

The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



GOLGOTHA



More About Our Cover...

Covered with the headstones and bones of dead Mohammedans — crowded by the noisy, smelly buses of Jerusalem — still above and apart from the city, lonely Golgotha reminds us of that day of stark terror on which Christ was crucified. Read the vivid description of this most important event beginning on page 7.

Dorothy — Ambassador College

What our READERS SAY . . .

Doctor Documented Miracle

"I want to thank you for your prayers for me, because I know they have been answered. The doctors told me I had an incurable heart ailment, and said I only had a very few months to live. So, I asked you to pray for me, and I also prayed. Our prayers were answered. I was in terrible pain night and day and was unable to do my work around my home. But, now I am healed, and I can do all my work. I go around my home singing and happy. The doctor said when he examined me that it was a miracle. He said he really thought that I didn't have long to live when he had examined me a short time ago."

G. P. H., Alabama

Another Healing

"We are most grateful, because the boy with multiple allergies and tuberculous sclerosis for whom we requested a prayer cloth some time ago is able to eat almost everything, and seems to be getting better otherwise each day — continually learning to do new things. He was so retarded that daily life was a real problem, and discipline almost fruitless. Now he stays in bed at night when we put him there, no longer wets his bed or pants, puts himself on the toilet and is trying to talk. When our friends see him their eyes fill with tears of joy, and they say, 'who says God isn't performing miracles anymore?'"

Mrs. J. L., Washington

Agriculture

"It certainly is an enormous thrill to reflect on this priceless information being revealed to God's college in these particular days. I'm reminded of my teaching at Texas A & M in 1945-1947. At that time we were specifically taught the importance of humus and natural nitrogen sources (green manure legumes) in building and maintaining productive soils. Things have changed rapidly. It took the chemical industry a scant five years after WW II to practically destroy even that rudimentary knowledge. What incredible hypocrisy agricultural 'science' has promoted in the past 20 years. The hands itching for bribes even reach into that field!"

J. M., Florida

"If you remember, a little over a year ago, I asked you to pray for my husband. He had three heart attacks. The doctor said he would never be well. Well here is the good news. He is healed, and the doctor couldn't even find any sign that he ever had it."

Mrs. W. R. H.,
Georgia

Malachi 3:10-11

"God has blessed me in so many ways since I have been paying tithes to God. In 1967, we had the best garden that we ever did grow. Only a small garden, but we gathered three or four times what we had ever grown in a much larger garden. On nine rows of potatoes, we harvested twenty-five

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The Good News

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scattered abroad*

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change in your address. Please include both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

DR. C. PAUL MEREDITH

1902-1968

DR. MEREDITH was a rare example of one who served his Creator above all else. Although we were shocked to hear of his death recently, he lived a rather long, a very interesting and an extremely productive life.

He was the second son of Clarence Dexter Meredith of Wabash, Indiana and Elizabeth Ann Cunningham of Moberly, Missouri. Born soon after the turn of the century, he often told of how his father tricked his mother into staying overnight in their covered wagon in the "Indian Territory" — later to become the state of Oklahoma — not telling her they had crossed over from Missouri until they had been there two days! Dr. Meredith was born there — in Vinita, Oklahoma — on October 27, 1902. Before he was ten the family moved to Joplin, Missouri. Here he attended high school and lived for most of his life until entering God's Work.

Ambassador was the *seventh* college Dr. Meredith attended and he considered his Master of Arts in Theology degree from us by far the most important of his degrees. From the first, Dr. Meredith had the desire to *serve* humanity. He planned, therefore, to become a physician. After liberal arts work in other colleges, he transferred to the Medical School of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

However, he was sidetracked here because of a serious motorcycle accident in which his right arm was broken in three places. Because it was set improperly — and resulted in a certain unsteadiness in that arm, he was forced to transfer to veterinary training at Iowa State University. Receiving his DVM from Iowa State he entered practice with his father, and, upon his death, took over a growing business. He became deputy state veterinarian for Southwest Missouri around 1940.

With the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Meredith *changed* plans he had made to retire early and serve humanity

in scientific pursuits. He now saw clearly that — as General Douglas MacArthur stated — "It must be of the *spirit* if we are to save the flesh." Therefore, Dr. Meredith began a deep and comprehensive quest to find God's *purpose* in life and the true way to solve the world's problems. More and more, he began to realize that the Bible was God's true Word and contained the answers. However, he had difficulty in finding anyone who *faithfully stuck to the Bible* — or who really *understood* it.

He began attending *many* denominational churches from time to time. He studied literature from dozens of different sources trying to find answers that made sense and could be *proved*. He also began a habit of listening to different religious broadcasts — taking copious notes on what was said — checking carefully with his Bible.

Dr. Meredith began hearing *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast in 1942. He checked on it carefully — and gradually began to eliminate other broadcasts that didn't follow the Bible. Wanting even more *personal* contact with what he was increasingly convinced was

God's true Work, he talked to Mr. Herbert Armstrong on long distance telephone several times plus exchanging personal letters. Along with two others, Dr. Meredith was one of the human instruments God used to "rescue" Ambassador College in the terrible financial crisis of 1948.

The next year in August 1949 — Dr. Meredith resigned as deputy state veterinarian. To the astonishment and disapproval of many relatives and associates, he quit his practice at the very height of its growth and financial success. He moved to Pasadena, California to "help out in any way he could" in God's Work.

He often stated that he would be glad to "shovel coal in the basement" if this would help build this Work. Completing all the undergraduate Bible and related courses,



Dr. Meredith went on to receive a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Ambassador College.

Because of Mr. Armstrong's growing concern for the need of a well-planned, comprehensive Bible Correspondence Course to aid our *thousands* of scattered members and co-workers — *at that time we had very few Churches anywhere* — Dr. Meredith volunteered his services to this vast undertaking. Working with Mr. Armstrong and others, he began outlining, planning and finally writing and producing the Ambassador College Correspondence Course in 1954. The copious notes he had taken on Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts, sermons and lectures for years provided a broad basis to help Dr. Meredith produce the early lessons of the Correspondence Course. Thousands of our members and co-workers responded to the Course enthusiastically. Many commented on the clarity, the simplicity and helpfulness, yet the *depth* of this Course. Many of our ministers began noting that the extent of Spiritual knowledge of prospective members could almost be determined by which lesson of the Course they were on.

The enrollment of this Course grew steadily and became one of the most vital arms of God's Work to strengthen our members and prospective brethren in the detailed knowledge of God's Word. Through this Course, thousands of people were so strengthened in the knowledge of God's truth that they were *led to conversion* by this detailed study of the Bible.

The enrollment of the Course grew immensely — and now includes some 82,000 students worldwide. Dr. Meredith also wrote many basic and helpful articles for *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. But Mr. Armstrong told him years ago that his service in founding and writing the Correspondence Course alone enabled him to accomplish more in his lifetime than most men who have ever breathed.

For many years before his death, Dr. Meredith was a member of the Board of Trustees of Ambassador College. In many ways, he helped this Work in acquiring property, attaining the status and standing which it now has, and in building and edifying the Body of Christ. Ordained an evangelist on December 20, 1952, Dr. Meredith was one of the pioneer students of the early years of Ambassador College who helped lay the *foundation* for the tremendous structure of God's Work as we now know it. Truly, through all his efforts and *especially* the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course Dr. Meredith did obey God's instruction to "*do the work of an evangelist*" (II Timothy 4:5).

Dr. Meredith will always be remembered by those who knew him well by the twinkle in his eye, the wry humor and the constant interest in real truth — the knowledge of God, world conditions and the "basic answers" to all phases of life which he constantly sought. He lived a very interesting life and God permitted him to enjoy greatly his chief recreational and educational pastime, world travel. For Dr. Meredith enjoyed fantastic trips through Europe, the Middle East and Far East, Africa, North and South America and even the Soviet Union.

Most memorable of all Dr. Meredith's weighty contributions to the happiness and welfare of his fellowman will be his early and vigorous support of God's Work and Ambassador College in the difficult early years, and the tremendous service rendered to increasing thousands of human beings through the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. For these accomplishments and many others, thousands of people he has never seen will look forward to meeting him, and *thanking him*, in the resurrection.

— Roderick C. Meredith

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

bushels. Only two rows of beans, but we got bushels of beans enough for our children, for ourselves, and enough to put in our freezer. Our tomato patch looked like a red carpet on the ground. Well, I could go on and on about what we harvested; but I do know who is due the credit for it. The Great All-Powerful God who is in heaven. Not us!"

Mrs. V. C., Kentucky

Lesson Learned

"My husband and I have read your pamphlet, 'Your Marriage Can Be Happy.' I think more people should read this article as it can help a mar-

riage. My husband and I have been married a year and we have been through some trying times. However, after reading your pamphlet and realizing our problem, we have decided now we can be happy. Especially since I have stopped 'wearing the pants' in the family."

Mrs. Sandra K.,
Melvindale, Michigan

• *A new and more complete booklet is now being readied for the press — write for your copy now.*

Problem

"I have a problem. My sons are 11, 13, and 15 years of age. The other day I asked them some questions about prominent world leaders. They had never heard of them! This made me realize that they are not receiving this information in school. Do you have any suggestions as to books they should

read. I would appreciate your guidance in this matter."

E. H., Isola, Mississippi

• *A weekly copy of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, TIME or NEWSWEEK will keep you all up on CURRENT events — for tomorrow's news today always read The PLAIN TRUTH!*

Give More — Have More

"I am enclosing in this letter my tithe and offering, thanking God that He has revealed to me the law of tithing. All the years of my life that I did not know of this law I was always it seemed, short of money. Now however, even with paying God His tithe and a little more beside, I find I have more than enough to keep me out of trouble."

Barbara W.,
Hawthorne, Queensland,
Australia

SEVEN PROOFS

of the *TRUE CHURCH* of God

Are YOU an "Armstrongite"? Were you "baptized into ARMSTRONG"? Do you KNOW what you believe? Have you really PROVED, beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

CAN YOU *PROVE* this is God's Church? Even if you feel you would have difficulty proving it to *others* — *have you proved it to yourself?*

There IS *PROOF!*

Beginning with this article, you are going to be given *SEVEN* major proofs — each made up of different parts, which will *PROVE TO YOU*, beyond the remotest shadow of a doubt, this is God's one, and *ONLY* True Church! *PROVE* these things to yourself — and *be able* to prove them to others.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21), wrote the apostle Paul. Have you *OBEYED* this command?

Many Counterfeits

Remember, Jesus warned of *deception*. He knew a *great conspiracy* was soon to arise, which was actually only a continuation of the great Babylonian Mystery conspiracy which had had its root beginnings in the lives of Semiramis and Nimrod! Jesus said, "I will build *MY CHURCH*" (Mat. 16:18), and promised He would be *WITH* that Church, *ALWAYS!* (Mat. 28:20.)

Jesus *DID* begin *that literal Church!* Think. If I had never been born, and if my father had never lived — if there *WERE* no *WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast, no *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine and no *Ambassador College* — can you *KNOW*, and *absolutely realize* that somewhere, somehow, on this earth, *at the precise moment* the Church we are now discussing — the Church which *JESUS BUILT* — would be active, *ALIVE*, performing the *Work of God?*

You need to come to *KNOW where that True Church is working!*

In the confused, conflicting, counterfeit world of "Churchianity," the hue and cry of the many and varying "brands" of religion is something not altogether unlike a steady stream of television commercials advertising cigarettes, cosmetics or alcoholic beverages!

Have you ever noticed the *tremendous similarity* between the radio, newspaper and TV "soap" commercials and the claims of various of this world's false religions? *EACH* soap, almost without fail, claims to have *GREATER CLEANING POWER!* It will get *your clothes* (while the religions claim to do this to your "soul") *WHITER!*

If any *ONE* of these claims over TV were true — then *ALL OTHERS* would be false!

Yet each pursues its own blatant and noisy course — loudly belying to the public that its product is "cleaner than clean — *WHITER THAN WHITE!*" Whether or not these superlatives even *make sense* never seems to enter the *minds* of the gullible American housewives who rush blindly from one glittering supermarket shelf to the other — buying their soaps in flakes, granules, powders, or tablets!

And neither does it seem to enter the minds of most of the peoples of this world today, as they gullibly pursue the religion of their youth, that



Wide World

In the Ecumenical Council begun in 1962 by John XXIII and later continued by Paul VI, the Catholic church sought to unify the churches of this world.

there really COULD be only one *True religion* — and that ALL OTHERS are false!

There is one distinct *difference*, however, between soaps and false religions. ALL soaps will at least clean your clothes "in *measure*." But NOT ONE of the *false religions* will "cleanse your soul" even *one degree*!

Think again! If you had a whole ROOM full of crisp, new, counterfeit, one-hundred-dollar bills — such perfect counterfeits that perhaps only a very *special* investigator in the Treasury Department in Washington, D. C. would be able to tell the difference — and you had, in your pocket, a dirty, crumpled one-dollar bill — WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Would you take the *counterfeit* — REGARDLESS as to "*how close*" it might appear alongside the original — or would you take the *real article*?

Jesus said, "Take *heed* that no man *deceive* you. For MANY shall come in my name, SAYING, I am Christ [saying that JESUS is the Christ — not that "*they*" are Christ]; and shall *deceive many*"! (Mat. 24:4-5.)

Jesus said it was going to get so bad that "IF it were possible, they shall *deceive the very elect*"! (Verse 24.)

Brethren in God's Church — YOU are the "*elect*" of whom Jesus spoke! That is, you *are* this elect — IF you have been truly and completely CONVERTED, have been CONQUERED of God, *given* yourself to Him TOTALLY as a living sacrifice — and are now letting Him RULE in your own life!

If you are one of these *very elect* — then it is IMPOSSIBLE to "deceive" you any more! You may finally become disgruntled — unsettled because of some "thing" which bothers you. You may get "mad" at some other brother, or become upset AGAINST one of God's ministers — but you CANNOT ever be *deceived* about *where God's True Church is working*!

The Church EXISTS!

Remember, before we begin these *major proofs* about the True Church of God — that God's Church DOES EXIST!

Almost NEVER do you hear any of the large, "respectable" Protestant

bodies claiming to be the ONE, the ONLY *True Church*, to the *exclusion of all others*! This, they know, would OFFEND their "sister organizations" in the rest of American and British Protestantism. So, rather than make such a claim outwardly, or in any evangelistic sense — they may PRIVATELY "believe" this to be true — but keep it quiet among themselves. In this way, they can all reason in their own minds that perhaps EVERY "Christian," REGARDLESS of his beliefs and practices, can somehow be a member of the "True Church."

But this reasoning is *totally false*!

God's True Church EXISTS! Jesus said He would build it. He DID build it — and REGARDLESS as to whether *The World Tomorrow* program had ever begun, that True Church WOULD STILL EXIST today!

So now, sweeping your mind free from all preconceived opinions, prejudices, or "ideas" you may have had in the past — let's realize some concrete facts.

My father did not write the Bible! I did not write the Bible! Yet, in *your Bible* are the plain, IMPOSSIBLE-TO-MISUNDERSTAND statements *IDENTIFYING* the True Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head!

Let's READ these *many scriptures*, and come to thoroughly and totally *understand them* — and let's PROVE whether this is the True Church of God!

PROOF NO. 1 GOD IS THE RULER!

Almost NO religious organization on this earth really BELIEVES that God is the absolute RULER! Vast percentages of organized "Churchianity" try to straddle the fence between belief in a *Creator* — and belief in evolution! Others, while claiming to believe in God as the Creator, believe in Him more as a "first cause," or a vague, unreal, ethereal "force" which may have had something or other to do with the creation of matter — but which did not actually bring LIFE, as we know it today, into existence!

But God's *True Church* knows Him to be the CREATOR! "I am the *Almighty God*; walk before me, and be

thou perfect"! Gen. 17:1), God said to Abraham.

God revealed Himself as the Creator, and the RULER of His creation to Adam! God revealed Himself as the RULER of all the universe, the Great, Divine One who *interferes* in the course of petty, human nations of ancient kings! The ancient nations of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Syria and Phoenicia knew of the "God of the Hebrews" as a great RULER who directly *interfered* in the affairs of human kingdoms, on behalf of His people!

When God expelled Adam from the Garden of Eden — God was *in charge* — He was the RULER! God had to INTERVENE in the course of the WHOLE WORLD at the time of the Flood — interrupting the course of humankind and the earth itself with the most truly Gargantuan, awesome, monstrous, unimaginable and fantastic miracle — the great, worldwide FLOOD of the time of Noah!

God *came down* to this earth, shortly after the Flood, to INTERFERE in the course of human affairs — *scattering* the peoples and *confusing* the tongues at the Tower of Babel! *In spite* of petty, human plans, of noble and lofty aspirations, of the grandiose plotting or the ferret-like chicanery of carnal man — God, who is the RULER, *interfered*!

God *intervened* in the personal life of Abraham — *saved* Joseph from death, and MET Moses "face to face" in the wilderness!

He *divided* the Red Sea, led His people into the promised land — and revealed Himself to them as their Lord, their Master, their Boss — their RULER!

Nebuchadnezzar Learned God Rules!

Notice! "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever," wrote Daniel, on the occasion of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar being revealed to him, "for wisdom and *might* are his: And he *changeth the times and the seasons*: he removeth kings, and SETTETH UP KINGS: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in

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"LET US KEEP THE FEAST"

Jesus Christ died on a stake for YOU! What kind of day was it that Christ spent — His last day before His crucifixion? What did it take to die for YOUR sins? With Passover now upon us you need to read this article and find out!

by Paul S. Royer

TUESDAY, April 24, was the day of preparation for the Passover in 31 A.D. Jesus Christ arose, prayed, studied and meditated. It was still dark, perhaps three or four a.m. when He arose, that is if He slept *at all* that night!

When the first ray of sunlight cast its beams across the hillside, after breakfast was finished, Christ and the disciples walked the short distance from Bethany to Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover.

Dusk came! The disciples and Jesus sat down at the table for the *last supper!* It was about six p.m. FIFTEEN HOURS had elapsed since Christ arose — *that is if He slept at all that night!*

The time of the Passover Sacrifice had arrived!

They finished the meal, the foot washing, the wine and the bread. Christ talked to the disciples until about ten p.m. Then He went out to the Mount of Olives to pray.

The day had been long. NINETEEN HOURS had now gone by since day-break. The powerfully built *rugged* Apostles couldn't hold out any longer. They fell asleep!

Three times Christ prayed fervently to His Father. Beads of perspiration stood out on His forehead. The perspiration mingled with blood as He thought and prayed *knowing* what it would take to kill the body of a man who was perfect!

Near midnight, Judas came with the soldiers. *Then began the most demanding, horrifying FIFTEEN HOURS in history.* Never has a man been called upon to suffer as Jesus Christ suffered. *No man could!* No man was perfect in strength and body as Christ!

The Trial

A small mob, armed with swords and clubs took Jesus and marched Him off to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. His trial was held in the secrecy of the darkness of the night. Read it in Mat. 26:56-67. Read the full story from all four gospels, they each tell part of the story. [In this article I've paraphrased from several translations in order to bring a clear picture of what really took place on that last day. In a few cases I've given life and personality to certain character witnesses who would otherwise remain inanimate. You will find the description of the scourging and the crucifixion a little gory, the way it happened, including the scourging of Christ until blind, as indicated by several scriptures (Mat. 27:34; Ps. 69:21).]

The small group laughed, poking fun at Christ as they walked down the ravine and up the hill to the house of Caiaphas. The disciples had fled as prophesied! Christ was alone with the murdering, God-defying priest and elders of Jerusalem — the ones who hated Him most.

The priest and elders talked first aloud and then whispered as they sought a means of testimony that would result in His death sentence. They found two witnesses who said, "This man said, I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days!"

Caiaphas jumped to his feet, staring into the powerful eyes of Christ and said, "Well, what about it! Did you say that or didn't you?" Christ kept silent. "Answer the question, are you the Christ?" No answer! "I adjure you by the living God that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

"Yes," replied Christ, "I am and in the future you will see me, the son

of mankind, sitting at the right hand of God and returning in the clouds of heaven."

Caiaphas ripped at his own clothing, yelling at the top of his voice, "Blasphemy, blasphemy!"

In a midnight kangaroo court, Jesus Christ was found guilty — guilty of respect, of mercy, of love for the poor, guilty of healing the sick, of bringing the *good news* of the Kingdom of God (Mat. 27, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 18).

The Mob Scene

They took Him outside in the courtyard. A few of the priests with Caiaphas began to curse Jesus Christ. Then a fat, ruddy-looking individual spit in Jesus Christ's face. Others began to spit, casting verbal tirades at Christ. Another struck Jesus Christ. The leaders of the court soon tired of this sport and retired to an inner room.

Others came to see the man who had turned Jerusalem *upside down*. They wanted to see this man in the flesh. A man who was ALL MAN, a leader of men!

Cautiously they approached Christ. Would He shoot fire out at them, do a miracle? "Are you the Messiah? Are you really the King over all of those beggars you preach to," they cried. Nothing happened. They grew bolder as Christ remained silent. Then someone kicked at Him, half afraid of what might happen. Soon they too left, only the soldiers remained.

The soldiers were growing more indignant by the minute at this young upstart, who boldly stood His ground.

A redhead swaggered up to Christ, looked Him in the eye and flippantly slapped Him across the face. "You rotten, filthy, contemptible hypocrite. You who will not bow to the high

priest, take that." With an open hand he slapped Him, first on the right cheek, then on the left.

Other soldiers encouraged by the red-head, tried a few jabs, kicks and some verbal tirades of their own. They soon began to enjoy the game! A young twenty-year-old six-footer doubled up his fist, swung wide and smashed Christ in the stomach. He doubled over in pain. Another soldier jerked Him erect. They all joined in beating Christ until His eyes began to close, turning purple, lips were split and swollen. Blood ran down His face, arms and chest.

The merciless beating continued. Then someone shouted, "Hey, why not blindfold Him, He's a Prophet, let's test Him!" So blindfold Him they

did. Dancing, jumping in glee, they pranced around Him, laughing, hitting and spitting at Him, crying out in cowardly voices, "Who hit you that time, Prophet, — come on Prophet you can tell!"

Obscene names were a din in His ears. Bleeding, bruised and in pain, He found Himself on the floor, time and time again, only to be pushed back on His feet for the next onslaught. Would it never end? Hour after hour it went on with a little rest now and then as they tired of their new-found sport. The man who was ALL MAN uttered not a word — only an occasional groan escaped His lips as knuckles smashed against flesh and bone.

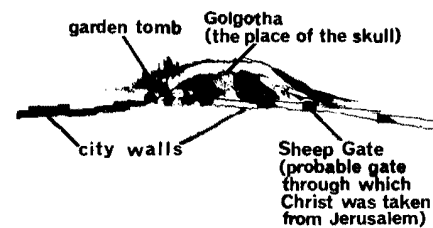
A Visit to Pilate

Around seven in the morning He was marched off to Pilate for the official Roman verdict. *TWENTY-SEVEN hours had gone by since Jesus Christ began His day on the previous morning!*

Pilate asked Christ, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "Yes, I am the Christ." After many questions Pilate turned to Caiaphas and said, "I find no fault with this man."

Caiaphas turned from Pilate to the elders. He was beside himself. "What does he mean he can find no fault with this man?" Then someone said, "This man is from Galilee."

"What did you say? Is this man from Galilee?" exclaimed Pilate. "Take Him to Herod."



Dome of the Rock

Orient Press Photo
© Ambassador College Art

Jerusalem today. The most prominent dome-shaped building is the Dome of the Rock, built on site of Solomon's Temple. Directly above the Dome is the hill of the Skull — Golgotha — where Jesus Christ was crucified. Just behind and to the left of Golgotha is the garden tomb. (See INSET.)

Hurriedly, Caiaphas ordered the guard to get Christ out on the street again. They pushed and jabbed at Him, hurrying Him along, fearful of encountering some of the followers of Christ who might defend Him.

Herod granted an immediate audience. He was very anxious to see Christ. Entering the room he said, "Would you care to do a miracle for me?" Christ remained silent. After much

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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

What should you teach your children before they enter school? Should they know how to read and count? And once they are in school, how can you help them with homework and studies?

by Arthur A. Kirishian

MOST parents want their children to do well in school, to bring home good grades, and to be at the top of the class scholastically, if not the most outstanding student in the grade.

As never before, many parents are trying to accomplish these goals for their children by enrolling them in preschool programs, hiring special tutors, or, what is even more common, trying to help their children get a head start by teaching them how to read and count at home before they enter school.

A few, at the other extreme, however, are afraid to teach their children anything, thinking that when their children get to school the teacher's instruction might be so different from theirs that their children will only become confused.

The Real Key

Believe it or not, the real key to the success of your children in school lies neither in exposing them to the "Three R's" before entering the classroom, nor in a complete lack of familiarity with such teaching. It is the training in *character* and in the right *study habits* that will determine whether or not your children will be a success in school. It is *character*, and good *study habits*, therefore, that every parent needs to be teaching his children at home before anything else.

Of course, if there is time it would not be wrong to teach your children all you can about reading, writing, and arithmetic. This knowledge will not hinder their learning when they start school — especially if you explain to them that there are several ways to do

almost everything and that at school they will learn other ways of learning that are just as good or even better than what you are teaching them at home.

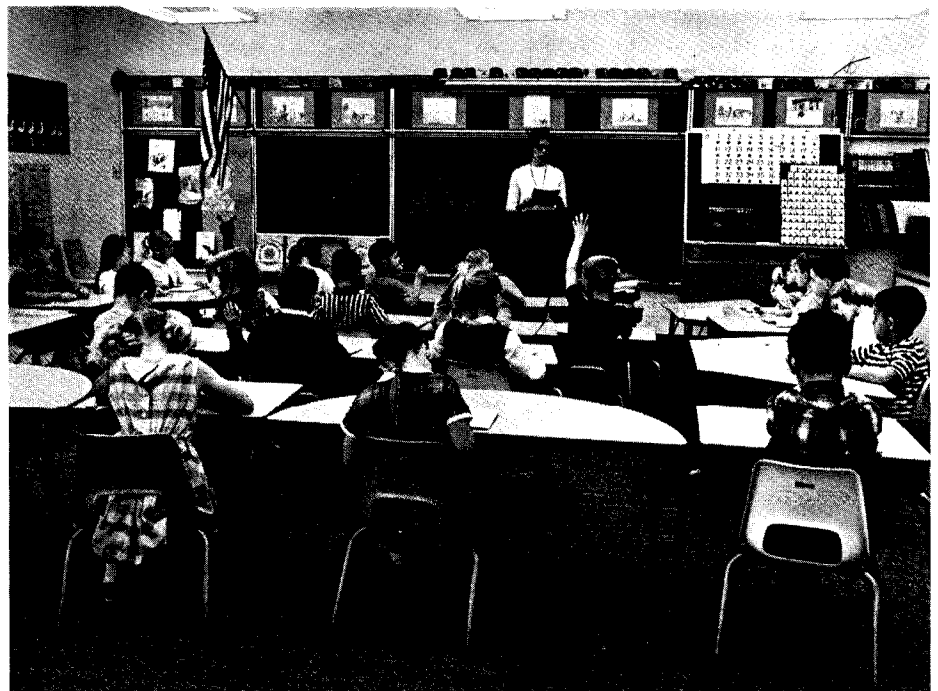
But in this article I want to emphasize developing *strong character traits* and *good study habits* in your children that are even *more important* than any technical knowledge about a certain subject they will study in school.

Let's first start with important character traits every child should be thoroughly grounded in before entering school. The example of one outstanding student enrolled in Imperial Schools would best illustrate these characteristics.

Character Traits

When school is about ready to start, we see our ideal first grader walking up the walk with lunch pail in hand, *hair neatly combed, clothes clean and pressed, eyes sparkling from a good night's sleep*, and with a big smile for the teacher's "Good morning." It is observed that she is not afraid to come to school without her mother coming into the room with her, having already learned that only babies are tied to their "mother's apron strings."

Upon entering the room, our little student puts her *lunch pail neatly* on the shelf provided, hangs her coat on the hook by its nape, walks happily but in an orderly manner to her desk,



Cann — Ambassador College

Character and study habits determine the child's degree of success in the formal classroom situation.

and sits quietly, ready for instruction to begin.

As the class begins, it is noticed that our little student is not playing with fingernails, picking nose, scratching arm or ear, tying shoes laces, or looking around the room.

When instructions are given to place pencil, eraser, and book on desk, our little student *quickly responds*. Within a few seconds she has the *exact* items before her.

When the teacher asks for answers to particular questions, her hand is in the air — *not waving* frantically — but placed to her side enthusiastically. If her answer is wrong, or if it provokes a sincere laugh from the teacher and other students, she does *not* begin to *cry* and think about her mistake, but quickly responds with another possible answer.

Halfway through the period it is also noticed that this little first grader will raise her hand to *add her experience* to the topic being discussed or to *ask a question*. She does not hold it high in the air for several minutes while the *teacher is talking*, or ask questions having *nothing* to do with what is being *discussed*. No, our student has learned to wait until her elders are finished talking, and has learned to *think* about the *appropriate time* to *ask* her questions, besides.

During the play period, our student is seen playing with her *whole heart* and *strength*. If her team loses or is behind, discouragement or "give-up-itis" does not set in.

If she falls down while running she's up and running again before self-pity takes hold of her mind. She is *not too tired* to run again if the teacher asks for volunteers, either. She is also *happy when others win* over her — she has learned to be a winner and a loser.

At lunch time, our little first grader *sits quietly* with the other students while *finishing her whole lunch* within the allotted half hour. *No loud talking* or the telling of *exaggerated stories* to gain attention, *chewing of food* with *mouth open*, *talking with food* in *mouth*, *throwing* into the air of *oranges* or *apples* that should be eaten, not played with; no continual un-



Conn — Ambassador College

Hands folded, pencil and eraser ready for use.

finished lunches, or spilt milk. Yes, she has even learned to sit so her *slip* will *not show*, and *stand* with *good posture*.

No, the teacher has not had to tell her all these things: our little first grader has already learned these character traits at home.

When she begins to manifest a little vanity, while the others are busy working, the teacher whispers into her ear, "You are beginning to act a little silly; I want you to stop it." Her eyes fill with *water*, but within *seconds* they are *dry*, and the expression on her face shows she fears to continue to do wrong, for our student has been taught what will follow if she doesn't change.

When the bell rings to go home, our first grader gets her *desk* in order, *stops* and *thinks* what she brought with her or needs to take home — so coat, hat and lunch pail do not become left behind or lost — then finds these things and gives the teacher a big smile as she *walks* quietly out of the room.

Can you imagine what an inspiration a student like this can be to a teacher?

Children like this are a glory to their parents and to God. This can be said about your children, too, if you will begin at home to train them in

the important character traits illustrated.

As your children grow up, don't neglect to compare them with and make them meet up to the standard Jesus Christ Himself set, too. Sooner or later they are going to have to meet these requirements anyway. Why not then start them out following His example at the beginning? — it sure will be a lot easier than waiting until they are much older.

But most parents make the mistake of comparing their children with others. What other children do may be entirely wrong. Ask yourself whenever you wonder whether or not your children are doing what is right, "Would Jesus Christ act that way?"

Here are just a few categories, then, which I would like to list under the heading of character traits that your children and mine need to be developing at home before ever starting school:

1. Personal cleanliness and orderliness.
2. Friendliness.
3. Confidence; enthusiasm; positive, happy approach.
4. Ability to follow instructions.
5. Respect for all elders.
6. Stick-to-it-iveness and perseverance.
7. Endurance of hardship.
8. Good sportsmanship.
9. Accurate description of events.
10. Good posture.
11. Emotional control.
12. Responsibility.
13. Courtesy.
14. Modesty.

Remember our children are future Gods. Remember also that they will copy what we live — not what we say.

So with continuous effort strive to make your children the type that will warm not only your heart but also those who must work with them in school.

What then are some of the *study habits* you should be teaching your children?

Listening

First of all, teach your children to *LISTEN*.

Most teachers would tell you that one of the biggest problems they face

(Continued on page 17)



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE . . . CALIFORNIA, ENGLAND, TEXAS

CLASSROOMS NEAR COMPLETION



The Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center with its reflection in the sunken Italian garden pool.

After a year of patient waiting, the much needed Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center is almost finished. Right now the finishing touches are being applied to the \$1.9 million twin-building complex.

The ground-breaking ceremonies for the complex were held on April 1, 1967. It is the fourth major project in the college's \$12 million expansion program.

The beautiful new complex connects Ambassador Hall to the fabulous formal Italian sunken garden. Inside and out the complex is of the quality and character that Ambassador College demands. The new complex is quality unlimited!

The exterior of these two buildings incorporates pre-cast Schokbaton exterior panels. Each one of these giant honeycombed elements weighs almost twelve tons. Our classroom complex makes the first time that this type of advanced concrete design has been used in Pasadena.

The interior of the buildings are even more beautiful. The Fine Arts Building has an elegantly carpeted theater type music recital auditorium, four faculty studios and ten music practice rooms. The Science Hall includes chemistry and physics laboratories, two science lecture auditoriums, and a large lecture auditorium.

The O. K. Earl Corporation, of Pasadena, has been responsible for the design, engineering, and construction of the complex. Their Senior Staff Architect, Peter J. Holdstock, designed the twin building complex. He is also responsible for the design of our Physi-

SCULPTURE MERITS AWARD

Ambassador Wins Third Pasadena Beautiful Award

On Monday, January 29, 1968, Ambassador College received another award from the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation. This time the object of the judges' admiration was our spectacular egret sculpture.

The judges described the sculpture as "truly an inspired esthetic improvement to the Pasadena scene. The project was executed with high artistic skill."

The sculpture was designed and built by English sculptor, David Wynne. The thirty-seven foot, six ton, bronze sculpture was cast in England and then transported to this country. It was erected "on location" last July.

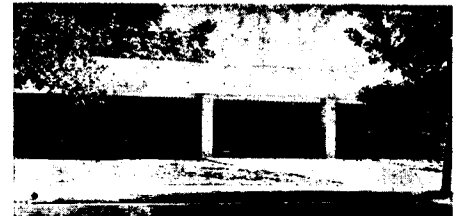
Since its unveiling, the sculpture has been visited by many including the famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin, close friend of Mr. Wynne.

This was the third such award that Ambassador College has received for its contributions to Pasadena's beautification campaign. The first award was given for our beautiful new Physical Education facility. (The Physical Education Facility has also received the Los Angeles Beautiful Award and it was chosen as College Building of the Month.)

The second award was given for the Student Center.

But Ambassador's plans for the
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued on page 12)



PASADENA BEAUTIFUL WINNERS—At left, top award in the Pasadena Beautiful contest went to Ambassador College's fountain sculpture on the campus at Terrace Place and West Green Street. The fountain presents a beautiful aspect both day and night, with addition of lighting effects. It also was the winner in Class IV. In center, Individual Citizen's award in Class I which went to the Duncan William Langton residence at 1365 S. Oakland Ave., of "exceptionally fine restoration in both landscape and architecture" in the Pasadena tradition. Right, Non-Commercial Organizations award won by the City of Pasadena for the Lemanda Branch public library at 140 S. Santa Anita Ave.

Sculpture Award

(Continued from page 11)

beautification of the west end of Pasadena are not complete. Presently under construction are four more buildings, with a fifth in the planning stages. The buildings include our new Men's Residence, The Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center, the new Administration Building, and right now on the drawing boards a beautiful seventy-foot high, 1,250-seat auditorium.

The Independent College Wins Top Prize In 'Beautiful' Contest

13—PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, JAN. 30, 1968

FOUNTAIN WINS BEAUTY AWARD

PASADENA — A fountain sculpture at Ambassador College Plaza won Pasadena Beautiful Foundation's top award Monday in the annual judging

award in the public school category. Mrs. Marvin R. Kuppinger, vice president of the foundation, welcomed members and guests. Presentations were made by

Library Best in Class II

By JOHN Q. COPELAND Staff Writer
Ambassador College's campus fountain sculpture was judged top award winner at Pasadena Beautiful Foundation's annual awards banquet at the California Institute of Technology Atrium Monday night.

Classrooms

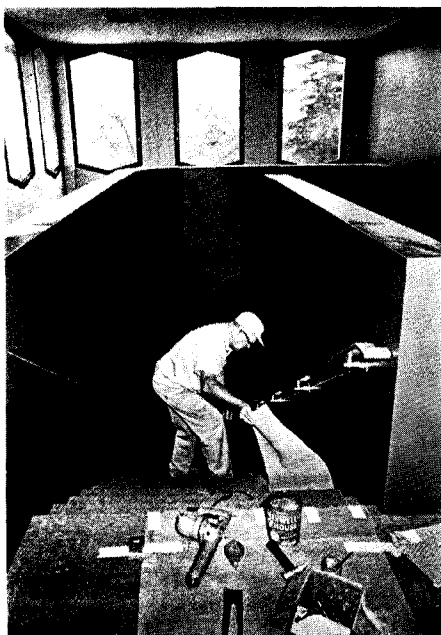
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cal Education Plant and the new Administration Building which is presently under construction.

As the construction enters its final stages, it is easy to see that we are going to have one of the most magnificent classroom complexes in the world. Even the workmen recognize it. One of them remarked, "I am going to bring my son out here and show him what a real college looks like!"



Workman putting the final touches on recital hall stage.



Hand rails being installed.

A.G.

THE PORTFOLIO PRESENTS:

A.C. THE BALANCED AMBASSADOR



...GROGGY ...THE LATE SLEEPER

...PHIL OCIFER ...THE PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL SOPHOMORE PREACHER



... AND JOE SEEFUS ...THE STUDENT HISTORIAN

... PLUS A CAST OF THOUSANDS.

MAYBE EVEN YOU!

(ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN THIS NAME AND THAT OF THE FAMOUS JEWISH HISTORIAN IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL)



The Spanish Plain Truth—a Reality At Last

As the first edition of *La PURA VERDAD* rolls off the press, few realize the significance of this stride ahead for the Spanish Work. This 20-page, full-color-cover **FIRST** for the Big Sandy press will be mailed to 4,500 people in 39 countries around the world, 22 of which are Spanish speaking! This for some, is their only witness! (80 percent of all South Americans can't even listen to *El Mundo de Mañana!*)

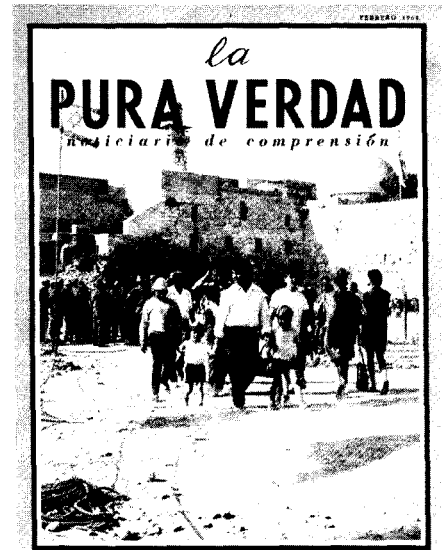
Though the fledgling Spanish Work has been blessed with the first translation of English articles and booklets, the first foreign Bible Study (Tijuana, Mexico), and the *first foreign language broadcast*; it's growth hasn't really exploded until *now*.

To illustrate the need for Latins to receive the *published* word, let's take the case of Pepe Garcia. Pepe Garcia is an imaginary character just like Joe Blow in America. Pepe began listening to the broadcast back in 1957 when Dr. Rea was making it. Pepe was one of the first 282 Spanish people to write in that year. Sr. Garcia was coming right along. He could hear a 15-minute broadcast once a week, receive two reprint articles a month, and even occasionally

get the Bible Correspondence Course.

But then in 1965 after Dr. Rea's death, Pepe Garcia began to recognize that *no new broadcasts were being made!* *There was no broadcaster!* By the time Dr. Rea's tapes were repeated eight or *nine times*, Pepe had them *memorized!* Latin America was essentially cut off from *any witness at all!!*

About the middle of 1967, 10 years after the first Spanish broadcast, a new flash of light came into Pepe's life. He tuned in on a new tape of *El Mundo de Mañana*, broadcast by Sr. Pablo Gonzalez. Pepe was so *excited* he wrote in requesting a visit. Sr. Garcia is allured by this way of life. By all indications his mind is being opened. He's harassed by many questions he needs answered. Only problem is there's no one to visit him. Pepe Garcia is among the 180 in Latin America who has requested visits, but can't be contacted personally. Pepe



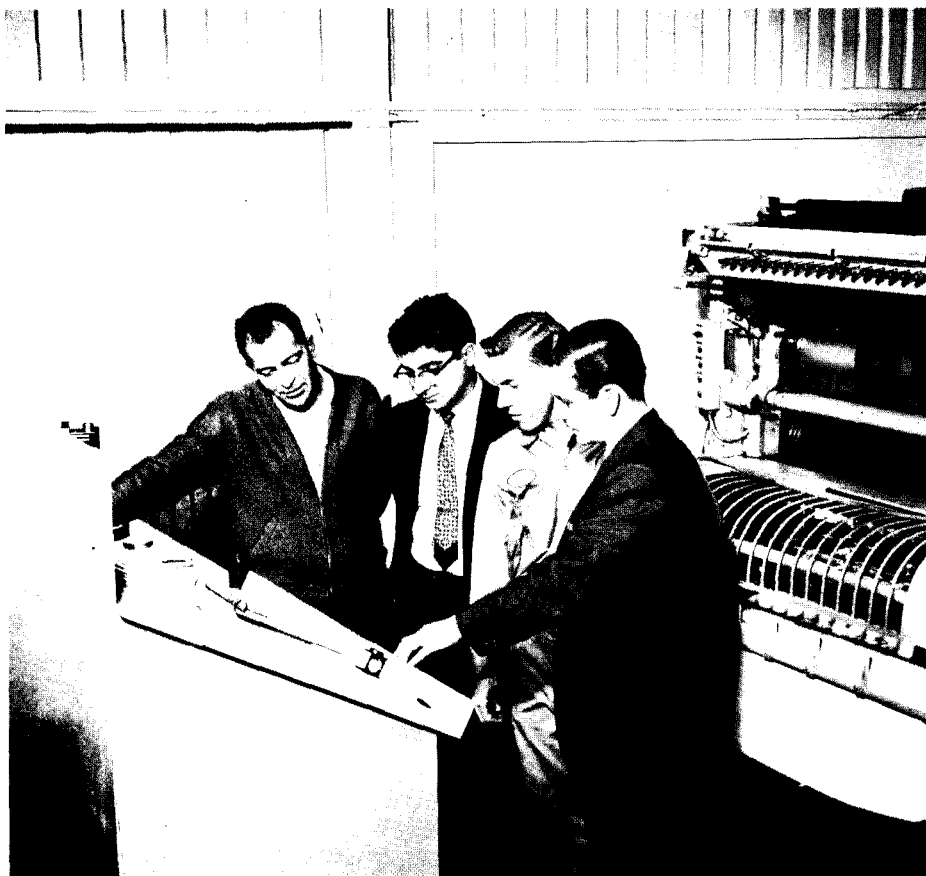
craves more of this knowledge. But so far since 1966 he has been able to obtain *only one reprint* per month and a couple more lessons of the Bible Correspondence Course.

Now Pepe Garcia, along with approximately 4500 "amigos," will be sent a full 20 pages worth of meaty, salient **PLAIN TRUTH** material. Special in this first issue, which marks the 34th anniversary of the English **PLAIN TRUTH**, is a *Personal From the Editor* by Mr. H. W. Armstrong. Also included are Mr. G. T. Armstrong's "Science: Something Seriously Missing," an article on Child Rearing, an article "More War in Jerusalem?" by Dr. Charles Dorothy and Dr. Ernest L. Martin. Also included in this first issue is a **FIRST** for the foreign language editions — that of the "Prophecy Comes Alive in Today's World News" column.

Pepe Garcia should be deliriously happy that *finally* the gospel can be published to the *Latin World!*

But the Spanish Work is growing in still another area. Last September an office was opened in Mexico City. Mr. Enrique Ruiz (Ambassador Graduate 1967) and family moved there to staff the office.

Dr. Dorothy has stated, "God is calling a few in Latin America." To these few this growth in the Spanish Work will signify a momentous leap ahead for a work that's *going places*.



Dr. Dorothy, Louis Gutiérrez, and Big Sandy pressmen inspect the first copies of the Spanish **PLAIN TRUTH**.

IF I WERE THE DEVIL!

*If you could see and hear Satan, how would he act and talk?
Maybe you are listening to him and don't know it! Read this
unusual article and learn to recognize the Devil's line!*

by David L. Antion

IF I were the Devil I'd be an expert at overthrowing people. Don't forget I caused Israel to be overthrown many times. I conquered persons such as Ananias, Sapphira, Alexander the coppersmith, and Hymenaeus — all one-time members of God's Church. I got Demas, a minister under the apostle Paul, to turn away from God's Church, having incited him to love *this* world.

Look Into History

The Bible is a book of history. It was written for our profit upon whom the ends of the world are come. The Devil also knows the history contained in God's Word. He knows the lessons better than all of us. He was there.

Do you remember how Israel was overthrown time and again during the days of the judges? In Judges 3 God delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the king of Mesopotamia by the hand of Caleb's younger brother. Israel was delivered and the land had rest *forty years*. See Judges 3:8-11.

But what happened during those *forty years*? Obviously it was a time of peace, of prosperity and rebuilding of Israel. Those were "good" years — like the roaring twenties and soaring sixties!

"And the children of Israel *did evil* again in the sight of the Eternal: and the Eternal strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Eternal." (Verse 12.)

So the children of Israel were taken captive. This time under the king of Moab where they served in captivity and slavery for eighteen years. But when they cried to God he heard them and delivered them.

"So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. AND THE

LAND HAD REST FOURSORE [80] YEARS" (verse 30).

Again Israel had peace. This time for eighty years. Again it was a time of peace and prosperity. During this time the children of Israel became a hedonistic and pleasure-loving nation. And they did evil in the sight of the Eternal.

"And the Eternal sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles" (Judges 4:1-2).

With iron chariots and a mighty army the king of Canaan and the captain of his host mightily oppressed the children of Israel for twenty years.

But God loved His nation. And when they cried to Him from pain and suffering, God's mercy was extended to them again. This time God used Deborah and Barak, the son of Abinoam, to free Israel.

And when He had freed them God's Word tells us, "And the land had rest *forty years*." (Judges 5:31.)

Prosperity a Trial

Whenever Israel was freed from captivity and persecution, the land had rest either *forty* or *eighty* (2 x 40) years. Forty is the number for trial in the Bible. When Israel was freed from persecution, at ease in prosperity and good times — it was a trial!

What happened once Israel was set free from the Canaanites? "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal: and the Eternal delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years" (Judges 6:1).

The Israelites had degenerated into pagan perversions. When they had peace they turned toward production. From production they went to pleasure.

In their pleasure they forgot the Eternal and drifted into paganism and every vile practice.

God used Gideon to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of the Midianites. "Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness FORTY YEARS in the days of Gideon" (Judges 8:28).

What did Israel do during the forty years of quietness? "And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel *turned again*, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god. And the children of Israel *remembered not* the Eternal their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side: Neither showed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had showed unto Israel" (Judges 8:33-35).

There you have it. Israel forgot God. She turned to pagan customs and made covenants with idols. History is solid on this fact!

Problems Build Character

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE" (James 1:2-3).

God's people are to rejoice and be joyful when they fall into trials. These trials work patience — patient endurance in the way of God.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, BEING MUCH MORE PRECIOUS THAN OF GOLD THAT PERISHETH, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto

praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6-7).

Notice! The trial of faith drives us closer to God. It is more precious than gold because under duress we build character when we stay steadfast.

God's people experience many trials that are blessings. For after the trial is over, we are closer to God than before. We learn vital and important lessons from trials. In the face of trials people have to pray more, fast more, study more, and examine themselves! No wonder the Bible says the trial of your faith is more precious than gold!

If I were the Devil, I too, would know that trials can be good for God's people.

God's Warning

God gives this warning in Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and the Devil knows why.

"And it shall be, when the Eternal your God shall have brought you into the land which He swore unto your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not, And houses full of all good things, which thou fillest not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; **THEN BEWARE LEST THOU FORGET THE ETERNAL**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

"Be careful," God says, "lest you forget Me in your prosperity." This is the very thing Israel did!

God gives another warning in Deuteronomy 8. "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Eternal thy God for the good land which He hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Eternal thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied and all that thou hast is multiplied; **THEN THINE HEART BE LIFTED UP, AND THOU FORGET**

THE ETERNAL THY GOD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (verses 10-14).

Yes, *prosperity is a trial* — a test! But here God shows us how to withstand this trial. God says we must not forget to acknowledge Him — to keep our eyes on Him — to keep full throttle in His ways!

Here's what Israel did when she got fat and prosperous. "But Jeshurun [Israel] waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and *lightly esteemed* the Rock of his salvation" (Deut. 32:15). Here lies the trouble! Here's the problem! Here's what overthrows so many!

Once prosperous and fat they begin to forsake God by lightly esteeming Him!

Enthralled with their own physical prosperity — gadgets, appliances, and just plain things — they seldom think seriously about God or His ways. They lightly esteem the Eternal.

God condemns modern Israel for idolatry! "Their land also is full of idols; *they worship the work of their own hands*, that which their own fingers have made" (Isaiah 2:8). The *Moffatt* translation says they worship the things they manufacture.

Is Material Wealth Wrong?

God wants to bless His people. He delights in heaping abundant material blessings and prosperity on those who fully obey Him. God promised unparalleled blessings to Israel because of Abraham's obedience. Every good and precious gift comes from God. He loves to bless.

Jesus tells Christians that God will supply their needs. Even more God says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

God promises to bless the tithe payer and to prosper him. (See Mal. 3:10.) The Bible contains dozens of rules on handling money and using wisdom in finances. The Bible says that riches are the crown of wise men. God wants

His people to be blessed and prospered.

BUT GOD FORBIDS US TO SET OUR HEARTS ON PROSPERITY!!

So if I were the Devil I'd try to get God's people to set their hearts on material things!

The Way of Rome

Look what has happened to every major empire in the world. Babylon — a world-ruling empire under King Nebuchadnezzar — came to dizzy heights of prosperity — unparalleled at that time. Babylon imported slaves. People were rich and prosperous. The ruling classes lived in absolute luxury and splendor.

Babylon was a fortress in itself. The city was encompassed by walls 311 feet high and 87 feet thick. Her hanging gardens was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Yet Babylon fell! But how?

With prosperity the Babylonians degenerated while the Persians were coming on strong. Men of Persia were lean, hard and vicious. They were willing to sacrifice most anything to accomplish their goal.

One night the princes of Babylon were feasting and celebrating. Over a thousand lords — every significant ruler in Babylon — attended the great feast given by Belshazzar, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. While they feasted a traitor opened the gates and the Persian army swam via the Euphrates through the city of Babylon. Before anyone realized what happened the city of Babylon was taken!

But did Persia learn from Babylon? No. She went the same way. Once Persia ruled the world she became prosperous. She imported slaves and had them do her work. The once lean, hard army of Persia became fat and lazy. Soon another power rose in the world — the fast-moving, hard-hitting army of Alexander the Great. Before long the Greeks were ruling the world.

With the death of Alexander the Greek empire fell apart. From its pieces came the Roman Empire. Acclaimed by historians as the mightiest empire the world has ever known, the Roman Empire lasted from 31 B. C. to 476 A. D. Who could have imagined that this mighty empire, which stood over five

hundred years could fall to a bunch of barbarians?

But the powerful Roman army was made up of Roman people. When the people decayed so did the army.

What History Says

Here is what happened to Rome. "From the time of Gaius Gracchus (123-122 B. C.), great numbers of the poor had subsisted from the *public dole*. To the granting of free corn was later added (300 A.D.) the distribution of oil, wine, and pork.

"To support the vast armies of officials at the head of the state and of paupers at the bottom demanded enormous revenues. These revenues could only be raised by taxation. But the heavy taxation forced great numbers of people out of business. *Agriculture became so unprofitable* that few cared to accept land when it was offered them as a gift by the government. It thus came about that, though the rate of taxation was vastly increased, the public revenues decreased.

"An attempt was made to force men to continue in business and to compel the son to succeed to the trade of his father. *The 'just price' was fixed* for hundreds of articles. The salary or wages was determined which was necessary to maintain a man 'according to his station.' This meant that however hard he worked or however great his skill a man could not rise above his present station. There remained no motive for industry or skill. *Men lost all desire to work. Better to live off the dole and be amused and pacified by the sports of the amphitheater.*

"The armies lost all sense of loyalty. The state, sapped of its *moral, intellectual and financial strength*, fell an easy prey to a simple and *vigorous*, if barbaric, people." (Page 274, *Ancient History in Bible Light*.)

Today Britain and America are swiftly traveling the way of Rome. Public dole is increasing phenomenally. Britain right now is a welfare state and America is headed that way as fast as she can go. We are living in the times of decay in these once great countries.

America, once this planet's powerhouse, is now a fat and affluent society. Glutted on its own wealth it has lost

its purposes and goals. Decay has set in. Spiritual and moral foundations are rotting away.

The people of America and Britain, once an energetic laboring force, are now drugged into stupor before their television sets (tellies). Our peoples have forgotten God! They have turned their back on God. Smothered by their prosperity and buried under material things many doubt the existence of the Almighty God! But Almighty God lives! And He warned that it would be this way!

Jesus Warns of Materialism

Jesus Christ foresaw the end time. He knew what troubles we would face and gave this warning:

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be *overcharged* with surfeiting, and DRUNKENNESS, AND CARES OF THIS LIFE, AND SO THAT DAY COME UPON YOU UNAWARES.

"For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:34-35).

Here is God's warning to New Testament Christians. Don't get too materially minded! Don't let the cares of this life take your mind off God and His purposes! Watch that you don't forget God!

Examine yourself. Have you imbibed the spirit of this world? Have you taken on the spirit of the society around you? Are you, in your way, as lazy and indolent as the people around you? Have you adopted the spirit of lethargy?

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, *be sober*, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet the hope of salvation" (I Thess. 5:6-8).

Money Is Power

Today the emphasis is on materialism. People are frantically concerned about the cares of this life. How to make ends meet. How to get more for their money.

God warns us about the greedy, selfish spirit that pervades our societies today. "But they that will be rich fall

into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL EVIL: which while some coveted after, *they have erred from the faith*, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:9-10).

Most people are not ready for riches. They can't handle them!

Look what happens to God's people every year at the Feast of Tabernacles. Most experience a per capita spending that excels anything they do all year long.

How do they use this extra money — this power? Is it handled wisely?

All too often it is not. Many spend themselves sick! They gorge themselves and their children on sweets, pastries, and other *foodless* foods — reaping a poisonous pleasure.

Money is power. It must be controlled. Without self-control and restraint money becomes a curse. Satan's aim is to encourage us to destroy ourselves — turn blessings into curses.

Indeed prosperity is a *trial*!

Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Mat. 6:21).

Where is your treasure? We know definitely that money has fallen down several times for the Building Fund. Mr. Armstrong had to write and explain this vital, critical need. Yet, with more members than ever before people are giving *less proportionately than they ever did!*

Do you have the attitude of the early New Testament Christians? For the sake of God's Work — for the sake of their own brethren — many sold their possessions, and donated the money to God's Church. The money was distributed to those who had need.

In our own times we have had outstanding examples of complete dedication. When Ambassador College was just struggling to its feet God moved on the hearts of some Co-Workers to give all they had. Several sold their houses and gave the money to God's Church. They kept only enough to rent another smaller house. More than one man has donated his life's savings

to God's Work and then donated his life in service to Ambassador College.

Ask yourself: "Do I have that kind of faith? Do I have the attitude of the early Christians? Or am I so materially minded that I cannot put my heart completely into God's Work?"

Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON" (Mat. 6:24).

The Devil knows the choice is either God or your material wealth. Now if he can drug you, hook you on materialism, pleasures and the soft life so you think you can't live without it—then your mind can be turned away from godliness. For the Bible plainly reveals that the mind set on the flesh and the fleshly things is enmity to God. (See Romans 8:4-7.)

The Devil's Plan

The Devil really hates prosperity! Those he dominates will eventually live in squalor. Witness the nations of India, Africa, South America, etc.

Prosperity is a blessing from God! But it must be used properly! Like fire, water and other elements—prosperity can be *destructive* rather than *constructive* if not handled properly.

Thus the Devil's plan: Get people to misuse prosperity so that it becomes a *curse* rather than a blessing. Get people to *set their hearts on material things*—forget God!

So, if I were the Devil here's how I'd do it.

Within my power I'd give you a road of smooth sailing. I'd hold back some persecutions. I'd assure you—**CONVINCE YOU**—that there is no need to pray harder, study more, sacrifice further. "Everything will be all right. Take it easy," I'd say. "Rest, relax, enjoy yourself—have another piece of candy."

I'd try my best to convince you there's no need for you to carry all that spiritual armor around (Eph. 6:12-18).

"Look, haven't things been going well? Then why keep that shield of faith up so high? And why lug that

breastplate of righteousness around? You don't need it. Neither will you need that sword of the spirit—the Word of God.

"That's it," I'd say, "take off those shoes of readiness in the gospel. Now sit back and relax. Make yourself com-

fortable. Take it off. That's it go ahead—sure, do it. It must be hot under that helmet of salvation."

Now with all your armor off—you would no longer hear the smooth voice of an apparent friend. *You'd hear the terrifying roar of a hungry lion!*

PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

(Continued from page 10)

in the classroom is just getting children to *listen*.

The number of minutes that are wasted each day alone in obtaining the attention of children would probably total over an hour.

Children need to come to school with the *habit* of *sitting quietly* and giving their *undivided attention* to the teacher who is conducting the class at the front of the room.

But this is *not usually* the case. Instead, lacking self-discipline over mind and body, after only a few minutes most children begin squirming, looking around the room, or having their attention diverted by a swinging door, a passing car, or the roar of an airplane overhead.

Here is the teacher, who through years of training and study has learned the knowledge that is vital to our children's growth and happiness, teaching away at the front of the room, and most of the students, instead of listening, are simply daydreaming—hundreds of miles away, thinking about some worthless pastime.

Yes, listening is an *essential key* to learning. The ability to *concentrate* on what is taking place before you, must be instilled in children and adults alike. And the earlier the better.

There is a story about an old farmer who once had a donkey, and every time he wanted to speak to that donkey, he would first club it over the head with a heavy board—a two-by-four. A neighbor, thinking this quite strange, asked the farmer one day why he did this. "Well," said the old man, "before I ever give instructions to my donkey, I always make sure I have his attention."

Although most teachers don't gain the attention of their children in this manner, every good teacher will make

sure he has the *attention* of his students before beginning any instruction.

He will expect students to be *looking* right at him and to stop whatever they are doing, and listen. Unless the teacher does this, he knows that it would be useless to ever say the first word—it wouldn't be heard.

Yes, brethren, here is one way we can prepare our children for school. Teach them to *sit still* and give their undivided attention to what is being said. Make listening, whenever elders are speaking, something they practice as a real *habit*. You may start by teaching them to listen for only a minute or two at first. Then work into periods of ten to twenty minutes.

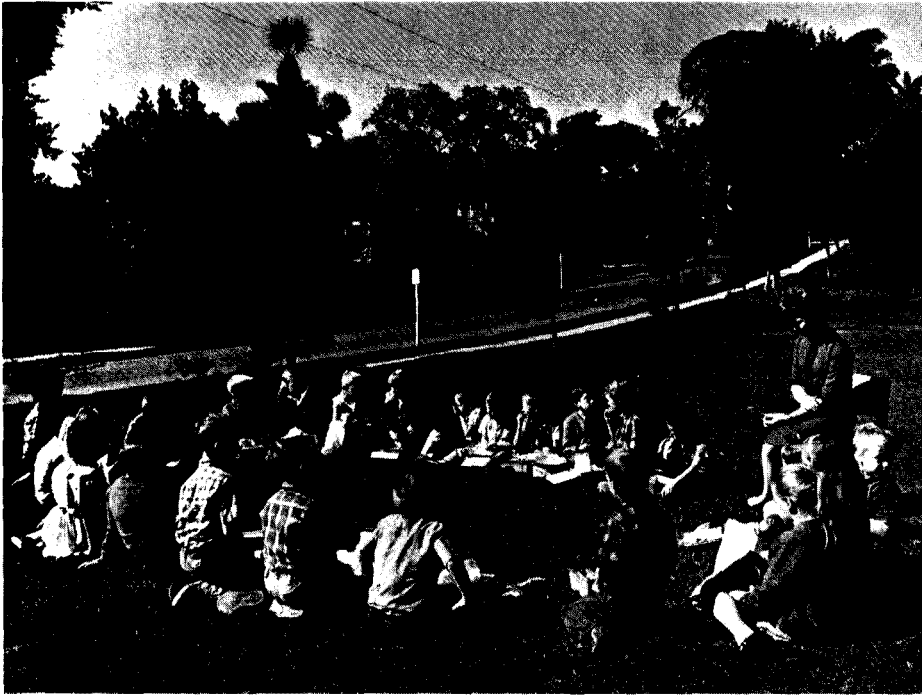
A good time to do this would be during your family Bible study when all the children are gathered around listening to you explain the passages in Proverbs or read the Bible Story book, etc. Whatever you are studying, look up often from your reading to see if everyone is still paying attention. (Of course, if the subject is uninteresting or too difficult for them to understand, you can't expect children to hold their attention very long—if at all. But I think you know what I mean.) You must have the wisdom to determine what you can expect your children to become attentive to at their particular age—which is usually just a matter of experience.

But whatever you do, start developing in your children the **HABIT** of listening. If you do, they are going to push ahead of other students in their class. They will be absorbing the information that most students who are daydreaming never hear. On tests and examinations they will have the information their teachers expect. Their grades will thus improve. But most of all, they will be learning that knowledge

so essential to their future learning and to life itself.

It takes self-discipline to listen and think out what is taking place before you.

to take notes like grown-ups, however, make sure they realize they are still children. Tell them note-taking is for anyone who wants to remember what he hears.)



Conn — Ambassador College

Lunch time is an important opportunity for children to exercise self-discipline learned at home.

But, it can be done through developing the habit of listening. And with God's help we all can form that important habit of study.

Taking Notes

Beginning somewhere around grade 6 begin teaching your children how to take notes. Although the majority of what your children will learn in school will come through the *sense of hearing*, much of what they hear will be forgotten soon after hearing it unless some system of recording that vital information is established.

Teach your children to *take notes!*

Of course, if your children are very young this will be impossible. But beginning around age twelve you would be surprised how soon they could learn the habit of good note-taking if you helped them. When they have the desire is the best time to teach a child anything, and most children when they see father and mother taking notes in church service want to follow their example.

(Just because young children are able

In taking notes, teach them the importance of writing the *main ideas* and putting those ideas into one's own words. There is no sense in recording information unless you understand what you are writing.

Your children should also learn to make important statements, ideas, or thoughts stand out, by placing *stars* in the margin of their paper or *underlining* that information they feel is most important.

If they take notes properly, they will have at their fingertips the information they should know — and no doubt the information they will be called upon to remember in the future.

Scheduling Time

Not long ago we had an article in *The GOOD NEWS* on the importance of budgeting our money.

How many of us realize that we should budget our time as well?

Time is one of the most important possessions God has given us. It might even be said that life is nothing more than time.

Children should be taught to *control* their time — to schedule their day. Every successful man knows and practices this principle. Even God, Himself, has organized a seven-thousand-year period and has scheduled a certain series of events that will take place before the end of this age.

Yes, we should teach our children the *value* of time. Teach them not to let hours slip through their fingers uncontrolled.

By the time they are in Junior High School — about age 13 — children should have some type of routine to follow at least during the week — if not weekends as well.

Maybe having a recreational or relaxing activity immediately after coming home from school would be good, followed, perhaps, by dinner, clean-up, and then one or more hours of study, before finally going to bed.

Whatever the plan, help your children schedule their *homework, play* and *recreation periods*. Teach them to make the most of the twenty-four hours God has given each one of us. Make sure that somewhere in that schedule is time for them to be with *you*, their parent as well — a time when, as a family, you can *relax* and *enjoy* one another. Maybe playing cards, or singing around the piano, or just talking about the interesting things that happened during the day would suffice.

Not only schedule *when* your children are to do their homework — specifically — but help them find a quiet place *where* they can do it as well. Many people like to use the kitchen as a study room. Others find the bedroom is a good place for study. Whatever the location, it should be as conducive to study as possible.

And when your children sit down to study — away from disturbances such as radio or T.V. — help them to really *concentrate*.

In the old days, as the humorous story goes, one father was so determined that his six children were going to get an education that he had them all seated around the kitchen table doing their homework. There was mother at one end working on her sewing, while at the other end was father with rod in

hand. Sometimes he banged the table so hard all six notebooks shook at once.

Reading

How important is reading? Well, in this day and age it is *mighty* important.

Everyone needs to read, and read *widely*. There is a storehouse of *information* in books.

Students in Imperial Schools are encouraged to read a book once every two to four weeks. Some are even recording how many books they read during a semester — trying to see that these cover a variety of subjects, too.

They start out on books they are interested in. They're not expected to read every word, or for that matter, even every chapter. Most books only have valuable portions or sections, anyway.

But the teachers do try to help them find reading material they would not only enjoy, but profit from as well.

What we feed the mind is what we turn out to be in the end. There are many good books worth reading, but we will have to teach our children to select the good from the bad.

Reading is important in many ways. It helps us spell correctly. It improves

our vocabulary and grammar — besides giving us important knowledge.

It Takes Work

It will be very hard at first, I know, to apply these principles of character and study, because most children, and for that matter, most college students and adults alike, do not have these strong character traits or study habits. But, slowly and surely, they can be acquired.

Remember, it is going to be little use trying to teach our children these principles unless we ourselves get right in with them and develop these habits, also.

Children learn principally through *example*. It does little good to tell them something unless we, ourselves, are working on it too.

It is our responsibility to see that our children are *prepared* for school, and to *help* them *acquire* these habits of character and study.

It is going to take work. But the result will mean a greater degree of *success* and *happiness* for our children. I think the effort will be worth it, don't you?

Pilate gave the order to proceed with the scourging.

Two men jostled Christ to the center of the courtyard. Pulling Him over to a bent position, they tied His hands before Him to a ring imbedded in a post.

Jewish law forbade a scourging of a condemned criminal. The law exempted even the lowest criminal, who was to suffer crucifixion, the shame of a scourging. Filled with hatred and resentment, they ignored their own law!

Two Kinds of Scourging

Two methods of scourging existed at the time of Christ. The Jewish and the ROMAN! The Jewish scourging amounted to forty stripes save one. The scourge consisted of three leather thongs. (*Dictionary of the Bible*, p. 420). The weak died, the strong survived this scourging. Men rarely recovered from the scars that it left behind.

The Roman scourging was of a far greater magnitude. They called it the "half-way death!" It supposedly stopped just short of death. Only the lowest criminal, the slave or foreigner of no reputation received the Roman scourging. It was a professional type thing, administered by a trained man called a "Lictor." (*Dictionary of the Bible*, vol. iv, p. 419; *The Day Christ Died*, p. 302.)

The scourging that Christ was to receive was the ROMAN SCOURGING!

The mob waited with anxious anticipation for the Roman lictor to appear. Five minutes passed, then ten. The sound of heavy boots echoed across the courtyard. A hushed silence fell over the crowd, every eye turned to the man carrying the scourge.

It was a vicious looking thing, long strips of leather-like cords, with chunks of bone and pieces of chain affixed to the tips.

The tough-looking, heavy-set Roman, strode boldly across the courtyard, passing directly to the front of Christ. He hesitated a moment. Bending over, he looked into the pain-wracked, bloody, red face of Christ. It was swol-

"Let Us Keep The Feast!"

(Continued from page 8)

questioning, Herod's patience worn thin, he ordered, "You over there, strip the clothes off this man." Soon they had Jesus Christ standing in the nude — they laughed! Then a soldier rushed in with a beautiful, gorgeous, king's robe. "Dress Him," said Herod. Convulsions of laughter rang out. Then they too began to add stripe upon stripe, kick upon kick, punch after punch which fell upon the body of your Savior and mine, a man who was ALL MAN (Luke 23:1-11).

Back to Pilate — The Death Penalty

Herod rendered no decision. Caiaphas, in his eagerness to get an official verdict, rushed Christ back to Pilate.

A large mob had gathered. They began chanting. "Crucify Him! Cruci-

fy! Crucify!" "We demand the death penalty on this traitor!"

A messenger arrived with a note. It was from Pilate's wife. The note read, "Do not become involved with the death of this man. I have had terrible dreams, some nightmares concerning Him last night."

Pilate, attempting to free himself from guilt, offered to release Barabbas or Christ (Mat. 27:15-18).

The mob grew more restless, screaming all the more, "Let Him be crucified, let Him be crucified!"

Fearful of a riot, Pilate asked for a basin of water. Standing before the crowd, he washed his hands saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this person. The responsibility is yours!" (Mat. 27:23-24.)

The mob yelled back, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

lens and bruised beyond recognition.

Again he hesitated — but only for a moment, rubbed his chin, then carefully paced off an exact number of steps. He turned facing the bare, naked body of Christ.

Back over his shoulder, whistled the cat-o'-nine-tails. Then a sudden power-exploding movement of a shoulder, the curve of the arm, a snap of the wrist and the scourge of death lashed forward, with the speed of light.

Squish! Crunch!! Thud!!!

Chunks of bone and steel found their target, chewing out great hunks of blood-red flesh. The slow, heavy rhythm of the scourge dug deeper and deeper into the body of Jesus Christ.

First the rib cage opened, exposing the inner body, bones extruded, staring out in the bleakness of the day (Ps. 22:17). No place, no part of the body was safe from the flagellum.

Steel, leather and bone ripped at His cheeks. Battered, lacerated flesh hung in strips. Finally, a well-placed whip-lash tore at Christ's eyes, another opened an eye socket, leaving it a mass of pasty-dark pulp — an oozing squashy red.

Blow after blow continued to fall, pulverizing, ripping, tearing, mangling until, "He was marred more than any man" (Isa. 52:14).

"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels" (Ps. 22:14).

Never had a man taken so much — given so much! The last man to look into the eyes of Jesus Christ, while there were still eyes to see, saw a burning desire, a determined look that said, "I give this life totally and completely for all of mankind."

The scourging finished, they cut Him loose. A limp body, "a visage marred more than any man," fell to the ground. Then an arm moved, He pushed up on the elbow, then a knee. Lifting Himself, He staggered, then stood upright. The whole of His body was one agonizing pain. Head throbbing, blinded, beaten beyond recognition, Christ waited the next event of the suffering of death for YOU and for ME!

They helped Him with His clothing.

A soldier adjusted His crown of thorns. They laughed as a short, squatty soldier kneeled, raised his arms and said, "Hail, King of the Jews, your royal majesty."

What a pathetic sight — He didn't look like a king — He didn't even look like a man anymore! They jeered all the more as He wobbled. "Look at Him, you call that a King, a Prophet! Why He is nothing but a dog!"

A swarthy-appearing Roman soldier lifted the stake and roughly placed it on Christ's right shoulder. The weight caught Him by surprise. Down He went, falling in a heap. He lay for a moment on the dirty cobblestone street.

The soldier looked, kicked Him and shouted, "Get up, King. Are you tired?" Christ tried, He struggled, but it was of no use. His strength was nearly gone. The soldier looked and beckoned to a man, Simon of Cyrene, "Come here you peasant, get this on your shoulder and follow me." Painfully, slowly, they trudged the last weary steps to Golgotha, the place of the skull (Mat. 27:32-33).

The Crucifixion

Two words "Scourged and Crucified," both are contained in one verse, Mat. 27:26 — what does the second mean?

The crucifixion by which Christ was to die, was devised and perfected by the Phoenicians who passed on their devious knowledge to the Romans.

It took centuries to develop this "special crucifixion." They had tried death by boiling, spearing, impalement, drowning, burning, strangulation, and yes, even stoning. They were *all* too quick!

What was needed was a punishment that was more *painful* and it had to be much slower. Preferably it should last for several days.

Death by crucifixion was the answer!

Simon dropped the stake to the ground beside the hole dug for its erection. Four rugged soldiers took hold of the body of Christ and placed Him on the stake, face up! They turned and walked back to the band of men and soldiers who were standing in a circle to view the crucifixion. A

little old man offered them a cloth to wipe the blood from their hands.

Then a specially trained, unshaven soldier came on the scene. In his right hand was a large hammer, square-cut nails were held between his teeth. He kneeled, one knee in Christ's stomach. He reached out for the hands, raising them above His head. He felt the bones and flesh, took a nail from his mouth and placed it in the exact right spot. He raised the hammer and with a single blow, drove the nail halfway through the red, raw flesh. On the second blow blood squirted in his face. Pausing, he ran his sleeve over his face until he could see again. He continued, wham, wham, wham, metal rang against metal, until the nailhead was driven in, barely visible above the flesh.

Now the feet. This must be done just right! Trial and error had shown that the legs must not be too far extended, otherwise the subject died too quickly. By nailing the legs in a slightly bent position the crucified person was able to lean on the nails and prolong the agony.

In perfecting the Roman crucifixion a slight problem had been encountered. When they erected the stake the weight of the body often caused the flesh to tear, allowing the body to fall to the ground. When this happened, they had to lift the subject into position for re-nailing — rather a messy affair. Experience proved it difficult to get the nails to hold in the torn flesh. Then someone hit on the bright idea — why not add a peg for the crucified to catch his weight as a partial relief of the nailing. The weight on the peg should keep the nails from tearing out of the flesh and it would help keep the criminal alive a little longer.

The soldier with the hammer placed the right foot, insuring the right bend in the leg. Nails had to be just the right length and size. Spikes opened too large a hole. Selecting the right nail, he pushed it into the flesh, raised the hammer and with a downward blow drove it into the foot, continuing until both feet were securely nailed.

Up stepped a squad of soldiers. They raised the stake into an upright position. The weight of Christ's body caught on the *peg* and held firm. They

moved it over the hole and eased it down. As it touched bottom, the nails tore at Christ's flesh, opening wider the wounds.

His breath came hard, it was nearly impossible to breathe in this new position. It was difficult to expel the air. Experimenting, Christ found that when He pushed up on His feet against the nails, He could expel the air from His lungs.

The suffering that followed is beyond description. The slightest movement caused excruciating pains to stab through His body. The nerves of the hand and foot signaled to the brain again and again the pain. Inflammation from the scourging, the beating and the nails increased. Death seemed desirable — would it never come!

The open wounds, the mangled flesh, the smell of blood began to attract insects. They swarmed around the face and body. His thirst increased, then turned into a burning, raging thirst.

They talked, they laughed, they looked as He hung there naked in the heat of the sun — humiliated, scourged and crucified — A REAL MAN'S MAN!

Then they offered Him vinegar mingled with gall. The clear, never-failing mind of Christ refused (Mat. 27:34).

The Final Cursings and Mockings

They continued to revile Him. Wagging their heads, shouting epithets at your Savior and mine! The people jeered, "Look at you now! If you are so wonderful, save yourself and come down from the stake!" The chief priests, the religious leaders also joked and threw jest at Christ. "He's quite clever about saving others," they said, "but He can't save Himself" (Mark 15:29-32).

"Hey there, Messiah! Hey there King! Come on down from the stake and we'll believe you!"

IT WAS NOW OVER THIRTY HOURS SINCE TUESDAY MORNING!

Three hours went by, one vile curse after another was thrown into His face as the life ebbed out of your Savior.

Three o'clock came — the sky darkened! The wind rose, the mob

shrank back looking into the ominous sky overhead. Priests and elders quickly disappeared, followed by most of the mob. Forlorn, sick at heart, forsaken, Christ cried out, "My God, My God, why have You deserted Me?"

The Father Looked Away

As Christ gasped out His final breath, God the Father looked away! He looked away from His beloved Son there on the stake. Only God the Father could have the total control and love it took to keep from converting this earth into a cinder along with all the wretched men that cursed their Savior, His beloved Son!

A soldier "took up a spear and pierced His side, there came out water and blood!"

The life went out of the God who created this world!! He yielded up His *physical life* with a loud cry after THIRTY-SIX HORRIFYING HOURS — the most excruciating THIRTY-SIX hours in all history!!!

FORSAKEN! TORTURED! BEATEN! JEERED! HUMILIATED! SCOURGED! — and finally CRUCIFIED!!

Yes — "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The real truth about the man that was ALL MAN — the all-powerful, *Living* God, who suffered and died for YOU and for ME! That God lives!

He will soon return in THUNDERING power "with a shout . . . the trumpet of God." When He comes, He will be heard around the world in a tremendous, booming, ear-splitting roar — "The sound of MANY WATERS," a mammoth, cascading, gigantic waterfall of awe-inspiring dimension. "Every eye will see Him."

"Every knee will bow" to this God, the living, MASCULINE Jesus Christ. "Every tongue will confess and KNOW THE TRUE GOD, the Savior of this world" (Rom. 14:11).

"Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, will split apart in His presence in an earth-shattering quake of unbelievable magnitude" (Zech. 14:4).

"And the Lord shall be King over ALL the EARTH: in that day shall there be ONE LORD and His name ONE."

That God, the real God lives, He is ALIVE! He is our PASSOVER!

TRUE CHURCH

(Continued from page 6)

the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him" (Dan. 2:20-22).

Later, Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "But there is a GOD in heaven that *revealeth secrets*, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar *what shall be in the latter days*" (verse 28).

Nebuchadnezzar, the KING of the greatest nation of that time, had to understand that "the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory"! (Verse 37.)

Later, when Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up in his pompous, human vanity, REFUSED to acknowledge God, Daniel revealed to him that he would be *driven* from among men, to live like a BEAST, "to the intent that the living may know that the MOST HIGH *ruleth* in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men"! (Dan. 4:17.)

Still later, Daniel *repeated* this tremendous revelation to Nebuchadnezzar

— saying, "And they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and *seven times* shall pass over thee, TILL THOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH *ruleth* IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL" (Dan. 4:25).

The God of the Old Testament, who is the Jesus Christ of the New (Heb. 1; John 1; I Cor. 10:4; Col. 1:16-17), revealed Himself as the RULER to humankind!

Amazing, isn't it? Ancient "ignorant" Nebuchadnezzar — the man who was the king over the supposed "ancient" Babylonian Empire — knew FAR MORE about the true nature of GOD than MOST "learned" theologians of today! He knew God was the RULER!

If there is one member of this Church who has not yet read and thoroughly STUDIED the booklet, *Does God Exist*, and the article, "Seven Proofs God Exists," then you need to write for them IMMEDIATELY — and not

let one more week go by before you thoroughly study, research, and come to understand the great and awesome fact that *our* God—the God who looks into, supervises, leads, guides and directs THIS CHURCH, is the CREATOR of heaven and earth, the RULER of the entirety of the universe!

Most "Christians" DON'T KNOW God as RULER!

MANY of the false churches of this world—even though proclaiming to believe in a God who is in at least SOME way, "authoritative," believe God has gone way off somewhere—either *unable* to intervene in their personal lives, or else totally disinterested and *unconcerned* with this present world, and people in it! The average church-going professor of modern "Churchianity" sees God as a type of "divinized father-figure" into whose arms they may creep in times of duress and peril!

They visualize the "grandfather-like figure" painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo, or a vague *figment of their own imagination!*

It is ONLY those who have been truly BEGOTTEN of the very SPIRIT of Almighty God—and who have become members of His True Church who really KNOW God!

What if an individual came to you and said that your name was NOT your name? Would you be shocked? What if a researcher, in nattily attired businesslike respectability, complete with portfolio—arrived at your door, came into your living room, and proceeded to unfold from his portfolio the remarkable, *fantastic story* that YOU are *not really who you think you are*—but someone else! Wouldn't it be *incredible?*

Think of it! What if your name HAD been confused at the hospital when you were born? What if you had been "mixed up" with some other mother's baby? What if—all these years—you had gone through life *thinking* yourself to be the offspring of *one* family—but ACTUALLY the offspring of another?

This would certainly be one of the most overwhelming and remarkable SHOCKS to ever *come* to a person in human experience—wouldn't it?

Think again! Multiple MILLIONS of professing Christians have heard, pronounced, sung, talked of, or even used in profanity the name "God." And yet these *same millions* have never even KNOWN that God!

They have not known WHO He is, WHAT He is, WHAT He is *doing*—have not known His qualities, His attributes, His character, or His great PLAN! YOU had not really *known* the RULER of this universe until you *came* to know Him through His ONLY Church!

Think of it!

Professing Christians have not known His intent and Purpose in their lives—His great Plan and Purpose in this earth and the universe—have not known of His unlimited POWER, and His ability to intervene in the course of human affairs!

They have not known how He *appears*—how He *speaks*—have not known His *expressed will!*

They have NOT, in short, KNOWN GOD!

God Is Known to the Elect

It is ONLY the MEMBERS of the True CHURCH of God who truly KNOW GOD! Almighty God inspired Isaiah to describe those individuals who make in "their own images" a "god" according to the figment of their own imaginations!

Speaking of the devices of the carpenter, or the goldsmith, God says, "he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they CANNOT SEE; and their hearts, that they cannot understand"! (Isa. 44:17-18.)

God says man is a *worm* (Isa. 41:14) and says, "All nations before him are as NOTHING; and they are counted to him *less* than nothing, and vanity. To WHOM then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isa. 40:17-18.)

Can we come to understand, brethren?

It is only a very FEW of us, upon whom the great Creator has somehow had *mercy*—who really KNOW Him!

Unless a person has TRULY been CALLED (I Cor. 1:26) of God, has REPENTED, and been *begotten* of Him—he has *not known Him!*

We, of the True Church of God, KNOW God to be the Creator, the Designer, Author, Architect, Beginner, of the WHOLE UNIVERSE! We know God to be the RULER *over all!*

God Rules His Church

KNOWING, as Job said, "My redeemer *liveth*" (Job 19:25), I know, and YOU KNOW GOD has set *His* own Government in His True Church! "And HE gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the *perfecting* of the saints, for the WORK of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).

REMEMBER, Christ is the HEAD of the Church (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18), and it is HE who ordains His true ministers, appointing them to the offices and responsibilities of His choosing!

NEVER, brethren, in seeking the guidance of Jesus Christ in deciding upon *any* ordination are the wishes, desires, choices or preferences of lay-members EVER remotely considered!

God's True Church will NEVER follow the practice of the false churches of this world who, "... will not endure sound doctrine; but after their *own lusts* [selfish preferences, favoritisms, and personal choices] shall they heap to THEMSELVES teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables"! (II Tim. 4:3-4.)

God says, through the pen of the apostle Paul, "And GOD hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that *miracles*, then gifts of healings, helps, GOVERNMENTS, diversities of tongues" (I Cor. 12:28).

Never forget that "GOD set the members every one of them in the body, as it HATH PLEASED HIM"! (I Cor. 12:18.) Brethren of the Church of God, it MAY NOT always *please each one of you* when GOD directly ordains and sets apart an individual for an office in His Church!

AUTHORITY, Not Agreeable "Suggestions"!

BUT, what is the *use and purpose of authority*—if you would ALWAYS AGREE WITH IT??

The only use and purpose in AUTHORITY is simply because there MUST be government, *rule*, order — even when it is NOT always “acceptable” to the majority!

Think! If each lay member would just always, automatically, “go along with” every decision of Christ’s servants, each ordination, each new step in whatever direction of the Work in the Church of God; if each member would ALWAYS just “automatically” *go the way* that Christ leads His servants — then why have any organization, any Church, any ordained ministers *in the first place*?

The REASON God gives His true ministers AUTHORITY — the REASON God RULES *through* His true ministers — is that He knew that rule, that *authority* would NOT always be agreed with!

The apostle Paul said, “For though I should boast somewhat more of our AUTHORITY, which the Lord hath given us for *edification*, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: . . . For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that *commend themselves* [think themselves to be of greater capacity and responsibility than they actually are]; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves *among* themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things *without* our measure, but according to the measure of the RULE which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you”!! (II Cor. 10:8-13.)

Notice it. The apostle Paul said he had AUTHORITY given him directly of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, for the express purpose of the upbuilding, the *edification* of the True Church of God! He called it a definite RULE — position of *government*!

Was it then Paul’s *personal* rule? Was it Paul, acting *on his own*, without real authority directly *from* Jesus Christ?

Decidedly not! He said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”

(Gal. 2:20). Christ lived IN the apostle Paul!

It was CHRIST ruling *through* the apostle Paul — not Paul doing something “on his own”!

There is no clearer proof, no more concrete demonstration of the FACT of the RULERSHIP of God in and through His human servants in His Church than the letters of the apostle Paul to the young Evangelist Timothy, and to Titus!

These epistles are called the “Pastoral Epistles.” Had the Holy Spirit not inspired them to be written, the direct QUALIFICATIONS (I Tim. 3) for deacons and elders would not have been contained *directly* in the Bible! These letters, by the very fact of their *existence*, PROVE God RULES in His True Church!

What if You Can’t “Find It in the Bible”?

But some might say, “I will obey your rule all right — just as long as I can find it in my Bible!”

This, they feel, to be sincerely Christian! But is it really?

Is a belligerent, rebellious, hard-hearted attestation to so-called “b’lief” in the Bible — and rejection of any and all statements, orders, directions, exhortations, suggestions, or teachings of the true ministers of Jesus Christ *in the light of the Bible*, and based, *in principle*, UPON the Bible — is this attitude *really* Christian?

No, it is NOT!

Many decisions Christ’s ministers must make cannot be found directly quoted in the Bible!

Did the apostle Paul ever order his congregations, or those serving directly under him to do certain things, follow certain orders or admonitions, for which he had NO DIRECT SCRIPTURE in the Old Testament?

CERTAINLY! Read I Corinthians 7, where Paul plainly *said* he had *no* direct commandment from Christ, but that he, inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT, *gave his judgment* in the matter. Remember, brethren, the “letters” of the apostle Paul were regarded by lay members of that time as just exactly THAT! They were “letters” — personal,

friendly, warm, oftentimes filled with rebukes and admonitions — but LETTERS, nevertheless!

We now know that the Holy Spirit INSPIRED *every word*! MANY of the lay members of that time did NOT look upon these letters as being directly INSPIRED of God’s Holy Spirit!

If they HAD, they would have OBEYED more implicitly! The apostle Paul proved he had written MANY additional letters which are *not* a part of the Bible! His FIRST letter to the church at Thessalonica was totally *misunderstood* by many. Had they stood in fear, trembling in AWE of this letter as if it were directly from the *Holy Spirit of God* — they would have FEARED to misinterpret, or misunderstand!

Peter, the spokesman of the twelve, showed how MANY *oftentimes* misunderstood the letters of the apostle Paul (II Pet. 3:15-16).

Notice how the apostle Paul encouraged the members in his care to OBEY the RULE of Almighty God — *through* His human instruments!

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always *obeyed*, not as in *my presence only*, but now MUCH MORE in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”! (Phil. 2:12.)

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are OVER you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them *very highly* in love for their work’s sake”! (I Thes. 5:12-13.)

The apostle Paul referred BACK to *verbal commands* he had given to the church at Thessalonica, and the Holy Spirit inspired him to write, “For even when we were *with you*, this we COMMANDED you, that if any *would not work*, neither should he eat”! (II Thes. 3:10.)

Paul got really STRONG with these people at Thessalonica! He said, “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are *busybodies*. Now them that are such we COMMAND and EXHORT by our *Lord Jesus Christ*, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread . . . And if any man OBEY NOT *our word* [notice; this was a direct COMMAND from Paul, in the form of a

PERSONAL LETTER, directed to *one specific church*] by *this epistle*, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed"! (II Thes. 3:11-14.)

There are MANY other scriptures PROVING, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the rule, authority and the GOVERNMENT which Almighty God HIMSELF, and JESUS CHRIST, who is the direct HEAD of this Church, exercise THROUGH their chosen and called human instruments!

Yes, brethren, God does *literally* RULE in His True Church!

And how *thankful*—how joyously thankful, grateful, and happy we should be that He does!

It is the ONLY way for preserving unity, for keeping God's True Church TOGETHER, for keeping it protected from the wolves without, or from the insidious roots of bitterness which creep up from within!

Our God is the RULER of the whole universe! He is Ruler on earth, interfering and intervening in the course of human governments and affairs whenever necessary! He RULES—GOVERNS guides and leads in His True Church!

God RULES in Our Individual Lives!

Members of God's TRUE Church not only recognize these *prime* factors, not only have they *proved* these MAJOR points, directly from the inspired Word of God, but they *know* God as their direct, PERSONAL Ruler!

They have come to KNOW it is GOD who has set definite offices, authority and GOVERNMENT in the *home*! (If any of you members have not yet read the articles on how to have a happy marriage, and how to solve family arguments, then be sure to write for them immediately.)

Each member of God's True Church recognizes that God's Rule comes directly from God the Father, through Jesus Christ, to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and right on down through all the Evangelists and other Ministers in God's True Church to *each* lay member!

But, further, and even *beyond* recognizing the rule and the authority of

God *in the Church*—each member thoroughly realizes and understands that God RULES in his own private heart, his own private *moments*, his very thoughts, *impulses*, and his *whole being*!

"For ye are *brought with a price*: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which *are God's*"! (I Cor. 6:20.) God says, "Ye are *bought with a price*" (I Cor. 7:23)—that you are OWNED, body, soul and spirit. That is, you are OWNED in your *fleshy body*, your very LIFE (soul), and your SPIRIT (attitude, *will*, volition).

If you *have truly* repented, and GIVEN yourself to God as a *living sacrifice* (Rom. 12:1-2) then you are literally OWNED—just like a *slave* of God. You will be saying, just as Jesus Christ did, "Nevertheless not MY WILL be done, but *thine*"! You will be saying, "CORRECT ME!" just as Jeremiah did. You will be saying, "SEARCH me and TRY me, O God," as David did.

You will *realize*—and realize it *thoroughly*—that your God is your personal, private, direct RULER—your *Boss*, your *Lord*, your *Master*, who tells you what to do!

The TRUE Christian knows he has been literally CONQUERED of God! He has *surrendered* to a CONQUEROR—to a RULER!

INSTEAD of the insipid, effeminate, tremulous, spineless and utterly crass "way of the world" of "RECEIVING" Christ, APPROPRIATING Christ, TAKING Christ to be "yours"—the TRUE Christian has ACCEPTED THE *FACT* THAT CHRIST *DIED* FOR HIS SINS—and along with it, the *FACT* that CHRIST'S DEATH PAID FOR THE REPENTANT SINNER IN FULL!

Does Christ Rule You?

The TRUE Christian knows Christ PURCHASED HIM! He doesn't "take Christ" to be HIS VERY OWN—as a private, selfish, INWARD something which is NOT true Christianity—but he GIVES HIMSELF—*UTTERLY*, to Christ!

Have you done this?

Are you so totally BOUGHT, so PUR-

CHASED, so completely CONQUERED, so absolutely GIVEN to Christ that you are His literal SLAVE? Do *you* look on YOUR Saviour as your personal RULER? Does He rule you? Does HE order you around? Does HE direct your energies, actions, thoughts? Does HE DEMAND certain things of you?

Do you ALWAYS *LIKE* HIS DEMANDS? DO YOU ALWAYS AGREE WITH CHRIST?

You would be a PERFECT Christian if you did—but most are NOT perfect! THAT is why Christ RULES in His Church, and in our individual lives!

Notice *again* the scripture we read in Ephesians the fourth chapter, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists... For the *perfecting* of the saints [because we are NOT yet perfect], for the *work* of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: TILL we all come in the unity of the faith..." (vss. 11-13.)

Yes, UNTIL we are ALL willing to obey implicitly, immediately, PERFECTLY!

It is *because* WE WILL NOT ALWAYS AUTOMATICALLY AGREE WITH AUTHORITY that God HAS PUT AUTHORITY OVER US!

That's so we will be MADE to do what is GOOD for us—even when we DON'T WANT to! Even when we "can't see it that way," or don't "look at it" that way, or don't agree! Even when we have gotten it into our heads the HUMAN INSTRUMENT, *through* whom God rules, is in some way wrong, GOD STILL SAYS WE MUST OBEY!

THESE, then, brethren, are the real PROOFS!

GOD RULES in the universe. He RULES in nations. He RULES His Church! He GOVERNS in the home and family, and He RULES in our own personal lives.

These are the PROOFS of a Christian! Paul said, "For to this end also did I write, that I might know the PROOF of you [the PROOF of *their conversion*, their OBEDIENCE], whether YE BE *OBEDIENT* IN ALL THINGS"! (II Cor. 2:9.)

That's what makes us so DIFFERENT from *any* false and counterfeit church in this world. That's what MAKES us the very CHURCH OF GOD!

God is OUR RULER!