

The WORLD TOMORROW
A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:

Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Dear Friend:

Dozens of letters continually arrive asking if it is all right for women to have their hair cut. Others wonder if it is correct to use permanents since they have a problem keeping their hair neat.

Many women have been taught ever since they were little girls that it is entirely wrong to cut women's hair. This teaching is supposedly derived from the statement that Paul made to the Corinthian women.

You will notice in I Corinthians 11:13-15 that Paul says a woman ought to have long hair that it is an honor to her. "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her." Because long hair is mentioned, some are afraid to cut their hair at all. But the text doesn't read uncut hair, it reads long hair. Hair can be cut and still be long.

Any head of hair, even though cut, if it be long enough to look feminine and honorable, is appropriate. There is no definite "Bible length," save that it must appear as a glory to the wearer. But if a woman wants to wear her hair cut so short as to look like a man, Paul says she ought to be shorn or shaven -- the symbol of a fallen woman. Too many women have developed the custom of having their hair bobbed TOO SHORT. It is up to the individual to decide according to the Word of God how long her hair ought to be in order for her to appear feminine. Perhaps near shoulder length is a good average, since some women naturally have shorter hair than others.

Concerning permanents, there is a problem that each woman needs to consider. Very few girls are ever taught the art of properly caring for their hair. God intended a woman's hair to be beautiful, not straggly. This is a mother's responsibility, but how sad it is that so few mothers were ever taught how to care for their hair properly. Because most women never learned to appear neat they have resorted unnecessarily to the use of permanents.

Certain women have naturally curly hair and do not need permanents; others have naturally straight hair and

appear very becoming with it just as it is. If you appear neat in long straight hair, you would only be spoiling your appearance to add unnecessary curls.

But there are many women who have nearly straight hair who would appear much neater with a few curls. Should such women use permanents?

First, let us remember that there are different kinds of permanents. Even the same permanent will react differently with different women, because no two heads of hair are exactly alike. But nearly all permanents will in time do a certain amount of damage to the hair. Often the ends are severely burned. Sometimes they will break off shorter and shorter. A few cheap permanents have even proved damaging to the health.

Although some women may find no harm in them, permanents ought to be avoided in most cases since there is a much simpler and better method by which the hair may be given beauty. It is not hard to learn the art of using curling pins with a small amount of water -- and it doesn't take long, either. This method does not harm the hair, but makes it appear beautiful as God intended.

It is also important to mention that although some make a ritual of washing their hair too often, many others don't wash their hair often enough, especially when it becomes dirty through work. It is very beneficial for the scalp to keep the hair clean.

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

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Dear Friend:

Many women have asked if God forbids them to wear jewelry. They have heard the teaching that God forbids Christians to wear any jewelry or wedding rings. This belief was the common teaching of the last century, but it has been retained by only a few denominations. This doctrine stemmed from the principle that because the wearing of jewelry, rings and other adornments was abused by the world, jewelry and adornments were sinful of themselves and should never be worn.

The Bible teaches that the material things are not sin, but it is the improper use of them that is wrong. It is the act of abuse, of misuse, that is a sin or violation of God's law. There are two texts in the New Testament relating to the use of adornments for Christians, I Timothy 2:9-10 and I Peter 3:3-5. Neither text even mentions wedding rings, and neither one condemns the proper use of jewelry, as some suppose.

Peter wrote that women should not adorn themselves with plaited or braided hair, which, among the Greeks, was a custom in which costly jewelry and also wreaths were intertwined with the hair. The Bible prohibition of such a practice becomes plain when one considers that a woman's hair was given her to be a glory and an honor (I Cor. 11:15). The addition of costly or distracting and unnaturally bulky adornments took away from the natural and intended beauty God imparted to women. There is no scriptural prohibition against the use of a flower or other modest adornment worn in the hair.

The wearing of gold ornaments and pearls in connection with costly array is forbidden by the apostles. Gold and pearls are not sin: for God sanctified the use of gold in the temple. But their great expense was not becoming to Christian women who were to put their treasures into spiritual traits of character which God views as of much greater worth. These two verses contain no prohibition on wearing a moderate amount of relatively inexpensive, but not "cheap" adornment. A string of inexpensive pearls

would not be violating the principles which the apostle lays down. For women to bedeck themselves with cheap objects for vanity is just as wrong as to put one's treasure in expensive jewelry.

The "putting on of apparel" mentioned by Peter is explained by Paul to include unappropriate or lavish clothing worn for vain glory. In these verses the principle is always that women should be temperate in the expense of their adornments and modest in their apparel. The fact that only specific, costly or unnatural adornments are mentioned clearly implies that the apostles NEVER meant to forbid all jewelry. Since no word is said about wedding rings, although wearing them was a universal practice of that day, neither Paul nor Peter meant to forbid them. Christians have a perfect right to wear them. The origin of wedding rings does not stem from pagan religious practices, despite the fanciful cavemen stories of captured women and club-wielding men.

As absolute proof that Christian women may wear jewelry, Peter says that his description aptly pictures "the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves being in subjection unto their own husbands." Yet those women wore jewelry! (Gen. 24:47,53). And God blessed Israel of old with adornments (Ezek. 16:9-14).

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Dear Friend:

Many people want to know how far a Christian should go in telling others about the truth of God.

Most people, when they are converted, make the mistake of trying to argue their friends, neighbors and relatives into conversion. But we must continually keep in mind that no one can force his religion on someone else. And no good thing is accomplished by trying to do so.

A Christian is known by his good works (Matt. 5:14-16)--not by "good arguments" or "constant preaching." Our righteous, confident, happy lives--the way we live and the customs we keep--will influence others far more than our words. God has commanded only His ministers to sound the trumpet in teaching people His ways (Isa. 58:1). Laymen--and ministers, as well--should concentrate on producing good deeds that will rightly influence others. Remember, a light is easily seen, but makes no sound (Matt. 5:14).

However, if someone wants to know the truth, and asks us in sincerity, then we should answer to the very best of our ability. ". . . be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15). Trying to explain God's truth to people who are not ready to receive it is worse than useless! If we offend them we can have no good influence on them at all. The best way to bring another to conversion is to refrain from talking religion with that person and pray to God instead! You cannot argue or talk anyone into conversion!

We ourselves must obey God, but leave the lives of others in His hands. God will call all men to a true understanding in His own time and in His own way. Read John 6:44, 65 and I Timothy 2:4; then II Timothy 2:21-26, and you will better understand how to help others and to be patient until God opens their minds to understand what you know.

Lay members first ought, above all things, to be able to set a good example, be able to answer questions when asked, pray for others, pray for the ministry, and pay their tithes and offerings. That is their duty.

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Dear Friend:

Bible study is an important part of a Christian life. To get the most out of studying God's Word, you need to have a good Bible. Frequently we are asked which is the best Bible to purchase.

We recommend, as first choice, that you use the King James Version containing the Old and New Testaments, as your basic study Bible. The Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press publish the finest editions of the King James Version. They are very durable and sturdily bound with good chain references and concordance and maps. Their print serves every age group.

Some people who have weaker vision prefer a Bible having heavy black print, large letters, and a center reference column. A good selection of maps in the back helps greatly. Such Bibles measure about $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches and serve best for home use. A thumb index and pages with relatively wide margins for making notations are available. A Bible answering the above general description is made by the National Bible Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is their Number 452.

These Bibles may be obtained from, or ordered through, the bookstores.

Concordances which are found in the backs of Bibles are generally not complete enough and are often not very helpful in finding scriptures. This should have little weight in your selection of Bibles. If you want a concordance, the small Cruden's Concordance is very popular and may be purchased for about \$4.00.

Bibles other than the King James Version are sometimes helpful. Their modern wording makes certain sections clearer than the King James Version. The new Revised Standard Version and the Moffatt Translation are written in modern English and can be useful in comparing with the King James Version.

Since very few basic textual errors appear in the King James Version -- though it is not always a perfect, or clear translation -- it should be used most often for Bible study.

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Dear Friend:

Many readers continue to write Mr. Armstrong, addressing him as "Reverend." Should this be done? Let us understand how and when it became the custom to give ministers this title.

The word "reverend" is applied only to God in the Bible -- it is not once applied to man. In Psalm 111:9 we read: ". . . He (God) hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and REVEREND is HIS NAME." Another translation renders it: "Holy and awful (that is, full of awe, worthy of worship) is his name."

God alone has a name which may properly be addressed as "Reverend." No man will have such a name until born again in the resurrection. No minister has a name which is worthy of reverence or worship.

You cannot find one place in all the New Testament where Paul, Peter, James, John -- or any other minister -- were ever addressed as "Reverend." If we follow the Bible example -- which we are commanded to do -- then we ought not ever use the title "Reverend" for any minister. (See also Matt. 23:9.) Since many ministers of this world's religions would take offense were you not to give them some title, you may properly address them as "Pastor," or "Elder," or "Evangelist," or "Bishop," depending on what office they hold. These are proper titles of office given in the New Testament. They may be applied -- out of respect to ministers, whether or not those ministers are serving the true God.

The use of titles such as "Reverend" began when the great apostacy set in the Church at the close of the first century. Ministers put themselves "in the place of Christ." Hence they took upon themselves the attributes and titles of divinity. God's ministers have never done so.

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Dear Friend:

Frequently the question is asked, "Should a Christian raise tobacco?"

The tobacco industry is a million-dollar business. Hundreds of farmers supply tobacco for the tobacco consumers. But, is it right in God's sight to be a tobacco grower? This is a question faced by farmers who want to obey God and serve the health of mankind.

Scientific tests prove that the various tobacco habits -- smoking, chewing, snuff-dipping -- are harmful to those who indulge their lusts in them. Many are cancer victims. Tobacco users are addicted to the habit solely in the interest of satisfying the lusts of the flesh. Even when used as an insecticide on food crops, tobacco is a threat to man's health, because some of it is taken into the body on foodstuffs.

A Christian should grow that which is healthful, and in some way serves the community. Nothing is worth doing if it is done only in the interest of making money.

A close examination of all possibilities will reveal that there is always at least one good substitute for tobacco in most any area. It should not be difficult to change to a useful type of farming. It is just a matter of becoming willing to depart from old ways and learn new techniques and routines. A new procedure will look difficult at first, but a little mental effort will help one to adjust himself to anything that is worthwhile.

God has promised to supply all the needs of anyone who will put the Kingdom of God first in his affections (Matt. 6:24-34). A Christian farmer who plans his production wisely can claim these promises and look to God for the necessary profit. He must ask God, in faith (Jas. 1:6-8), for the needed guidance and help.

In the tobacco-growing regions there are several reliable products that can be grown for the market. Good quality vegetables are easy to grow and are in great demand in most areas. The best grocery stores pay prices that give

the farmer a good return for his labor and a high rate of income per acre. Chickens and other types of poultry are also profitable in some regions, especially for the man who can grow some of his own feed. However, don't try poultry farming unless you can understand, and conform to, the necessary principles of poultry management. Sweet potatoes are also a good market crop in the tobacco-producing area. Many tobacco farmers have already tried these sources of income and have found that, with good management, they are profitable.

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Dear Friend:

Many continue to ask the question, "What is 'Baptism for the Dead'?"

The practice of being baptized for unconverted friends is widely taught by one particular denomination. This custom is founded on their misinterpretation of I Corinthians 15:29.

The inspired New Testament Church did NOT practice this custom! The Apostle Paul did not teach it! The custom was introduced into the professing Christian world about 150 A.D. by the heretic Marcion.

Notice! Before a person may be baptized, he must first REPENT (Acts 2:38) and BELIEVE (Mark 16:16 and Acts 16:31,33). The dead are not able to repent or believe. The dead are dead -- "for the living know that they shall die; BUT THE DEAD KNOW NOT ANYTHING . . ." (Eccl. 9:5). The dead have no hope until the resurrection! BAPTISM IS FOR THE LIVING. Baptism is a symbol whereby THE LIVING acknowledge their sins, figuratively die with Christ in a watery grave, and rise out of the watery grave in hope of a NEW LIFE through the merits of Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism is also a symbol of THE RESURRECTION! TO RISE UP out of the watery grave is to acknowledge belief IN THE RESURRECTION of the dead (Rom. 6). To surrender one's life to Christ now, to crucify the self now, to be baptized -- all this is foolish unless there is a RESURRECTION -- if the dead are not raised, ". . . let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die" (I Cor. 15:32).

Now we are ready to understand verse 29. The subject of the entire 15th chapter of I Corinthians is the RESURRECTION. As one proof of the resurrection, Paul cites the example of those who were baptized, symbolizing their hope in the resurrection. The resurrection is THE HOPE OF THE DEAD. Why were they baptized if the dead rise not? is Paul's question. But the verse is NOT CORRECTLY translated from the original inspired Greek!

Paul is not talking about being baptized "in the place of" the dead, or "in behalf of" the dead, or "for" the dead. The inspired Greek word translated "for" is huper. It has several meanings: "above, over, instead of, for the realization of, for the hope of." The context determines the meaning of the word. Turn to Philippians 2:13, for example. Paul here declares: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The Greek word translated "of" in this verse is huper, the same word used in I Corinthians 15:29. In Philippians 2:13, huper cannot mean "in stead of." It would be senseless to say: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do instead of His good pleasure!" The proper translation of this verse is: "God worketh in you both to will and to do for the realization of His good pleasure!" This is the translation given in The Analytical Greek Lexicon. What is God's "good pleasure"? It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom," said Jesus (Luke 12:32). God works in us "in the hope of" giving us His Kingdom.

Now turn to I Corinthians 15:29. Here the Greek word huper should be translated "for the hope of" according to context: "Else what shall they do which are baptized FOR (THE HOPE OF) the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized FOR (THE HOPE OF) the dead?"

What is the hope of the dead? **THE RESURRECTION!** Paul is writing about baptism, which illustrates **THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION!** Baptism -- arising out of a watery grave -- is a symbol of the hope of the dead -- the hope of the resurrection. This verse has nothing to do with the false doctrine of baptism in behalf of the unbaptized dead.

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Dear Friend:

We continually receive letters asking: "Should a woman wear a covering on her head in church?"

Some churches require women to wear veils or hats in church. They claim I Corinthians 11:1-16 as supposed scriptural proof. They quote verse 6 specifically: "For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Other churches use this same scripture as support for their doctrine that women should never cut their hair.

Modernists contend that whatever Paul taught the Corinthian Church is not for us today anyway -- and they proceed to do as they please.

What is the truth?

Some contend Paul required women to wear veils because it was the custom of the day for women to wear veils in public places of worship. This is NOT true! Let's get our facts straight.

Smith's Dictionary of the Bible article "Veil" gives us the answer. "In ancient times, the veil was adopted only in exceptional cases, either as an article of ornamental dress . . . or by betrothed maidens in the presence of their husbands, especially at the time of the wedding . . . or by women of loose character for purposes of concealment (Gen. 38:14). But generally speaking, women both married and unmarried appeared in public with their faces exposed, both among the Jews . . . and among the Egyptians and Assyrians, as proved by the invariable absence of the veil in the sculpture and paintings of these peoples."

It was not customary for women to wear veils in Paul's day. It is interesting to note that the fallen church pictured in Revelation 17, the fountain-head of harlotry, commands its women to wear coverings over shaven heads in their religious orders.

What Paul taught is this: as man is the head of woman, it is improper for men to have a covering in a religious service as a symbol of subjection (I Cor. 11:4). The only exception was long hair in the Nazarite vow, a token of subjection to God for a special time (Num. 6:5). Men are otherwise commanded: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" (verse 14). Men wearing long hair, a fad with the younger generation, are effeminate and no effeminate man shall inherit God's Kingdom! But what about a woman? "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her HAIR is given her for a covering" (verse 15).

Notice! Paul, under inspiration, speaks of LONG HAIR as the "covering," or veil. The Greek word for "covering" in verse 15 means "veil." See the margin of the King James Version. So the covering is not some hat, or piece of cloth.

Paul does not say that women must wear something over their hair. Instead, he says: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that . . . if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

Because "long hair" is mentioned, some are afraid to cut their hair at all. The text doesn't read uncut hair; it reads only "long hair." Long hair is an indication that a woman is willing to be in subjection to a man, and that she acknowledges the special need for protection by angels -- beyond the ordinary protection which angels give to men (verse 10). Hair, cut long enough to look feminine and honorable, is appropriate. About shoulder length, or longer, is a satisfactory standard. If a woman wears her hair so short that it looks like a man's, then she ought to be shorn or shaven -- the symbol of a fallen woman.

To be "shorn" (verse 6) means to be closely clipped. Some small sects contend that any cutting of hair means to be shorn. This is untrue. Properly cut long hair is not shorn hair. There is no Bible command anywhere against cutting hair within the length which looks feminine and honorable.

Many women today are, however, wearing their hair too short. They are not allowing their hair to be "a covering" (verse 15). It is a woman's long hair that is her covering -- not some piece of cloth to hide a mannish, modern hair-do!

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Dear Friend:

The question, "Is suicide a crime?" has puzzled many.

A 56-page pamphlet, "Ought Suicide to be a Crime?" the work of a five-man committee appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, "primate of all England," was published and distributed recently. The committee members investigated the subject of self-destruction from almost every conceivable angle -- historical, legal, medical, moral -- and came to the astounding conclusion that the Bible does not condemn suicide!

Think of it!

"Suicide was not always frowned upon," states this noted Anglican Church body; ". . . the ancients in the Hellenic times (the pagan Greeks) tended to look upon the power to take one's own life as an inalienable privilege!"

However, Chairman Christie later admitted on BBC: "If any member of the committee were asked if HE considered suicide wrong, he would say it was! . . . that no man or woman had the right to terminate life entrusted to him by God" (TIME, November 2, 1959, p. 74).

What he is actually saying is that HE THINKS God does not forbid the taking of one's own life, but man, in his superior wisdom, reasons that suicide is not proper. That it is a coward's way of solving his problems. That it is like running away in battle!

In other words, the Bible is not the final authority for the decision they have reached. Human reason is their authority.

Nevertheless the Bible DOES condemn suicide!

God commands: "THOU SHALT NOT KILL" (the sixth commandment). Webster defines the word "kill" as "to deprive of life." To commit suicide, then, is breaking one of the Ten Commandments -- and is definitely condemned by God.

Paul admonishes us saying: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man DESTROY (KJV margin) the temple of God, him shall God DESTROY; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Cor. 3:16,17). "What? know ye not that your BODY is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Cor. 6:19).

No murderer -- or suicide -- has eternal life abiding in him (I John 3:15). He has no hope unless and until in the general resurrection after the Millennium he repents of his sin (Matt. 11:20-24).

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Dear Friend:

Here is a question often asked by those beginning to be converted: "Should farmers raise and sell hogs?"

The Bible plainly teaches that we are to OBEY God -- to obey His commandments (Matt. 19:16-18; I John 3:4). Not only are we to obey the commandments, but Christ said that we are to live by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4).

The laws given in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 regarding what foods are good for us have in no way been changed or abolished. The nature of the animals mentioned here have not changed "since the cross."

These laws concerning clean and unclean meats are to be obeyed by every true Christian. Swine are expressly forbidden to be eaten (Lev. 11:7). God's people are not to eat pork. But what about selling hogs to the unconverted who don't know better?

The Bible nowhere directly says that it is a sin to smoke. So there is also no direct scripture in the Bible which says, "Thou shalt not raise and sell hogs." BUT -- there are, however, principles which reveal to us God's will. These Bible principles tell us it is wrong to smoke. Bible principles also reveal why we should not raise hogs for the market.

Notice the principles given by Jesus Christ: ". . . Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:39). Knowing that God did not create swine to be eaten -- and knowing that pork is harmful to the body -- we cannot show love to our neighbor by selling him an animal which is detrimental to his good health? Is it love to be responsible for sickness and sometimes death? Of course they don't know better! But WE DO! Just as ancient Israel was to be a good example of clean living to the Gentile nations, so should God's spiritual Israel today -- God's Church -- be an example to the unconverted.

Jesus Christ is certainly a shining example as to how we ought to live. He lived a PERFECT life! Christ did not do one thing which was wrong. Yet, Christ permitted demons to enter a herd of swine, causing them to run violently down a steep place into a lake where they were drowned (Luke 8:32-34). Notice, Christ had a reason for this action!

The swine were UNCLEAN animals. Christ permitted UNCLEAN spirits (demons) to enter UNCLEAN animals. Christ did not permit unclean spirits to enter and defile CLEAN animals. Christ allowed the demons to enter the swine because the swine were unfit for human consumption and ought not to have been sold as "good food" in the market. Jesus was indirectly solving the marketing problem of those Gadarene farmers!

The teaching of the Word of God is clear.

Unclean animals were created for a purpose, but NOT FOR FOOD! A farmer should not raise for food hogs, rabbits, or any other unclean animals.

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Many have asked about the meaning of Matthew 10:28. This verse reads: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The doctrine of the immortality or indestructibility of the soul is often based on this text, although Jesus plainly says that we should fear God who is able to DESTROY THE SOUL in hell or Gehenna fire. The soul is something that can be destroyed. Ezekiel 18:4 says the same thing: ". . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die," not live forever in torment. The soul can die. It can be destroyed because of sin, the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

But, what is the soul if man can't kill it?

The word "soul" is used in numerous ways. It is a translation of the Greek word psuche and the Hebrew word nephesh, both of which mean, according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, a living, breathing creature, an animal life, appetite and similarly derived connotations. Soul can NEVER mean an immortal part of man or animal but always the living, breathing animal or man, also the life of a breathing being which is in the blood. In Leviticus 17:11 the word translated "life" comes from the same Hebrew word for "soul" and can be correctly translated: for the soul of the flesh is in the blood. Jesus gave His life (translated from the same Greek word meaning soul), a ransom for us (Mark 10:45) by pouring out His soul of life blood in payment for sin (Isa. 53:12). "Soul" can mean the living, breathing animal or man and it can also mean the physical life of such creatures.

Remember, God can destroy the physical body and the soul or life. Luke quotes Jesus as saying: "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell . . ." (Luke 12:5). God, who takes the present physical life from us at the first death, also has the power to resurrect us and, if we have been disobedient, to cast us into the lake of fire -- (the second death -- from which

there will be no hope of a resurrection -- from which we can never come to life again.

Man can kill our bodies but he can do no more.

We have already reckoned our lives dead upon baptism. The new life we now live is by the faith of Jesus Christ in us. "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). Jesus brings out the great importance of the fact that the first or natural life (soul) of a Christian is already perished. There is nothing of that life which remains for men to kill

That is why Jesus declared that man can kill the body, but not the soul or life. We are figuratively dead already -- our physical way of life is crucified. But the life of Christ in us can't be touched by man; he cannot kill it because it is Christ's very own life. Although the original word for "eternal life" is from another Greek word, Jesus uses psuche -- soul or material life -- because Christ is living His life in our material bodies.

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Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:

Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Dear Friend:

The question: "Is it wrong to wear clothing of mixed fabrics?" has been of considerable concern to many.

The physical law found in Deuteronomy 22:11 and Leviticus 19:19 against wearing a garment of wool and linen mixed is still binding. This command is a PHYSICAL, not a SPIRITUAL, MATTER.

It is just as binding as the laws of God against racial intermarriage.

Although the Scripture mentions by name only wool and linen, this principle applies to other fabrics; linen and wool are named specifically because they were the main materials the Israelites had for cloth-making. Wool does not absorb perspiration readily, as does linen. Wool also retains body heat. That's why you don't want to wear it in summer.

The command pertains to garments in which two materials are woven together. A cheapened quality is often the result. Apparently this is one reason for God's command. He wants us to own and use the best quality within our means.

When one buys a garment of mixed material he receives inferior quality. This constitutes a waste of money and also detracts from personal appearance.

It is not necessary to throw away mixed materials that you already have. (Some people would have nothing left to wear if they did.) To do so would be quite rash. Just be careful to select approved material the next time you purchase clothing.

Any extra garments of mixed fabrics may be given to worldly charities. Notice the example in Deuteronomy 14:21. The same principle would apply in this matter!

It is not wrong to wear one garment of linen and another of wool at the same time. Neither is it wrong to wear a wool coat with a rayon lining; the rayon lining is

not woven with the wool and will not cheapen the wool of the coat. The same applies to cotton pockets in trousers that are made of wool or other materials, also probably to the pure rayon or nylon band that is sewed around the neck of some T shirts. One should not buy socks with nylon reinforced heel and toe because in such socks the two materials are interwoven.

You are likely to more frequently encounter the problem of mixed fabrics in socks, suits, sweaters, sport shirts, and blankets. (There is no difficulty in selecting dress shirts, underwear, hats, or scarfs because they are usually made of one material.)

The question may arise whether it is wrong to buy materials that are a mixture of wool and angora, or cashmere and wool. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this type of mixture. Both are natural and are animal products of good quality. However, combinations of silk and cotton are not proper. They are of two different kinds.

The question of synthetics and natural fibers is another facet of this question.

Synthetics of some types are not the best for body health and comfort. Nylon, especially, is not conducive to comfort in some of its uses. Dress shirts, socks, and blouses of nylon greatly hinder the health-giving circulation of air, hold in body heat, and reduce body comfort.

A good health test to use when buying synthetic material or a ready-made garment is to hold the material up, hold your hand about six or eight inches from the material and blow through it. If you can feel the air you can be pretty sure that air is going to come through and circulate around your body when you have such material on.

Usually a synthetic material that is woven very tight is not good, but one that is woven more loosely might tend to be much better. This is where each individual must use his or her own judgment about whether or not the material is suited for him. Some people know what type of material their body is suited for -- some cannot even wear any type of synthetic material.

Next, is it good to wear a fabric that is a mixture of natural and synthetic fibers?

Synthetics differ markedly from wool. Synthetics are chemically treated vegetable products -- usually cellulose. Wool, by contrast, is an animal product. The physical law in Deuteronomy regarding wool and linen would apply here. Mixtures of wool and synthetics are not good.

BUT, since many synthetics are chemically processed vegetable products, cotton and synthetic combinations constitute another question entirely. The problem is similar to that of racial intermarriage. Marriage among nationalities differs in degree (and is not absolutely wrong), but intermarriage between distinct races differs in kind and is absolutely wrong.

Bemberg rayon, for example, is made of cellulose from cotton linters. Rayon may be made from chemically treated wood pulp or cotton. On the other hand, orlon is derived from such basic raw materials as coal, air, water, petroleum, limestone and natural gases.

In purchasing garments of a synthetic and natural blend, you might notice that before too long the synthetic -- being much stronger than the natural fiber -- will tear the natural fibers of the fabric. This is not always the case, but it does happen in some instances. The rule in such blends or mixtures is this: if the characteristics of the synthetic do not differ markedly from the natural cotton (or linen), then the combination is not prohibited. If -- AS IS OFTEN THE CASE -- they do differ markedly in strength, washability, absorption, etc., then they should not be used.

Combinations of one synthetic with another are to be judged on the same basis. If the characteristics are similar, it would not be wrong to purchase them.

REMEMBER, THIS IS A PHYSICAL LAW -- NOT A SPIRITUAL LAW. ONLY IF YOU LUST AFTER WHAT GOD SAYS YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE, DOES IT BECOME A SPIRITUAL SIN. Let us not go to extremes in this matter. Not all combinations are wrong.

Keep in mind that the genuine article is always of better quality than the artificial.

You can usually find a natural fabric without too much trouble. You may have to pay a little more, but don't you think it is worth it?

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

The WORLD TOMORROW

A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:

The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

"Has God allotted 6000 years for man's self-rule?" is a question that has been an enigma to many.

Yes! The world does not understand what is taking place today because it does not know about the 7000-year PLAN OF GOD.

God has allotted approximately 6000 years for humanity to go its own way. These millenniums of human civilization are nearly over. God is about to intervene in world affairs by sending Jesus Christ. Not until He returns will we have 1000 years of peace.

The pattern for this little-understood plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the WEEK of seven days. As God originally set time in motion, man is given six work days followed by a day of rest. In Hebrews 4:4,11, the seventh day is mentioned as a type of the peaceful rest -- 1000-year rest -- that will follow the present age of human labor and futile struggle to master the earth. The Millennium, then, is compared with a "day" of the week.

Observe that after Christ's intervention the time of that peaceful rest under His rule is specifically termed "a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). If the last "day" of God's 7000-year plan is 1000 years, then the preceding six days which He has allotted for mankind to work out his own ideas would amount to 6000 years. And this is exactly what world events are proving today! Look about you! It is obvious that this world is crashing to its DOOM!

Now notice your Bible. Many Bibles are complete enough to contain chronological charts showing that human life was created slightly more than 4000 years before Christ. And almost another 2000 years have elapsed since -- making nearly 6000 years of human civilization to date. In other words, the trend of world events is now proving we are very near the time the Scriptures have always said Christ will return -- when the probability of world destruction would become a reality (Matt. 24:22). Six thousand years of human history have almost been completed. Here then is proof -- double proof -- that Christ is coming in our generation!

The common assumption that man has lived on earth countless tens of thousands of years is an idle dream. Reason disproves it. Each new archaeological discovery aids in disproving it. True SCIENCE disproves it! Strange as it may seem, the theory of man's evolution is not only unproved, but irrefutably disproved when we understand the facts.

The apostles did not fully understand this PLAN OF GOD when Christ was yet on earth. They thought the kingdom would be established in their day -- after only about 4000 years of God's plan had been completed. But before they died, the apostles knew God's plan. Peter said: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise (of Christ's coming) . . . but is longsuffering . . ." (II Pet. 3:9). God is patient. He has refrained from intervening in world affairs for nearly 6000 years. Why?

Because He will not intervene until humanity is forced to cry out to Him for fear of self-extinction. Recall that the day of Christ's intervention and rule is compared to "a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). Peter also wrote the same thing -- that a day in God's plan is as "a thousand years," and "a thousand years" of human civilization as ONE day in His planned week of SEVEN 1000-year days (II Pet. 3:8).

Peter knew that Christ would intervene shortly before the close of 6000 years of human struggle and slavery -- that God would send Jesus Christ to set up His government to rule during the seventh-thousand-year period -- a millennium of peace, a sabbatical rest!

How marvelous that in our day, at the very time that 6000 years have almost elapsed, the world is threatened with extinction of life. And Jesus Himself said that when we see this taking place HE WOULD COME AGAIN!

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Dear Friend:

A startling statement is found in Mark 9:48. In this passage of Scripture, Christ spoke of a worm that "dieth not." Whoever heard of the immortality of worms? What did Christ mean?

Some PEOPLE think that Jesus was referring to people as worms and was trying to say that these "people" never died -- but lived on in agonizing torment. Those who say this fail to notice that Jesus does not call the wicked people "worms" but instead speaks of THEIR worm. The lexicons define the Hebrew (Isa. 66:24) and Greek (Mark 9:48) words translated "worm" as a grub or maggot and in no way refer to a man. Christ was not teaching the immortality of people or worms!

Actually, Jesus was here warning his listeners that those who would "offend" -- who would live a life of rebellion against God and His children -- would be cast into "hell fire." Most Bibles show in the marginal rendering that this was "Gehenna fire." Jesus was referring to Gehenna as a type of the second death in the "lake of fire" which will befall the ungodly.

Gehenna, or the Valley of Hinnom, was located outside of Jerusalem and was a place where trash, filth, and the dead bodies of animals and despised criminals were thrown. There were ledges along the edge of this valley on which these dead bodies might land instead of falling down into the fires beneath where everything was burned. Smith's Bible Dictionary gives a description of this valley -- which was something like one of our city dumps today where trash and rubbish are burned up.

If anything, especially a dead body, landed on a ledge above the fires, it would be devoured by many worms or maggots which were kept alive by the animal and vegetable substances deposited there.

It was to these worms that Christ was referring when He said "their worm dieth not." But Christ didn't mean that each individual worm continued to live forever!

Actually, these worms, or maggots are the larvae which develop from eggs deposited by flies. They continue for only a few days in this larval stage, then pupate and finally emerge as flies, later dying. These are scientific facts, known by any real student of science. And yet some people think that Christ ignorantly stated that these larvae continued to live forever in that stage of development! This just goes to show that we should always be careful to use wisdom and common sense in studying God's Word. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). Let's rightly use the minds God gave us!

The Greek word which was inspired and translated into the word "worm" in this passage simply means a grub or maggot, and is a collective expression for all the worms that devour dead matter. Yes, the flies that these worms become, like all other animals will return to the dust from which they came. "All are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." (Eccl. 3:19,20).

This same reference to worms is found in Isaiah 66:24. Here we again find that the inspired word simply means a common grub or a maggot. These worms or larvae also feed on the dead bodies for a few days, and then emerge as flies. Thus, these worms "die not" but continue to develop into flies just as any normal, healthy worm! The flies continue to deposit their eggs only as long as there are dead bodies or other matter for the larvae to feed on.

Neither do these worms have immortal souls! Ecclesiastes 3:19 shows that no creature, man or beast, is born with an immortal soul.

The Bible is one book that makes good sense! So let us always study these perplexing scriptures through, before we jump to conclusions. Then let us live by God's Word, so that we may be worthy of the gift of eternal life. Then we need not receive the wages of sin -- death (Rom. 6:23). This will come by a fire which will not be quenched -- but will burn itself out by consuming this earth and the bodies of all the wicked. Neither will we need to worry about these "worms" which will live on the bodies of transgressors -- not at first consumed by fire -- until there are no more bodies left. Then all will return to the dust and ashes (Mal. 4:1).

But if we will honestly search the Scriptures and live by them, we will be accounted worthy to inherit eternal life in the new earth which is to come.

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Dear Friend:

The meaning of "not under the law, but under grace" has plagued thousands!

Most people are confused by the ministers who claim to expound the words of God. You hear one group quote one set of scriptures telling of the law, and another group quoting verses mentioning grace. The common assumption is that one set of scriptures contradicts another. What folly! All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

Does grace do away with the law? If you keep the law, have you "fallen" from grace?

Let's understand what "grace" means. Webster defines it as "mercy, favor, unmerited kindness, an exemption or pardon as from a penalty."

It is by grace, the undeserved pardon of God, that you are delivered from the penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23). Christ paid the penalty in your stead. If you accept the grace of God, who permitted His Son to die in your stead to free you from sin, then you are under grace. You are under unmerited pardon, not "under the law."

"What then? shall we sin (that is, transgress the law -- I John 3:4), because we are not under the law, but under grace?" (Rom. 6:15). That's what Paul asked! Shall we sin -- shall we break the law? Remember, sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

What is Paul's answer? "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin (transgressing God's law), live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:1,2.)

If we are under grace, the pardon of God, we are not to live in sin, we are not to break God's law. If we break God's law by sinning, then we come under the law. It is over us. It has a claim on our lives. It is only those who keep the law that are NOT under the law; it has no claim over their lives.

"Under the law" does NOT mean under its jurisdiction. This has been the common false teaching because of a MISTRANSLATION in I Corinthians 9:21. Notice verse 21. To the Gentiles who did not know God's law -- "to them that are without law" -- Paul said he approached them without mentioning God's law until they recognized God as Creator and Ruler and Lawgiver, then he showed them from the Scripture that they had been breaking God's law in ignorance and now should repent of that sin.

He did not want to offend them. But was Paul doing contrary to the law? No! Paul says he was "NOT without law to God, but WITHIN the law to Christ."

This verse is nearly always mistranslated. The original Greek cannot be properly translated "under the law to Christ." It must be translated "WITHIN the law to Christ." Through Christ, Paul was within the law -- he was able to keep it. To be within the law means to obey it!

Grace does not do away with the law. Grace is God's unmerited pardon for our sins, making it possible for us to keep the law through the Holy Spirit that is given to those that obey God (Acts 5:32).

Wouldn't it be ridiculous for a judge to grant a pardon to a criminal and then tell him to commit the same crime again? Yet, that is exactly how ridiculous most people make God's grace. They turn the grace, the pardon of God, into lasciviousness -- license to do evil.

If grace could abolish the law, then there would be no more sin, because there is no sin where there is no law (Rom. 4:15). And if there were no sin, there would need be no grace -- no pardon of God -- to deliver us from the penalty of breaking the law.

Christ died in your stead and mine so that we could obey God according to the spiritual intent of the law instead of serving sin. As long as we were under the claim of the law because of transgression, sin had dominion over us; we were its slaves. But now, if we repent and believe what God says, we are free to obey the law unto righteousness (Rom. 6:16).

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Dear Friend:

Many continue to ask the question: "Who wrote the Apostles' Creed and where can I find it in the Bible?"

The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles and is not part of the Bible. It is a mixture of truth and error and is absolutely uninspired. It is one of many religious frauds and was composed in its final form in the fifth century after Christ. "The Apostles' Creed is not their (the apostles') own making . . ." admits Smith's Bible Dictionary.

"The creed, as it stands in its present form, could not be composed in any manner as it is pretended, by the Apostles. The silence of the Acts of the Apostles about any such composition is (an) evidence against it" is the testimony of Bishop Joseph Bingham in his book Antiquities of the Christian Church.

Bingham also tells us that it was originally called the "Roman Creed" as evidenced by the phrase, "I believe in the Holy Ghost, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH." It was drawn up by the members of that Church after the pagan doctrines and customs of the Western Roman Empire -- Easter, Christmas, Sunday -- had been accepted as "Christian" traditions. It, therefore, became necessary to imply apostolic approval to the new doctrine of the church! This creed was fraudulently written and entitled the "Apostles' Creed" for such a purpose.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

The common teaching today is that a person who is "sanctified" is spiritually perfect -- that he is incapable of sinning! But, is that the true meaning of "sanctification"?

"Sanctification" is glibly called an "experience" or a "second work of grace," and it always must follow what is called the "justification" of the individual. It is further contended that this experience removes the "Adamic nature," or the "nature of sin."

Is this what the Bible teaches?

First, notice the definition of "sanctification":

It means "to consecrate to a sacred office or calling," to "separate from common use", "to devote or dedicate to God's service," according to the Biblical and English dictionaries. That means that any person who is set apart for a holy use or purpose is sanctified. But that does not mean that person cannot sin!

Notice what your Bible says in I Corinthians 7:14:
"For the UNBELIEVING HUSBAND is SANCTIFIED by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband. . . ."
Even an unbeliever can be sanctified!

Notice again what Scripture reveals about sanctification: "Before I formed thee in the belly," said God to Jeremiah, "I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jer. 1:5).

Did you grasp that? Jeremiah was sanctified before he was born! He was set apart to a special office -- that is what sanctification means -- sanctified for the office of prophet to the nations.

The first letter of Paul to the Corinthians certainly makes the question plain. The apostle wrote this Epistle to those who were "sanctified" (I Cor. 1:2), yet we find that the Corinthians were puffed up, carnal, full of sin. They had

jealousy and strife and fornication in their midst. They were arrogant and refused to acknowledge their sins -- just as many today who falsely claim to be sanctified are spiritually proud and arrogant! Paul found it necessary to have the individual involved in fornication removed from their midst (I Cor. 5).

Those people certainly had the nature of sin. Their "Adamic nature" certainly was not removed. And certainly the unbelieving mates -- who were also sanctified -- were set apart for the high calling of becoming members of the God family. It was after they were sanctified -- and after Paul's stern rebuke that the Corinthians began to overcome sin.

God sanctifies us, or sets us apart today for His holy use when He calls us into His Church. We then begin to develop spiritually. So that we continue to develop, God separates us -- or sanctifies us -- from the sinful customs of the world. "Come out from among them and be ye separate!" But that does not mean we suddenly become perfect! Not at all. If, after we have been sanctified, we continue to overcome the pull of sin in our human nature and continue faithfully to the end of life, God will grant us eternal life in a world free from sin. Not until the resurrection -- when we are born again as spirit Sons of God -- will we be absolutely sinless.

No wonder Paul wrote: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do [Yet Paul was sanctified or set apart for a very high calling]. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God [that I will be delivered] through Jesus Christ our Lord . . ." (Rom. 7:18,19,24,25). That deliverance Paul will receive when Christ returns at the time of the resurrection!

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIF., 91109

Dear Friend:

Did you understand the true meaning of baptism when you were baptized? If not, should you be baptized again?

This is a vital question to many of you. Baptism is an important step in your spiritual life, and it must be done properly -- at the right time and in the right way -- after true repentance! Unfortunately, many people have not been properly immersed. Here's how you can know if you have been properly baptized.

The key to this whole problem was given by the Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost when he said: "REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Notice that repentance COMES FIRST! Baptism is second -- AFTER repentance!

You repent of SIN. And what is the Bible definition of sin? ". . . Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). That is the Bible definition of sin -- breaking God's law! To be really converted, you must REPENT of breaking God's law and believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty of sin in your stead and is your personal Saviour.

Jesus said: ". . . man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word of God" (Luke 4:4). You must repent of disobeying God's Law -- His Word -- His RULE over your life. This must come first. Then you need to be baptized by a complete immersion as an outward sign of your willingness to completely BURY your old self -- literally give your very life to God and to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, High Priest, and Master.

But frankly, most people attending the churches of this world and having been "baptized" by them never really knew WHAT to repent of! This is especially true of young teen-agers. They don't know WHAT sin really is.

At the time of early youth, most young people sincerely intend to "do better" or to "follow their church." But since they have not been taught what sin actually is, they completely fail to realize how ROTTEN and SINFUL they have really been in God's sight. They are

usually only sorry for having disobeyed their conscience or their church.

They don't really REPENT! They aren't broken up about the wretched state of their lives and their own human VANITY and selfishness which expresses itself constantly in all of us.

After baptism in a worldly church, such people don't immediately begin to study and UNDERSTAND the Bible. They just continue to go along with the customs, the ways and the traditions of their friends and of this world. Their lives are not actually CHANGED. They don't come to personally KNOW GOD! Such people have NOT TRULY REPENTED, and their baptism was probably not valid! Their's was only a ritualistic "dunking" in the water.

If you are wondering about your baptism, ask yourself WHY you were baptized in the first place. Were you baptized simply because many of the members of your family were baptized, and you felt looked down upon, or had that "left out" feeling? Did you stand in the water and go through the ordinance of baptism simply to "join" the group with whom you had been fellowshiping? Were you baptized because you temporarily thought it was the "right thing to do?"

If you were baptized for ANY of these reasons--YOUR BAPTISM WAS PROBABLY NOT A VALID BAPTISM, because your motives were not right! You may have doubts about whether you are properly baptized, and you need to be sure! Carefully read Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9; and I Corinthians 12:13; and if there remains any uncertainty in your mind, it is important that you counsel with a true minister of God about it. Nationwide baptizing tours are organized each summer to visit those who have requested baptism. If you want a faithful servant of God to counsel with you about your baptism, then send your name and address immediately to Mr. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California.

Don't put this off any longer! It means so much to your spiritual growth.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Did God intend for the Book of Jasher to be preserved for us today?

Some people have assumed that one or another of the books that today fraudulently bear the title "The Book of Jasher" might be the same book called by that name in Joshua 10:13 and II Samuel 1:18. This is not true!

The spurious books that today exist under the false title "The Book of Jasher" can be historically traced to recent fraudulent origins.

Here is the proof that these are recent frauds. In the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge, volume II, in the article "Jasher," we read: "The [original] volume itself has perished There have also been several books written which pretended to be the Book of Jasher, or, at all events, bore this title. Three of these are of Jewish origin. One is a moral treatise, written in A.D. 1394 by Rabbi Shabbatai Carmuz Levita, and exists in manuscript in the Vatican Library. Another, by Rabbi Tham (died 1171), is a treatise on the Jewish ritual. It was published in Hebrew in Italy (1544) The third, which is a fabulous history of the events of the Hexateuch, was probably written by a Spanish Jew of the thirteenth century, and has been published at Venice (1625) A fourth Book of Jasher was a palpable and malicious fraud, perpetrated by Jacob Ilive, an infidel printer and type-founder of Bristol, and published at London, in 1751, [as] The Book of Jasher, translated into English from the Hebrew by Alcuin of Britain, who went on a Pilgrimage into the Holy Land." (Emphasis is the publisher's.)

Notice that all these volumes are recent and spurious!

Now let us examine another work which speaks authoritatively on this same subject. In the Davis Dictionary of the Bible, in the article, "Jasher, in A. V. Jasher," we read: "In 1751 there appeared a volume which professed to be an English translation of The Book of Jasher (Jasher), alleged to have been found, but the production was an impudent forgery" (emphasis ours).

Other authorities have equally proved the fraudulent qualities of these books. In the Encyclopaedia Biblica, volume II, in the article, "Jasher," we also read: "In later Christian times 'the Book of Jasher' is the title of a ritualistic treatise by Jacob B. Meir (died 1171), and of one or two forgeries which are only remarkable for the undeserved success they obtained"

The fraudulent volumes deceptively labeled "The Book of Jasher" contain error and contradict Scripture. They were written one or two thousand years after the authentic "Book of Jasher" had become lost. In order to cloak their fraudulent works with respectability and make them look innocent -- so that readers would trust the lies and hypocrisy contained in those books -- the authors of these forgeries gave them a respected Biblical name.

No one need be concerned about any fraudulent book that claims to be a part of the Bible. God has not left us in doubt. There are ample records, both in the Bible and in secular sources, to show us which books are Scripture and which are not. God wisely allowed the original Book of Jasher to disappear because it, like many other contemporary works of the judges, was not needed for our instruction today. If God had wanted us to have The Book of Jasher as a part of the Bible, we would have it in the Bible today. God, however, purposed that only a few brief excerpts from it be quoted in His inspired revelation, the Bible.

The Book of Jasher referred to in the Bible was never destined to be Scripture. Any book claiming that title today is a deliberate fraud!

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BOX 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Does the scripture "and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever" contradict the passage that reads "and the wicked shall be ashes under the soles of our feet?"

The Bible does NOT contradict itself! (John 10:35).

Malachi 4:3 proves that the wicked will DIE -- they will be burned up so that only ASHES remain! The soul is not immortal and there will be no eternal tormenting for the wicked! The soul is MORTAL and subject to death! But -- what is the meaning of Revelation 14:11: "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever"

There is no contradiction here!

Notice that verse 8 gives the TIME SETTING of this passage. It is speaking about the impending fall of "Babylon" -- a great religious-political system which is the RESURRECTED ROMAN EMPIRE led by the symbolic harlot "woman" -- the great apostate, paganized church falsely calling herself "Christian."

Verses 9 and 10 say: ". . . If any man worship the beast (the coming United States of Europe -- the resurrected Roman Empire) and his image (the Papacy), and receive his mark . . . he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone . . . in the presence of the Lamb" (that is, at Christ's second coming)!

Those who have a part in this church-state system of "Babylon," and who receive this frightful punishment from Almighty God, have "no rest day or night" as long as they remain in that land falling under God's wrath! They will either have to flee that area and seek God's mercy or be tormented by sulphurous fumes till they perish.

Notice that this passage does NOT say these individuals are being tormented forever in an ever-burning hell. Verse 11 says: ". . . The SMOKE of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever" It is the smoke that ascends forever. It does not say the fire burns forever, but that the smoke that is already up there continuously ascends! It happens even today whenever fires burn up, but smoke is still in the air!

This fire is on the earth, not in some "hell" away off!

So the Bible plainly teaches that flesh and blood is subject to combustion and death. Malachi 4:3 says the ashes of the wicked will finally be under the feet of the righteous. And if the wicked are forever ashes after the earth is burned, then their smoke (or ashes in the air) will remain in the atmosphere "for ever and ever." So there is no contradiction between these verses! The wicked will be DESTROYED and will die that death -- the second death -- from which there is never to be a resurrection (Rev. 20:6,14).

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

The WORLD TOMORROW

A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:

The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Under what conditions can a Christian associate with the world?

In II Corinthians 6:14-15 we read: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness . . . or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

This scripture is generally taken to mean that a Christian and a non-Christian should not marry. But this same principle that applies to marriage would also apply to any close relationship or partnership that one might enter.

A Christian should never include non-Christians as his bosom friends, even though he should love all men. This does not mean that a Christian cannot have any dealings with one who isn't a Christian, "for then must ye need go out of the world" (I Cor. 5:10).

Christ said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Christians are supposed to be "the salt of the earth . . . the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13,14). But at the same time we are to come out of this Babylonish civilization referred to as "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4), established by men under the sway of the Devil. "Wherefore come out from among them (the people of the world), and be ye separate, saith the Lord . . ." (II Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4).

The teaching of the Bible, when all of the scriptures are put together, is that we are to go into the world, but that we are not to become a part of the world and its Babylonish societies, customs and traditions. God's plagues will fall on those who will not renounce this present evil world (Rev. 18:4).

Any Christian who yokes himself unequally with an unbeliever -- whether in marriage or in a business partnership -- is certainly treading on dangerous ground.

There are some "unequally yoked" marriages, and Christian and non-Christian partnerships that have succeeded. But how much more successful would they have been had they been yoked together with those of like faith!

Practically every person with whom you come in contact influences you to some degree. It is important, therefore, that you wisely choose your associates. Remember, "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (I Cor. 5:6).

If, however, you are already unequally yoked with an unbeliever in a harmonious partnership which does not interfere with your Christian life or growth, you may continue until God makes it possible to do otherwise. Whenever such a relationship develops to the place where you are not able to obey God and grow in grace and knowledge as you must, then, you should "obey God rather than men" and be prepared to immediately sever your association in such a partnership!

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Many have wondered why God gave the command "Thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed."

Notice the reason for this command in Deuteronomy 22:9, ". . . lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, BE DEFILED." God gave this law for our protection! He does not want us to defile or mix the produce that we grow, nor the seed that we save for growing future crops.

Just to make sure the point is clear, let us state a few specific examples. You should not plant cucumbers near watermelons because they will cross and produce a perversion. Likewise, the various members of the muskmelon and cantaloupe family will mix with pumpkins and certain types of squash. They should not be planted near one another. But there is nothing wrong with planting peas or beans among your corn, or planting two pasture grasses together. In neither of these cases would one crop "defile" or mix with the other in any way.

In the beginning God caused each plant and animal to reproduce after its own kind (Gen. 1:11,21,24). God twice commands us to follow that example instead of mingling our crops (Lev. 19:19; Deut. 22:9). We should plant those seeds that will reproduce after their own kind.

Hybrids that produce confusion and an inferior quality after the first year should NOT be used. ". . . God is not the author of confusion . . ." (I Cor. 14:33). Many scriptures show us that God wants His people to produce and own quality products.

We should use good quality seed that will produce a consistently good quality year after year. Good seed planted in land that is properly worked will produce strong, healthy plants that bear profitable crops.

Many of our seeds have come down from crosses, but have had the inferiorities selectively bred out, so that we would not know whether a particular strain of produce has come from a mixed, or a pure, past. In such

cases, it is permissible to use seed that may have come from a cross in past years, if the inferiority has been eliminated by wise selection of seed, so that the seed produces a pure crop of its own kind.

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Dear Friend:

This is one of the most common questions we receive. If Adam was the first man, directly created by God, and Eve the first woman, also a direct creation, and only three sons are mentioned -- Cain, Abel, and Seth, it is but natural that many ask: "Where then, did Cain get his wife?"

Did Cain have a wife? Yes, it is written in Genesis 4:17: "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch"

Cain had a wife, and a son.

For that matter, where did Seth get a wife? Seth is a direct ancestor of Noah, of Abraham, of David, and of Christ. So Seth, as well as Cain, must have had a wife.

The answer is found in the genealogy of Adam, in Genesis 5. It is written in verses 4-5: "And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."

There is the answer. Adam begat sons AND DAUGHTERS. God had blessed Adam and Eve, and said unto them: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth . . ." (Gen. 1:28). All human life started from them. How could they be fruitful and multiply, unless they had BOTH sons and daughters, and their sons married the daughters?

The answer is simple. Both Cain and Seth married their sisters. There undoubtedly were many of them even before the birth of Seth.

Adam and Eve, as God had proposed, were fruitful! After the birth of Seth, Adam lived EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS, and "he begat sons and daughters." The sense of the passage is that he continued begetting sons and daughters. That is a long time -- as long as though some man and his wife living back in the middle ages -- way back in the 1100's -- had continued to live and continually bear children ever since, clear up to now -- the 1900's! Adam was 130 years of age when Seth was born (Gen. 5:3). After that -- after he was 130 years of age -- Adam continued begetting sons and daughters eight hundred years!

It's almost impossible for our minds to grasp, in this fast-moving, short-lived world of one or two children to a family, how many children Adam and Eve probably had during their great span of life, nearly a thousand years. It's hard for us to realize that Adam lived almost

ONE-SIXTH of all the time from his creation until now. Yes, there must have been plenty of young women for wives for Cain, and Seth, and all their many other brothers, as the hundreds of years dragged along!

Let us also remember that it was not wrong to marry a sister or brother in the beginning. No physical harm would result. Over two thousand years later -- in the days of Abraham -- a man could still marry a half sister. It was not until the days of Moses that God forbade brothers to marry their half sisters (Lev. 18:6,11).

Back in those antediluvian days, when people lived seven, eight, and nine hundred years, they did not age as we do today. They were able to continue bearing children, undoubtedly, for hundreds of years. After the flood, due to human dissipation and living contrary to God's revealed right laws of living, the life span of man became shortened.

By the time of Abraham, Sarah was considered too old to bear children at age 90, and Abraham thought it impossible for him to become a father again at the age of 100 (see Gen. 17:17). Isaac was born as a direct miracle. But back before the flood, and in the days of Adam, it was different -- and would be today, had not men departed from the laws of living revealed by God. May God help us to STUDY to learn those laws and start living by them today.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Are those saints who arose about the time of Christ's resurrection still alive?

It is a common conception, often taken for granted, that the saints who arose shortly after Christ are still alive. But what does the Bible say?

First of all, let us get the picture clearly in mind. This incident, recorded in Matthew 27:52,53, reads as follows: "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

These were not the first nor the only people to be restored to life from the dead. Notice II Kings, the fourth chapter. Here we read the story of Elisha and the Shunammite's son, whom he raised to life through the power of God. This young man was resurrected many hundreds of years before Christ and yet Paul says in I Corinthians 15:22,23 that Christ is the firstfruits or the first to be made immortal as the Son of God (Rom. 1:4), and that there is a definite order, Christ first, then afterward -- not those saints -- but they that are Christ's at His coming. Now God is not the author of confusion. He would not set a definite order of resurrections and then violate that order.

And yet, what about the Shunammite's son, and what about Lazarus (John 11:5), and the widow's son mentioned in Luke 7:14,15? These were all raised before Christ's resurrection. What happened to them?

If we cast out preconceived ideas, and merely take the Bible as it is, the answer is very clear. They were not made immortal because Paul states in I Timothy 6:16 that Christ alone, of all men who have ever lived, is immortal. I Corinthians 15:22-23 says furthermore: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's AT HIS COMING."

NO ONE BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RESURRECTED TO IMMORTALITY TO THIS DAY -- but those in Christ will be raised NEXT at His second coming! Jesus said that as the Father raised the dead and made alive (quickened) whom He would, so also would the Son do likewise (John 5:21). The answer is simply that these people, from the Shunammite's son down to those raised at the time of Christ's resurrection were made physically alive, undoubtedly healed of the afflictions that might have caused their deaths prematurely. Then they lived out their lives -- human flesh and blood lives. Since they were only mortal, and physically alive again, they must have died.

THUS Scripture reveals that those people merely lived out a natural human life which had been cut short, then died and are even now awaiting the resurrection.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Are babies saved if they die?

God is working out a great purpose in our lives which very few people understand.

We mortal human beings were not born with perfect characters. We came into this world with a carnal mind which from birth is enmity against God's way (Rom. 8:8).

But God is developing perfect, spiritual character in us through experience and suffering. We have all heard the expression, "Well, he certainly learned his lesson that time!" Experience is a great teacher. We can profit from our mistakes if we "learn our lesson" and quit repeating those mistakes.

But most people find it hard to apply this principle to the spiritual realm because they don't know what salvation really is. God is not trying to save everyone now. Only certain ones are being "called." And they are not usually the wise, mighty, or noble (I Cor. 1:26). But no man, either small or great, can come to Christ ". . . except the Father . . . draw him . . ." (John 6:44). The call to salvation is a gift and then we must learn that our own way is wrong, repenting of it, accepting Christ as Saviour and acquiring God's character to fit us to become sons of God -- MEMBERS of the GODHEAD. -- and kings and priests under Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God (Rev. 5:10).

Failing to understand this, some people believe that little children and babies are "saved" if they die. To justify this teaching, they refer to Matthew 18:3-6 which reads: "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become AS little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself AS this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. . . ."

Notice that Jesus didn't say, "children are converted and will be greatest in the kingdom." He was speaking to His disciples, telling them to cultivate characteristics that little children ought to have. He knew that a normal, well-trained child will be humble before his parents and have implicit faith in their love, wisdom, and power to help him. Christ was simply pointing out that His followers need this quality in order to inherit God's Kingdom.

Christ repeated this same principle when He said: ". . . Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. . . ." (Mark 10:13-16). It is the mature, converted Christian who humbles himself as a little child, keeps God's commandments and acquires God's character after a lifetime of experience, who has a right to eternal life in the family of God and enters into the gates of the eternal city (Rev. 22:14).

God's great purpose is that we learn the value of His ways through experience and trial and test and even suffering. Even Christ, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb. 5:8). Before giving us eternal life, with all of its powers and responsibilities, God intends that we learn obedience to His law -- the right and happy way of life.

Little children have not had the opportunity for this spiritual growth. They were born mortal and have had no eternal life in them because they did not receive the Spirit, or life, of God which imparts eternal life. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11). Little children die without having been begotten by this Spirit, or life, of God.

We read that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Yet, He permits many little children to die without knowing the truth. Therefore, he would have to raise them from the dead and give them their first and only opportunity to gain eternal life!

All people -- young or old -- who have died in ignorance of God's laws and ways will be given their opportunity for salvation. This is the Great White Throne Judgment described in Revelation 20:12-13.

If you do not understand this encouraging truth, then write immediately for the article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" which fully explains the subject.

God deals fairly and equally with every person. He does not have the hurried and confusing way of "saving" people that misguided preachers have imagined. We need time to "grow in grace and knowledge." Everyone, including little children, needs character-development which comes before we inherit the precious gift of eternal life.

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Dear Friend:

Should Christians swear by an oath?

The teaching of Jesus and of the early inspired true New Testament Church was not to swear under any circumstances. The Scriptures are very plain on this point: "But above all things, my brethren, SWEAR NOT . . . but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation" (Jas. 5:12).

Jesus Himself personally instructed: ". . . I say unto you, 'Swear not at all; neither by the heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil (the evil one, or of sin)'" (Matt. 5:33-37).

Here Jesus warns against swearing because we cannot perform the oath and we would be taking the name of God in vain.

Not only is it wrong to lie under oath, but we as mortal human beings are so prone to mistaken judgment or lack of knowledge that any error we would make under oath would be to take the name of God in vain. It is sin!

We are merely to say, "Yes," or "No," to the best of our understanding. Then we are not guilty of using God's name in vain. It is the law of the United States to permit affirmation -- that is, say "Yes" or "No" -- without raising the hand to swear.

If men are not to swear by an oath, how are we to account for the fact that God swears by Himself? (Heb. 6:13-17; Ps. 110:4; Luke 1:73.) In Isaiah 45:23, God has sworn that every knee shall yet bow to Him.

The answer is simple. The right to take an oath belongs to God. God alone has infallible judgment. When we are made immortal members of the God family, prophecy proves

that we shall swear by God because we shall be God -- members of the God family. Then we shall have the power to perform our oaths. This we cannot do now.

Jesus, while in the flesh, did not swear, setting us an example (I Pet. 2:21). Men in Old Testament times did swear, but it was not revealed to them that God alone can properly exercise such a right.

The word of a Christian is to be good. One GREAT characteristic of God is the infallibility, the ABSOLUTE surety of His Word! Our word -- our simple "Yes," or "No," is to be worth far more than thousands of oaths, sworn by this or that! Paul did call upon God as his witness! Paul said: ". . . before God, I LIE NOT!" (Gal. 1:20). He affirmed that he was telling the TRUTH, but he did not swear "by" anything.

People are held accountable according to the knowledge possessed. We now know from the very words of Jesus that it is wrong for mortal men to swear by an oath at any time. Taking an oath is a Divine prerogative.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

How should a Christian woman obey her unconverted husband?

This question has troubled many women who have been called to a knowledge of the truth before their husbands have been called. They are faced with a tremendous problem which may cause much needless worry and anxiety until the plain teaching of the Bible concerning this subject is understood.

In Ephesians 5:22-23, we read: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church"

Does this apply to you if your husband is unconverted?

Here is the Biblical answer: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, IF ANY OBEY NOT THE WORD, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives" (I Pet. 3:1).

If your husband doesn't understand the truth, you must not try to convert him by constantly repeating your belief and by insisting that he listen to the broadcast or read the literature. That will only drive him further away from the truth. Rather, you should wait until he questions you concerning a certain truth. Then you should be prepared to give a convincing Biblical explanation.

Peter further instructs Christian women: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands" (I Pet. 3:3-5).

Certainly, controversies will come up in families if they disagree on religion. In such a case, the wife must obey God rather than her husband. For example, if the husband wishes his wife to break the Sabbath Day by doing the family

shopping on Saturday, or by attending a football game or movie with him, she should refuse to do so. However, she should explain in a very kind way that the Sabbath is the day God commanded us to keep holy. She should, in such a case, obey God rather than man. Yet, she should always be submissive in attitude toward her husband and obey her husband when his authority does not conflict with the higher authority or law of God.

Remember, the wife should be in subjection to her husband even though he may not be converted. Though he may never be converted in this life (I Cor. 7:12-16), yet if she obeys him and respects him as the Bible commands, he will in turn love and respect her. As a result, he may be won over by her good example. He may be inspired to want to obey the truth when he sees the life she is living (I Pet. 3:1). In any event, her constant love and respect, and her cheerful recognition of her husband's rightful place as head of the house will result in them both living a happier and fuller life together at this present time.

All of you wives need to respect and submit to your husbands as the Bible commands. This is God's way -- the Christian way. Most women have not understood this subject, and much unhappiness has resulted. Ask God to help you honor your husband as you should.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

How should we view the American custom of celebrating Thanksgiving Day?

The Thanksgiving holiday was established in comparatively recent years. It is, of course, not mentioned in Scripture -- but the principle of attending and celebrating national holidays is made clear in Scripture.

Thanksgiving Day was established by the early colonists, not by any Divine authority. But this in itself does not make it wrong to celebrate with good fellowship. Notice the example of Jesus Christ. In John 10:22 we find that Christ attended the "Feast of Dedication," which was established by the Jews years before to commemorate the purification of the temple at Jerusalem. That day was celebrated on the anniversary of the day that the reestablishment of Divine worship occurred after Antiochus Epiphanes had been vanquished and the temple purified about 165 B.C.

Jesus' attendance at that annual holiday clearly illustrated that it is not wrong to attend or celebrate a national holiday established for an honorable purpose. There was nothing wrong in the Jews' celebrating the dedication of the temple and giving God special gratitude on that day. God led Esther and Mordecai to establish the Feast of Purim in commemoration of the miraculous deliverance of the Jews from bloody Haman (see the last chapter of Esther).

The national holidays celebrated by the Jews have, of course, no special significance for the non-Jew -- just as Thanksgiving Day holds no special significance for our non-American brethren scattered around the world. God permits these customs only if they do not get out of hand. What God expressly forbids is the observance of pagan festivals which were intended as deliberate substitutes for the plan and program of God. We are not to adopt in God's worship those customs which the heathen used in serving their gods. But it is proper and fitting for national leaders to set aside time for the whole nation to give God special thanks for His unique bounty to this nation.

Thanksgiving Day was first celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 after their first harvest had been entirely reaped. On that day, they paid tribute to God for all their bountiful

and undeserved material and spiritual blessings. Thanksgiving Day gradually became neglected and was revived during the Civil War as a day of special national thanksgiving for preserving this nation. This American Thanksgiving Day does not have a pagan origin despite the claims of certain fringe sects. It is not usually celebrated with pagan ceremonial customs in honor of pagan traditions and gods, as are Christmas, Easter and Halloween. If this national holiday becomes corrupted, then it would be high time to reject it -- but generally is not so celebrated today.

This day of national thanksgiving can be enjoyed by our brethren in America with an especially deep understanding because we know that our personal and national prosperity have come solely as the result of God's promise to Abraham -- and as a result of His choice of this nation as the springboard for His Church in this generation.

Our brethren in other nations do not celebrate this holiday any more than we celebrate the Jews' Feasts of Dedication and Purim. What we all do celebrate are those divinely appointed Holy Days and Festivals established by God in His Word for all men. We never regard a national holiday with the same respect, awe and reverence as we do God's Sabbath and His Holy Days. National holidays are just that -- holidays, not Holy Days. They are a time of secular pleasure and gratitude, nothing more.

But in the midst of the Thanksgiving season, let's not neglect Paul's command in Ephesians 5:20 to "give thanks always." Let's not make a mockery of God's special blessings to this nation.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Is money the root of evil?

This question has been asked frequently since many heard Mr. Armstrong say that "money is not THE root of all evil."

Some have very quickly turned to I Timothy 6:10 and, by careless reading, assumed something this text does not say at all. If you will turn to this Scripture in your Bible and carefully study it, you will see where the error is made.

To start with, notice that the text reads, "For the love of money is the root of all evil" It says the "LOVE of money," not merely money, but the "love of money," is the root of all evil. From this you can see that a person with no money could still commit this evil.

The poor and the rich alike can LOVE money. Money by itself is not sin. It is the misuse of money that is sin. Money can be used for good as well as evil.

The second point which is not generally known or understood concerns the expression rendered in the King James Version "the root." If an interlinear Greek-English text is consulted, or some of the more accurate translations, you will find the expression to be "a root." So "love of money" is merely "a root" of all evil. This gives added meaning to the thought. It is a root, not the only root of evil. There are other roots of evil beside the love of money. The correct rendering of this passage is, "For the love of money is a root of all evils" (Panin Translation).

Now it should be plain that money is not the root of evil, but "the LOVE of money is a root of evil."

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Dear Friend:

What are the "souls under the altar" mentioned in Revelation 6:9?

In Revelation 6:9-11 is a description of the fifth seal. When Jesus Christ, who is the Revelator (John is not the revelator), opened the seal, the apostle saw in heaven an altar under which were the souls of people who had been slain. They cried to God, asking Him how long it would be until He would judge the world. Many claim that these verses prove the "immortality of the soul." But do they?

Remember, if one part of this description is literal, then it all must be literal. IF there are souls in heaven, then where would they be in heaven? Notice what John says, "I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain." Where are the souls? UNDER THE ALTAR! This could not be literally true as those who teach the "immortality of the soul" admit. The entire description is actually symbolic.

None of the seven seals could be literal pictures of conditions in heaven. John saw in vision a book or scroll bound with seven seals (ch. 5:1) which only Jesus was worthy to open. As each seal was removed, John saw in vision in heaven a picture of conditions described in the book which are to take place on the earth.

The BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, given by Jesus Himself, of the events described on the scroll under the seals, is found in Matthew 24. The description of the fifth seal is in Matthew 24:9-28. It is symbolic of the tribulation!

Notice that the souls John saw were slain for the Word of God and for their testimony, an exact description of the tribulation! In Revelation 12:17, the Word of God and the testimony are defined as the keeping of the commandments and belief in the Gospel of the Kingdom, which is the message that Jesus testified. The souls which John saw were not immortal entities. The Bible definition for soul is a living, physical creature whether animal or man (Gen. 2:7). The apostle saw in vision the souls or bodies of the martyred saints who were in vision crying out to God, just as Abel's blood cried out to God although he was dead (Gen. 4:10).

The tribulation came on the saints once, during the Middle Ages, and it will come again. The souls that were slain were told to "rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." These two martyrdoms are also mentioned in Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14.

Those who died in the Middle Ages were symbolically given white robes to show that they possessed the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8). And righteousness is described in Psalm 119:172 as keeping the commandments -- the exact thing for which the Devil persecutes the Church.

But why were the souls seen in vision under the altar in heaven, though they were actually buried on the earth? This altar, mentioned also in Revelation 8:3, is the heavenly counterpart of the altar of incense which was in the holy of holies (Heb. 9:4). The altar of incense was an altar for prayer, of which incense was a symbol. The saints are pictured under the altar as a symbol of their prayers to God, which they offered when they yet lived, that He might judge the earth in righteousness and avenge them. The entire description is picturing the coming final tribulation.

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

The WORLD TOMORROW
A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:
The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Have you ever noticed the italics in the King James Version of the Bible and wondered what purpose they served?

Why are the words "the son" italicized in so many verses of the genealogy in the third chapter of Luke?

Italicized words were first used in 1560 when an edition of a Bible, known as the Geneva Bible, appeared. This Bible had been prepared by the Reformers in Geneva and was translated directly from the original Hebrew and Greek. In this Bible there were words which had to be added in English to make the meaning plain, although they were not necessary in the original Hebrew and Greek idioms. No language can be translated word for word. The Reformers distinguished such necessarily added words by italicizing them. This was the most popular Bible obtainable at that time.

There were three versions of the Bible in England by the beginning of the seventeenth century but these translations were by no means correct and, as time went on, the meaning of some of the English words changed. The need for a better translation arose and from this need came our most popular translation of today, the King James or Authorized Version. King James I of England gave this task to a group of fifty-four translators. In this group were High Churchmen, Puritans and the best scholars in the land. They translated from the original Hebrew and Greek and they also made use of italics to distinguish the words they added to make peculiar Hebrew and Greek idioms understandable in English. In most cases italicized words clarify the meaning of certain phrases. But if you will investigate you will find that the translators were not men filled with God's Holy Spirit. Such men, hence, are apt to make mistakes and they did.

You have probably read Mr. Armstrong's article "Is Jesus God?" which explains that Jesus and not the Father is the "Lord" so often mentioned in the Old Testament. The Lord told Moses at the burning bush that His name was I AM. This same Jesus came in the flesh. When the mad mob came to the Garden of Gethsemane for Him, He told them, "I Am he"; but

notice the word "he" is in italics and was not spoken by Jesus. The correct translation is, "He said unto them, I Am." This man-inserted word "he" completely obscures the significant fact behind this event. That multitude knew what Jesus meant and consequently they fell backward. They were facing the God of Israel, I Am.

There is another mistake worthy of our attention in Revelation 20:10. John apparently wrote that the Devil, at the end of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ, would be cast into the lake of fire "where the beast and false prophet are." "Are" is in italics and is a man-supplied word. It is not in the original Greek. But to make the meaning clear in English the words "were cast" ought to have been added. The word "are" falsely implies that the beast and the false prophet are still alive in the lake of fire at the time of Satan's punishment which is after the Millennium. They are put in this fire at the beginning of the Millennium (Rev. 19:20). We know that they will not remain there one thousand years because they, being mortal flesh, will burn up.

The real meaning is that Satan is to be cast into the same lake of fire into which the beast and false prophet were cast a thousand years previously.

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Dear Friend:

Are the last twelve verses of Mark's Gospel inspired?

One of the most controversial points of Scripture is whether Mark 16:9-20 is actually a part of Scripture. Although it appears in the King James Version, many other translations either label this section as an appendix or leave it in the footnotes as in the controversial Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The Moffatt Translation, together with the Goodspeed and others, not only has the long ending found in the King James Version, but it also has another shorter ending.

Since the Bible is a revelation from God about those essential facts which we need to know, but which we have no other way of obtaining, it is very important that we know what constitutes the Bible. If this last portion of Mark's Gospel is spurious, it is time we learned of the fact. If it is genuine, it is vital that we believe what it contains.

Let us briefly understand the facts behind the controversy. The eighth verse of Mark, chapter 16, ends abruptly -- seemingly at a place where it would be natural to have the thought continue. Why? There have been two reasons generally postulated. (1) That Mark originally wrote an ending that has been totally lost, the present endings being merely additions by later copyists. (2) That for some yet unknown reason Mark was not permitted to finish his Gospel, and that probably another person wrote an ending. The scholars are, of course, in confusion as to whether this ending was inspired, or whether it was merely the addition of another copyist. It might be important to bring in at this point the fact that almost all scholars dismiss the secondary short ending found in the translations of Moffatt, Goodspeed, and others. In Hasting's Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels it is plainly stated that this short addition is not found in any of the early Church writers. We can therefore consider it as merely the addition of a copyist.

The longer ending to Mark's Gospel, is however, quoted extremely early. Mark 16:19 is quoted as a part of Mark's account by Irenaeus in Against Heresies (Bk. 111,10,6) between 182 and 188 A.D. There are allusions to it in even earlier writings, although not as a true quotation. Not only did Irenaeus accept it as a part of Mark's Gospel when arguing with "heretics," but, says Hastings: "No writer before Eusebius is known to have rejected them, and their presence in all later MSS (manuscripts) shows that the successors of Eusebius, in spite of his great authority, did not follow his judgment in the matter." (Eusebius was the court favorite and the church historian in the days of Emperor Constantine.)

These facts point plainly to the great antiquity of the longer ending as preserved in the common English versions. But were they inspired?

Let us consider now the common idea that the real ending of Mark was lost. Since the Bible explains that the Word of the Lord endures forever, are we to assume that so important a matter as the resurrection was allowed to perish? Notice chapter 36 of Jeremiah, verse 23. Here one of the scrolls containing the inspired words of the Lord was cut with a penknife and cast into a fire and totally destroyed. Did God leave it to some copyist to guess what it might have contained? No! Baruch, the scribe of Jeremiah, was ordered to write in a new scroll "all the former words that were in the first roll" (verse 28). So one of the basic principles is that God's inspired Word can not perish.

Now turn to Mark 16. Since God does not allow His Word to perish, it is logical that there never were added verses now lost.

The answer is definitely that it is an INSPIRED ending.

If these last verses of Mark's Gospel are left out, the book does not come to an orderly conclusion as does every other book in the Bible. Human writings are filled with error, but the Bible is foolproof, complete, inspired, and wholly preserved through the power of God. These verses are an inspired part of the Word of God.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

How do you derive the figure of 2520 years of punishment for Israel?

This is a basic question involving God's methods of giving us prophetic keys so that we may unlock the mysteries of Bible prophecy. In II Peter 1:19-20, we read that no prophecy is of any private, or individual, interpretation. Therefore we must not interpret a prophecy apart from other scripture and using our own human understanding to arrive at a conclusion. We must compare scripture with scripture to find the scriptural interpretation of Bible symbols.

In this case, we should first understand that in Leviticus 26, God promised Israel great national blessings, including the promises of national greatness to Abraham (verse 42), if they would obey Him. Then God promised that if they obstinately refused to obey Him, He would punish them for a period called seven times.

Now let us see how the Bible interprets the meaning of times. Turn to Revelation 12:6,14 and you will see by examination that the two periods of time mentioned in these verses are exactly the same in length. They amount to 3½ years in both cases. Therefore we know that in a prophetic sense the word times simply means years! ALSO, in verse 6 we see that the Bible itself shows that these years can be divided into 360 days each. This apparently was the original year length. Now multiplying these seven times or years of punishment by 360, we find that this gives us 2520 days.

But where do the years come in? Let us see God's prophetic definition of days when applied to the punishment of nations. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities after the number of days they searched the land; forty days, each day for a year. This is the Bible definition of a day of punishment! God is consistent!

So we see that the seven times or years of Israel's punishment equals 2520 days (7 X 360), and that these days, according to scriptural interpretation, are actually 2520 years.

As a final conclusive piece of evidence, let us examine the well-known "seventy weeks" prophecy found in Daniel 9:21-27. Through the angel Gabriel, God here revealed to Daniel that it would be 69 weeks from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the appearing of the Messiah, and that He would confirm the covenant with many for one week.

Using the day for a year example of Ezekiel 4:6, we find that these 69 weeks would equal 483 years. The principal decree to rebuild Jerusalem was in 457 B.C., and it was exactly 483 years until Jesus was baptized and began his public ministry in 27 A.D.! So we see that God is faithful to perform His word!

Israel's punishment began in 721-718 B.C. and ended in 1803 A.D., the date of the great Louisiana Purchase. So 2520 years later, England and the United States began their rise to world power. For the astonishing proof of this fulfilled prophecy, send today for the free booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." History confirms the words of Jesus, "Thy word is truth!"

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Dear Friend:

What is "the synagogue of Satan"? Many readers have sent us this question. You read of the "synagogue of Satan" in Revelation 2:9: "I know," spoke Jesus Christ, "the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN."

The common idea is that this verse is referring to so-called "International Jewry" -- that is, Gentiles masquerading as Jews.

This is not true!

Let's notice the Bible's own interpretation of this mysterious verse, not Hitler's interpretation as found in Mein Kampf, which so many want to believe.

Notice, this is a synagogue of Satan. A "synagogue" is merely the Hebrew word for "church." Then Jesus is NOT speaking of a race, but of a church that belongs to the Devil!

This church claims that its members are spiritually Jews. Why? Because Jesus said: "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

"He is a Jew," wrote Paul, "which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:29). Prior to conversion, Jews and Gentiles are both of their father, the Devil. That does not, however, mean that they are necessarily part of the church or synagogue of Satan.

So here is a church made up of Gentiles, falsely claiming salvation, falsely claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading herself as a "Christian" Church. And notice, this false church was already developing in the days of the Apostle John -- it had its congregations already in the city

of Smyrna and in Philadelphia, in Asia Minor (Rev. 2:9; 3:9) -- beside congregations in many other cities as we read in I John 2:18-19: ". . . you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come . . . They went out from us, but they were not of us . . . (R.S.V.). Notice that the spirit of antichrist -- the teaching of the synagogue of Satan -- was found in those who left the true Church of God, who departed from the faith, who claimed they were still Jews inwardly but who LIE. The synagogue of Satan refers to the great apostacy that occurred at the close of the apostolic age, the apostacy which gave rise to the host of denominations we have today -- a great mother church and her daughter churches (Rev. 17).

This is not speaking of the Jews who rejected Christ long before the book of Revelation was written. They were never a part of the true Church of God. But the synagogue of Satan -- the church that follows the teachings of antichrist -- that church or synagogue DID DEPART OUT OF THE TRUE CHURCH!

Even though those who are Jews by birth (Gal. 2:15) have made proselytes from the Gentiles (Esth. 8:17), that is not what the synagogue of Satan refers to. Many Gentiles are made citizens of America and Britain (the descendants of the house of Joseph), the same as many Gentiles have been brought into Judah -- but that does not make them part of the "synagogue of Satan." That is not what Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 are referring to. The "synagogue of Satan" is not referring to a race but to that great church and her daughter churches who falsely profess to be "Christian" -- Jews inwardly!

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BOX 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Does "wine" in the Bible mean "grape juice"? What is the answer to this perplexing question? Does it really mean fermented wine?

Prohibitionists object saying, "But how do you know that the original Hebrew and Greek words mean fermented wine? Certain historians say the wine used was nothing more than molasses -- that this grape drink was nonintoxicating and the ordinary drink of people in Christ's time."

Here is the truth about this false idea!

There are thirteen original Hebrew and Greek words for "wine" in our English Bible. How can we know which one means fermented wine? To find the answer, do not go to Aristotle or Pliny, but go to the Bible itself. By comparing its usage, the scriptural meaning of wine can be defined.

One of the original Hebrew words for wine is yayin. This word is first used in Genesis 9:21 where Noah "drank of the wine and was drunken." This wine caused drunkenness! Was it just grape juice or was it molasses?

In Genesis 14:18 we read of Melchizedek -- Jesus Christ -- who "brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." God Himself here gave wine to Abraham. And again, the original Hebrew word was yayin which always means fermented wine. This same Hebrew word is used in Amos 9:14 speaking of the coming Millennium when the people will "plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof." They will drink the same kind of wine that Noah, by overindulgence, became drunk on.

In the New Testament, one original Greek word for wine is oinos. Proof that it is alcoholic is given in the story of the good Samaritan. The Samaritan poured oil and wine on the man's wounds (Luke 10:34), showing that the wine had enough alcoholic content to be used as an antiseptic. Would you pour grape juice or molasses on a wound?

The Greek word oinos is also used in John 2 where Jesus turned water into wine by a divine miracle. It is used in I Timothy 5:23, the command of Paul, "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." This Greek word is also used in Ephesians 5:18, "And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess."

In ancient times it was impossible to preserve grape juice. Except for a short season the "fruit of the vine" was either made into a thick molasses or into wine. Check Hastings Bible Dictionary for the full proof.

"Taken intelligently and with discretion, alcohol (in wine and other drinks) can prolong life expectancy . . . However, even temporary excess or prolonged overdrinking can lead to disaster" (Pasadena Medical Society). It is for our welfare and happiness that God has commanded us not to use alcoholic beverages IN EXCESS and for a wrong purpose. Most people don't know where to draw the line between temperance and excess. Such people better abstain totally until they know they can "be temperate in all things."

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Dear Friend:

Should we preach the Gospel from door to door? This is one of our constant questions.

Jesus Christ has solemnly commanded His true ministers to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations before the end of this present age (Matt. 24:14). He also said that the Gospel must be published among all nations (Mark 13:10).

In fulfilling this divine commission, should we go from house to house distributing literature and talking with people in an effort to convert them? Are we following the example of the early New Testament Church if we go from house to house preaching the Gospel?

There is a passage of Scripture in Acts 20:20 which might seem to support this belief IF only one verse is read and taken out of its proper setting. One might assume that the Apostle Paul went from house to house in order to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the unconverted. But when we read the entire paragraph beginning with the 17th verse, we can understand the intended meaning. The Apostle Paul "...sent to Ephesus, and called the ELDERS of the church ..." and said to them, "I ...have taught YOU publicly, and from house to house" (Acts 20:17-20). Paul was teaching the leaders of the church in their own homes. He was NOT teaching the UNconverted from door to door!

Here is another misunderstood scripture: "And they (the twelve apostles and other disciples), continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness..." (Acts 2:46). Notice that these people were all in harmony. They continued daily with "one accord." They were all of the same belief.

Many had congregated at Jerusalem from many nations in order to attend one of God's annual Festivals, Pentecost. Because they had traveled a long distance and because they had no home in Jerusalem, the brethren who lived there invited them to come to their homes and eat. (The eating of a common meal is referred to as "breaking bread" in the King James Version. For proof, write for Mr. Armstrong's booklet on the Lord's Supper.) The converted brethren ate in the homes of other converted brethren--not in the homes of the unconverted. They did not go to the house of the unconverted to preach to them, rather they preached the Gospel to them in the synagogues and in the temple. They followed the direct command of Jesus Christ to the seventy disciples he had pre-

viously sent to preach the Gospel. He said: "...Go NOT from house to house" (Luke 10:7).

The Apostle Paul had his own hired house at Rome where he "received all that CAME UNTO HIM, preaching the kingdom of God" which Jesus had commanded His true servants to preach (Acts 28:30). Paul did NOT go from house to house preaching to sinners and unconverted people. He preached to them in the synagogue. After some became converted leaders of God's true Church, then the Apostle Paul visited and taught them in their homes.

Today the Gospel is being preached to the entire nation by radio. Anyone is at liberty to listen or to close his ears and reject it--merely by turning the dial of his radio. The Gospel is also being published. It is being sent free of charge to all who request it. And, also, as in the ~~example given in the New Testament, we go into~~ the homes of converted brethren who request that we do so in order to counsel with and baptize them. But we do not go, uninvited, into the homes of unconverted people in order to teach them. We should never attempt to force God's truth on anyone. In Matthew 7:6, Christ showed that the truth is too precious for that.

This is the example of Jesus Christ, the twelve apostles, and the Apostle Paul. Let us follow it.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

When was the Bible divided into chapters and verses?

The system of dividing the Bible into chapters and verses is man-made and of comparatively recent origin. The Bible, as inspired by God, had no such divisions.

Chapters and verses are helpful in finding passages in the Bible, but the division into chapters and verses has often obscured the meaning of Scripture by breaking sentences in the middle or by separating thoughts that should be joined together. Too many people merely lift a verse out of its setting and read a false meaning into it because they don't read the context in surrounding verses.

Perhaps the first attempted division of the Bible was undertaken by the early Jews. During the time following the Babylonian captivity, they marked off the scrolls into divisions and subdivisions. This system was quite different from the one that is in use today, however.

The first modern system of dividing the Bible into sections was devised by Cardinal Hugo in the mid-thirteenth century. Hugo, who was compiling a concordance to the Latin Vulgate Version of the Bible, found it necessary to divide the Bible into sections. These sections basically became the chapters that we are acquainted with today. As yet there were no divisions into verses.

Later, in 1445, Mordecai Nathan, a Jew, divided the Hebrew Old Testament into chapters. He and a later scholar by the name of Athias are accredited with the further breakdown of the Old Testament chapters into verses.

In 1551 the New Testament was similarly subdivided into verses. This work was accomplished by the famous English printer, Robert Stephens, while riding on horseback from Switzerland to France. Ever since that time, the Bible has retained the present chapter and verse system.

Being man-devised, such a system is not perfect. In some places, Stephens' divisions are inaccurate and tend to break the sense of the subject. Because of such imperfections, a new system of supplementing the chapter-verse division with paragraph arrangements has been adopted in many of the newer revisions of the Bible. This often helps the reader to better comprehend the subject matter.

It must always be remembered that these division systems were not inspired by God. They have been devised by men to provide an aid for studying the Bible.

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Dear Friend:

Do you realize that if it is wrong to do a certain thing, it is wrong to harbor THOUGHTS of that thing in your mind?

"All have sinned," says the Scripture.

What is sin, anyway?

Satan ought to know -- and he is the invisible influence who sways the course of this world. Hollywood is considered by many as the world's mecca of sin. On the newsstands in Hollywood may be found a very worldly booklet, written in a very light, "breezy," and satirical vein, titled "How to Sin in Hollywood." It gives a very worldly definition of sin -- perhaps the definition of the very Devil who devotes his time to enticing people into it. The definition is expressive, and not far from the truth. Here it is: "Sin is thinking thoughts you ought not to be thinking about things you ought not to be doing while you are thinking that kind of thoughts."

God's definition is: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The law of "LOVE," as defined by the Ten Commandments. Jesus said: "That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness (violations of the law -- the Ten Commandments) . . ." (Mark 7:20-22).

"ALL have sinned," says the Scripture. And what man -- especially what Christian, is there who has not time and again experienced the struggle against sin described by the Apostle Paul? "What I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do . . . For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Who is there who has not LOST that struggle, perhaps many times?

Of course no man, of himself, can live above sin. "With men it is impossible," said Jesus, "but with God all things are possible." And Paul continues (Rom. 8) to show that the only DELIVERANCE from this "body of death" is through Jesus Christ, and the indwelling power of God's Holy Spirit -- "that the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the law might be fulfilled in us,

who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Yes, but we have OUR part in it, too. And it all centers in the MIND.

REPENTANCE of sin means, literally, to change one's mind in respect to sin. If we repent, and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, the promise is we SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit . . . "and be renewed in the Spirit of your mind" (Eph. 4:23) -- the presence of the Holy Spirit is the RENEWING of the mind.

How does sin actually happen? ". . . every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desire), and enticed. Then when lust (the desire IN THE MIND) hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15).

The TEMPTATION is in the mind. When you think about the thing that tempts you -- let your mind dwell on it -- turn it over in your mind -- whether it be a desire to GO some place, to DO something, or to HAVE something you know is wrong -- that thinking about it finally conceives -- leads to action -- and breeds SIN. You finally DO the thing you kept thinking about, wanting to do. If you keep thinking about it, after a while you'll be UNABLE to resist it. That's why you've lost so many of these struggles against sin -- you kept thinking about it, desiring it, wanting it.

The way to prevent sin is to let God's Spirit fill the mind. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2).

The way to put a thing OUT of the mind is to put an opposite thought IN the mind. So often I have noticed parents of babies strive so hard to "shush" up the baby when it is crying in church. There's something in the baby's mind that is causing its crying or fretting. Just saying "shush!" or commanding the baby to stop fussing doesn't usually get very good results. We have raised four children, and long ago I learned the trick of quieting the baby by getting its mind on something else. Instead of commanding it to stop crying, attract its attention with some new object -- get it interested in playing with that object (I have often used my fountain pen with excellent results) -- and before you know it the child will forget all about its crying.

Try using this same method on yourself. But instead of material or worldly things, a mature person should use self-discipline and set his mind on spiritual things. Open your Bible. Put the study of some spiritual subject in your mind. Next time you are tempted, try it. Pray over it. Ask God to help you. See how rapidly you begin to win the victory over temptation and sin, and how marvelous will be your spiritual and CHARACTER growth.

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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Dear Friend:

Some seem to think Christians should never encounter difficulties, meet trials or tests, but be blessed continually with smooth sailing!

Does the Bible teach smooth sailing for true Christians? Did the men of God, whose lives pleased God, as recorded in the Bible, have only an easy time of it, or were they constantly meeting trials, tests, troubles of every sort -- being continually forced to cry out to God for deliverance?

Listen to God's own instruction: "MANY are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Eternal delivereth him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19).

"For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. . . . They are not in trouble as other men . . . Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. . . . For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning (Ps. 73:3-14).

". . . We must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. -3:12).

"If we SUFFER, we shall also reign with him. . . ." (II Tim. 2:12).

But is God unfair? Does He hate Christians and punish them, while He loves the ungodly and prospers them? Not at all!

God does not bless the ungodly with wealth -- they acquire it usually in one or both of two ways: by setting their heart and mind on acquiring it, and following through this purpose to the exclusion of all else, until without realizing it, the pursuit of MONEY becomes the pursuit of their god, destroying the soul; or by dishonest means.

But God does bless those who seek Him first -- not always with great monetary wealth, but always, in the end, with material prosperity they never would have had otherwise.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," admonished Jesus, "and all these things (material prosperity in shelter, food, clothing, etc.) shall be added unto you." That is Jesus' PROMISE. God loves to see His servants prospering. So He says through David and John. He corrects and chastens every son whom He loves. He allows His true children to suffer much -- to fall into troubles, difficulties, to face trials and tests for their strengthening. But if we endure these tests, hard though they may be -- and if we seek first our God, His righteousness, and His Kingdom, putting material interests second in our hearts, then in His own due time God will always prosper His children even in a material way!

Moses suffered affliction in order to lead the children of God, choosing this rather than the riches of the king's palace and the pleasures of sin for a season.

David suffered constant criticism and false accusation, his enemies continually tried to unseat him, and his trials were so great sometimes it seemed God would never come to his rescue -- yet God always did! Truly these trials teach us to be patient -- for it often seems an eternity before God finally delivers us.

Every Christian shall suffer persecution, and meet fiery trials, sorrows, troubles, tests of faith. All our readers who are Christians will understand. Let us not murmur or grumble. Let us have FAITH, and endure in our faith patiently. And above all, let us pray one for another, and help one another!

Let us continue to pray earnestly for one another, and we shall march forward through Christ to great victory!

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

The WORLD TOMORROW
A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:
The PLAIN TRUTH
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

BOX 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

Frequently the question is asked, "Why don't you have prayer on your program as is done on other religious broadcasts?"

There is no other broadcast like *The* WORLD TOMORROW. It is unique and different from others in many ways. There are no pleas for money. The literature is paid for in advance so that it may be sent free to those requesting it.

The reason why Mr. Armstrong does not pray on the broadcast is because the Bible forbids it! Notice the teaching of Jesus Christ: "And WHEN thou prayest, thou shalt NOT be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. . . ." (Matt. 6:5).

Many of the people listening to *The* WORLD TOMORROW broadcast are unconverted. They are not interested in hearing a flowery prayer and sentimental words. We do not pray to be heard by the man on the streets. Instead, we follow Christ's instructions: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret. . . ." (Matt. 6:6).

Jesus Christ said to pray privately -- NOT on the street corners or over the air. Our prayers are for God to hear, not the world!

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Box 111, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend:

We are often asked how the Ten Commandments could be a law of LOVE.

Here is a way of explaining what love means -- an explanation which most Christians probably never heard before!

When the Eternal RULER of the universe first placed man on this planet earth, all was perfect harmony and beauty. There was PEACE. There was PLENTY. There was BEAUTY. There was every need and facility for HAPPINESS.

In order to make POSSIBLE for man continued peaceful, happy, prosperous and joyful existence, the Eternal God designed that all things operate according to fixed, inexorable LAWS. We have the laws of physics and the laws of chemistry.

Then, of necessity, there is the great, fundamental, invisible SPIRITUAL LAW which regulates man's relationship with his CREATOR, and man's relationship with fellow MAN. The purpose of this inexorable SPIRITUAL law, like all of God's laws, is to make possible man's HAPPINESS -- to bring man PEACE and JOY -- to make life REALLY worth living!

When this spiritual law is broken, then varying kinds of unhappiness, fear and worry, strife and war, come in varying degrees AS THE PENALTY.

That great over-all SPIRITUAL law is just simply LOVE! It is LOVE in continual action. It is love manifest and expressed! It is love, first to God the CREATOR, in reverence, adoration, gratitude and OBEDIENCE -- (because He is the SUPREME CREATOR-RULER who alone KNOWS what is right for us and has power to give it); and it is love, second to FELLOW MAN, expressed in peaceableness, co-operation, service. It is a way that travels the very OPPOSITE DIRECTION from greed, vanity, hate, strife, or war.

This great SPIRITUAL LAW is a PRINCIPLE -- A WAY OF LIFE -- it is an ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART. It is the correct way to think, and to LIVE. It is not merely moral principle -- it is divinely-set-in-motion SPIRITUAL LAW, and it operates automatically and inexorably!

But since man by nature does not know WHAT LOVE IS, God had to define this principle of LOVE by TEN DISTINCT POINTS -- the TEN COMMANDMENTS.

The Apostle John explained it this way: "For this is the LOVE of GOD, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (I John 5:3).

"LOVE," wrote Paul, "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). Since no one can fulfill the law if he is breaking it, then love must be the KEEPING of the ten points of the law! He who breaks any one is guilty of all (Jas. 2:10), and is, therefore, NOT loving his neighbor.

The Creator also made man a FREE MORAL AGENT -- and for a purpose! FREE TO DECIDE WHICH WAY OF LIFE HE WOULD FOLLOW! Ever since Adam in the Garden of Eden, man, somehow, has believed that the law of God is wrong and that man is sufficient unto himself. Man has followed the ways of vanity and of GREED ever since.

"Why, PRIDE," man reasons, "and the desire to GET, to accumulate, to HAVE, is the impelling motive that stimulates EFFORT, produces incentive for endeavor, spurs man on toward PROGRESS." "COMPETITION," men believe, "is the very LIFE of trade, commerce and business. It spurs men on, leads to greater production, makes for PROGRESS!" That is the philosophy of this world! That is the opposite of LOVE. That is the opposite of the TEN COMMANDMENTS!

AND THAT VERY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, PUT TO 6000 YEARS OF PRACTICE, IS THE ONE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL OUR HUMAN WOES!

That philosophy means that man has REBELLED against the rule and the law of God! God rules by His LAW OF LOVE -- the TEN COMMANDMENTS. But God, for a great PURPOSE, made man a free moral agent. MAN CHOSE TO REJECT THE RULE AND THE LAW OF GOD, and instead has tried to govern HIMSELF and his fellows. THAT IS MAN'S GREAT MISTAKE! What man needs is to return to obedience to the Law of God which alone can restore order out of chaos!

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Dear Friend:

Have you thought of religion as a life of gloom -- a sort of living, painful penance merely to be endured -- a lot of "don'ts," and giving up of every pleasure that makes life worth living -- with all the rewards to be collected in the hereafter?

Jesus said: ". . . I am come that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Let us profit by the words of George Romanes, a British psychologist of the last century: "Some men are not conscious of the cause of their misery. . . . For the most part they conceal the fact as well as possible from themselves by occupying their minds with society, sport, frivolity of all kinds, or if intellectually disposed, with science, literature, business. . . . This, however, is but to fill a starving belly with husks. . . . He may cheat himself for a time -- especially if he be a strong man -- into the belief that he is nourishing himself by denying his natural appetite; but he soon finds he was made for some altogether different kind of food."

Too often we fill our poor, hungry souls with the empty husks of this world's entertainments and amusements, with society, strenuous business interests, or even an empty FORM of religion? It doesn't SATISFY. Do you know why?

You were MADE for an altogether different kind of food. You were so made, realize it or not, that you crave real SPIRITUAL food. Food such as only God can supply.

God is the Creator. God is composed of SPIRIT (John 4:24). "He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things . . . For IN HIM we live, and move, and have our being. . ." (Acts 17:25,28).

Unless you are drinking in of His SPIRIT, thus living IN HIM, feeding continually upon His spiritual food, you are denying your natural appetite. And this explains the real cause of most of the unrest, dissatisfaction and unhappiness in the world!

Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God!" (Luke 4:4). And the words of God, as spoken by Jesus and recorded in the scriptures, "they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). They that worship God must worship Him IN SPIRIT, and IN TRUTH (John 4:24).

This can be done only if you yield completely in unconditional surrender to His written will, and through Jesus Christ, have received and are continually drinking in of HIS SPIRIT. And that a blessedness! what a JOY to drink in of the soul-satisfying waters of God's Holy Spirit through communion with Him in honest, sincere prayer, and through a real intelligent, willing study of the Holy Scriptures! It is a joy nothing else can give.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for THEY SHALL BE FILLED!" Righteousness is obedience to God's will -- His commandments (Ps. 119:172). It is obedience that makes us happy.

If you have never yet fully known the peace, the happiness, the indescribable JOY that can flood like sunshine through your soul -- or if, like so many, you have neglected it -- turn today to God in full repentance -- to the God who so loves you that He gave His only begotten Son that you might have His joy -- eternally!

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Dear Friend:

The question "Is it a sin to dance?" has been in the minds of many.

God's Word shows us that "sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Does dancing transgress God's law?

It is obviously WRONG to dance in a lustful manner or in a smoke-filled night club. This wrong kind of dancing characterizes the vast majority of dancing situations today! BUT there is a right kind of dancing. There is "a time to dance" (Eccl. 3:4).

The Bible is full of examples of dancing (Ex. 15:20). Miriam and the women of Israel rejoiced in the dance over their deliverance from Egypt. In I Samuel 18:6, the women came out singing and dancing to greet Saul as he returned after a military victory. We see in II Samuel 6:14 that David, a man after God's own heart, danced with all his might.

Psalm 149:3 shows the converted people in God's Kingdom are to praise God "in the dance." God specifically states that He will cause those people to dance and rejoice together over their deliverance from captivity (Jer. 31:4,13). In the account of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), we are given an example of how joy may be expressed in dancing (verse 25).

We find no mention in the Bible as to the various dance steps used as they are of secondary importance. It is the mood and attitude of JOY that is essential for the kind of dancing God wants us to do.

It is not sinful or "worldly" for real Christians -- young or old -- to relax and rejoice with others of godly faith in a clean wholesome atmosphere and surroundings.

Remember! God says: "There IS a time to dance" (Eccl. 3:4), so let's do it at the right time and in the right way!

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Dear Friend:

Who were the Nicolaitanes? The doctrines of this body of heretics has never ceased to puzzle Church historians. They have always imagined that the Nicolaitanes had to be a small sect which separated from the great worldly body of professing Christians. It has never occurred to the scholars that the Nicolaitanes might be that great body of professing Christians which has departed from the true Church of God!

What does the word "Nicolaitane" mean?

It has nothing to do with the deacon Nicolas (Acts 6:5), as some have assumed. The original Greek word "Nicolaitane" means one who is "a follower of Nicolas." Who was that Nicolas of whom they were followers? God reveals that He hates the doctrine of that man (Rev. 2:15).

But what does the name "Nicolas" come from? It comes from two Greek words -- nikos and laos. Nikos means "conqueror" or "destroyer" and laos means "people." The original Nicolas was the conqueror or destroyer of the people! That was merely the Greek word for Nimrod -- the original arch-rebel who conquered the people and founded man-made civilization within two centuries after the Flood!

While Nimrod was alive, by his dictatorial rule he put himself in the place of God. And when he died, his admirers CONTINUED TO WORSHIP HIM AS A DIVINE HERO. They CALLED HIM "BAAL," a name found throughout the Old Testament. "Baal" means "master" or "lord." It was only natural that Nimrod should bear that name, for he put himself in place of the true Lord or Master of all the universe.

But "Baal" was not Nimrod's only other NAME! HE HAD MANY others. One of these names was "Santa," commonly used throughout Asia Minor. This name of Nimrod may be found in Lempriere's Classical Dictionary.

Now you might ask, "Is there any connection between Nimrod, who was called 'Santa,' and 'Santa Claus'?"

"SANTA CLAUS" is but a shortened form of "Santa Nicholas" or "Saint Nicholas." The followers of "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod are termed "NICOLAITANES" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT! So those people -- who falsely called themselves "Christians" -- continued to honor Nimrod in the days of the Apostle John! -- just as they do today!

Today, on what date is "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod -- especially HONORED? Is it December 25? Yes! But why?

The Romans used to celebrate December 25 as the Saturnalia -- the birthday of Saturn or Nimrod. And is it any wonder that December 25, Nimrod's purported birthday, is STILL CELEBRATED IN HONOR OF "NICHOLAS" -- NIMROD -- THE FIRST GREAT DESPOT.

Yes, Santa Claus -- just a shortened form of Nicolas, the Greek name for Nimrod -- is Nimrod deified. It is he -- and not Jesus Christ -- whom the professing Christians serve to this day, and whom they honor at Christmas! And there were individuals in the Church of God in those days who tolerated such practices and even indulged in them!

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Dear Friend:

Many people ask the question: "My employer has told me he will have to fire me if I do not begin working on the Sabbath. Jobs are very hard to find in this locality. Should I keep the Sabbath regardless, and trust God for another job?"

The immediate question that always comes into mind is: "How am I going to support my family?" To obey God takes real courage and faith in God. We know we have His sure promise that He will provide for our needs. God may allow you to be temporarily jobless to test your faith, but as long as you obey Him and follow Christ -- and keep looking for a job -- you will find work. God will not forsake you (Deut. 4:30-31). But there is one thing to remember, you must be a hard and trusted worker. God will not intervene for one who is lazy! We must not look to the physical circumstances involved, but trust God in BELIEVING FAITH.

Some who thought they would lose their jobs have been surprised that their employers changed their minds about firing them. Others, who have lost their jobs for refusing to break God's Sabbath Day have soon had equal or better jobs!

We are told in Matthew 6:31-33, ". . . take no thought (anxious thought or worry), saying, What shall we eat? or . . . Wherewithal shall we be clothed . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The person who accepts God at His Word, and is willing to STEP OUT on faith, exercising it, and trusting Him to supply every need, is a person upon whom God will look with favor and to whom God will see that work is supplied.

Pray for God's guidance and intervention, so that you will have His help in finding the right job should you be fired. Then you will keep your job, or find a better one if you do lose your present job!

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Dear Friend:

What is the Biblical NAME for the Church? The Bible gives the true NAME of the Church in twelve different places. Twelve, remember, is God's complete number.

In five passages where the true NAME of the Church appears, the entire Body of Christ -- the Church as a whole -- is indicated. Thus when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is "The Church of God." Here are these five passages:

1) Acts 20:28. The admonition to the elders is to "feed The CHURCH OF GOD."

2) I Corinthians 10:32. "Give no offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to The CHURCH OF GOD."

3) I Corinthians 11:22. ". . . or despise ye The CHURCH OF GOD, and shame them that have not?"

4) I Corinthians 15:9. Paul wrote: "For I persecuted The CHURCH OF GOD."

5) Galatians 1:13. This verse repeats the one last given -- "I persecuted The CHURCH OF GOD."

Notice that Paul did not call the true Church "Catholic" or "Protestant." Nowhere is the true Church called after the name of a MAN or after the name of a doctrine.

Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, the true Church is called "The CHURCH OF GOD," often in connection with the place of location. Here are four more passages:

6) I Corinthians 1:2. "The CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

7) II Corinthians 1:1. "The CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

8) I Timothy 3:5. In speaking of a local elder in a local congregation, Paul wrote Timothy: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of The CHURCH OF GOD?"

9) I Timothy 3:15. ". . . behave thyself in the house of God, which is The CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD." Here it is The Church of the Living God.

In speaking of the local congregations collectively, not as one general Body, but as the total of all local congregations, the Bible name is "The CHURCH OF GOD." Here are the final three verses of the twelve which name the Church:

10) I Corinthians 11:16. ". . . we have no such custom, neither The CHURCHES OF GOD."

11) I Thessalonians 2:14. "For ye, brethren, became followers of The CHURCHES OF GOD which IN JUDAEA are in Christ Jesus."

12) II Thessalonians 1:4. "So that we ourselves glory in you in The CHURCHES OF GOD."

These verses prove the NAME of the true Church. Denominations not bearing this name could not be God's true Church. And of all the churches that do bear the name, only one could be the true Church of God -- that one which OBEYS ALL the commandments of God and maintains the FAITH delivered once for all time -- the one which grows in truth. All others are counterfeit, even though they may have the knowledge about the true NAME of God's Church.

Since Christ is the Head of the Church, Paul also called the various congregations "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16) -- but the actual NAME is the CHURCH OF GOD. It is kept in the NAME OF THE FATHER (John 17:11).

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Dear Friend:

People quite often ask, "Is Michael, who was called 'your prince' in Daniel 10:21, the person who later became Christ?"

There is a church which contends that Michael, who was called "your prince," was Christ. Is this assumption true?

Christ certainly was, and is, a Prince (Dan. 9:25). But this scripture does not make Him a prince who was named "Michael."

The angelic being who gave Daniel the vision recorded in chapter 10 told Daniel, ". . . the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, ONE OF THE chief princes, came to help me . . ." (verse 13). Notice that there was a prince of Persia. That prince is another spirit being of equal rank to Michael.

Notice, also, in this verse that Michael is called "ONE OF the chief princes." This clearly indicates that among the spirit beings there is more than one "chief prince" -- more than one of first rank! The combined power of Prince Michael and the prince who delivered the vision to Daniel (Gabriel) was enough that they were able to subdue the Prince of Persia, an evil, rebellious spirit prince.

But Christ is far superior to any of these created spirit princes. There are no other princes of equal rank to Christ. But there are others of Michael's rank! Christ is not Michael. Michael is "your prince" -- the spirit set to serve Israel. Michael and the other princes over the nations are all subject to Christ who is Supreme Ruler under the Father!

The chief princes among God's created spirit beings have great power and authority over the nations. But what is the limit of their authority? How far does their authority and power extend? In Jude 8 and 9 we read: "These filthy dreamers (evil men) . . . despise dominion (authority), and speak evil of dignities (those who are given authority). Yet Michael the archangel (a chief prince), when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring

against him a railing accusation, but said, 'The Lord (Christ -- who is Michael's superior) rebuke thee.'

Notice this scripture! Evil men have no respect for those in authority, but Michael, who is an archangel, showed respect to the office of authority of Satan the Devil. By this scripture we can see very clearly that Michael does not have greater rank than Satan.

But Christ does have greater rank. If Michael did have greater rank, he would have given the Devil a command -- he could have done the rebuking himself, instead of saying, "The Lord rebuke thee."

Turn to Matthew 4:10. Here we find Christ said to Satan: "Get thee hence, Satan" Christ gave Satan a sharp command. Christ was of greater rank and authority. Christ was in authority over Satan because He created him. Christ is the One through whom the Father created all things (Col. 1:15-16; John 1:3); Lucifer, who became Satan, was but a created being (Ezek. 28:14-15).

Christ has been in authority over Satan since he was created as Lucifer. But Michael was not in authority over him and could not give him a command: he could only pass on a rebuke -- a command -- from the Lord, Christ (Jude 9).

It is absolutely proven that Michael could not have been Christ! Michael is, instead, an angelic being who is put in authority over other lesser angelic beings in God's government. He was one of the leaders among God's faithful angels. But he dared not usurp authority and command Satan, who is an unfaithful, fallen cherub.

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Dear Friend:

We are often asked, "What should a person do about Sabbath visitors?"

Unconverted friends do come to visit on the Sabbath occasionally. If our friends come on the Sabbath, should we dismiss them just because it is the Sabbath Day? What should we talk about?

First, guide the conversation with your unconverted friend so that it becomes constructive. For example, you can talk about world news. This would be obeying Christ's command to watch world news (Matt. 25:13), although you need not necessarily refer to scriptures to antagonize your unconverted friend.

As it is the Sabbath Day, you naturally should have your Bible and notes in plain view -- do not be ashamed to admit that you have been studying the Bible. The open Bible on the table will invariably send your unconverted friends away rapidly! Or they may become interested in what you are studying. Tell them what it is if they ask.

Your keeping of the Sabbath is a SIGN that sets you apart from those who follow this world. Undoubtedly you may have to face questions about the Sabbath. Tell your guests only the minimum. You may have to explain this is just not the day on which to socialize and do business.

If these should be out-of-town guests, you should be hospitable and even prepare them a meal if the need arises. Christ would be a perfect host in such a circumstance. It is wise to keep a certain amount of food on hand for such emergencies so as not to do heavy preparation should out-of-town guests drop by on the Sabbath.

Should neighbors make a habit of dropping by on the Sabbath, it would become necessary to explain your belief and request that they visit some other day.

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Dear Friend:

Who are the "other sheep" of John 10:16?

Christ said: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I will bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and ONE shepherd" (John 10:16). "This fold" refers to Judah (the Jews) who were living in Palestine. Christ came to His own (the Jews) and His own received Him not (John 1:11). Christ was born of the tribe of Judah, but the Jews rejected Him saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

Who are the "other sheep" then? The "other sheep" are the other tribes of Israel. Israel (Jacob) had more than one son -- he had TWELVE sons! The "other sheep" then are the descendants of the other eleven sons of Jacob. Christ referred to them (the other tribes of Israel) as the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6). The Jews referred to the other tribes of Israel as "the dispersed" among the Gentiles (John 7:35). Israel and Judah became two separate nations (houses) during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son.

For proof of where the other tribes of Israel were at that time and where they are today, read Mr. Armstrong's booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." The "other sheep" of the lost tribes of Israel were not in Palestine.

Some have thought the Gentiles represent the other sheep. Yet, it must be remembered that only the descendants of Jacob (Israel) are referred to as SHEEP in all the Bible. The Gentiles can obtain salvation through Christ but nationally they are never referred to as sheep (see Eph. 2:11-13).

Christ concluded by saying: "And there shall be ONE fold, and ONE shepherd." When will the house of Israel AND the house of Judah be ONE FOLD and have ONE KING and ONE SHEPHERD? The prophet Ezekiel gives the answer (Ezek. 37:22-23). David, resurrected, will be that KING with Christ, the CHIEF SHEPHERD (verses 24-26). Ezekiel 34:23, Jeremiah 30:9, and Psalm 89:27 explain that David is to be RESURRECTED from the

dead and made king. The resurrection from the dead occurs at Christ's second coming to this earth (I Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 11:13, 39-40; I Cor. 15:20-23, 50-53). Christ will then establish the new covenant with the house of Israel AND the house of Judah (Heb. 8:8; Jer. 31:31-33). Thus, the "other sheep" are the other tribes of Israel that left the land of Palestine but who will return again along with Judah and come under the rule of Christ through the resurrected David (see Jer. 50:4-6).

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Dear Friend:

We are often asked, "What can I do when my unconverted mate objects to my studying and praying?"

One of life's most important lessons is the proper use of TIME.

Husbands are to provide for their own houses (I Tim. 5:8), and to love their wives (Eph. 5:25). Wives are told to submit themselves to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), and not to be idle (Prov. 31:27).

All of these things require TIME. Solomon said, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Eccl. 3:1). There is a time to pray and to study.

But, we must find the right time for prayer and study. We should find time to pray when unconverted members of the family are either away or preoccupied. We express love to them, not by running to the prayer closet every time they come into the house, but by spending time in sincere, earnest prayer when they aren't there. When they are home, that time can be used to show our love to them, to be an example of good Christian living. If we neglect the unconverted members of our family by spending excessive time in idle praying while they are home, we will only succeed in driving them further from God, and our prayers will have been in vain.

If your mate remains at home all day, you should plan to arise early in the morning, praying before he is awake. Later, it would be a simple matter to spend just a few minutes -- even as little as five or ten -- in the bathroom if necessary, in private prayer.

With wisdom and discretion, study and prayer can be handled so as to avoid any type of conflict. Do not study in one position at a table or desk hour after hour, ignoring your mate on the Sabbath! STUDY, yes! But study when he is reading the paper, or occupied with something else. Remember, it is probably only because your obvious preoccupation with study and prayer makes your mate feel guilty that he objects. Try to make it fit into the day as conveniently as possible, without calling special attention to it by flaunting your "righteousness" openly before him.

Nearly always, problems of this type arise when one member is lacking in wisdom, and trying to appear OVERLY RIGHTEOUS -- as a sanctimonious, studious, "spiritual" person -- but from a wrong motive! If study and prayer is done in the attitude of self-righteousness, all the while thinking how "carnal," how "evil" your mate is for NOT studying and praying -- he will be immediately antagonized, and your study and prayer will have been in vain in the sight of God anyhow!

Do spend enough time in fervent prayer. Prayer is needed to draw close to God and to grow in faith, but spend time in prayer when unconverted members of your family won't be constantly noticing it. Remember it is the kind of earnest prayer and Bible study that counts -- not idle time spent in prayer to be noticed by others.

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

The WORLD TOMORROW

A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST

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Dear Friend:

Is the practice of cremation wrong? Does it prevent a person being resurrected?

The practice of cremation is of ancient origin. It was used in the idolatrous fire worship of paganism. Notice what the Encyclopedia Americana says:

"In primitive cultures which have survived into modern times cremation is widely practiced. Burning is not only supposed to destroy the dead body most effectively and thus to prevent the possible return of the ghost, but since fire serves also as a purifying agency, it is often considered a good means of warding off evil spirits... Besides discouraging the ghost from haunting the corpse and its former abode, and serving as a means of purification from evil spirits and the contamination associated with the dead body, cremation has also, in some instances, as among the Hindus and-- [the]--Chukchi of Siberia, been associated with a belief in a heavenly abode for the spirit of the deceased. The flames of the funeral pyre, leaping upward, are thought to facilitate the ascent of the soul." (Article, Cremation)

Nimrod and Semiramis were the originators of paganism and it was Nimrod who first bore the title of "Moloch." In his honour children were made to "pass through the fire to Moloch" (Jer. 32:35)--a pagan practice that God condemned! (Lev. 18:21).

Parents even sacrificed their children to Moloch, "the belief being cherished that the fire that consumed them also perfected them, and made them meet for eternal happiness... Both the passing through the fire, and the burning in the fire, were essential rites in the worship of Moloch or Nimrod" (The Two Babylons by Hislop, p. 315).

Examples in the Bible show that a simple burial was the custom of the Hebrews who lived during that time. (Gen. 25:9; 35:20). Jacob, for example, was embalmed (an Egyptian custom) and buried (Gen. 50:5, 26). Christ was buried, not cremated! "Burning was looked upon as abominable, as injury to the dead (Josh. 7:25; ... II Kings 23:20; Amos 2:1)... Not to be buried was a terrible disgrace which one could hardly wish even to one's greatest enemy." (Encyclopedia Biblica, Article, The Dead)

It is our absolute recommendation that the body be simply buried. In cases where a person has no control over the disposition of the body, however, we should remember that it is not so important what happens to our bodies after death as it is that of having lived a new life after conversion and having died in Christ.

Whether a body becomes dust OR ashes ("burnt" dust) the Bible promises that it will be in the resurrection (Acts 24:15; Rev. 20:12-15). Through the power of God, all cremated bodies will be resurrected!

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