decision

The results of this trial have now been brought down, "Four members of a Hutterite colony have failed in their attempt to have a receiver appointed to wind up the affairs of the colony and distribute the assets among the members.

"In a 96-page judgment, Mr. Justice R. G. B. Dickson has declared that the colony leaders were within their rights when they expelled the four, because they had embraced a religion fundamentally opposed to that of the rest of the community.

"The decision brings to a close, for the time being at least, a fight which has set brother against brother in the Interlake Colony of Hutterian Brethren, near Teulon . . .

"The four plaintiffs and two of the three defendants are brothers — Zacharias and Jacob — while Jacob S. Hofer is a cousin. The colony has a population of 84 persons.

"The plaintiffs argued during the hearing that they had been mistreated

in many ways and other members of the colony had attempted to expel them. It is no longer possible for the colony to continue in harmony and therefore it should be wound up.

"The trustees say that no member of the colony has any property rights, the four have forsaken the faith and practice of the church, and all have therefore been validly excommunicated from the church and expelled from the colony.

"In his judgment, which is divided into 11 separate sections, Mr. Justice Dickson rules that the plaintiffs are not entitled to any portion of the real or personal property of the colony.

"Further, he orders that the four, with their families, shall permanently vacate the colony and deliver up all personal property owned by the colony, which may have come into their possession.

"He criticizes some of the indignities and mistreatment which evidence showed had been suffered by the plaintiffs, terming it 'strange and repellent, and on occasion excessive,' but observes there can be no doubt that within a religious community, stern discipline must be observed if the community is to survive.

"Such indignities were not a cause for winding up the colony or for giving plaintiffs assets to which they would not otherwise be entitled, Mr. Justice Dickson observes" (*Winnipeg Tribune*, November 17, 1966, article "Court Upholds Expulsion of Four From Hutterite Colony").

As a result of the decision, this left these families destitute with no visible means of support or providing for themselves and nothing to get started with.

Church of God Responds

The Philadelphia era of God's Church was facing a test. Would it pass that test and qualify to hold the name that God gave it? The answer is yes! The test came and God's Church met the test and passed it, from our Pastor-General, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, on down to the laymen in the local churches.

A telephone call was made to Pasadena and here was Mr. Herbert W.

Armstrong's response, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Mat. 19:29). Mr. Armstrong instructed us that we were to take immediate steps to alleviate these people's distress and gave permission for us to take up an offering to help the brethren in Manitoba, offering any assistance or help that we might need from Headquarters. It was decided that the Canadian Churches would handle the situation if they could, calling on others if necessary.

What was the response in the Canadian Churches? Immediately upon announcing the need for clothing, household goods and funds in the Vancouver Church, it became obvious that if similar announcements were to be made in all the churches that more goods than could ever be used would be forthcoming.

In the Vancouver Church alone, almost 80 large boxes of clothing, bedding and other household items were collected. Over 40 boxes of dishes, pots and pans were collected. *The outpouring was so great it became necessary to ask the people to stop as we had more than could be used already!*

All of these items were of highest quality. Many went out and bought new items because they did not have extras in their homes. Others who did not have material to turn in and had no finances to buy items went so far as to go to stores and put things on charge accounts so they could have something to send.

The response for funds was spontaneous and certainly exemplary of the heart and attitude the Church of God should have. Yes, we are the Philadelphia era of God's Church and under given circumstances will respond in exactly the same manner the early Church responded. Jesus Christ dwells in His Church and Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

The results of this heartfelt attitude on the part of God's people is seen in this letter dated December 24 from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hofer:

"We don't know how to even begin to thank you and the whole church for just *everything*. You all know how it feels to give, for you have given tremendously. But we, the receivers or recipients, do you know how we feel? I believe you do know. Just letting us know we should move out of the colonies was such a joy to us, we were just overwhelmed and so were the others. And then the church members helped us move out. I didn't even know just which house I was moving into before our furniture was moved in, and then Mr. White took me and the younger children to our new home. (My husband had paid the rent and selected it the day before.) We were more than satisfied. We hadn't dreamed we'd ever live in a home where there was a kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms and a living room, but here we are living in one. And after we moved in, everything just poured in on us so fast, we couldn't even say thank you properly. A new washer was delivered to our home, two bunk beds (Oh, they are wonderful), a living-room lamp, someone sent us a couch and chair, a group of ladies with Mrs. White came over and cleaned and waxed all our floors, someone took all our soiled clothes the first day and washed and dried them and then delivered them again. Mrs. White brought over some pots and pans. Mr. White bought our children a crokinole game. Mr. White went with my husband and Mr. Dave Hofer and Mr. Jonathan Hofer and helped them all select cars. So today we will all be able to go to Sabbath Service without stalling and without trying to start one another's car with whichever car *would* go, like we did up to now. (We hope to spend this extra time in Bible study.) We are also 20 miles closer to the church now. And also food is being sent to us. A half sack of whole wheat, a bag of potatoes, even some beef, which we rarely had before. Oh, we could go on and on and on and on. I hope we never ever take all this for granted. No other church could do all this with the same attitude I'm sure. We wish we could thank each and every one of those in the church for helping out so much. We do say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope we can in some way repay."

No Split in the Body

Brethren, there is no schism or split in the body of Jesus Christ. When one member suffers we all suffer and when one member is honored we all rejoice (I Cor. 12:25-26). When one part of the body is in need the other part will supply that need and so we help one another just as the example we find in II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9. "For if the [eager] readiness to give is there, then it is acceptable and welcomed in proportion to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For it is not [intended] that other people be eased and relieved [of

their responsibility] and you be burdened and suffer [unfairly]. But to have equality — share and share alike; your surplus over necessity at the present time going to meet their want and to equalize the difference created by it, so that [at some other time] their surplus in turn may be given to supply your want. Thus there may be equality. As it is written, He who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little did not lack" (II Cor. 8:13-15, *Amplified* version).

There is a great lesson in this, Breth-

ren! God's True Church responded to this emergency in the *true* fulfillment and spiritual intent of Acts 4:32 — we "were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them [those of us who gave] that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." In *this* emergency, as in the emergency situation in Acts 4, the same Church of God responded in the same way — a selfless giving to those in need! This truly is the *Philadelphia* era of God's Church!

What Is Your Goal?

(Continued from page 6)

The householder promised to give "whatsoever is right" unto those hired at the third, sixth and ninth hours.

But some were still standing idle near the end of the day. They hadn't been hired at all. So the householder went out late in the afternoon and hired them at "about the *eleventh* hour."

But when the time came to settle up, the ones who had only worked an hour or so received a penny — a full day's wage!

Those who had worked most or all of the day saw this. They were very happy. They thought, "We'll receive much more because we've worked all day."

But, when the householder came to settle up with them, he gave them just a penny — exactly what he had agreed to pay them.

But those servants, who had been hired earlier in the day, murmured and complained "against the goodman of the house" (verse 11).

They said, "These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them *equal* unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But He answered one of them and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Verses 12-15.)

Now, what vital lesson are we to learn from this parable?

The "*day*," mentioned in this parable, represents the *lifespan* of each Christian. Some are called into God's Church (into His vineyard) early in life — early in the morning. Others are called at noon — in middle age. Some are not called until they approach the sunset of life — old age!

When Jesus Christ literally returns to this earth to judge every Christian according to his *works*, He will take this important *time factor* into account. Any who were called into God's Church early in life, will be expected by Christ to have accomplished more in God's service — than those who were called later in life.

Unequal Opportunities

Let us see how this actually will work. God Almighty calls some to repentance in their teens. Such people have been blessed with the wonderful opportunity of *knowing* God's truth and *applying* it in their lives in their youth. Such individuals are better equipped to properly develop both their *minds* and their *bodies*. As a result, they will be able to accomplish more than they would, had they never known God's precious truth.

This gives such individuals a great *advantage* over other people who grow up in spiritual blindness — in utter darkness. These spiritually ignorant usually continue to eat unclean foods, fat, blood, and may also continue to indulge in many filthy habits and do other things which would tear them-

selves down — destroying their health, their minds and their personalities! Such people, when called later in life, will not have as alert minds, or as active and healthy bodies as they could have had, had they known and practised God's truth from their youth (see Eccl. 12:1-7).

The students of Ambassador College (who are brought to repentance in their teens, and are given a wonderful opportunity to receive all sorts of valuable information, knowledge, and training) have a tremendous advantage over the average member in God's Church. They are given opportunities which most members will never receive in this lifetime. Therefore, God Almighty will expect far more of them.

As an example, God began to open my mind to the precious truths of His Word when I was in my early teens. When I first heard Mr. Armstrong preaching the real truth (I was about 15 years old), I was *surprised* and *overjoyed* to hear a man preaching God's Word faithfully — exactly as God had begun to reveal it to my brother and me. After entering Ambassador College in the autumn of 1948, I was baptized by Mr. Armstrong. I was only 18 years old.

The following spring, Mr. Raymond C. Cole and I were chosen to be the first students of the College privileged to be sent on a nationwide baptizing tour.

I was utterly amazed to find that I had been selected as one of the two students to go on this baptismal tour. I could hardly believe it.

"Had a mistake been made?" I asked myself. I even had the secret fear that perhaps I might in some way disqualify myself before the tour actually began, and thus never receive the wonderful opportunity of serving and of learning on this baptismal tour.

A number of you reading this article will remember meeting Mr. Raymond Cole and me on that nationwide baptizing tour in the summer of 1949.

During that summer, I baptized my first person in West Texas — an 84-year-old gentleman! What? A mere boy — a lad of 19 — explaining the Bible to, and baptizing, an 84-year-old man?

God did not call this 84-year-old gentleman into His truth until he was

well in "the eleventh hour" of his life. This elderly man was not privileged to receive many of the blessings which Almighty God has bestowed upon me and my family.

He did not have as long in which to overcome his faults, sins and weaknesses; neither did he have as long, or as many opportunities, in which to develop his innate talents and abilities as I have had.

Therefore, God Almighty will not expect as much of him as He will expect of me when I appear before Christ's judgment seat.

Fortunately, this elderly gentleman lived a number of years after he was baptized, and remained faithful to the very end. I think he was over 90 when he finally died. But he never had the opportunity of attending Ambassador College, of going on nationwide baptizing tours, of preaching sermons, teaching classes, writing articles, or doing the many other things which God Almighty has privileged me to do in His service — the most important activity on earth!

Now, I do *not* say these things boasting! Many times, I feel — in fact, I know! — I should have yielded much more to God, and consequently should have borne much, much more fruit in my life than I have.

As an example, I know I could (and should) have been writing articles for *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *The GOOD NEWS* long before I really "got into the groove" of writing.

At times, *The GOOD NEWS* has not been able to go to press on time — primarily due to a lack of articles!

So where does boasting come in? As the apostle Paul might have put it, "It is excluded!"

God's Perfect Judgments!

When we put together the parables of the *Pounds*, the *Talents* and the *Laborers in the Vineyard*, we are then able to see exactly *how* God will judge us when giving us our reward.

The parable of the *Talents* shows that *we are not born equal*. At *birth* each person receives different talents and abilities from those of every other individual. Then, at *conversion*, God *adds*

spiritual talents and gifts according to each man's *natural* abilities.

The parable of the *Pounds* shows that, of those who are of equal talents and abilities ("pounds"), some will use their God-given talents more diligently than others. As a result, they will receive greater responsibility in God's Kingdom. The one who multiplies his pound over *ten* times will be given authority over *ten cities*. The one who multiplies his pound over *five* times will be given authority over *five cities*.

But, the parable of the *Laborers* reveals that God will take other things into account — other than innate ability — when judging us. An important factor which He will consider will be the matter of the amount of *time* which we were given, *after our conversion*, to really apply these things. How much time, after becoming a member of His Church, did you have to overcome your sins and weaknesses, and to develop your innate talents and abilities? Those who are given more time, will be held accountable for having overcome and grown more — and for having produced more in God's service.

God's judgments are altogether just!

The apostle Paul explained this very well: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! *how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!*" (Rom. 11:33).

God Almighty has not only promised immortality or eternal life in His Kingdom, but He has also promised us glory and honor in *the position of SERVICE*, or responsibility, which He will grant us in His Kingdom — according to our diligence here and now!

It is still true that the human eye has not seen, the human ear has not heard, nor has the human mind yet *fully* grasped the tremendous, transcendent, eternal blessings which God has prepared for us (I Cor. 2:9). We are just barely getting a dim glimpse of those blessings — through having our minds illuminated by God's Spirit (I Cor. 13:12).

"In thy presence is *fulness of joy*; *at thy right hand there are PLEASURES for evermore*" (Ps. 16:11). Revelation 21 and 22 also further reveal the glory

which the saints — then made immortal — will receive in God's everlasting Kingdom.

Thus it is clear from God's Word that a *Christian should desire more than eternal life*. He should strive to so please his Creator that He may grant him, because of his diligent service, a *place of honor* in His Kingdom. This is what God Almighty desires. He wants us to bear much fruit. If we do produce much fruit, then He will bless us correspondingly with a greater reward of *service* in His Kingdom.

Even Moses understood this! He chose "rather to suffer *affliction* with the people of God, than to *enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for *he had respect unto the recompense of the REWARD*" (Heb. 11:25, 26).

Yes, Moses was willing to suffer reproach, affliction, privation, and humiliation in order to receive "the recompense of the *reward*" in the Kingdom of God! He, and the other Old Testament patriarchs, "all died in faith," fully persuaded they would receive the fulfillment of the promise *after* their resurrection (Heb. 11:13, 39).

Never Aim for Mediocrity

God compares the Christian life to a *race*. Many may run in the race, but only *one* receives the top prize — though numerous lesser prizes may be given. Certainly, no one worth his salt should ever seek to take second, third or fourth place — if he is able to do better. Likewise, God Almighty does not want us to be satisfied with second best — if we can do better. *He does not want us to aim for MEDIOCRITY!*

Since we are going to be judged by *God Almighty*, according to what we *do* in the flesh, we need to realize that we should look to Him at all times — not to man.

Should we strive to be "menpleasers" (Col. 3:22, Eph. 6:6)?

"And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the *Lord*, and not unto men; knowing that of the *Lord* ye shall receive the *reward* of the inheritance: for ye serve the *Lord Christ*" (Col. 3:23, 24).

If we can remember that all true blessings — both in this life and in the life to come — flow from Almighty God, then we will keep our eyes fastened on him (Jas. 1:17). We will then seek to please Him, rather than trying to be menpleasers.

It isn't wrong for you to seek *honor and favor* in God's sight! Neither is it wrong to seek *promotion from God* — if you are really willing to *work* for it — if you are willing to *pay the price!*

We must always keep in mind this basic truth: "For *promotion* comes neither from the *east*, nor from the *west*, nor from the *south*. But *God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another*" (Ps. 75:6, 7).

Jesus Christ said, "How can you believe, which receive honor one of another, and *seek not the HONOR that cometh from God only?*" (John 5:44.)

But a word of caution is necessary! Though it is right and good to seek honor from *God* — right and good to seek promotion — yet we must always remember that we should seek it in the *right way* — and not for vanity's sake!

Wrong Ambition

Seek for glory and honor from *God*, but don't become filled with vain ambition or with self-exaltation.

Remember, it was the wrong type of *ambition* or self-exaltation that turned Lucifer into Satan (an adversary).

Lucifer wanted to *exalt himself*. He was not content to merely remain in the high office in which God had put him. He wanted to be *equal* to God.

"For thou hast said in thine heart, *I will exalt my throne* above the stars of God: *I will sit also* upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH" (Isa. 14:13, 14).

Yes, Lucifer wanted to be *equal* to God. He was not content to serve as an exalted archangel.

One of David's own sons, *Absalom*, let the same wrong kind of ambition fill his heart. He sought to flatter the people of Israel so he could turn them away from his father, David, to himself. Eventually, he got the popular support

of the people behind him, and he almost succeeded in overthrowing the kingdom of his father. David had to flee for his life, and would have been defeated but for the grace of God. Finally, however, Absalom's insolence, his rebellion, his ambitious self-exaltation, caught up with him (II Sam. 15, 16, 17, 18). A dart thrust through his heart ended his wretched revolt against his own father (II Sam. 18:9, 14).

Are Christians altogether free from this temptation of self-exaltation or wrong ambition? Are even mothers sometimes tempted with a wrong kind of ambition? The mother of James and John, two of Christ's disciples, was filled with this kind of vanity.

"Then came to Him the *mother* of Zebedee's children with *her* sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him. He said to her, What wilt thou? She said unto Him, Grant that these *my* two sons may sit, the one *on thy right hand*, and the other *on the left*, in thy kingdom" (Mat. 20:20, 21).

Jesus Christ had to reveal to this woman and also to James and John that *their selfish request* was the way of self-exaltation. They were asking something which they never should have asked. His answer, "But to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is *not mine to give*, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father" (verse 23).

Yes, even Christ is not the One who places the various ones in the government of the Kingdom of God. This is the Father's direct responsibility.

The Greatest Serves Most

Christ went on to show that the Gentile rulers *lord it over* their subjects (verse 25). Christ condemns such arrogant, high-handed methods of rulership (I Pet. 5:1-4).

And then He added, "But it shall *not* be so among you: but whosoever shall be *great* among you, let him be your *minister*; And whosoever will be *chief* among you, let him be your *servant*" (Mat. 20:26, 27).

Christ repeatedly warned men about exalting themselves. On one occasion He observed how those bidden to a feast chose the chief rooms. He rebuked

them in no uncertain terms! They should, said Christ, always take the *lowest* place, unless they were asked to take a higher position.

He then added, "For whosoever *exalteth* himself shall be *abased*; and he that *humbleth* himself shall be *exalted*" (Luke 14:11).

Christ went on to show that when we make a supper or a dinner, we should call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind. "And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for *thou shalt be RECOMPENSED at the resurrection of the just*" (verse 14).

Secure Your Crown!

Yes, you should be careful that no man takes your *crown* (Rev. 3:11). Furthermore, we all need to make certain "that we receive a *FULL reward*" (II John 8).

We should not be content with just making it into God's Kingdom. We should seek to live full, abundant, *productive* lives in God's service (to produce one hundredfold!) here and now so we can receive a greater position of responsibility and service in God's Kingdom.

It is quite all right, not only to seek

for immortality, but also to seek for glory and honor. We must, however, always make sure we do not seek to exalt ourselves. Wrong ambition is a sin! We must always make certain that we do not seek honor from men — but seek "the honor that cometh from *God only*" (John 5:44).

What is your goal? Are you content merely to make it into God's Kingdom? Or, do you want to make it there with flying colors — and have Jesus Christ reassuringly say, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant!*"?

Certainly, those who have real understanding of God's Word will not be content just to make it into God's Kingdom. They will seek a position of honor and glory in God's service — they will have "respect unto the *recompense of the reward*" (Heb. 11:26).

Christ solemnly promised, "Behold, I come quickly; and *my REWARD is with me, to give every man according as HIS WORK shall be*" (Rev. 22:12).

Let us keep this promise foremost in our mind and serve God to the very utmost of our ability! If we do this, we will not receive thirtyfold, or sixtyfold — but *ONE HUNDREDFOLD* in the Kingdom of God!

This should be our real goal!

bring "into captivity *every* thought to the *obedience* of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5). However, too many in God's Church have allowed God's Spirit to lie dormant in their minds. If we don't stir up this power and put it to *use*, it is worthless.

Solomon said, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." (Prov. 25:28.) You will never be qualified to rule others unless you *first* learn how to rule yourself.

Control Your Temper

Another qualification Paul mentions is "NOT SOON ANGRY" (Tit. 1:7). Do you exercise self-control in this important area of conduct?

Solomon wrote, "He that is *slow* to anger is better than the mighty; and he that *ruleth his spirit* than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32). By mastering this one important facet of character development, you will be more qualified to rule than any of history's famous generals or military leaders. Though brilliant military strategists and successful in war, many of these men were unable to master their own personal weaknesses. Alexander the Great, who brought the mightiest nations of his day to their knees, sat down at the age of 31 and wept because there were no more nations left to conquer. Yet he died at the youthful age of 34, a victim of his own profligacy. How tragic! A world conqueror unable to conquer himself!

Notice a remarkable case of short-temperedness in Luke 9:51-56. Jesus Christ and his disciples were traveling to Jerusalem. When the messengers He had sent to a certain Samaritan village to prepare for His arrival were rebuffed and snubbed by the villagers, James and John became filled with wrath. They *immediately* urged Christ to allow them to command fire to come down from heaven and utterly destroy those people. Christ's answer is most significant. "But he turned, and *rebuked* them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to *SAVE* them" (Luke 9:55-56).

Think of the colossal damage these men would have wreaked on those

Are You Blameless In Conduct?

(Continued from page 15)

was inspired to record was that of being "incontinent" (II Tim. 3:3). This means "without self-control, *POWERLESS*." Yes, people today seem powerless to cope with the burgeoning array of problems (both public and personal) which besets them on all sides. An increasing number are *cracking* under the strain. Too many are following the line of *least resistance* — refusing to put forth the effort required to discipline themselves.

You are a product of this age. Just because you have been converted and are now in God's Church doesn't mean you no longer have to battle this problem. The chances are that before you were converted you *also* were following this line of least resistance. You were indulging in various debilitating activities which probably *weaken* even

your carnal ability to exercise self-restraint. Many come into God's Church with their mental fiber greatly weakened.

It becomes necessary then to shore up your self-discipline. This is not to be accomplished through the devious machinations of so-called "mind science." While some partial benefits do result from developing *carnal* self-discipline, total self-control is absolutely impossible. No stream ever rises above its own source. Therefore, no one is going to be able to achieve complete *SPIRITUAL* self-discipline using only his carnal mental resources.

God has given us His Spirit — the Spirit "of power, and of love and of a sound mind [*DISCIPLINE* or *SELF-CONTROL*]" (II Tim. 1:7). God's Spirit imparts the spiritual power we need to

hapless individuals if they *at that time* had possessed the power to execute their wrathful reaction.

Now consider the terrifying prospect of one possessing the power of God without the wisdom and self-control necessary to properly *use* that power for the GOOD of those under his rule. Without Godly patience and *long-suffering*, you would be lashing out with sudden fury at the slightest provocation or demonstration of rebellion. Instead of being a ruler, you would be a *ruiner* — an executioner.

No one is going to be given this awesome power until he has first proven capable of controlling himself. If God did not have perfect control of Himself, He would have expunged all human life from the face of the earth because of man's God-defying ways.

At the beginning of the Millennium, it is going to take extreme patience in bringing mankind to conversion. Human nature isn't going to easily surrender. We will have to bear long with many before they really come to repentance. Any unwise and impatient misuse of power could prove disastrous.

There are times, however, when even a deeply converted person will become angry — very angry. The Bible records many times when God Himself became angry. Notice God's statement to Moses after Israel had committed gross idolatry in making the molten calf. "I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my *wrath* may WAX HOT against them, and that I may *consume* them: and I will make of thee a great nation" (Ex. 32:9-10).

We must learn to be angered by the same things which make God angry. God hates sin, and His wrath is directed towards all ungodliness and unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). God becomes angry when He sees people hurting themselves. This is always the *end result* of sin.

By contrast *carnal* anger is aroused when the *self* is hurt — when personal pride has been offended or personal ambition or achievement has been thwarted. We become very indignant when someone crosses us or we don't get our own way. This kind of anger is totally SELFISH and is SIN!

A truly converted servant of God is going to be motivated by genuine love for those about him. His mind will be absorbed in *servicing* them — not defending his self-centered interests. He won't become "easily provoked" (I Cor. 13:5) when others don't respond in the way he had hoped. He won't be "losing his temper" or "flying off the handle." Instead, he will be merciful and patient — LONGSUFFERING — and kind in dealing with his fellowman.

Moderation in Drinking

Another way in which *self-control* manifests itself is in relation to the use of alcoholic beverages. A well-disciplined servant of God is not GIVEN TO WINE (I Tim. 3:3). This doesn't mean (as some contend) that a Christian should never take a drink. Rather, it is referring to the *proper use* of alcoholic beverages. A Christian is not to be *addicted* to them but to use them in *moderation*.

Many of you drank before coming into God's Church. How happy you were to learn that this was one thing you wouldn't "have to give up." So you kept right on drinking — in many cases, exactly the same way you did when you were still in the world. You have convinced yourself that you are "moderate" in your drinking, never realizing that possibly *your definition* of moderation may be that of the *world* and not of Jesus Christ. The world's concept of moderation is usually, in reality, EXCESS!

In most cases, you can't drink the way you drank in the world if you intend to be a Christian — one in whom the mind of Christ motivates all things, including your use of alcoholic beverages. Christ didn't drink the way some of you drink. And if you allow Him to guide you, you won't continue to drink the way you have been drinking. You will *alter* your concept of moderation.

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and instructed him to take a LITTLE wine (I Tim. 5:23). This means exactly what it says. No one is going to get drunk or come anywhere close to getting drunk on a "little" wine. The trouble with some is that they want the Church to define the *absolute limit* they

can go before they would be considered drunk. This is the SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS! A deeply converted person isn't going to want to get as close to the edge as possible. He will do everything in his power to stay on *safe ground*. Don't flirt with danger — stay *far* away from the edge. Some have *miscalculated* and plunged to their doom. Your eternal life is at stake!

Also, don't make the mistake of depending on alcoholic beverages for comfort or strength when the "going gets rough." Some have refused to face up to their problems and have tried to escape into the twilight world of fuzzy feelings and dulled senses. This doesn't solve anything. It only makes matters worse. Look to God for help and then in the strength of His might meet the challenges and *overcome* them.

A Bond Slave

We *naturally* are self-willed. We want our own way. This is a basic ingredient of human nature. Usually, our way is the *wrong way*! Solomon wrote, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

If you are to be qualified to rule in the Kingdom of God, you must NOT BE SELF-WILLED (Titus 1:7). You must overcome your "know it all," "this is the way I look at it" self-willed nature.

We are now *bond slaves* — totally loyal and obedient to God in *all* things. Notice Paul's statement, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? For ye are *bought* with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19-20).

A truly converted Christian doesn't want *his* will to be done. He has crucified his selfish desires and ambitions and has completely *surrendered* his will to the rule of God. He prays, "Not my will but yours be done."

Neither will he be greedy or covetous (I Tim. 3:3). We don't obey God for merely what we can *get* out of it. As you learned in the first article in this series, "Why Do You Want To Be

in the Kingdom of God?" the motivation must be that of wanting to give and serve. We are all *preparing* so we can be qualified to be mighty *SERVANTS* in God's Kingdom.

This takes time and experience. No one is qualified to assume a position of rulership immediately upon entering God's Church. Much growth and overcoming is necessary. Therefore, no *NOVICE* (I Tim. 3:6) — no inexperienced and unqualified "greenhorn" — is ready to discharge the sweeping and awesome responsibilities of rulership in God's family.

We must all go through a time of trial and testing before God will entrust such powers to our charge. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have

finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). We also must prove faithful "under fire." It is the heat of the battle that changes the boot camp trainee into an experienced, battle-hardened veteran. Even so we must have our character proven "under fire." We must remain on the firing line no matter how rugged the battle might be. Christ said, "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mat. 24:13).

Now is the time to be developing these qualities in *your* character. Don't let down — don't become *careless* in your conduct! Make sure those who are following you will be able to *see* Christ living His life in you. Remember — our goal is perfection.

Church of God News—WORLDWIDE

(Continued from page 4)

where between 30 and 75, so the Sabbath during the month when each church gets to meet is really just a big *family* Feast Day — both in the good food which is available in the fine German hotels where they meet, and in the *more precious spiritual food* which they receive from God's Word.

list and the Business Manager for God's Work. Mr. Portune had previously been pastoring the San Diego church and this has now become the full responsibility of Mr. Richard Plache, a former field minister of Pastor rank who has been called into Headquarters to serve on the Faculty and to



Ambassador College Photo

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Mr. Wayne Cole discuss a personal point just prior to a session.

The fastest growing church area is the Headquarters District centering around Pasadena. In the past as more members were brought into the Church by God here at Headquarters it became necessary to establish other congregations in the nearby vicinity to take the overflow from the halls we were using. This process continued until we now have 11 churches served from the Campus in Pasadena. The latest addition of a new congregation was established in Anaheim, California on December 24, by Mr. Albert J. Portune, an Evange-

be Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's assistant. Nearly 170 were in attendance for the first Sabbath service, but the Anaheim church will soon be over 200 as it is located in a very rapidly growing area as far as prospective members for God's Church is concerned.

New Bible Studies

A new monthly Negro Bible study was begun in New Orleans, Louisiana

on November 23. The racial situation in the southern areas makes it unwise for mixed meetings, so we are very thankful that we are able to have Mr. Elbert Atlas, a recent graduate from Ambassador College and a fully ordained Preaching Elder in the Church of God to serve his own colored brethren in this area. The attendance figure was not very high but considering that only the colored brethren were present, it was heartening to read of the 45 who were in attendance there.

On December 4, a new Bible study was begun in Farmington, New Mexico. Mr. Cecil Battles drove the 150 miles from his central location in Albuquerque to Farmington in the extreme northwest corner of New Mexico to provide the once-a-month Bible study for the 45 brethren who are able to attend from that very sparsely settled area. With the addition of Farmington this gives Mr. Battles the responsibility for one entire state since he also has a Bible study in Las Cruces and the church there in Albuquerque.

Future Growth

The Building Program is continuing as rapidly as possible under the austerity program — new Science and Music Buildings will be added to the Pasadena Campus as well as the beginning of the first stage of the new Administration Building which has so desperately been needed for many years now. More details on this, *with pictures*, will be included in future articles in this news column.

If the growth for this next year is to continue as it has in the past we will be establishing about 35 or 40 new congregations in the year of 1967 — 50 or more men will be ordained from God's Colleges and from the local congregations around the world — millions of more watts of radio power will be added — Mr. Armstrong has authorized going more completely and thoroughly into mass advertising in magazines and newspapers — all in all the Work of God is braced and ready for a powerful surge forward in every aspect in this coming year! *Be sure you grow with God's Work!*