

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



AN ANNUAL PICTORIAL RECORD / THE 1969 ENVOY

More About Our Cover...

The ENVOY for 1969 will be bigger and better than ever! From the cover and the gold Ambassador College seal to the nearly 400 pages of in-depth coverage of college life and the Work of God around the world—here is the issue of the ENVOY you won't want to miss! All three college campuses, and each office from Headquarters in Pasadena to Manila and Johannesburg and Auckland—every phase of this end-age, globe-girdling Work of God is profusely illustrated in living color. If you have neglected to send in your order on the card in last month's GOOD NEWS, by all means don't put it off any longer! Send in the enclosed order today and reserve your personal copy of the 1969 ENVOY. You'll always be glad you did!

Clark — Ambassador College

What our READERS SAY...

Truth About Health Fads

"I'm writing this letter because I feel I must tell you what the Good News article on Proof No. 5 of God's Church has meant to me. It is amazing how the natural mind can block things of truth out of it, even though this truth is so badly needed. I have been in God's Church for some time now, and had read proof No. 5 some years back, but I didn't really see what Christ was telling me. You see, I was a devout health food fanatic for many years, and since this was what I knew had kept me from ever seeing the doctors, I just couldn't see the truth that God's Church knows about this subject. When you've been a sickly child all your life and you see others failing in health all around you, it makes you ask, why? I have spent many hundreds of dollars on various pills and powders and now that I realize what the human liver must filter, it makes me shudder to think of all the concentrates I poured through it during the last 12 years. As God has shown us, the body needs natural foods, not food concentrates. After reading Proof No. 5, I emptied my shelves of all concentrated food pills and into the trash can they went. My only regret was that I didn't learn this truth sooner!"

L. C. G., Seattle, Washington

Finding True Church

"I was talking to a minister that keeps the weekly Sabbath, so I asked him why

he recognizes Christmas knowing it to be pagan. He says that it was because of his children and that they just exchange gifts and the tree in the house is just studying nature. Since he told me that, my mind is free from whether they were the true Church. I prayed to God to give me convincing proof as to which was teaching the truth, and since then, there has come more and more false teaching from this particular church. I thank God that He has shown me their fruits."

Edward S.,

Khyber Pass, Warwick, Bermuda

First Sabbath

"I began attending church last Saturday. It is just wonderful. The people are really Christians and they make a person feel so at home. They were all so natural, none of them made me feel like someone that shouldn't be there, like you see in most churches. You can really tell this is God's true Church."

B. L. C., Greenacres, Wash.

Unexpected Blessings

"A week ago I wrote to you a letter in which I informed you about the job which God helped me to find, and I sent in my first tithe of the first salary I received. This week something happened which I did not expect. I was called into the office of the manager and he told me that I have received

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

July, 1969

Volume XVIII

Number 7

Published monthly at Pasadena, California
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SPIRITUAL LETHARGY IN GOD'S CHURCH!

More people leave God's Church because of spiritual lethargy than for any other reason! You need to be on guard. Don't become a disfellowship statistic. Read this article and find out HOW to recognize and overcome spiritual lethargy.

by Dennis G. Luker

WHY would anyone leave God's Church — miss out on eternal life in God's Kingdom? Yet all too many do each year — few in comparison to the total membership, but each one a potential member of God's Great Family turned in the tragic direction of *eternal DEATH!!*

The chief reason is *spiritual lethargy!* Over one third of all disfellowships during the last few years were for this reason! Spiritual lethargy is something we all have to fight. We must overcome it — or, it will overcome us! Don't assume it couldn't happen to YOU. Read this article with *zeal*. Stir yourself up with God's abundant Spirit. Be *sure* YOU make YOUR calling and *election SURE!*

What is Spiritual Lethargy?

Let me quote from a report recently compiled by the Church Administration Department. "The greatest single problem in the Church today, as evidenced by the visiting reports and the reasons for which members are disfellowshipped, is lethargy, clarified further as a ho-hum, what's-the-use, I-quit, let's-not-get-excited-about-it, I-can't, it's-not-important-anyway attitude."

Many in God's Church are just plain TOO LAZY TO OVERCOME!

That's what spiritual lethargy means — being lazy in spiritual matters! Prayer, Bible study, fasting, meditation, living and applying God's laws and principles — these are spiritual matters. And the problem with too many in God's Church is that they *will not discipline themselves* to do these things

as they should! Too many lack character, and will not repent and change!

Far too many are giving up the opportunity to serve others. Far too many will suffer the soon-coming Great Tribulation just because they won't *recognize* and *repent* of their spiritual lethargy. Notice this prophecy about some *in God's Church*: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (Rev. 3:15-16).

These people are not "cold," meaning spiritually unconverted, yet neither are they "hot," meaning spiritually zealous. They are "lukewarm," which means *spiritually lethargic!* They *have been* converted. They *know* the truth — but are not really zealously living it! These members say, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" — think they are doing all right spiritually. But Christ says to them, "thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" — spiritually they are lacking (verse 17)!

Jesus Christ says these members must suffer the Great Tribulation — the persecutions and tortures of the coming Beast Power — in order to be cleansed of their spiritual lethargy. This is what verse 18 means: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich. . . ." Zechariah was inspired to explain what it means to be "tried in fire": "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall

be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. . . ." (Zech. 13:8-9). It will take captivity and much suffering before some will turn to God with their whole heart.

But it doesn't have to be this way, brethren! Heed Christ's admonition to the Laodiceans: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: *be zealous therefore, and repent!*" (Rev. 3:19). Christ commands us to be zealous and repent of spiritual lethargy! If we don't He will correct us severely in the Tribulation, because He loves us and wants us to qualify for His Kingdom and eternal life.

Overcome Lethargy Now!

There is a way that you can overcome spiritual lethargy now, in the few years left before the Great Tribulation begins. That way is, **PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO GOD'S WORK!** You cannot have your whole heart in God's Work and be spiritually lethargic. I'm going to prove this to you! Those members of God's Church who have their whole hearts in this Work and keep them there are spiritually zealous and growing, and will be taken to a place of safety before the Great Tribulation begins!

Again notice Revelation 3: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write . . . I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast *kept* my word, and hast *not* denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are

Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. *Because* thou hast kept the word of my patience, *I also will keep thee* from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev. 3:7-10).

These verses are talking about this present era of God's Work and Church — the Church of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia means Brotherly Love in Greek). These members have *love*. A special love for one another which motivates them to serve each other. A special love for the unconverted in the world which motivates them to give freely so others can be reached with God's truth. And *above all*, A DEEP AND REAL LOVE FOR GOD which motivates them to worship and serve Him and *show it* by being ZEALOUS FOR HIS WORK!

These members have "works" (verse 8) — they are true and faithful in obeying God's Word and they recognize God's power and authority in His Church. They are submissive to God and His ministers, helping to *do* the Work of God! That Work is given in Matthew 24:14 and Mark 13:10 — the preaching and publishing of the good news (gospel) of the imminent return of Jesus Christ to set up God's government on earth — to bring peace and happiness to this suffering, war-torn earth. This message will be preached as a witness or warning and "then shall the end come"!

The "open door" of radio, the printing press and now television and mass-impact, worldwide advertising, has been made available by God for the accomplishment of the Work!

Put Your Heart Into God's Work

Those who put their whole hearts into this Work and do their part are given the special promise and blessing from God of protection from the Great Tribulation (Rev. 3:10). Those who are zealous in God's Church for God's Work today will be taken in just a few years to a special place of safety and protection. "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should

feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days . . . And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time" (Rev. 12:6, 14).

And — your obedient children will go where you go! If you go to a place of safety, they will be protected with you. If you are left behind, they will suffer and die with you. The consequences of spiritual lethargy are severe! Those Christians who won't even repent of spiritual lethargy during the Great Tribulation, but become bitter at God, will have to be destroyed permanently in the lake of fire! They had their chance to become zealous and fervent for God and His Work, but they didn't. They had their chance to repent of this lethargy in the Tribulation and they wouldn't! So they must receive the penalty of sin not repented of — eternal death (Rom. 6:23)!

Our motivation is by no means to be the mere saving of our skins (Job 2:4) in some place of *physical* safety, but the promises are plain. Those who are *spiritually* alive will be saved from physical harm, while those who are *spiritually lethargic* will be *physically punished* in hopes of saving them spiritually (I Cor. 5:5).

Yes, brethren, spiritual lethargy is a sin — a great sin! And it affects not only you, but everyone you know. It spreads like cancer! A lazy, indifferent, lethargic attitude is a deadly cancer! It causes a person to take God and His laws lightly!

Our very purpose for living and breathing is to qualify *now, in this life*, to become a very son of God — and to *help others* who are being called in this age to qualify. You can't help others by being lethargic! In fact, you hinder them by setting them a wrong example.

Be Zealous and Enthusiastic

A zealous and enthusiastic Christian is an inspiration and joy to be around. But, a lethargic Christian is a definite discouragement and bad influence — he carries a communicative disease! This is why bad cases of spiritual lethargy must be put out of God's Church! We in

God's Church have an *important job* to do. The salvation of this world depends upon how zealous we are!

God's Church must be composed of *individually* zealous members if it is to be zealous as a whole. We have each been called to be a part of a large team dedicated to proclaiming God's Truth to this present evil world as a warning message just before the return of Jesus Christ! This is an important job, brethren!

If *you* don't take it seriously, *your blood* will be upon *your own head*! God says this in Ezekiel: "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 33:7-8). This Church collectively is doing the job of this "watchman." It takes all of us *working together zealously* to accomplish this big responsibility! We must each do our part *faithfully* and *zealously* in order to be as effective as we should and must be!

If you can't get stirred up about your part in God's Work, then you are spiritually lethargic! And if you don't repent of this lethargy, change and become zealous, you are going to end up *out* of God's Church! If the thought of being out of God's Church doesn't *frighten you*, then you are in bad shape spiritually! In fact, you are dead spiritually and will soon die eternally — unless you wake up and repent now!

Jesus Christ was *enthusiastic about God's Work*. He loved God's Work so much that many times He would miss meals and get it done! Once, when the disciples asked Him when He was going to eat, He answered, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His Work" (John 4:34). Brethren, let's be like Jesus Christ. He is our example. Let us strive to be as zealous and dedi-

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ARE YOU IGNORANT OF SATAN'S DEVICES?

You have a desperate fight on your hands. Satan is your sworn adversary, obsessively working to exterminate you! You must learn to recognize your enemy and expose his tactics. Here's how you can successfully recognize, combat and thwart Satan.

by Dean R. Wilson and Robert Kuhn

WE live in a rapidly changing world. Each day brings out another advocate of a new morality or understanding coupled with the rejection of the established ideals and principles. The truths of yesterday are the jokes and myths of today.

The world is polluted with an avalanche of contradictory information, conflicting ideas and opposing opinions. Confusion abounds. People are perplexed and frustrated. Is this the way God designed the world? No, God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33) but Satan the devil *is* — and God warns us not to be ignorant of his devices (II Cor. 2:11).

Before God opened our minds, most of us thought “Satan and his demons” were the superstitious figments of primitive imaginations. Even today, many in God's Church are still unwittingly duped by the years of materialistic propaganda absorbed from our pseudo-sophisticated society. Brethren, we tend to discount the terrifying reality of Satan — and he is quick to take advantage.

Satan Is Real

The myth that Satan does not exist was maliciously foisted off on a gullible populace by Satan himself. He knew that man would easily swallow any doctrine exalting man himself as the most supreme being. Satan has deceived much of the world into believing that he is a fictional character. Not only does this facilitate Satan's work but it also gives him a perverted chuckle.

Satan realizes that every puny, insignificant human being — “stupid and ugly” — has been given the oppor-

tunity to literally become God while he — “brilliant and beautiful” — will be banished forever. Twisted and vindictively malicious, Satan is thus desperately striving to destroy all men — it is his all-encompassing, compulsive passion!

Who would Satan most like to destroy? Some ignorant child in Asia? Some Bantu in Africa? Some politician in Europe? No, brethren — it's us — YOU! Our eternal destruction is Satan's most fervent goal — because we will be the firstfruits in God's Family, qualifying for the high ranking jobs for all eternity.

As we draw nearer to Christ's return, Satan will apply even more pressure “for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:12). Satan is going to bolster *his* churches with great wonders — *his* ministers will be able to perform tremendous miracles. God warns us that we could fall prey to Satan's tricks — *we* can be swept away from life! “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the *very* elect” (Matt. 24:24).

Ponder the power of Satan and his multiple millions of demons: spirit, immortal, invisible, supernatural, indestructible, mobile, potent, able to manipulate objects, events, animals, people. And what about us? — physical, mortal, visible, natural, fragile, sedentary, weak, able to manipulate nothing. Sitting ducks!

Surrounded by Lions

Project yourself into the African jungle. You are alone. Lions are prowling about on all sides. Their ferociously hungry snarls pierce the jungle night. Your eyes are blindfolded, your ears are stopped, your hands are bound. As you timorously shuffle forward, a foreboding realization possesses you: at any instant, without any warning, a lion could pounce on *you* and dismember your utterly helpless body! Your pulse has become rapid, your breaths are shallow and quick, your wobbly knees are ready to buckle; cold sweat beads along your forehead and moistens your palms, your mouth has dried out and your tongue now sticks to your palate.

Brethren, this is neither melodramatic nor simple-minded. We *are* as a blind, deaf, bound body — helplessly vulnerable to Satan. God Almighty warns us that “the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). Do you fear that scripture? Do you *act* as though you believe it? Or do you nonchalantly go about your daily routine, relegating “Satan” to exhortative sermons and speculative bull sessions? Don't you believe God? You had better — your salvation depends upon it!

Many of us have assumed that our only battle is against our own human nature. Satan is naïvely discarded. “He is the deceiver of the world — not God's Church” is how we like to reason. We couldn't be more wrong. Paul was writing to *God's Church* when he admonished: “For *we* wrestle

not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked spirits] in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

Satan and human nature work hand-in-hand; they are kindred spirits. God patterned man's mind after the mind of Satan — saturating it with vanity, rebellion, covetousness, jealousy, selfishness. Satan knows every facet and nuance of human nature — and can subtly exploit it.

But We Can Fight Back

Now, let's not immediately jump to the opposite extreme and clench our teeth, stoop over in a corner and brace ourselves for imminent destruction. Surely God has not created and then called us merely to be the "game" for Satan's hunt. Would our loving Father give Satan complete freedom and absolute authority to do whatever his perverted mind desires? Of course not.

But Satan can gain control over your life! That's entirely up to you whether you will *let* him.

Notice the word "MAY" in I Peter 3:8. Satan seeks whom he MAY devour. *Who* MAY Satan devour? This is an important question — MAY he devour you? That is *your* most important question.

We can best know who Satan MAY devour by first learning who Satan can NOT devour. "But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (I John 5:18). The wicked one (Satan) cannot touch a begotten son of God (you) who "KEEPETH HIMSELF."

Do you get the point?

Can you believe this *absolute guarantee* from your Creator? God states that Satan *cannot even touch us* — so long as we "keep ourselves." If we do not "keep ourselves" — if we are not vigilant and sincerely dedicated to God — if we "open ourselves," then Satan will have his cherished opportunity to devour us.

Satan cannot attack any converted individual unless that individual "opens

himself." Ephesians 4:27 warns us: "neither give place to the devil," or in other words, don't give Satan an opportunity or a "base of operations" to launch his attack. Remember how Fidel Castro used his "base of operations" in the Cuban mountains to conquer the entire country? It's the same with Satan. Even the smallest "base of operations" is sufficient to give him the wedge to pry us away from eternal life. Satan will search our minds to find any opening — to ferret out any "loop-hole" in our character by which he can take advantage of us. Once he finds the weak spot — and he only needs *one* — his work begins. Satan broods over our weaknesses like a mother hen over her young — protecting, encouraging and nourishing them.

In His mercy, God has given us ample ammunition to ward off Satan's attacks. But *we* must do the fighting. We are told to "keep ourselves" not giving Satan his coveted "base of operations." But how does Satan establish his "outpost of death" in our minds? He has many "devices" and we must unmask and expose them.

Sin and Satan

You have heard that God hates sin but loves the sinners. Well, Satan is diametrically the opposite — *he hates the sinner but loves the sin!* Satan is the personified embodiment of all sin. Therefore *every one* of our sins becomes an "outpost of Satan's mind" intruding into our mind (which must now be Christ's mind). "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning" (I John 3:8). As we harbor that sin, Satan establishes and solidifies an effective base of operations for expanding his corrupting influence — and this outpost does not remain idle! The longer any sin is left festering in our lives, Satan's base of operations becomes progressively more fortified, more powerful and more active. The longer we wait to eliminate the sin, the harder it will become to destroy these outposts of Satan in our minds.

We are not trying to cleverly develop some cute analogy. This is reality! God tells us that every time we're disobe-

dient, Satan's spirit "works" in us — it is actually invigorated by our sin. (Eph. 2:2, last part). Every time we disobey God — whether it be in the letter or in our minds — we open ourselves to Satan.

Do you realize that Satan may not want you to continuously sin. All he requests is that you conscientiously harbor *one consistent sin* — no matter how small. Satan is perfectly happy to let you delude yourself into believing that you are obeying God by keeping the Sabbath, not eating unclean foods, disciplining your children, etc. He knows that if you habitually protect just *one* sin, you might as well be breaking every commandment of God's Law; you are guilty of all (James 2:10) and you will be exterminated. This would make Satan extremely happy. Ponder that!

Satan's Favorite Sins

Although any sin opens you to the wiles of Satan, there are certain varieties of sin that are particularly attractive to him. Satan surely rejoices in *all* sin, but he is especially fond of those sins of which he himself is guilty: lying, an unforgiving nature, being discouraged, self-righteousness, accusing the brethren.

When we even start to consider to commit such sins, a beacon radiates out from us, heralding an open invitation for Satanic incursions. Satan is quite personally familiar with these sins; he enjoys working with them and has had *much experience*.

Will your gullible human nature fall prey to Satan? God is warning! Hear and fear!

Let's carefully examine each of "Satan's favorite sins" — and learn how we can avoid them in our daily lives. Remember, brethren, this is neither an academic exercise nor some pseudo-spiritual sentimentality. Your eternal life — as a vibrant member of God's Family — is at stake. These words mean nothing in themselves — nor do the scriptures. It is *the attitude of your mind* which is critical. Meditate about these sins. On every point, level the accusing finger at yourself. Realize that

to *some degree you are guilty* — and “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12).

Lying

Human nature hates the truth. Lying is a reflex as natural as self-preservation. We are constantly striving to present ourselves in the best possible light, so “naturally” we must “shade” the truth.

What is a lie? Is it solely the pronouncement of a false statement? No! The most diabolical “lies” are actually 100 percent true! Did you realize that?

Whenever you slant the truth, that’s a lie. Whenever you hold back part of the truth to make yourself look better, even though what you actually do say is precisely true, you are guilty of lying.

Has a minister ever had to *extract* the *whole* truth from you — or have you always freely told him everything, starting with your most obnoxious sins? Be honest! Do you attempt to feed your minister “bits and pieces” of the story, hoping to satisfy him *before* the entire rancid truth would have to embarrassingly come out? Or have you even *connived* to subtly change the subject on ministerial visits in order to alleviate the pressure generated from the possible exposure of sin?

Brethren, let’s not deceive ourselves: these “half truths” ARE *malicious, fiendish lies* — hurting no one but you. When you lie, you are literally giving your mind over to Satan, transforming yourself into a child of the devil. “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

An Unforgiving Nature

II Corinthians 2:11 directly warns us: “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not [must not be] ignorant of his devices.” Let’s not pull this verse out of context and only apply it generally. What is Paul specifically cautioning us about?

The first part of II Corinthians 2 explains why Paul had written that

extremely corrective letter, now called I Corinthians. Recall in I Corinthians 5, Paul commands them to put the fornicator out of the Church. Well, it worked — disfellowship brought this man to Godly repentance. But some of the Corinthians refused to forgive him and would not allow him back into the Church. Paul instructed the Corinthians that an unforgiving attitude — maintaining grudges and rehashing old sins — was fertile ground for Satan’s inroads.

What about you? Do you find it hard to forgive and forget sin? When you see “that certain person” in Church, do his old sins immediately flash into your mind? Does your unforgiveness of sin taint your attitude toward that individual? God longs to utterly blot out even the faintest memory of our sins (Psalm 103:11-12). Are you more “just” than God?

Brethren, when we rehash and harp on the bygone sins of another, we are not punishing that person — he has been totally forgiven by God — but we are severely damaging ourselves, opening our minds to Satan.

Human nature is sick: it forgets what it should remember and remembers what it should forget. Just think about this: for every sin and grudge that you forgive and forget, another avenue of possible demoniacal advancement into *your* mind is blocked.

Discouragement

We are always affected by what we see. When severe personal trials close in on us, we quickly become disheartened and dismayed. Paul knew that the discouragement resulting from afflictions and tribulations laid the groundwork for the tempter to tempt us. (I Thes. 3:3-5.)

We are commanded to live by faith (Romans 1:17). Faith ignores the “around.” The worse the trial, the greater the potential for developing faith. Brethren, don’t give Satan an opening by becoming discouraged by trials. Rather, give thanks to God for this golden opportunity to enlarge your faith. Prove this approach by putting it to the test. (I Thes. 5:21; Luke 14:19; Mal. 3:10.) It really works.

Self-Righteousness

Self-righteousness is perhaps the most cunningly insidious of all sins. It’s real easy for thieves, prostitutes or Sabbath-breakers to emotionally *and* intellectually acknowledge *their* sins. But the *self-righteous* — by definition — do not even recognize the existence of *their* sins — and therefore come perilously close to eternal death.

The Book of Job was included in the Bible to teach us the lesson of self-righteousness. Job, in his heart, accused God of both being wrong and dealing unfairly with him. “I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me. Behold, he [God] findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy” (Job 33:9-10).

Job felt more righteous than God. Have you ever accused God and felt He had dealt with you unfairly? Perhaps you did not outwardly sin with your lips (Job 2:10), but yet did sin in your heart by feeling bitter and resentful toward God because of some circumstance (which you probably caused yourself).

There is another common type of self-righteousness. The individual so infected, smugly thinks that he diligently searched for, and found God’s Truth. Apparently he has never read Romans 9:16: “It is obviously not a question of human will or human effort, but of divine mercy” (Phillips translation). He also feels condescendingly *proud* that he gave up “a lot” to come into God’s Church, perhaps a lucrative job, friends, relatives, etc., not realizing that all he gave up was *death-driving sin!* Obviously Philippians 3:8 has escaped his study: “For his sake I did in actual fact suffer the loss of everything, but I consider it [all] useless rubbish [dung] compared with being able to win Christ. (Phillips translation.) This self-righteous individual now exudes the air of self-confident self-satisfaction because of his supposed ability to keep God’s Laws. Sadly, both Isaiah 64:6: “All our righteousnesses are as filthy [menstruous] rags” and Romans 10:3: “They do not know God’s righteousness, and all the while they are going about trying to prove their own righteousness”

(Phillips translation) are applied to others.

The self-righteous are not alone; they have a great champion — consoling, sympathizing, encouraging and sustaining them *IN* their self-righteousness. Most — if not all — of the recalcitrants, about to be cast into the Lake of Fire, will be sneeringly self-righteous, condemning God for His inhumane ruthlessness — just as their father *Satan* has always done.

Accusing the Brethren

Have you ever wondered why a particular individual was still attending Church? You “knew” (we won’t ask how) that he or she had been committing some obvious sins. “Was God blind?” you wondered. “Why hasn’t God punished that person?”

Weren’t you despising the riches of God’s goodness and longsuffering? Didn’t you realize that the goodness of God leads to repentance (Rom. 2:4)?

We love to judge others — especially those in God’s Church. Somehow, we feel that when a brother stumbles, *our* status rises! In actual fact *just the opposite* is true (I Cor. 12:26). We are commanded “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matt. 7:1) and then warned: “For at whatever point you condemn others you automatically condemn yourself” (Rom. 2:1 — Phillips translation). Now, “Judge not” does not mean that we can never tell whether or not something is a sin. A man selling cars on the Sabbath is obviously sinning — that’s a fact, not a “judgment.” “Judge not” means don’t impute motives, don’t malign the underlying attitude, don’t *condemn*. Only God can look on the heart, and pass that final judgment, condemnation.

All too many of us are quick to question the sincerity, the intent, or even the conversion of others in God’s Church at the slightest provocation. We never fail to give ourselves all the benefits of any doubt. Let’s give a little bit to each other also.

Satan reaches the apex of his hysterical gloating when the brethren of God’s Church accuse each other. Satan himself is busy accusing the brethren day and night before God. “The Ac-

cuser of the Brethren” is actually one of Satan’s names (Rev. 12:10)! So, when begotten sons of God criticize and condemn one another, Satan is overjoyed — nothing could satisfy him more, *nothing is so in tune with his thinking!*

You can be sure that he immediately rushes up to God (Job 1:6) and yells: “Look God, you condemn me for my supposed ‘accusing of the brethren’ — but observe that your own so-called sons are heatedly engaged in hurling vicious invective back and forth — explain, if you can.” Brethren, how do you think our loving Father feels when we accuse each other?

Satan is very clever. If you have uncovered certain scurrilous information about another member of God’s Church and then used it to “judge” him (imputing evil motivations), Satan will subsequently enable you to receive additional dirty information; he will station you in just the “right place.” The more you judge the brethren, the more filthy opportunities will be given to you; the closer your mind draws to Satan’s mind, the greater his control over you.

Accusing the brethren is the fastest way to open yourself to Satan. Don’t risk learning this fact the *hard way* — by experience!

Fight Back

Our God is not a negative God. He goes beyond telling us what not to do and instructs us what we should do in order to thwart Satan’s devices. He doesn’t *leave* us bound, blind and helpless against Satan’s evil devices.

In this regard, Ephesians 4:21-32 is an excellent section for study. The key verse (for the present purpose) is verse 27: “Neither give place to the devil.” The other eleven verses explain exactly *how* this can be successfully accomplished. We must “put off” the old man (verse 22) by “putting on” the new (converted) man (verse 23); this shows that an active process is involved, energy must be expended. We put away lying by speaking the truth (verse 25). Our anger must be God-oriented, called into action when another (not self) is hurt.

Verse 28 admonishes a repentant thief to go completely in the opposite direction: work hard and then *give* to the poor. The application of this principle is a strategic weapon in our epic encounter with Satan: whatever your character flaw, overcome it by driving yourself to do the exact opposite.

Don’t just read these words, nod your head and say, “that sure is right; I hope Mr. So and So does this.” Ephesians 4 is for all of us. Right now, *list your own major character flaws* and determine specifically how you can go the opposite way.

Gossip — or rotten, corrupt communication (verse 29) — is another fine way to give Satan a base of operations. Gossip is not only the spreading of false information about other people. It may be 100 percent true — but it is always unauthorized, consistently derogatory and viciously cutting. Gossip is the most underhanded technique for accusing the brethren. Sounds all too familiar!

But how do we know whether some specific information is indeed “gossip”? The latter part of verse 29 gives the basic “rule of thumb”: speak only “that which is good to edify profitably, that it may minister grace unto the hearers [which God can use to help other people — Phillips].” Whenever you feel the “urge” to *tell, pass on, or listen* to some questionable material, ask yourself: “Would God use this information to help other people?” If you can’t positively answer “yes” — *forget it!*

Ephesians 4:30 states: “And grieve not the Holy Spirit.” Here is an all-encompassing method for counteracting Satan. But *how* do we “grieve *not*” God’s Spirit? Let’s see. God’s Spirit does not pull or coerce; it leads and suggests by triggering thoughts in our minds. This constantly happens to everyone in God’s Church. Whenever we ignore these triggered suggestions, and proceed to carry out our pre-arranged actions, we grieve God’s Spirit — and do indeed give place to Satan.

Finally, verses 31-32 inform us how

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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE . . . CALIFORNIA, ENGLAND, TEXAS

Fifty Ambassadors “Dig” Jerusalem

STUDENTS VISIT HOLY LAND; START WORK AT SITE OF TEMPLE MOUNT

The history-making Ambassador College-Hebrew University archaeological dig really came to life as fifty happy, confident Ambassador students from all three Colleges arrived in Jerusalem last month!

The summer is offering excitement, experience, education, and fun. But first and foremost is hard work, and a lot of it! Ambassador students comprise the backbone of the dig's labour force this summer. Only our students will be working continuously throughout the entire eight-week period. Other help is from volunteer groups which remain for only two or three weeks at a time.

For this reason our attitudes and diligence as Ambassadors are a major influence at the archaeological site. And, true to form, Ambassadors are setting the pace and other volunteers feel obliged to keep up with them. Already perceptible change has come over the excavation.

Some students suffered a siege of intestinal revenge during the first week on the job, but they are mostly seasoned archaeologists by this time! One day just recently one girl found 1500 coins. This was quite an event but if it happens too often, those who have to clean and identify these coins will probably go on a protest march!

Hebrew classes have started and our comrades have set themselves to the task of learning a new language.

Transportation to the dig is pro-



"Last year I couldn't spell ARKYOLIJIST — now I ARE ONE!"

vided right from our front door to the working area. Transportation to Jerusalem for students who wish to shop or do sight-seeing is provided by a city bus which stops about a block from our hotel. Busses stop running at eight p.m., although there are taxis available at all hours.

Ambassador College has exclusive rights to the Cliff Hotel in Jerusalem's suburb of Bethany. Located southeast of the Mt. of Olives, and east of Bethany, our hotel lies in full view of the Dead Sea Basin with pink-coloured hills of

Moab extending on eastward. Southward are steep Judean Hills and the old Bethlehem winding along the main valley.

Westward from the Cliff Hotel are drab Arab houses in East Jerusalem, and in plain view looking northeast is the famous Dome of the Rock.

Beautiful Arab homes are visible when looking north from the hotel. They are situated on the Mt. of Olives' eastern slope — never seen from the main city of Jerusalem. The new Jericho

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INTERNATIONAL TRACK MEET IS A SMASH SUCCESS; 11 RECORDS FALL

On Wednesday, 11th June, 1969, Bricket Wood hosted the first ever Ambassador College International Track Meet. The Pasadena and Big Sandy Campuses each sent a team of their top-ranking athletes across the Atlantic to compete with the cream of the Bricket Wood Campus.

They came to break records. They didn't merely break them, they *shattered* them!

Fourteen local Bricket Wood records tumbled. Two all-time records were equalised. And no less than *eleven new all-time records* were set — all within the space of five short hours!

The victorious team? Pasadena with 94 points! But Bricket Wood (77) and Big Sandy (19) shared the glory.

In the very first dash of the day, Pasadena's Laura Lane hurtled across the 50 yard line in 6.2 seconds to set a new all-time record. And Rebecca Knowles topped the Bricket Wood record with a time of 6.4.

At 11:15 competitors lined up for the 100-Yard Dash for women. All eyes were on Laura Lane from Pasadena in Lane 2, after she had just set an all-time record in the 50-Yard Dash! Could she repeat the effort in this race?

Tension mounted, muscles became as steel bands, and the girls asked, "Why did I have breakfast?" The gun was raised. Bang! False start!

As the gun sounded the second time, Mills for Bricket Wood was first off the blocks. But things soon changed as Laura Lane crossed the fifty — with Bricket Wood Freshman Carol Burman hard on her heels and pushing her all the way!

The crowd leaped to their feet to urge on the runners!

And Lane hurtled across the line in 12 seconds flat to equalise the all-time record set by Lorna Owre for Big Sandy. Carol Burman made a courageous 12.2 for second place and another Bricket Wood track record, while Rebecca Knowles tied up third place for Bricket Wood with a fine time of 12.7.

Later Laura did it again. Her time of

28.1 in the 220 Yards dashed forever the previous all-time record of 28.3. And this time Locky Green set a new Bricket Wood record at 28.4.

The men, too, furiously fought for the records! Dean Greer scorched the tape with a blistering 10.2 seconds in the 100 Yard Dash — another all-time record. And later he equaled Coutts' all-time 23 seconds flat for the 220 Yard Dash.

Meanwhile what's that? A bird? A plane? No! — it's Super Burzenski and his whizzing discus. He sent that metal plate soaring through the sky for 141 feet 10½ inches — yet another all-time record. And then he went on to win the Javelin and the Shot Put. Mr. Howard Clark asked one of the other competitors in the discus: "Say, how long have you had epilepsy?"

Back with the ladies, Elaine Houghtaling left her opponents standing in the Long Jump by leaping an all-time record distance of 16 feet 3 inches. And even after that she set another all-timer — 1:04.5 — in the 440-Yard Dash!

The longest and most gruelling dash was the 440. The men were lined up and raring to go! It was Register (Big Sandy) in Lane 1, Barnett (Pasadena) Lane 2, Levsen (Bricket Wood) Lane 3, Brown (Big Sandy) Lane 4, Cullen and Pels (both Bricket Wood) in Lanes 5 and 6.

Mr. Hunting alerted the timers. The gun sounded. They were off!

It looked like Levsen around the first turn and down the back stretch, but Barnett was not about to take second. Pulling up around the back curve it was Levsen, Barnett, Pels and Brown.

The last 100 yards told the story. Barnett with a final surge of adrenalin burst the tape at break-neck speed to set a new ALL-TIME RECORD of 50.4 seconds.

But what else happened in that last 100 yards? Surprise and jubilation! Paul Pels set a new Bricket Wood record of 50.7! And Big Sandy's Ron Brown took

third place with a time of 51 seconds flat.

Barnett with his all-time 50.4 easily smashed his previous Pasadena (and all-time) record, while Pels and Brown each pulled down the Bricket Wood and Big Sandy records.

The 880-Yard Run promised to be a thriller — and a thriller it was! Lining up for the start were the Internationals — Tonn, Brown and Greene, along with Bricket Wood's De Jager.

The gun cracked! A score of clawing spikes bit crisply into the track around the first curve. Eight men all jostled for position. Leading the pack was ex-Bricket Wood athlete, Garvin Greene, with teammate Ron Brown at his shoulder, followed closely on the inside by Dan Tonn.

Rounding into the home straight for the first time, Brown took the lead. The pace was fast. Would Tonn's all-time record of 2:00.4 tumble?

Into the gun-lap. Now the pressure was on. De Jager began to gather momentum down the back straight. Brown, still in the lead, was pulling hard. But Tonn was with him all the way, running smoothly in second place. Into the home stretch, the stamina and endurance of Tonn told as he inched out into first position. But Brown and De Jager were hard on his heels!

This was going to be close! The crowd leapt to their feet as the three hurtled toward the finish. One pace ahead of the others was Tonn. The tape broke! With it, an old record!

A new ALL-TIME RECORD of 1:59.5 had just been set! Brown took second place with 1:59.9 and De Jager third in 2:00.9.

No records in the Mile Run, but Garvin Greene chased outstanding male athlete of the day, Dan Tonn, all the way to the line after striding out in front for the first three laps. The mile walk? Peter Alter all the way — for Paul Linehan, steaming along at breath-taking pace, was disqualified for running!

And in the final event of the day, the Inter-College One Mile Relay for

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Ambassadors Travel In Israel

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road is only about a block from our hotel and is a main thoroughfare to Jerusalem.

The Cliff Hotel has three floors and thirty-six rooms. It stands on a ridge that overlooks both Jerusalem westward and the Judean Wilderness eastward.

Six rooms are singles and two triples. All others are double, and every room has its own private bath. Storage space in the rooms is very limited. Laundry is done by local Arabs working for the hotel. The manager is a friendly young Arab named Hussein Daoud (Arabic for David).

After arrival, the group of students spent the first week in a tour of Israel. Following is an on-the-spot report.

JERUSALEM

As we left the plane at Lod Airport signs of war were evident. Many of the planes were speckled and spotted with camouflage paint. As we rode toward Jerusalem some of the memorials from the 1948 war could be seen periodically. Before entering the city we zig-zagged through a military checkpoint. Occasionally we would see an Israeli soldier with a gun hanging on his shoulder.

We entered the old city at sunset and saw the filth and depravity of that sector of Jerusalem still trodden down by the Gentiles. The next morning we began our five-day tour of the country. Here were some of the impressions that we gained from the tour.

ASHKELON

There we found the ruins of a people that had long since migrated after their city had been destroyed. Still remaining though were some of their gods — Astarte and son — the original "Mother and Child." After climbing over the ruins we went for a short swim in the Mediterranean. The water was clear and warm with *no* surf. All of us loved it.

GAZA

Next stop Gaza. The city was once controlled by Egypt, but since the Six-Day War it has been occupied by Israeli troops. All around us were signs of de-

struction. Here two years after the war the city still had many bombed-out hulks marring the view. Many of the walls were pockmarked by bullet holes. The citizens didn't welcome our presence as we drove by. The city was tense. A man had been killed in those same streets the night before and another later that same day that we were there. We saw our first Israeli soldier in *full* combat gear, complete with his submachine gun. We stayed in Beer-sheba that night.

DEAD SEA AND HEBRON

Tuesday, June 17. We went to the Dead Sea. We swam twice that day, once in some beautiful freshwater crystal pools at En Gedi. Later that afternoon we bobbed like corks in the salty waters of the dead lake.

Next stop Hebron. Abraham and Sarah were buried near here. The market looked and SMELLED vaguely like Tijuana, only worse.

Our next point of interest was Bethlehem — *bet lechim* — "house of bread" in Hebrew. We visited the Church of the Nativity where Christ *supposedly* was born. Down in those grottos was an air of antiquity and pseudosancity. Near the "manger" grotto was the grotto where Jerome and his scribe Eusebius spent many years translating the Old Testament portion of the Vulgate into Latin.

We stayed in the Cliff Hotel again that night. The next day we headed north. That morning we visited Bethel, Shiloh, and Samaria. All just piles of rock and rubble.

MEGIDDO

As we travelled to Megiddo we passed through the land that had once been Manasseh. It was some of the most fertile and productive land of all Israel and it still is today. While we ate lunch at the Megiddo we looked overhead to see two Israeli jet fighters streak over the broad valley of Jezreel toward Jordan. We later learned that they had strafed some Arab positions there.

After lunch we visited Capernaum



View of section of dig — Mr. Clark in foreground recording progress on film.

and Nazareth for a short while. That night we stayed at a kibbutz, Ayelet Hasharar, near the ancient city of Hazor. It was a very prosperous and beautiful kibbutz, with a large swimming pool which many of us really appreciated after a tiring bus ride. The next day of our journey we stopped at Baniyas (Caesarea Philippi), the ancient garrison of Accho and the bustling port of Haifa, one of Israel's three major seaports. As we headed back for Jerusalem we saw Mt. Carmel, the ancient pagan religious center and the place Elijah made famous.

That night we went to the wedding reception of Ron and Linda (Faire) Dick at the home of Mr. Raymond Dick.

JERUSALEM AGAIN

Friday we toured Jerusalem. We saw the Dig for the first time and the nearby Wailing Wall (where three grenades were thrown into a group of Orthodox Jews who were congregated at the wall that same Friday night). Inside the city we saw the main sites and smelled the odors coming from the shops. It was getting close to lunch and our stomachs told us it was time to eat. But our noses told us we'd better wait!

We had Sabbath services in the East Jerusalem YMCA. There were 111 people present! Vacation was now over, and Sunday we were ready to excavate!

GET THE MOST Out of Church Services!

How much do you get out of Church services? Do you remember what God's ministers preach from week to week? Have you really been moved by inspired preaching? Read this article carefully and profit more each week.

by Ronald Kelly

WEEKS, months, maybe years have gone by since you began to attend Sabbath services to hear God's called and chosen ministers preach His Word. Have you just been warming a seat — occupying space? Or have you *eagerly* been searching for *knowledge, inspiration, even correction* out of each and every sermon and sermonette?

Far too many have failed to realize just how valuable even ONE sermon can be. Are you among them?

Why do you go to Church anyway? Ask yourself these questions NOW!

Growth in the Local Churches

We all know God's Church is *leaping ahead* in phenomenal GROWTH every single year. It actually *doubles* in size, scope, and power every *two and two-thirds* years. It multiplies eight times over in eight years. There is nothing else like it in the world today!

And the *local churches* ALL keep pace with the worldwide Work! Many of the men being ordained are Local Elders who have never been to Ambassador College. They have grown and developed in their local church areas through the Spokesmen Clubs and through the direct training received from the ordained ministers who pastor the churches.

Attendance in all local churches *increases monthly*. In some areas so many people have been converted we have had to create two congregations

from what was formerly just one. Physical growth in the last few years has been phenomenal.

The Commission to God's Church

The Church of God today has *two really big commissions*. FIRST — to preach and publish the Gospel around the world. SECOND — to "*feed the sheep*."

Christ intended that those who would *bear* and *beed* the warning message — who would repent of their ways — should be *fed* and *nourished* SPIRITUALLY. They are to enter the Kingdom of God to be kings and priests with Him and to bring the Truth of God to millions who have never before understood.

Years ago, Mr. Armstrong learned that if the converted and baptized members of God's Church were to grow, there must be *MINISTERS* to *lead* and *teach* them.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE was the answer! In 1947 this active training program began. And from one local church in 1948 when Mr. Armstrong was the only minister, there are now over 200 local congregations, not just in America, but *around the world*. Well over 150 of these churches are in the United States. The *average* weekly attendance is now around the 300 mark in each of these local services. Just think, only a handful of people attended regular Sabbath services in 1948!

Why Local Churches?

Why do *you* attend church? All the brethren keep pace with the growth in God's Church through the pages of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine. All members of the Church are kept abreast of changes and advances through Mr. Armstrong's Co-Worker letters. But are you attending church as often as you can?

If you *are* attending regularly — WHY??

You go to church for one major reason — TO HEAR A SERMON!

That's right! You drive 100 miles or more to *hear* God's ministers *preach*. Putting it in that light makes it seem like it could be a pretty important part of your week, doesn't it!

IT IS!!!

Are you really getting **WHAT YOU SHOULD** out of the sermon?

Here's how to get the most out of each service.

Be Spiritually Ready for Church

Recently in one of the local congregations in the Big Sandy area, I passed out a sheet of paper to all of the members of the church congregation. I specifically asked that no one put his name on the paper. This was to be a test or a survey to find what the congregation had been doing in recent weeks. One of the questions on the test asked how much time had been spent in personal Bible study and personal prayer *prior* to church services

that afternoon. This particular congregation has an afternoon service which would allow all members of the church sufficient time every Sabbath morning to spend the much needed time in prayer and study.

THE RESULTS WERE SHOCKING!

Far too many people had not prayed *one single minute* prior to church! Many more had not studied so much as *one single verse* of the Bible before coming to church. This makes me wonder how many brethren around the world are coming to church simply to "hear" God's ministers preach?

In order to obtain the absolute maximum from church services, you MUST study and pray before coming to services. The Apostle Paul wrote the Evangelist, Timothy, in II Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is *profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS." The very reason for attending church services is to gain knowledge of God's ways, being instructed in doctrine and in the Word of God, or being reproved and corrected to live more like Christ.

But how many pray for this correction and instruction *prior to* coming to church. Certainly, the opening prayer in church services should ask God's inspiration on the minister and upon the learning of the congregation. But how much more would you personally get out of church services if you were praying effectively and fervently before you leave your home?

Be Rested and Alert

It is also amazing how many people have a tendency to be drowsy and sometimes even *sleep in services*. Mr. Armstrong has jokingly said that those who fall asleep must be plagued by a "sleep demon." It seems in every local congregation there are those whose eyes roll back, eyelids droop, heads nod down on their chests for nearly the entirety of the sermon. I am sure there is not a single minister in God's Church who has not experienced this problem in his congregation.

It's truly amazing some would be willing to drive the distances many do just in order to sleep away a portion

of the morning or afternoon. It would seem home, and the comfort of one's own bed or couch would be much better than sleeping sitting up — and that without even a headrest.

Seriously, in order to really grasp the sermon and to catch many of the fine points and details you must be totally rested and alert.

First and foremost, the evening prior to services be sure you GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP. When God created the Sabbath, "On the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He RESTED on the seventh day from all the work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had *rested* from all His work which God created and made" (Gen. 2:2-3). The Sabbath, in addition to being the day on which we worship God, is a day of *rest* and *physical rejuvenation*. Sabbath services are only a small portion of the twenty-four hours. This type of physical rest is necessary, and certainly Friday evening, above all nights of the week, should be a night for proper sleep and rest.

Many must rise early in the morning to travel the distance to church. If this is your case, be doubly certain of a good night's sleep so that you are not drowsy and sleepy for church services.

If you find, due to circumstances or weather, that you are drowsy, bring a thermos of hot coffee along with you in your car and drink a cup of coffee just before church.

Find out what's making you sleepy, if this is your problem, and *correct it*. Don't let precious hours of your life, when you are receiving personal instruction from God's Word, go by while you are too sleepy to grasp it.

Expect to Get Something Out of Services

The average "Christian" in today's modern world of churchianity goes to church because it is a *social obligation*. Millions of people who attend weekly Sunday services go only because it is what they were taught to do, what their wives, husbands, or parents expect them to do, or because it is expected of them for business reasons.

The mere form and ritual, the usually very boring sermons, mean absolutely nothing. When you began to attend church services in God's Church, you notice a *vast difference* in the form and ceremony, as well as the delivery of the sermon.

The sermon was the MAIN REASON for going to church. The beautiful choir performance, the fine building, ceremony, and Bible response reading did not prevail in God's Church. The whole *center* and *focal point* of every church service IS THE SERMON.

Therefore, you should be ready and alert after praying and physically being ready to really receive some instruction or correction.

Know and Use Your Bible

Another very surprising factor in not getting the most from church services, is not knowing how to use the Bible to follow along with the minister. At first, even bringing a Bible to church might have sounded strange to many. Again, millions of church-goers would no more think of taking a Bible to church than they would think of flying by flapping their elbows. It's amazing what our modern world of Christianity is really like.

However, it didn't take longer than a Sabbath or two at church for you to realize that all the brethren at church services follow diligently along in their Bibles. But is everyone really getting the proper benefit out of following along?

First, be certain you have *memorized thoroughly* THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. After having memorized all the books of the Bible, *practice* turning to various books as they come to your mind. Husbands and wives can sit down together and call out books to each other to be looked up until they are familiar with the Bible order. I am sure you have all experienced a minister's calling out and quoting a certain scripture, turning to it to read it, and then turning to another scripture in another place in the Bible before you have even found the first scripture. By the time you found the first scripture and put a note on it and then turned to the second scripture, the minister had gone

on to a third or fourth scripture; and *you* were hopelessly behind.

Being thoroughly familiar with your Bible is another MUST in really getting the most out of church services. An additional need for really knowing your Bible is your local Bible Study. You should know the *theme* and *context* of most of the Bible. I am sure you have all read a good book or a novel and you can well remember the entire story you read, yet how many people today really know the stories of the Bible. How many people know the central theme of books like I Corinthians or Ephesians — or the basic order of events through I Kings?

VERY FEW!

If you are *regularly* studying your Bible and learning what it is about, when a minister refers to a certain section of the Bible you will be able to *readily* turn to it and be familiar with much of the material that is being discussed. Of course, many new and interesting points are going to be brought out each Sabbath — you can not possibly remember everything that is discussed, which brings us to another important point.

Taking Notes

Another very unusual practice in the Church of God (at least something you thought was very unusual at first) is the habit and practice of *bringing* a NOTEBOOK and PEN to services along with the Bible. It probably seemed strange to you at first, but each time a minister made a particular point or quoted a certain scripture in the Bible, everyone's head immediately looked down at his lap and people wrote down major points and scriptures in the form of note-taking. But it probably didn't take you long to see the advantage in this, and certainly it is a very important part of each and every church service in getting the most out of the sermon. Since most of you now have been going to church for some time, you have probably established some sort of habit of note-taking. But here are a few pointers which might be of value to you.

First, be sure you have a notebook

which you use *exclusively* for taking notes at Sabbath services each week. Be sure that you have it with you *every Sabbath* so that you can keep notes all together in order. Second, be sure you get major points written down in your notebook — but do not worry about getting every word. Too many individuals try to get every little fact, practically every word the minister has to say. I know there are even some who take down the entire sermon in shorthand. Of course, one who is trained in shorthand is probably able to hear and comprehend what is being said, as well as getting notes down. Most people, however, are not proficient enough in really grasping what they hear while they write things down on paper. Most people hear a thought and then must concentrate on that thought while they are writing in their notebook. Consequently, many lose large portions of sermons because of taking *too many* notes.

Learn to take down notes that are vital and important to fulfilling the information necessary to make a complete set of notes. Take the scripture references and major thoughts down on paper. Special points that you have not known before, or that may be new and different to you, should certainly be written down for future study.

Both extremes can be harmful. It is certainly encouraging for every minister to see individuals writing down main points being made at each sermon. However, it can be equally as discouraging if every head is *down* and *buried* in a notebook busily scrambling to get every thought that is brought out. A properly moving and inspiring sermon needs a great deal of *eye-to-eye contact* between the minister and the congregation. The *reaction* and *interest* of the audience is a VITAL PORTION of every minister's effectiveness.

So, learn to take notes, but learn to take them properly.

Talk Over the Sermon After Church

Here is a much neglected tool in really grasping and remembering sermons. I fear it is much too often the

practice after church to busily begin talking about everything from soup to nuts, which should not be discussed on the Sabbath. Very seldom is the sermon ever mentioned. It is easy to discuss what has been going on all week, major news items, or just general gossip. Every student at college knows that a great percentage of material which has been gained in a lecture is lost within a few hours after it is heard. A quick and thorough review of material covered is an important tool in remembering what you have been taught. A *good review* of the sermon by DISCUSSING IT with other church members at the conclusion of services will solidify and cement the thoughts and main principles of the sermon into your mind more than any other one thing you can do.

We are all brethren together in God's Church. There is certainly no reason for anyone to be bashful or shy or awkward about discussing the sermon. After all, the minister has been discussing the subject for an hour or more, prior to the dismissal of services. Why then should any be embarrassed or unable to discuss the subject of the sermon each Sabbath. If you begin to put this into practice, you will find more and more you will be able to *retain* and REMEMBER so much more than you had previously been able to.

Review Your Notes and Mark Your Bibles

Review will really cement what you have learned into your minds and get it down where you will use it.

All the note-taking in the world will do you no good if you do not *review* and STUDY during the week.

Perhaps you can work a sermon review into your family Bible study period about Monday or Tuesday of the week. That way each member of the family will be able to contribute thoughts and ideas so each one will get a good review. If your family is not converted, then study on your own early in the week. This way not too many days will pass and the material will be fresh in your minds and the review will profit you more than if you wait

until Thursday or Friday to study last week's sermon.

As you review the highlights of the sermon *keep a red and blue marking pencil handy*. During the sermon you will probably have very little time to mark the scriptures or to write a note or comment in the margin. But don't let important points escape you. As you study and review, *mark the scriptures of importance* and WRITE BRIEF NOTES IN THE MARGIN of your Bible which will help you explain the verses

whenever you need the information.

Brethren, many have let hundreds of important hours go down the drain because they have failed to apply these principles. Nothing in this article is "new" or hard to understand. But every point is vital.

So dig in!

Pray even more for God's minister to be led by His Spirit and to be even more inspiring. Then do all you can to get THE MOST out of church services!

SATAN'S DEVICES

(Continued from page 8)

to quickly eliminate all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice: "Be ye *kind* to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

God's Armor

Ephesians 6:11-18 is the classic section describing our defenses against Satan's kingdom. God exhorts us to "put on" (verse 11) and "take" (verse 13) "the whole armour of God" so that we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Notice three points. 1) "Putting on" and "taking" are both *active* processes. We must consciously struggle to wholeheartedly do our part. 2) We need the *whole* armor of God, nothing less than full protection is necessary to repel Satan, since he will exploit any and every weakness. 3) We have no alternative but to *stand* against Satan; we dare not turn and run, or we will surely be slaughtered.

The two most essential parts of armor are the movable pieces — the *defensive shield* and the *offensive sword*. Our shield is *faith*: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the darts of the wicked [one]." (Eph. 6:16.) The wicked one is Satan. What are his fiery darts? They may come in various guises and forms from persecution and tribulation to discouragement and despondency. But so long as we have the faith of Christ (Gal. 2:16) as our

shield, Satan's fiery darts will be rendered harmless.

The sword is the only *offensive* weapon in our arsenal, the sword is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). Military strategists have long agreed that the best defense is a powerfully sudden offense. In any situation, at any time, when we are threatened, tried, or tempted, a blistering offensive thrust of the appropriate scriptures will irrevocably turn the tide. In each of the three recorded Satanic temptations of Christ (Matt. 4), the immediate counterattack of the opportune verses *stopped Satan cold*.

God promises to bring the appropriate areas of scripture to mind in time of need (Matt. 10:19-20). However, God will not do *our* work for us; we must do what we can do: continuously study the Bible, diligently building up our scriptural vocabulary and understanding.

Finally, Ephesians 6:18 shows us how to integrate and vivify all the divergent pieces of armor into one, vibrantly cogent, united team: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (in accordance with God's will).

Satan's Sores Spot

We have seen that the easiest way to open oneself to Satan is to engage in the same repugnant mental contortions which permeate Satan's mind: lying, unforgiveness, discouragement, self-righteousness, accusation. Conversely, it stands to reason that the surest

method of completely thwarting Satan is to immerse oneself in whatever activity or work is most repulsively hostile to Satan — the very antithesis of his desires.

That work is GOD'S WORK!

Satan hates God's Work with an immeasurable, seething, fiendish disgust. Indeed, he has two good reasons: 1) God's Work is heralding the triumphal return of Jesus Christ to take the kingdoms of this world away from Satan; 2) God's Work is proclaiming the mystery of God — that every person can qualify to become God, far overshadowing Satan.

Here then is the best way to decimate and disintegrate Satan's attempts to penetrate your mental defenses. Participate in God's Work! Throw your whole being into God's Work.

How? Get off yourself. Get on to God's Work. This was the prevailing theme set by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in his long years in the service of God.

When you pray, how much time do you devote to God's Work — the plans, progress, income, top leaders, ministers, foreign offices, departments, broadcasts, co-workers, magazines, and on and on? Are you spending more efforts on your own personally petty "spiritual problems"? Surely don't ignore your problems, but put them where they belong — after God's Work.

Are the financial dilemmas of the Work *your* personal worry? Do you financially sacrifice as a consistent rule, or only "when you can" or "when you feel like it"? The whole issue is really very simple: "Who comes first, you or God?"

Satan is very interested in your day-to-day answer to this question. He knows that it is utterly impossible to even confront a mind solidly committed to God's Work, much less puncture it.

Yes, we have an arch-enemy, but if we are wholeheartedly committed to God's Work, Satan will have no choice but to "tuck his tail in" and, in a frustrated spasm, slink away.

Let's paraphrase James 4:7: Dedicate yourselves therefore to God's Work; this will effectively resist the devil and he will flee from you!

Reader's Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

an increase on my salary. What baffles me is that I am only two weeks employed in this job. I could not help it immediately when I left the office. I went on my knees and praised God for what he did for me, really God's laws are alive and for our benefit."

I. B., Kroonstad, O.F.S.

Local Church at Mt. Pocono

"We are really thrilled and happy to finally have a local church in our area. I am referring to Mount Pocono. We have always had to travel so far to Sabbath services over the years. It is like going around the corner now, although we are 60 miles from Mount Pocono, but had to travel 145 miles before. We are really thankful for this wonderful blessing. It was worth waiting for, meeting in our own building."

Warren R., Meshoppen,
Pennsylvania

Teen-agers

"While reading through the article 'Teenagers — Are You Enjoying the Good Life?' of the February issue of *The Good News* magazine, I came across the picture showing how teenagers ought *not* to look. It was captioned with the question, 'Can you tell the fellows from the girls?' My three-year-old daughter, who was sitting in my lap, started naming them off, 'That's a girl, that's a boy, etc.' All of a sudden she came to an abrupt halt with her finger on one of the figures, clad in a leather jacket, levis, and shoulder length hair. She looked at me with a confused expression and asked, 'What's *that*, Daddy?'"

B. W., Memphis, Tennessee

"Thank You for Good News!"

"I would like to thank you for the last two GOOD NEWS magazines we have received. The articles were written just at the time we needed them most. Thank you especially for the article on 'Seven Times A Year.' My husband and I read it and began to put it into practice. We decided on the amount we could put in which was \$3.00. The first week went and we put first

and second tithe away, then the 3% of the amount from his check before the usual budget, and found that there was enough for the usual and nine dollars extra to meet a bill that came that day. The next week came and my husband couldn't work one day and we were short one day's pay. When he received his check this week with less pay, I wondered if we could put in the amount we had decided on. I took off the tithes first and the three dollars we had decided before for offerings and there was exactly the amount needed to meet our budget for the week. As we have learned from past experience with tithing and now with saving for Holy Day offerings, God does bless you in various ways."

Mrs. G. S.,
Edmonton, Alta.

Truth Makes Free

"After listening to all this Yoga hokum, I now want to know the truth. They were trying to tell me that in a previous birth, both my son and self were murderers and criminals. I believe people like this are worse than the criminals today. I guess it takes all kinds of people to make this world percolate, but people like this should not be allowed to prey on other people. We have had nothing but bad luck, since we first heard about them. Thank God that we can terminate all ties with them, and know that the truth can make us free."

Helen G. R., Oakland,
California

Blessed in CASH

"The enclosed check is the tithe of the increase upon selling our home in Ohio before leaving. The way God worked that out surprised us — and our entire neighborhood. We advertised it 'for sale' on a Friday — then purposely had the paper refrain from listing it on the Sabbath. On Sunday afternoon a man came and looked at it and within hours called me back and said he'd take it. He was not only a willing buyer — but an able buyer, as well. He paid cash — which I think is practically unheard of in this age of deficit spending."

Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. T.,
Pasadena, California

Plain Truth Gets Around

"Thank you very much for *The PLAIN TRUTH* and GOOD NEWS I just recently received. *The PLAIN TRUTH* certainly is becoming widely circulated. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, I was surprised to find a copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH* at the registration desk of the Lincoln Hotel in Marion, Virginia. Also, I found a copy in the Roanoke Public Library in Roanoke, Virginia. Then the other day I saw a copy lying on the counter at our local union hall!"

William Z.,
Lewisburg, W. Va.

Family Bond

"Each night my husband and I sit down and do our Correspondence Course together. We read and study the Bible and we discuss our lessons. We find that this time we spend together studying and talking is the most enjoyable time of the whole day. It helps us to relax and forget our daily troubles. It has brought us closer together, too. We know now that the answers to our problems can be solved by going to the Bible for them."

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby H.,
Treadway, Tennessee.

• *Many members are not taking advantage of this excellent tool — are you taking The Correspondence Course?*

God Does Heal

"I just want to tell you of the miracle in our life. Our son Jeffrey was born breach on August 13th. He went for over five weeks and did not gain any weight. Also the doctor was concerned about his head. We took him to Mr. Burk McNair and he anointed him. Since that time he has really started to grow and is doing fine. The doctor doesn't believe it's the same little boy by the way he has changed. We are very thankful for this miracle."

R. A. B.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

TV Broken

"I have been listening to Garner Ted Armstrong for several weeks now, ever since my television broke. In fact, I'm sorry it didn't break sooner. I feel I've

missed so much by never before hearing the WORLD TOMORROW. I have been taught a lukewarm religion for many years and was teaching my children the same way. I didn't know what it meant to really be a child of God. Thank God for your broadcasts and your books. I've learned so much! God give me strength to stand up and be one of His children."

Mrs. Erma B., Canton, Ohio

• *Better get your TV repaired — it's only a matter of time before Garner Ted Armstrong will be telecasting The World Tomorrow in your area.*

"I can eat one . . ."

"I can eat ONE salted peanut and leave the rest of the jar. I can even eat only ONE Lay's potato chip, but I COULD NOT STOP WORKING lessons 11, 12, and test 3 of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course! I have spent most of the last 3 days doing them, ignoring my mail-order business. Please rush, rush, rush the next lesson to me. My test card is in the mail separately. I prayed for God to guide me and found myself working the lessons as if my life depended on it — AND IT TRULY DOES! Time grows so short now; the end is so NEAR! I thirst for more truth like one lost in a waterless desert for days. Thank you for helping me to see the light and to find the way to eternal life. Now, if I could just be baptized!!!"

Dorothy M.,
Dania, Florida

"Please find enclosed a cheque for \$110 being a portion of wool tithe. We have certainly been blessed in 1968. Last March we were baptized and were able to attend Passover. We continued to travel to Perth each second Sabbath to the services. Then after having missed several important items, we decided to travel to Perth each week to the Sabbath service. We were able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time, and what a tremendous experience that was. It was the most enjoyable eight days we have ever spent. We have had an extra good wool clip this year and a better than average wheat crop."

Mr. R. C., Doodlakine,
Western Australia

International Track Meet

(Continued from page 10)

men, four tenacious Pasadena teammates strained every limb and ligament to take the race and the trophy — with Bricket Wood a close second!

Mid-afternoon saw the *grand finale*, the presentation of the awards by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong — including, for the first time ever, the new International Trophy!

And how Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's face radiated pleasure as he handed that gleaming silver chalice to the seven happy, victorious Pasadena athletes and to Mr. Petty, their proud coach!

For Bricket Wood, Freshman Peter McLean received the Distance and Cross Country Cup for a sterling performance of stamina and endurance and a new all-time record. But whose was the award for the most outstanding woman's performance? Two ladies won the honour — Laura Lane and Elaine Houghtaling — both of Pasadena! For the men, the most outstanding performance was clear-cut — Dan Tonn took the cup — Pasadena again!

Next the Bricket Wood Intramural awards. The Freshmen were the victors of the day — and their delighted class president stepped forward to receive the cup. But right behind him came the Second Year President to receive, for his class, a token of still greater glory — the intramural trophy for the best overall sporting performance of the year!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

In Hebrews 10:25 God says we are to assemble together more as we see the day coming. I have been thinking that perhaps we could meet all day on the Sabbath rather than having just one service. Since the services are held in different locations, perhaps by combining them there would be enough money to rent a hall large enough for everyone. I enjoy the annual holydays, and I believe the weekly Sabbath could be kept the same way.

C. F., Ohio

We appreciate the suggestion, and since others may wonder why this is not done, we will explain the difficulties such an arrangement would present.

First of all, we need to realize that the purpose of the weekly Sabbath differs from that of the holydays. God gave the holydays to show us the step-by-step Plan which He is working out in order to fulfill His *purpose* — which is to bring multiple BILLIONS of Sons into His Family. The annual holydays remind us year by year of the various steps in that Plan, and the all-day services on those days help focus our

attention in a *special way* on each facet of that Plan as we observe the days.

The Sabbath, on the other hand, is a *day of rest*. It reminds us *every week* that God is the Creator and that He *rested* on the seventh day, putting His presence in it and *sanctifying* it as *holy time* (Genesis 2:2-3).

The Sabbath also pictures the coming millennial reign of Christ on earth which will follow the 6,000 years of man's *mis-rule*. Those of us who are begotten Sons of God will at that time enter the *spiritual rest* spoken of in Hebrews 4:1-11.

The Sabbath is more than *just* a day of rest, however. While we are to rest from our normal physical labor and activities on this day, the Sabbath is NOT a day of *inactivity*. It, too, plays an important part in God's Plan, although its purpose differs from that of the holydays.

The Sabbath gives us an opportunity to draw closer to God through *extra* time spent in prayer, Bible study and meditation. It gives us an opportunity

to get our mind completely off the physical cares of this world and to concentrate instead on the *purpose of life*.

The services on the Sabbath are *weekly training sessions*, which enable us to learn, through the sermons, how to become more Godlike — how to put on the mind and character of God so that we can someday BECOME GOD! For maximum benefit from these training sessions, however, we need very much the opportunity — which the Sabbath affords — to spend extra time in prayer and personal Bible study.

Those who have children — especially small children — can readily see that all-day services *every* Sabbath would detract from the overall purpose of the Sabbath which we have outlined. In the local Church areas which, in the past, have had Bible studies on Friday nights, the Bible Study has been moved to another night during the week for the same reason. The brethren can now use the Sabbath to draw closer to God and to be refreshed and rejuvenated *physically* as well as *spiritually*.

We as a Church *are* following the admonition of Hebrews in 10:25. We are *not* “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” Most of the brethren around the world can assemble *every* week for weekly Sabbath services and be taught by God’s ministers. In addition, most brethren can also attend either a local Bible Study held every other week or a monthly Bible study held in outlying areas. Those in Spokesman Clubs have an additional opportunity to meet regularly and be instructed by God’s ministers.

The warning in Hebrews 10:25 applies to us as *individuals*. The Church has provided ample opportunities to “assemble ourselves together” in order to profit from the instruction of God’s ministers and to enjoy the fellowship of other brethren, but many brethren do not *take advantage* of the opportunities!

Some — too many — fail to attend even on the annual holydays! Those who do this are contemptuous of the food — the spiritual fare — that God has set before us at His Feast days. In attitude and action they say: “The table of the

Lord is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat is contemptible.” (Malachi 1:12). They despise the instruction and correction God makes available on His Holy Days and latch onto *any excuse* not to attend. These are the ones to whom the warning in Hebrews 10:25 is addressed — these and those who make excuses for not attending Sabbath services regularly and those who *could* attend a Bible Study but don’t!

We are warned that as we see the day approaching — the day of God’s intervention in the affairs of this world — we ought to take *every opportunity* to attend the Holy Day services, the weekly Sabbath services and the Bible Studies *which God’s Church has made available* for our edification and perfection!

Notice that the next verse in Hebrews 10 — verse 26 — warns: “For if we sin *willfully* after that we have received

the knowledge of the Truth, *there remains therefore no sacrifice for sin.*”

This verse, in context, is a warning ESPECIALLY to those in God’s Church who are neglecting to assemble with His people *when the opportunity is provided*. Paul realized that those who do not make a genuine effort to congregate with the other brethren whenever possible are in danger of going right out of God’s Church and into the lake of fire because of their lethargic, lackadaisical attitude!

Christ said we would be known *by our fruits* (Matthew 7:20). The indifference and lack of concern demonstrated by these individuals are symptoms of a *deeper* spiritual weakness that can and often *does* lead to the *willful* sin that Paul warned against.

This is a grave warning brethren — one that cannot be taken lightly and passed over. *He that has ears to hear, let him hear!*

SPIRITUAL LETHARGY

Enemy number one!

(Continued from page 4)

cated as He was to God’s Work! Let us be willing to sacrifice and *give of ourselves!*

Here now are some points on what you can do to put and keep your whole heart in God’s Work and overcome spiritual lethargy!

Prove Absolutely This is God’s Work

Christ said look to the works: “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in Him” (John 10:37-38)! Believe the works! Look at what is being accomplished! No other work on earth is explaining the meaning of today’s bad news and proclaiming the good news of God’s soon-coming rule on earth! No other church on earth is really *changing people’s lives* for the good!

The FIRST commission of God’s true Church is to preach and publish the

gospel to the world as a witness (Matt. 24:13; Mark 13:10). No other church on earth is doing that job! We understand prophecy and the meaning of world events. We know where Israel is today. We know that the gospel is not just the story of Christ’s life but the good news of His imminent return and rule on this earth. No other Work is crying aloud and showing the people their sins (Isa. 58:1). This Work does and continues to grow!

The *second commission* that Jesus Christ gave to His Church was to feed the flock of God. He told Peter three times, “Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17). And He inspired Peter to write, “Feed the flock of God . . .” (I Peter 5:2). This is the only church doing that job! No other church really believes, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16). Only God’s true ministers use the word of God “for the perfecting of the saints,

for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12).

Without a doubt, this is God's *only* true Church doing God's *only* work on earth. I hope you know this! If you don't, prove it before it is too late! Look to the works!

Why God Called You

Many in God's Church wonder, "Why did God call me?" Brethren, it is no accident that you are in God's Church. You were personally and individually called by God the Father. "No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him . . ." (John 6:44, 65). Because of His goodness He led you to repentance (Rom. 2:4). He gave you His Holy Spirit as a free gift after you repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38).

God didn't call you, grant you repentance and give you His Holy Spirit so that you could warm a seat in Church and wait for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Believe it or not He didn't call you *just* to become one of His sons! He *did* call you to be an active, dynamic part of His Work! Christ said, "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when He comes shall find so doing" (Luke 12:43). Doing what? Doing his part in God's Work! Christ went on to say, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes . . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required . . ." (Luke 12:47, 48).

Why did God call you in this age? So that you can help in His Work — that's why! Come to realize, fully understand and believe this!

Be Wholehearted

Strive to put your whole heart into God's Work. Don't be a half-hearted Christian! That is Laodicean. Be a Philadelphian Christian! This is the way to overcome spiritual lethargy — drive yourself to be zealous!

Don't give in to the downward pull of human nature to be lazy. Set your mind and your will to obey God with all your heart! Real spiritual growth

comes when you are totally wrapped up in God's Work. God's Work is a work of giving, serving and helping others. It is a Work which requires sacrifice. It is a Work of love. It is a Work worth fighting, suffering and dying for!

If you will commit yourself and give your life for this Work, Jesus Christ says you will gain eternal life. If you hold back, you may lose out entirely on the Kingdom of God!

Notice these inspiring and yet sobering scriptures: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works" (Matt. 16:24-27). The way to gain eternal life and a reward in God's Kingdom is to give up our life right now — lay it down, sacrifice it for God's Work!

Here is the way to do it.

Pray Ferently Each Day for God's Work

Set as a goal for yourself *one half of your prayer* each day just for God's Work alone. There are personal problems and others in the Church to pray about, but strive to dedicate one half of your prayer each day for God's ministers, their responsibilities and the needs in God's Work. A tremendous aid in prayer is the "Church of God Distribution of Manpower" booklet which lists in an organized manner all of God's ministers, where they are, all foreign offices and all districts in the United States.

The college *Envoy* is a help in this way also. It shows you pictures of the three campuses of Ambassador College, the students and faculty. They need your prayers too! You'll find a half hour goes by before you know it, and you'll find your heart more and more in God's Great Work!

Take an interest, an active part! Be concerned about the needs in this Work. Get to know God's ministers by praying for them. Some of their pictures are in the booklet I mentioned. And remember, to be truly effective, prayer must be fervent and on your knees (James 5:16; Dan. 6:10)! Notice where they are serving in the world. Think of the possible problems of the people and needs of the Work there. Especially remember Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the Evangelists both at Headquarters in Pasadena, and around the world, that God will guide them in directing this *worldwide Work*.

Christ gives us the framework for our prayers in Matthew 6:5-13. He instructs us to go to a place where we can pray in private. Then, begin acknowledging and praising our Father in heaven. If you count your blessings, you will have plenty to praise and thank God for.

Next, Christ said, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (verse 10). Pray for the Kingdom of God to come on this earth! When will God's Kingdom come? When this Work is finished! Remember what Christ said in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Christ is telling us here that God's Kingdom will not come until we have finished this Work. So pray for God's Work that we can finish it and prepare the way for the coming of Christ and the Kingdom of God!

Fast Regularly

Actually, we should *fast to get closer to God* so our prayers will be more effective. Every Christian *needs* to fast regularly to stay close to God. Christ said, "When you fast . . ." (Matt. 6:17), not "if you fast."

Your goal should be to fast about once each month. Draw closer to God and pray especially and specifically about God's Work *and* your part in it.

James was inspired to write, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners;

and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:8-10).

David said he *humbled himself with fasting* (Psalm 35:13). So fasting is a way to humble yourself before God and seek Him in prayer and Bible study with all your heart.

Fasting is hard. It *does* take character, but the results are more than worth it! God says, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" (Isa. 58:6-7). Notice that God wants us to fast to overcome our own problems and grow, and *also* to help others. Fasting and praying about God's Work is a way to help the poor and hungry of this world. People today are *starving spiritually* and they need help! We have the spiritual food to give them and we must not hold it back.

Are you willing to discipline yourself and fast for God's Work? If you are, God says to you: "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward." (Isa. 58:8.) God will bless you and reward you and hear your prayers for His Work. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry and He shall say, Here I am . . ." (verse 9).

Here is how you can effectively fast for God's Work. A spiritual fast means denying yourself all food and liquids for the purpose of humbling yourself before and drawing closer to your Creator. You should have a *purpose* in fasting. In this case, your purpose or main concern is the progress of God's Work. You should spend much extra time on this fast day praying about the main needs or problems in God's Work.

Pray for God's ministers and others. Pray about having your heart in the Work and doing your part. In other words, dedicate that day to God for a special purpose — that of being a living sacrifice — giving your life, time and energy for the benefit of God's Work. It pleases God to see our wholehearted concern for His Work!

Tithe Faithfully and Give Generous Offerings

Christ said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). This is a living principle. If you want your heart to be in God's Work, put your money in God's Work! This really works, brethren. This is an important way to put and keep your heart in the Work of God. Those who are committed financially to this Work are automatically going to be concerned about it.

Our tithes and regular, generous offerings are a means of serving others. We are helping to give the truth of God freely to the world. And what counts is how much we give according to how much we have to give financially. There is no better place on earth to put your money than in God's Work. Christ said that you are laying up for yourself treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:30), a reward which you will receive when He comes. No one can steal this reward from you!

"... you cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on ... but seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:24, 25, 33). Brethren, if we do put God's Work first in our lives financially, He has promised that He will take care of all our needs! And God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)! God has promised to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing we will not be able to hold (Mal. 3:10) if we give generously with a cheerful heart (II Cor. 9:7). You can't out-give God. The more you give to His Work, using wisdom of course, the more God

is going to bless you in this life and in His Kingdom!

Apply this principle and overcome spiritual lethargy by putting your whole heart into God's Work *financially!*

Attend Church Every Sabbath and Serve Your Brethren

It is absolutely essential for you to attend Sabbath services every week if you live in a Church area. If you don't, then attend as often as possible.

As a minister of God, I can say from experience that those who have their hearts in God's Work the most are those who are most faithful in attending Church and serving their brethren in any way possible — especially by being a good example of love and zeal.

God tells us to do this: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25). As we see the end of this age approaching, we should realize more and more the need for inspired sermons and fellowship to help us overcome spiritual lethargy.

Those who don't attend Church when they could are lethargic and not really a part of God's Work or the local congregation. These are the ones who will eventually fall away from God's Church *because* of their spiritual lethargy.

They are given a dire warning: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).

Brethren, spiritual lethargy can be overcome! It must be overcome! Eternal life is at stake! Set your mind and will to apply the points you have been given in this article! Don't give in to spiritual lethargy and go into the Great Tribulation. Don't take a chance of losing out on the Kingdom of God! Overcome spiritual lethargy by putting your whole heart into God's Work!