

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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What is the *Image* of the BEAST?

UNLESS you worship the "Image of the Beast,"
you will be martyred—killed!

But IF you worship this "Image" you shall suffer, without mercy, the
SEVEN LAST PLAGUES—the wrath of Almighty GOD!!

MILLIONS, right here in America, are worshipping the "image of the Beast" today, *and do not know it!* The time is soon coming when those who refuse this false way of worship shall be **MARTYRED!**

And it is those, of *this very present generation*, who are participating in this popular idolatry who shall suffer the unspeakable tortures of the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES.

The time is **AT HAND!** All—including *you*—must soon decide. Either you shall have to suffer at the hand of **MAN**, or at the Hand of **GOD!**—unless, by heeding the warning and obeying Luke 21:32-36, you are accounted worthy of escape by divine miracle.

WHY are all the churches *baffled* over the true identity of this "Image?" WHY?? It is **PLAIN** to those who are willing to know!

Identity of the "Beast"

The "BEAST" is described in the 13th chapter of Revelation, verses 1 to 10. This weird symbolic "BEAST"—obviously a *symbol* used to picture a real person or power—rose up out of the sea. It was like a leopard, its feet were as the feet of a

bear, its mouth like a lion. It had seven heads and ten horns, and ten crowns on the ten horns.

A complete article in the January-February number of The **PLAIN TRUTH**, made plain and certain the identity, as revealed by the 2nd and 7th chapters of Daniel, and the 17th of Revelation.

The "Beast" is the **ROMAN EMPIRE**. It had a "deadly wound" in 476 A.D. Its deadly wound was healed in 554 when Justinian restored the Empire in the West, and it continued, as prophesied (verse 5) exactly 1260 years as the "Holy Roman Empire," going into the symbolic "bottomless pit" in 1814, with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo.

Once more this mighty Empire is to come to life, rising out of its "bottomless pit" by a federation of ten nations (Rev. 17:12-18). It is now beginning to emerge in Europe.

The "dragon" gave this "beast" its seat and great authority. In Rev. 12:9, and 20:2, it is explained the "dragon" is a symbol for Satan the devil. So this has been Satan's **CIVIL** government on earth.

Has Satan had also an ecclesiastical, or **CHURCH** government? In II Corinthians 11:14, we find Satan is transformed into

an "ANGEL OF LIGHT." In Rev. 12:9 and 20:3, it is written that Satan has **DECEIVED** the whole world. In II Cor. 11:13-15, we find Satan has **HIS** ministers, pretending to be the ministers of righteousness, false apostles, deceitful workers, calling themselves the ministers of Christ! Therefore they claim to be **CHRISTIAN** ministers. They are the **MANY**, not the few, because all prophecies say it is the **MANY**, not the few, who have been **DECEIVED**. Satan's main labor for six thousand long years has been the **DECEIVING OF THE WORLD**. Has he not, therefore, had religious organization, as well as civil government, as his instrumentality in the Great Deception?

The "Two-Horned Beast"

Now notice again the 13th chapter of Revelation, beginning verse 11:

"And I beheld *another* beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a **LAMB**, and he spake as a **DRAGON**."

Who—what—is *this* "beast?"

Some say it will be the United States. Some say a federation of Protestant churches. Others say it will be the Pan-American Union. Most church organiza-

tions ignore this very vital subject completely, or say frankly, "WE DO NOT KNOW!"

Why this ignorance, when the answer is SO PLAIN? Yes, why indeed?

The Bible Interpretation

Remember, first, THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITS OWN SYMBOLS! When men put their OWN interpretation on Bible symbols, their conclusions are always false!

Notice, after John saw one "BEAST," which we have proved to be the ROMAN EMPIRE, he now sees ANOTHER—a *different* "beast" rise up. We have learned that "BEAST" is a symbol for a kingdom, or government (Dan. 7:17,23), and the term represents either the kingdom or its leader, as the case may be (Dan. 7:17,23).

So this other "beast" with the two horns, is the prophecy of another kingdom or government. In these prophecies, God pictures to us the earthly Gentile governments as the wild beasts whose characteristics describe them. This two-horned "beast" appeared as a LAMB. But actually it spoke as a DRAGON—its true characteristic—for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Mat. 12:34).

What does the word "LAMB" symbolize, in the Bible? The answer is, CHRIST (Jno. 1:29; Rev. 17:14). And "DRAGON" is a symbol of the DEVIL (Rev. 12:9; 20:2).

So here is some kingdom or government, masquerading as that of CHRIST, or the KINGDOM OF GOD, but actually being a government of SATAN!

Christ did not set up a government (kingdom), at His first appearing on earth. After His resurrection the disciples asked Him if He would at that time restore the KINGDOM (Acts 1:6); but He did not. The Church is *not* the Kingdom. Because some thought it was, Jesus spoke the parable of Luke 19:11-27 to show that He first must ascend to His Father's throne in heaven to receive the royal power to become King of kings, and then return, as He now soon shall, to set up the world-ruling Kingdom of God.

But Satan is a deceiver, and he has deceived the world into supposing his (Satan's) CHURCH, and system of churches, is the Kingdom of God.

Now notice carefully verse 12:

"And he exerciseth ALL the power of the first beast before him."

The first "beast" is the Roman Empire. Here is ANOTHER government, also controlled by Satan, pretending to be CHRIST'S government, the Kingdom of God, taking, exercising, using, employing, ALL the power of the first kingdom, the Roman Empire.

Now WHEN? "He exerciseth ALL the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to WORSHIP the first beast, whose

deadly wound was healed" (verse 12). So, it was AFTER the deadly wound (of 476 A.D.) was healed. It was healed when Justinian brought about the restoration of the Empire in the West in 554 A.D. Consequently this RELIGIOUS government took over, exercised, by ruling, all the power of the Roman Empire AFTER 554 A.D.

Did a Church Government Rule Rome?

So here we have pictured a government—a RELIGIOUS government, appearing as CHRIST'S government, masquerading as the KINGDOM OF GOD, actually ruling the civil Roman Empire, AFTER 554 A.D. Was there such a government? Indeed there was! And only ONE!!

Prior to 554, Justinian had written a letter to the pope, acknowledging his supremacy. And when he ascended the throne at Rome in 554, he was crowned by the pope, before whom he kneeled! The Roman Empire, thus restored to continue until 1814 (1260 years), became known as "The HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE." We read in history that the popes were accepted as the Vicar of Christ, which means "IN PLACE OF Christ." The teaching was that the Second Coming of Christ had occurred—Christ had returned to earth, as KING of kings and as LORD of lords, in the person of the popes. The millenium had begun. For the entire 1260 years, the emperors accepted the popes as such, ruling ALL nations with a "rod of iron" as Christ is to do WHEN He really comes.

Consequently they gave over their power to the popes. The Church was organized as a GOVERNMENT—as a dual, two-fold government (its TWO "horns" or kingdoms—for the "horns" symbolize kingdoms also—see Dan. 7:24). It embodied CHURCH government, and it also was a STATE, or civil government, always occupying a certain amount of territory over which it, alone, ruled as an independent sovereign state—in addition to actually ruling over the vast civil kingdom called "The Holy Roman Empire." Even today, is a separate, independent, sovereign STATE. Most nations send ambassadors to it, just as they do to the United States, or to Italy, England, or Russia.

Notice, this second "beast" was to wield power over ALL THE EARTH, because it was to CAUSE the earth, and them that dwell therein to WORSHIP this first "beast" "whose deadly wound was healed"—after 554.

In the Encyclopedia Britannica, article "MILLENNIUM," you will read the history of this very event—of how the "Holy Roman Empire" was called the "Kingdom of God upon earth." They claimed the MILLENNIUM had arrived!

Notice verse 14: "and DECEIVETH them that dwell on the earth by the means of

those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Verse 13 says "he doeth great wonders."

All Nations Deceived

So notice these three points:

- (1) This "beast" performs miracles.
- (2) He performed them "in the sight of" the "Holy Roman Empire," or first beast.
- (3) With them he DECEIVED all nations.

Where else, in the Bible prophecies, do we find these same identical facts?

First, note Rev. 17. Here is pictured a woman. In II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-27, and elsewhere, we learn that "woman" is a symbol for CHURCH. This woman is a fallen woman—an apostate church—and a great one, called "the great whore" pictured as ruling over many nations, verses 1, 15.

In verse 3, this great false church is pictured sitting on a "beast" "having seven heads and ten horns." A woman riding a horse guides, controls, the horse. It does her bidding. It is well known by ALL who understand Bible prophecy that this 17th chapter of Revelation pictures the Roman Catholic Church ruling over the so-called "Holy Roman Empire."

Notice, verse 18, she is "that great city"—"which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Notice, verse 2, the inhabitants of the earth have been DECEIVED by this great false church. Also Rev. 18:3, she has deceived all nations.

Next, notice II Thes. 2:3-4. The day of Christ—and the Coming of Christ—shall not come, until there be a falling away, and a "MAN OF SIN" be revealed. He exalts himself above all that is called God. AS God, he sits in a Temple claimed to be the Temple of God, shewing himself to deceive people into accepting him AS God. God is our HOLY FATHER. This man, then, would claim the same title. This wicked man is to be DESTROYED at, and by, Christ's coming (verse 8). Notice verse 9: "even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with ALL POWER and SIGNS (miracles) and lying WONDERS, and with all DECEIVABLENESS of unrighteousness."

Here is the head of a vast ecclesiastical empire, performing miracles and lying wonders, with which he DECEIVES people everywhere.

At Armageddon!

This deceiving religious ruler will still be active clear down to the Battle of ARMAGEDDON and the Second Coming of Christ! In Rev. 16:13-16, are described three foul spirits. They come from the "dragon," which is the devil; from the "beast" which is the civil Roman ruler; and from the mouth of the false prophet

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The SEVEN KEYS to *understanding* the Bible

DO YOU realize God has purposely closed much of the Holy Bible from human understanding, *until now?*

Look at the pitiful spectacle!—hundreds of different sects and denominations, all confused and mixed up, each with its *own* different ideas, beliefs and practices—all disagreeing as to what the Bible says—none understanding its full true Message!

WHY?

Because none of them possesses the *keys* needed to open the doors to understanding, and therefore this spiritual Treasurehouse is closed to them.

Locked Up Until Now!

Even the prophets inspired in writing the Word of God did not understand much of what they wrote. Daniel records, in his last chapter:

"I heard this, but I did not understand it." When he asked the meaning of what he was inspired to write, he was told: "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are *closed up and sealed* till the time of the end"—or, as Moffatt translates it, "*till the crisis at the close*" (Daniel 12:8-9).

The whole world is now in chaos—we have now entered the world-*crisis*, at the CLOSE of this age! But even now, Daniel was told, "the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (verse 10).

Since this very Word of God reveals that "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4), those who encourage breaking God's law, teaching that it is done away—as nearly all sects and denominations do—are, in Bible terminology, "the wicked." And who are "the wise," who shall now understand?

"The fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do* His Commandments" (Psalm 111:10).

Again God's angel caused Daniel to record: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Yes, much of the Word of God, especially the prophecies, were shut up and sealed until now. Today people *run* to and fro, all over the world, in automobiles, trains, and planes. Today knowledge has been increased. We have

reached the world-CRISIS AT THE CLOSE of this Age! The wise—those who fear God and keep His Commandments, can now UNDERSTAND!

Even forty years ago this true understanding *was still closed and sealed!* None of the established church denominations has been willing, in these forty years, to admit error, correct false teachings or accept new light now suddenly revealed! No wonder they all disagree! They are in "BABYLON"—CONFUSION!

In the first place, none can understand by himself. The carnal mind cannot "see" spiritual things. These Truths are *revealed* thru the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—and God gives His Spirit *only* to them that OBEY Him and keep His commandments! Only the truly converted can even *begin* to understand.

But, even having that beginning, there are SEVEN KEYS needed to unlock these closed doors of Truth! And just as one key alone will not unlock your safety deposit box at the bank, so no one, no two, or even six of these keys will open the scriptural doors to full UNDERSTANDING. It requires ALL SEVEN KEYS!

Church Leaders Threw Away KEYS

Christ gave His apostles *the keys* of true UNDERSTANDING, which unlock the Door to the KINGDOM OF GOD.

To Peter and the others, He said: "And I will give unto thee *the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven*" (Mat. 16:19).

But He prophesied apostasy. "Many false prophets shall rise," He said, "and shall deceive many." Paul foretold the great "falling away" from God's Truth and Christ's Gospel, turning into FABLES (II Thes. 2:1-9; II Tim. 4:1-4). It had even begun in Paul's day (II Thes. 2:7). Church leaders only used *the keys* to lock up the Door of the Kingdom, and then threw the keys away, even as the Pharisees and rulers did before them:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" said Jesus to them, "for ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Mat. 23:13).

The Seven Vital Keys

And so naturally, today no organized denomination, sect, or church possesses these seven KEYS!

Here they are: How many of these

necessary "keys" do *you* have?

1) The True Gospel

Almost no one has this first Key, believe it or not! The Gospel of Christ is the Gospel Christ preached—a particular Message sent from God by Jesus Christ as Messenger. The Gospel of Christ is CHRIST'S OWN GOSPEL—not a story *about* His Person!

Today people are led to believe that the Gospel is telling the story *about* Jesus—telling people *about* a Saviour; or, they believe it is "the Gospel of salvation," not understanding the true *way* of salvation themselves! No wonder there is NO POWER in what is falsely preached as "the Gospel" today! The Gospel OF Christ "is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation." Today most popular denominations do away with all that is vital in Christ's Gospel, saying He was preaching only to Jews under the Old Covenant! WHAT IGNORANCE!

What *is* Christ's Gospel? What is the Message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ? It is the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD! "Kingdom" means GOVERNMENT! It is the Message of *Divine Government*—government by GOD'S LAWS!

It is the prophetic proclamation of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT to rule all nations and bring today's confused, chaotic, war-weary earth PEACE, and JOY! It is the vital, dynamic, powerful living Message of GOD'S GOVERNMENT, first in individual hearts now in this world, later over all nations internationally in The WORLD TOMORROW!

Of course that power-filled Message includes the knowledge about the Saviour, High Priest and coming King! Of course it includes the true way of salvation, which the churches seem to have lost! And it includes also knowledge of the location of the TERRITORY to be ruled over by the King of the coming Kingdom—the fact it is *this earth*, and not heaven!

But there can be no GOVERNMENT without LAWS, and so the TRUE GOSPEL also must proclaim the LAW of God, which alone can bring peace to the world and success, happiness and joy to the individual!

The TRUE GOSPEL has to do with the nations of today's world, world conditions today, and Christ's reign over all nations in The WORLD TOMORROW! It is a full, complete, dynamic and POWERFUL

Gospel which has been kept by the powers of darkness from the world for 1800 years! *This knowledge is the first KEY!*

2) Salvation IS Creation

The idea preached in this dark, confused world is that salvation is God's Plan for *repairing the damage* caused by Satan in "the fall of man" in the Garden of Eden.

God, so the world has been taught by church leaders, had *completed* His work of creation—man was a *finished* creation, spiritual, immortal, perfect in character. Then along came Satan, and by cunning he wrecked God's handiwork, thwarted God's purpose, caused man to fall to the low plane of sinful human nature, ruined God's perfect creation! Then God is supposed to have looked down upon this colossal smash-up, and to have thereupon thought out THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION as a means of *repairing the damage*.

Salvation, then, is presented merely as God's effort to *restore* man to a condition *as good as Adam* was in the first place. The picture is that God has been doing His very best for 6,000 long years, but Satan has resisted Him! God has found Himself unable to avoid a CONTEST with Satan—a "GREAT CONTROVERSY" as one writer phrased it—in which God has done His best, but Satan has continued to outsmart Him and now today, with TIME ABOUT UP, the vast majority of people on earth are still unsaved—still on Satan's side! The contest is almost over, and the best God can now do is take revenge, and soon to send Christ to DESTROY ALL THE WICKED whom Satan has kept on his side!

Can you see that *that* picture could only have come from the deceiving false GOD OF THIS WORLD, Satan himself? It presents Satan at every turn as more powerful than God—as succeeding in his rivalry! That entire concept is a damnable LIE!

The TRUTH is the second important KEY—and it explains GOD'S PURPOSE in placing humanity on this earth!

Salvation is *not* a "repairing of the damage" done by Satan in the Garden of Eden. Satan never did alter or change God's Purpose or Plan. The devil has never thwarted God's will. All has gone always, and always will, exactly according to GOD'S PURPOSE!

Salvation is merely the COMPLETING OF CREATION! Creation was *not* completed 6,000 years ago, at the time described in Genesis I! That was merely the *first*, or *material phase* of a Creation *now still going on!* What God then created was *physical—material*. The spiritual creation is a process, continuing, according to God's Plan, today!

Man was created PHYSICAL, not spiritual—MORTAL, not immortal—of the dust

of the ground—the "clay model" which God the Master Potter is now fashioning and shaping, *spiritually*, into the FINAL image! Man was created, purposely, with the same human nature he now has! He was first made in the mere PHYSICAL image of God, a free moral agent, with possibility revealed to him of *receiving* as God's gift the very spiritual nature of God, so that he may by God's power be made into a perfect, righteous, spiritual character, then given immortality as God's gift! *There is no contest!* Satan does nothing except what God *permits!* And God permits it FOR A PURPOSE!

Character is created by experience, and experience requires time, and therefore it is a process! As Christ our example learned by suffering, so do we! The fact that SALVATION IS THE COMPLETING OF CREATION—the *spiritual phase* of Creation—that GOD'S PURPOSE is to create in us, as free moral agents who make our own decisions, the supreme Masterpiece of all His Creative acts—holy, righteous, spiritual immortal CHARACTERS—resisting the downpull of self-desire, building character by LIVING GOD'S LAWS—that knowledge of GOD'S PURPOSE is *the second vital KEY!*

3) God's Dual Method

A duality runs thru every phase of God's Plan. First, the *material* creation of Genesis 1, completed; second, the *spiritual* creation still in process pictured finally complete in the *prophecy* of Revelation 21 and 22. There was the *first* Adam, material—of the earth; and there is the *second* Adam, Christ Jesus, spiritual, from Heaven. There was the *first* Covenant with Israel, material and national, devoid of salvation, based upon the Birthright promise; and there is the NEW Covenant, spiritual and individual, with a spiritually-begotten Israel, based upon the Sceptre promise. God made man mortal, of the dust, in order to convert him into immortality, composed of Spirit.

In this very salvation process is the DUAL METHOD—the very word "salvation" means, first, rescuing from the penalty of eternal death, and second, the act of preserving, or imparting eternal life as God's gift. And so, in being saved, we first are now *begotten* of God by the indwelling of His Spirit in our mortal bodies as the temple, or house of the Spirit—and are now merely the *beirs* of salvation; and second, we shall finally be fully *born* of God at the Resurrection of the just, when we shall *inherit* the Kingdom.

This same DUAL PRINCIPLE runs all thru prophecy! First, a former, or preliminary fulfilment which is merely the type or forerunner of, second, the final

climactic fulfilment occurring, usually, during this CRISIS AT THE CLOSE we already have entered! And positively *none* can understand the Bible prophecies unless this DUALITY of fulfilment is understood. It is a vital key!

4) God's Holydays

These were given to God's people to picture, and to keep them in the understanding of, God's PLAN for bringing about His purpose—His reign over all the earth whose people shall have been converted to righteous immortality!

Every sect, organization or denomination which has lost God's holydays and fastened its eyes upon the pagan Romish holidays instead, has lost the knowledge of GOD'S PLAN!

God's holydays picture;

1st, Passover, the crucifixion of Christ;

2nd, Feast of Unleavened Bread, putting sin out of our lives, or, keeping God's Commandments—and during this festival was the "wave-sheaf" picturing the Resurrected Christ accepted of God as our High Priest;

3rd, Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost, picturing the coming of the Holy Spirit and the completing of this, the merely *first* and preliminary harvest of souls;

4th, Feast of Trumpets on first day of seventh month, picturing the Second Coming of Christ at the beginning of the seventh millennium, at the *last Trump*;

5th, Day of Atonement, picturing justice done by laying Satan's guilt in our sins upon his own head, removing him and chaining him in the symbolic "bottomless pit," making us finally AT ONE with God. Atonement means atonement.

6th, Feast of Tabernacles, for seven days, picturing the KINGDOM OF GOD during the seventh millennium, the "great fall harvest" of souls.

And 7th, the Last Great Day, immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the final Great White Throne Judgment which almost nobody today understands—and the final COMPLETING of God's Plan!

5) The Truth About Israel

The fact the nation Israel became divided into two nations, the Ten Tribed Kingdom, called The Kingdom of Israel, possessing the Birthright promises, and The Kingdom of Judah, composed of Judah and Benjamin and a large portion of Levi, possessing the Sceptre; and, secondly, the fact revealed during this "Time of the End" that the Jewish people today are merely a portion of the descendants of the Kingdom of Judah; and the Americans, British, and Democracies of Northwestern Europe are the

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HOW TO BE *Saved!*

— PART II —

WATER BAPTISM

IS WATER baptism essential to salvation? What about the "thief on the cross"? Was he saved without it?

What is the proper form, or mode—sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?

Should babies and children be baptised?

Suppose you were baptised by a minister you have since lost confidence in. Should you be baptised over again?

Suppose you were baptised "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost." Should you be baptised again "in the name of Jesus only?"

Should one be baptised *immediately*, or only "after a six months' probation?" Must the ordinance be performed by an ordained minister?

Conditions of Salvation

We are saved by GRACE, and through FAITH—make no mistake about that; but—*there are conditions!*

And millions are being deceived, misled into thinking they are saved, when they are not!

People have been taught, falsely, that "Christ *completed* the Plan of Salvation on the Cross"—when actually it was only *begun* there. The popular denominations have taught, "just BELIEVE—that's all there is to it; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are that instant *saved!*"

That teaching is false! And because of deception,—because the TRUE GOSPEL of Jesus Christ has been blotted out, lo these 1900 years by the preaching of a false gospel *about* the Person of Christ—and often a false Christ at that—millions today WORSHIP CHRIST—and *all in vain!* "In vain do they worship me," said Jesus, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 7:6-9).

Man is mortal. Man has no immortality inherent within himself. Christ Jesus, only, of all men who have lived, has immortality (I Tim. 6:16). The penalty of sin is DEATH—the second, or eternal death, from which there will be no resurrection. And ALL have sinned and come under this sentence. Only GOD has eternal life inherent in Himself (John 5:26)—only GOD has eternal life to *give*. And as the Father has life *in*—inherent in—Himself, so has He given to the Son, Christ, to have immortal life inherent within Himself. And thru Christ, God gives it

to us (I John 5:11-12)—and whoever has not Christ has not eternal life. Eternal life is a GIFT no man has *until* he receives it as GOD'S GIFT (Rom. 6:23).

The BLOOD of Christ does not finally save any man. The death of Christ merely paid the penalty of sin in our stead—it wipes the slate clean of past sins—it saves us merely from the DEATH PENALTY—it removes that which separated us from God and reconciles us to God.

But we are SAVED—that is, given immortal life—by Christ's LIFE, not by His death (Rom. 5:10). Christ is a *living* Saviour! He is not dead—He rose from the dead! We could never be saved by His blood alone, if He had not risen from the dead (I Cor. 15:17-18).

We are mortal, without immortal life inherent in us, under penalty of eternal DEATH from sin—unless saved. To be saved, we must be born of God, who is a Spirit. We were born of human parents, and therefore we are human—flesh—dust—of the earth, earthy (John 3:3,6; Gen. 2:7; 3:19; I Cor. 15:47-49). To be *born* of God, we must, first, now in this life, receive the impregnating LIFE—the Holy Spirit—from God. We are then merely begotten, spiritually—comparing to an unborn human babe still in its mother's womb—not yet really BORN. We then become merely HEIRS of the Kingdom—not yet inheritors.

Becoming *converted* means being CHANGED. When one receives the Holy Spirit of God his whole viewpoint, his outlook, his purposes, goals, ways of thought—everything—becomes CHANGED! It is a *renewing of the MIND*—the Spirit of a *sound mind*. But he is as yet merely begotten. And, as the unborn babe must be fed, thru the mother, and must develop and grow physically before it can be born, so the converted human, now spiritually begotten, must be fed on the spiritual food of GOD'S WORD, and must GROW SPIRITUALLY—must grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ as He reveals His knowledge thru His Word (II Pct. 3:18); he must OVERCOME the down-pull of his human nature and achieve self-discipline; he must learn PATIENCE, must grow in LOVE, FAITH, and UNDERSTANDING; he must do the WORKS of Christ; and, in this spiritual growth—this life of

active service—he must ENDURE persecutions and afflictions and trials UNTO THE END.

It is *only* those who, during this Christian Spirit-begotten life, have grown in knowledge and grace, have overcome, have developed spiritually, done the works of Christ, and endured unto the end, who shall finally be given IMMORTALITY—finally changed from mortal to IMMORTAL at the time of the second coming of Christ (I Cor. 15:53-54).

So, being, as we say, converted—receiving the Holy Spirit of God—is *merely the beginning!* Then begins a life-long of LIVING under the GOVERNMENT of GOD—by God's Laws which express His will, instead of by self-will and desire.

A PERSON IS NOT EVEN BEGOTTEN OF GOD UNLESS HE IS CHRIST'S (I John 5:12). AND HE IS NOT CHRIST'S UNLESS HE HAS RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT (Rom. 8:9). One is not even converted—spiritually begotten—not even STARTED on the way to final salvation, unless and until he RECEIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM GOD!

The question, then—how to make the first BEGINNING of becoming a Christian—how to START on the Christian life which *leads to* eternal life—is how to thus be CHANGED and receive God's Holy Spirit!

"What Shall We Do?"

Notice the very beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1). Jesus said, "REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the Gospel." The very first words He proclaimed, at the very beginning of His Gospel, were to command the TWO CONDITIONS to becoming a Christian: REPENTANCE, and FAITH. Those are the two things *we must do!* Repentance is toward GOD. Faith is toward Christ, Repentance means to *quit sinning*, and sin is the transgression of God's spiritual LAW—so repentance means to begin living according to God's Commandments! And Jesus said "believe the GOSPEL." And the GOSPEL is the Good News of the Kingdom of God—which means GOVERNMENT of God, and government means obedience to LAWS, in this case God's Laws which express the will of God—government by the WILL OF GOD, no longer by human self-will!

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NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor

I'M AFRAID hundreds have not heeded the brief notice above, and are wondering why they are not receiving The PLAIN TRUTH.

As I write, I am talking to one of our good co-workers.

"I haven't had a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH for a year," she said a moment ago. Questioning her, I learned she had moved and forgot to notify us of the change of address. What happened is this: after her change of address the first copy mailed to her came back to us, marked, "MOVED—LEFT NO ADDRESS."

Even if you leave a forwarding address at your post office when moving, it is possible that on this class of mail the postal clerks will merely return the magazine to us, stamped "MOVED—LEFT NO ADDRESS." In such a case there is nothing we can do about it, except remove the name from our mailing list.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMEMBER, IF YOU MOVE, TO NOTIFY US OF YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS. BE SURE TO GIVE US BOTH THE OLD, AND THE NEW ADDRESS, PLAINLY WRITTEN, OR PRINTED.

* * *

WHAT TO DO WHEN SICK—TRUTH
ABOUT FASTING

THIS TIME I want to talk to you about sickness and disease—about what to do when you or your children catch cold, have a fever, or become sick.

I'm writing out in the desert, where Mrs. Armstrong and I have come for

warm sunshine and rest and another long fast. This is my twenty-first day of fasting.

Before coming here I was so enervated from overwork I was not only unfit to continue my heavy responsibilities, including the writing of this issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, but unable to throw off a cold. I feel immeasurably better. My head is clear, my blood-stream being cleansed of the toxins and poisons. I hope soon to be back at my desk in Pasadena 100% fit.

So this seems a good time to tell you about fasting, sickness and disease.

WHY are people sick?

Many seem to think our bodies were made to get sick every little while. Most people know very little about their bodies.

But man ought *never* to be sick. Man, remember, is the creation of God. True, he is mortal, made of the dust of the ground. He is composed of 16 elements of matter. Yet it is God's great PURPOSE to create out of man the supreme Masterpiece of all His creative art!—perfect spiritual characters—beings to become superior to all that exists, save God Himself!

We, now, are the clay models to be fashioned, formed and shaped in spiritual character by the Master Sculptor—if we will yield ourselves into His hands—converted into the glorious spiritual image of the Almighty Himself! So, as we now are of the earth—earthy, bearing the im-

age of the Adam who was dust, we *shall* thru God's process bear the image of the heavenly GOD! (I Cor. 15:49).

For this purpose the human body was made to be the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit. God created man in the very highest material medium for the expression of the divine intelligence.

No instrument has yet been, or ever will be devised by man, even in this machine age, which can approach, in delicacy of operation, the mechanism of the human body, with its enormous range of functional power.

The Creator made the human organism to *run*, and to keep *running* for a natural lifetime—not to get sick or break down. The human constitution is so marvelously constructed that it will take far more punishment and abuse *before* some part of it breaks down than any mechanism ever made by man.

And yet, largely through ignorance, we humans abuse our bodies and violate the laws of health to so great extent that almost every home is frequently visited with sickness! The human body is never sick unless injured or abused, though many inherit certain weaknesses and impairments at birth from the dissipations and sins of ancestors.

Today thousands of parents send their sons to state agricultural colleges to learn how to feed and care for the bodies of swine, never giving one thought to the proper feeding and care of their own human bodies. The average American table has been described by a noted physician as a dietetic horror. In the selection and preparation of foods, we follow tradition, and eat what we "like," with never a thought as to whether it is wholesome food or rank poison.

People who would not think of putting an adulterated, injurious oil in the crankcase of the car, or a polluted fuel-oil in the gas-tank, will stuff their own stomachs and their children's with adulterated, so-called "refined" foods that are actually poisonous, with never a thought about it. And then when we or our children are sick, we suppose it is because God did a bad job of making us, and it is INTENDED for us to be sick!

The human body functions according to definite laws. It needs fresh air in the lungs—not tobacco smoke. It needs pure water, and plenty of it—not soda pop, stimulants, and man-perverted drinks. It needs a proper amount of joyous, exhilarating exercise, and walking—not riding everywhere in the car, and taking one's exercise sitting down in the paid admission stands of a baseball park, or a football or basketball game. It needs sufficient sunshine, not the dark, dank congestion of crowded man-built cities. It needs cleanliness and proper elimination—not the almost universal constipation caused by

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

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KXA—Seattle—770 on dial—9:30 A.M. Sundays.

neglect and foodless foods contaminated in man-made "food" factories. It needs relaxation, ample rest and sleep—not the nerve-shattering, excitable pleasure-seeking life—and night-life—of today's modern whirl. And last, but far from least, it needs wholesome, properly prepared *natural* food—not the starchy, sugary, greasy mess of contaminated stuff we ignorantly suppose to be food today!

Bad habits of thought, insufficient exercise, and other destructive habits contribute to ill health. But leading authorities have determined that dietetic mistakes are responsible for 90% or more of sickness and disease. The body is sustained thru food, water, and air. It is composed of elements which can be supplied and replenished only from food. Health depends more upon proper food than any other consideration. The function of the physician should be to teach the science of HEALTH—but as one of our most faithful co-workers expressed it, "we physicians have been kept so busy with patients already sick we haven't had much time, as yet, to turn our attention to teaching people how to keep well."

The knowledge of HOW TO LIVE should be the first interest of every person. That knowledge is divided into two phases—the physical, and the spiritual; how to be in vigorous, clear-minded, perfect health, which depends upon the physical laws of nature, and how to live in proper relationship with God and with neighbor, which depends upon the spiritual law summed in the Ten Commandments.

The condition we call "disease" means "dis-ease"—lack of ease. This painful and unhappy condition results in every case from a blocking of some function of the body thru violation of the laws of nature—usually thru destructive habits.

Most sickness and disease comes from two fundamental violations:

(1) Congestion of blood, and (2) enervation.

Nearly every ailment from which one may suffer is one of two things:

(1) the presence of a poison, or, (2) a deficiency or lack of needed elements.

A third impairment is a mechanical dislocation or difficulty.

By far the largest number of sicknesses are caused by the presence of a poison—congestion in the blood-stream. And for this, fasting is often not only an effective, but often the only natural cure.

Fasting is voluntary abstinence from food. The practise is as old as animal life itself. In fact animals fast by instinct when sick.

Christ fasted, and set us an example that we should follow His steps! Moses fasted. So did Daniel, and David, and the Apostle Paul. Christianity teaches control over sensual pleasures and false appetites.

Coming! IN NEXT ISSUE

Some important material had to be left out of this number, which will appear in the next issue.

You won't want to miss a single thrilling article in this coming number. Among those scheduled are:

THE DYNAMIC CHANGE OCCURRING IN EUROPE, and how it is fulfilling prophecy. A NEW GERMANY is born. A FIGHTING POPE emerges. THE RUSSIAN PERSECUTIONS of Catholics and Protestants. *What does it all mean?*

THE MARK OF THE BEAST!—the most sensational, interest-arousing prophetic question of this generation. We have never before published an article on this subject. The mysterious "MARK" will be plainly revealed.

Continuing also the articles on HOW to Be Saved; Tithing, and other important subjects of vital and primary importance.

Fasting is good spiritual training.

Fasting means restriction of, or abstinence from food and drink. As assimilation is retarded, elimination is increased. Under the fasting regime, the body undergoes a "house-cleaning." Toxins and poisons are rapidly eliminated. By giving the stomach and intestines a rest, normal functioning is re-established. Normal hunger returns, and false appetites are expelled.

Complete results—total elimination of the contributing toxins until the tongue is clear, the breath sweet, and the mouth clean, sometimes require extended fasts of from thirty to ninety days. But definitely I warn you that SUCH LENGTHY FASTS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNLESS UNDER CONSTANT SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN WHO IS SKILLED IN THE FASTING PROCEDURE. And many medical doctors today, unfortunately, are uneducated in this natural and biblical method and discourage it or even oppose and ridicule it—alho many world-renowned physicians recommend it.

I have found that in most cases satisfactory results are realized by shorter fasts, or a series of short fasts, especially when followed by proper diet. Apparently the Bible examples of fasting were complete fasts—no food whatever, and often not even water. This, however, is very rigid and requires real will-power. Perhaps

most effective results would be obtained from the total fast—at least with water only, but it has been found in many thousands of cases that fruit-juice fasts bring very beneficial results, and in many instances the fruit-juice fast will prove preferable.

Remember fasting and starvation are very different things.

Fasting is always the thing to do immediately in the case of a cold or a fever. I am not advising you about milk-fed infants, and in their case refer you to your physician, but in the case of children who eat solid food and all adults, I recommend taking all solid food away from them immediately (including soups). Give them plenty of water to drink, and a glass of orange-juice, grapefruit-juice (fresh-squeezed, not canned), or the juice of one lemon in a glass of water (no sugar) about four times a day—NOTHING ELSE. In the rare case of a person who seems allergic to the citrus juices (and they should always be FRESH-SQUEEZED and consumed in less than five minutes after squeezing), canned tomato juice may be substituted.

If it is merely a normal cold or fever (and not a disease such as typhoid or scarlet fever), you may find that from one to three days' fasting is often sufficient to rid the system of it—especially if you start the fasting at the very first sign of the cold or fever, before it becomes fully settled. In most cases the fever will subside quickly. Some fevers, of course, will not.

If the fever should persist after five days, especially in the case of a child, try to find some physician who is sympathetic to the fasting method to supervise you from there on—or begin to feed the child a restricted diet of non-starchy cooked vegetables such as spinach, celery, small string beans, asparagus, summer squash, beet-tops, carrots, small beets, small turnips, zucchini, etc.—or a soup made from these vegetables *without any grease*, or stewed fruits (without sugar) such as prunes, figs, pears, raisins, apples, apricots—avoiding all starches, such as breads, and all sweets, and greases or oils, and, until fever and cold is gone, all mucous-forming foods such as milk, butter, cheese, eggs, etc.

In case a fever rises alarmingly high, take one whole grapefruit, cut it up into six or eight pieces, pour one quart of boiling water over it (rind and all) and let it steep like tea. Then make the patient drink it all—it will require 30 to 60 minutes to be able to consume the entire quart. It will be bitter. Natural organic quinine will steep out of the grapefruit, especially the rind. It is often highly effective.

Please Continue on Page 13

SHOULD *You* PAY TITHES?

HOW SHOULD God's work be financed? Does God have a definite *system*? Is "*tithing*" obligatory in NEW Testament times? Or has God left us to our own devices—for churches to resort to the old-fashioned oyster suppers and ice cream socials, or to bazaars, entertainments, dances and church movie shows to raise money? Or did God perhaps leave it for each one to give what he feels like—if he feels like giving it?

Did Christ intend His specially-selected and called ministers to be directed and controlled by boards of lay church members *not* called of Christ to the ministry? Or did Christ Himself ordain a system providing for His work, leaving His true called ministers, like prophets of old, free to serve God *alone*?

A Stern PROPHECY for Today!

Let me repeat briefly a stern prophecy for our day—a WARNING from God to 20th century America and Britain!

To us, God says: "I will come near to you in judgment . . . Even from the days of your fathers ye have gone away from *mine* ordinances, and have not kept them . . . *Ye are cursed with a curse: for YE HAVE ROBBED ME*, even this whole nation" (Malachi 3:5-9). That's not a message for ancient Israel. It's a *prophecy*, warning America and Britain *today*!

Other prophecies scattered all thru both Old and New Testaments show the JUDGMENT to be sent on us, for robbing God among other sins—the coming invasion and utter *defeat* in atomic-rocket World War III!

But *why*? "But ye say," continues the Eternal's warning, "Wherein have we robbed Thee?" And God replies, "In TITHES and OFFERINGS!"

Notice, we are not robbing Him in tithes alone—but also by neglecting to put into His work OFFERINGS besides!

But we've been taught tithing was done away—merely for Israel of old. It's about time we got back to the *Faith once delivered*! Is there a definite financing plan ordained in the New Testament?

God Working Out a PURPOSE

Man was placed on earth for a PURPOSE. And always, from the very beginning, God has had on earth a PRIESTHOOD—a ministry representing HIM, making known His revelation, His will to man, carrying out God's mission.

HERE is an eye-opening article on a much misunderstood subject.

Some ask, "Wasn't tithing just for the Jews of a long-dead past?" Others, "Wasn't tithing done away?" Or, "Was it a form of national taxation in ancient Israel?" Or, "Was it to supply material needs to the poor?"

We reproduce this article from the January-February, 1947, number, since most of our present readers did not receive that issue—and because those who did ought to read it again.

Here is the NEW Testament teaching. You'll find this article *interesting*, enlightening, plain! Another article, explaining further, will appear soon.

It does cost money to carry on Christ's ministry. And today with super-powered facilities of radio and printing press, of rapid transportation to every part of the world—facilities making it possible to reach vast masses over great distances in short time—the carrying forth of God's LAST WARNING MESSAGE to a deceived world is a herculean task of gigantic proportions requiring large sums of money.

Has not God, in His wisdom, provided for this financing? And in such manner that His true *called* ministers may be free to serve Him *alone*, carrying His Message BOLDLY? If so, the plan will be revealed in God's Word.

Christ's Office, NOW!

It is well recognized that the people of Israel, during Old Testament times, were required to pay tithes. That is, one-tenth of income—whether livestock, grain, or money. But the NEW Testament teaching on tithing is not generally understood.

Yet the subject is mentioned many places in the New Testament. But, since it is a *priesthood* subject—the financing of Christ's *ministry*—it's well to look first at the priesthood Book—Hebrews.

You hear a great deal of a *crucified* Christ—much preaching *about* a dead Christ. But you hear almost nothing about the *Message* He brought from God, and even less about the function of the resurrected *living* Christ of TODAY!

The Book of Hebrews reveals the Christ of the Twentieth Century—the work and office of our Christ TODAY—Christ the High Priest of God! And it contains GOD'S INSTRUCTION for financing the

ministry of Christ! The 7th chapter is the tithing chapter.

Speaking of the Christian HOPE of eternal life (which hope *is* Jesus Christ); we are told, beginning verse 19, chapter 6, this HOPE (Christ) has entered "within the veil"—that is, the very throne of God in heaven—"whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an HIGH PRIEST *for ever* after the order of Melchisedec."

The NEW Testament Priesthood

Jesus Christ is HIGH PRIEST now. Let's understand it. Jesus of Nazareth came as a *Messenger*, sent from God, bearing a MESSAGE to man. His MESSAGE is His GOSPEL—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the Good News of the KINGDOM OF GOD.

After finishing His mission as Messenger, Jesus took on Himself the mission of *Saviour*, paying in our stead the penalty of our sins by His death on the cross. But it requires a living Saviour to impart to us the gift of eternal life! So God raised Jesus, by a RESURRECTION.

And thereupon Jesus ascended to heaven, to the very throne of God, where He sat down and continues today as our Everlasting HIGH PRIEST. That is His office, now. Soon He shall assume still another office, returning to earth in all the power and glory of God, as KING of kings—continuing His priesthood office as Lord of lords.

It is in His office as High Priest that Jesus sits as *living Head* of The Church of God, the true Body of Christ in this age. He is High Priest for this and all succeeding ages.

And as High Priest He holds a definite *rank*—a rank that outranks every priestly office—"After the order of Melchisedec"—or, in the plainer English of the Moffatt translation, "with the *rank* of Melchisedec."

And who is Melchisedec? This is one of the intriguing mysteries of the Bible! Suffice it to say here Melchisedec was the High Priest of God during patriarchal times. And Christ occupies the same office now, holding the same rank.

But the Mosaic dispensation was a purely materialistic, fleshly dispensation. The GOSPEL was not preached in Israel, nor did their ministry carry it to other nations.

Israelites formed a *flesh-born* congregation, not a Spirit-begotten church. The ministry consisted of rituals, carnal (fleshly) ordinances, substitute animal sacrifices and burnt offerings. This required of the priests much hard physical labor.

During those years a different priesthood of *lower rank* was in office—mere human rank, vastly inferior to the spiritual and divine rank of Melchisedec and of Christ. The priests were the tribe of Levi. It was called the Levitical Priesthood.

A Tithe-Receiving Priesthood

Yet this lower-level priesthood had to be financed. God's financing Plan from dim antiquity, thru the Melchisedec priesthood, was the Tithing system. This system was *continued* thru the years of the Levitical priesthood.

Now coming to the 7th chapter of Hebrews, God's financing plan is explained. Notice the comparison between the two tithe-receiving priesthoods.

First read the first five verses, Hebrews, chapter 7: "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; *to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all . . . abideth a priest continually.* Now consider how great this man was, *unto whom even Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.* And verily they that are the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, *have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the LAW*" (Heb. 7:1-5).

Let's understand it. This vital passage of Scripture begins to *compare* the two priesthoods. Notice, back in patriarchal times, TITHING was God's system for financing His ministry. Melchisedec was High Priest. The patriarch Abraham, it is written, knew and kept God's commandments, His statutes and laws (Gen. 26:5). And he paid tithes to the High Priest!

Then the statement is made in this passage that, during that dispensation from Moses until Christ, the priests of that time, the Levites, took tithes from the people BY LAW. It was a LAW, started in the beginning, *continued* thru the Mosaic dispensation.

Tithing, then, did not start with Moses!

It is God's system for financing His ministry, which *BEGAN* from the *BEGINNING*—from the dim antiquity of patriarchal times. It was a LAW. It did not start with Moses, it was merely *continued* on THRU the Mosaic period!

Tithing a LAW from Dim Antiquity

Many excuse themselves from tithing today on the false impression tithing pertained to the Mosaic period *only*. They think it was for Israel, *alone*. And that

illusion has brought a CURSE on this whole nation!

The Old Covenant is gone—that's true. But its ending could not take away what it did not *bring!* Tithing was God's law hundreds of years before the Old Covenant started.

TITHING is revealed as *God's system* for financing His earthly ministry. *Prior* to the Levitical priesthood and the Mosaic dispensation, the ministry was under Melchisedec. And we see that ministry, from the beginning, was financed by the tithing system.

Melchisedec, "having neither beginning of days, nor end of life . . . abideth a priest *continually*" (Heb. 7:3). Yes, He was High Priest *from the beginning!* Even from Adam! And the ancient patriarchs from Adam down thru Abraham, Jacob, and on to Moses, financed this ministry of God on earth by the TITHING system!

Merely CONTINUED in Israel

Since tithing is God's permanent, continuous financing system, it had to *continue* thru the Mosaic dispensation. But when the priesthood was changed, during that period when the Levites were the ministers, their work and labors had to be financed. But God did not change his financing system. The Levites "had a commandment to take *tithes* of the people according to the LAW."

And notice, the very *subject* of this 7th chapter of Hebrews is the TITHING LAW!

Now continuing the 7th of Hebrews, the teaching concerns *which* of the two priesthoods—Melchisedec, or Levitical—is superior, to determine *which* priesthood should receive tithes, *NOW!*"

Christians of Paul's day did not need to be instructed that TITHING is an obligatory and permanent law of God. But they *did* need much teaching to make clear to them that the Old Covenant was dead—the Levitical priesthood gone, and replaced by that of Jesus Christ—the *Melchisedec priesthood restored!* The only question was as to *which* Priesthood tithes were to be paid, *now!*

To make this point plain, Paul proceeds to show the Melchisedec Priesthood is superior—has precedence *now*.

Notice the Scripture: "Now consider *how great* this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils . . . But he whose descent is not counted from them (the Levites), *received tithes* of Abraham, and blessed him (Abraham) that had the promises. And without all contradiction the *better* (Abraham) is blessed of the *better* (Melchisedec) . . . And as I may so say, Levi also, who received tithes, *paid* tithes in Abraham, for he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him" (verses 4-9).

The Melchisedec priesthood is greater—superior! It has precedence! And it is again in force as God's Priesthood, under Christ! It, too, needs to be financed!

Now notice the conclusion:

"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also in the LAW" (verse 12).

A NEW Testament LAW!

It does not say the law was abolished. The change in Priesthoods makes necessary a CHANGE in the law. What law was thus CHANGED? The very law this chapter is instructing New Testament Christians about—the TITHING LAW! "The sons of Levi have a *commandment* to take TITHES . . . according to the law" (verse 5).

So tithing, far from being abolished, is NEW TESTAMENT LAW! But, the Priesthood being changed to that of Jesus Christ—the Melchisedec Priesthood restored—that tithing law is also changed of necessity, so as to become God's system for financing the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Actually, the law is merely restored, *as it was from the beginning!*

How plain! Tithing is God's *law*—His system for financing His great work today; it's commanded, *now!* And this whole nation, says Malachi's prophecy, is under a divine curse because it disregards that law! Every individual who breaks it is under a curse! Let each one ask, "Does that mean *me?*"

(To be continued)

The Seven Keys

Continued from Page 4

so-called "Lost Ten Tribes" or descended from the House of ISRAEL—and that Britain is Ephraim, and the United States is Manasseh co-holders of the Birthright, which is the true explanation of our sudden rise, beginning 1800 A. D. to the greatest national power and wealth ever possessed by any nation.

Prophecies cannot be understood without this vital key.

6) Bible Interpretation of Symbols

God has concealed until now His prophecies of these colossal end-time world events now occurring by means of SYMBOLS used to describe these events—as well as by the fact His dual principle, and our Israelitish identity has been hidden from men.

Symbols, like parables, were used, *not* to make meaning clearer, but to *hide* and *conceal* God's true meaning until the time came for *Him* to reveal the interpretation of the symbols. Just as Jesus' parables were not understood until

Jesus Himself explained them in plain language, so with symbols. For generations men have been putting human interpretations upon God's symbols. An important KEY, therefore, is that these symbols are interpreted in plain language in the Bible itself, if not in the context, then elsewhere, and we must search for *God's own interpretation*, never apply our own.

7) God's Sabbath

Since this is the *test* commandment—the one most professing Christians refuse to obey—the one which causes the greatest *test of faith* and reliance upon God to be able to keep it, it stands as the final completing *basic key* for "A GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do* His Commandments!"

Also it is the basic key to the *identity* of the true God—the CREATOR OF ALL (Ex. 31:12-17) and the key to the *identity* of ISRAEL. The House of Israel threw away this key to their identity—and thereby became the "lost Ten Tribes!" The great majority of the House of Judah likewise threw it away, and lost their identity—not known even today! The Jews who returned to Palestine under Ezra and Nehemiah became strict Sabbatarians, and have remained so to this day—and therefore the world looks upon them as ISRAEL (because they carry Israel's *identifying* SIGN) although they are *not* Israel, but only a small portion of JUDAH!

This completes the KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING—the KEYS to the KINGDOM OF GOD!

The churches have lost these KEYS! No wonder they are all mixed up, in confusion, each claiming the Bible says something *different*, none understanding ITS TRUE MESSAGE!

The IMAGE of the Beast

Continued from Page 2

associated WITH the Roman ruler—the pope. "For" continues verse 14, "they are the spirits of devils, WORKING MIRACLES, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." And they are gathered, finally, at ARMAGEDDON! Note it! Yet future, the Roman ruler, as the Roman Empire is again restored, along with the pope—and all in the power and influence of the DEVIL! Working MIRACLES! All prophecies concerning them show these powers doing the same things!

Now notice the last battle of ARMAGEDDON. It is in Rev. 19:19-20. Here is pictured the "Beast"—and WITH him the false prophet (the pope) that *wrought*

miracles before him, WITH WHICH HE DECEIVED them that had received the MARK of the Beast, and them that had worshipped HIS IMAGE."

Note it! Compare with the two-horned beast of Rev. 13:11-17.

(1) BOTH perform miracles.

(2) BOTH perform them before, or in the sight of, the "Beast."

(3) WITH them, BOTH False Prophet and two-horned Beast DECEIVE them that have the MARK of the Beast—cause them to receive that mark! (Rev. 13:16).

Certainly, then, this two-horned beast and the false prophet and the man of sin, and the woman that rode the Beast are all one and the same thing—the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Now did the two-horned beast deceive the very ones who have the MARK of the Beast? He did! Continue in Rev. 13:

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth"—HOW? ". . . saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an IMAGE to the beast, which had the wound by the sword and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both *speak*, and CAUSE as many as would not worship the image of the Beast *should be killed*. AND HE CAUSETH ALL, BOTH SMALL AND GREAT, RICH AND POOR, FREE AND BOND, to receive a MARK in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell (trade, earn a living, hold a job), save he that had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name" (verse 14-17).

So, notice: This two-horned "beast" not only CAUSED people to receive the MARK of the Beast (compare Rev. 19:20), but also CAUSED the MARTYRDOM OF SAINTS. As many as would not worship this IMAGE were caused to be killed. This false church did not kill them—she CAUSED them to be killed. History shows that the civil government of the so called Holy Roman Empire martyred between 50,000,000 and 100,000,000 who were declared "anathema from Christ," or "heretics" by the Church!

Compare with the WOMAN who rode the Beast in Rev. 17: "And I saw the woman DRUNKEN WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS, AND WITH THE MARTYRS OF JESUS" (verse 6).

Certainly these are one and the same!

Now this great Church, which is a two-fold government, deceived the people by SAYING THEY SHOULD MAKE AN IMAGE OF THE BEAST. Note it (Rev. 13:14)—that is HOW this church deceived people.

What is an "IMAGE?" The dictionary says a "likeness," a "copy, representation, model, semblance, counterpart." So here is a great CHURCH saying, "Let us make a MODEL, or counterpart, of the civil Roman

GOVERNMENT"—for that is what the "BEAST" is—a PAGAN GOVERNMENT.

Jesus Christ proclaimed the KINGDOM, or government of GOD—*divine government* by will of GOD and by GOD'S LAW—not paganized human government by will of man and man-made laws. His Church includes all born-again saints who have and are led by the Holy Spirit. Christ is its only HEAD, and His Kingdom is NOT of this world!

WHERE, then, did human CHURCH GOVERNMENT originate? Yes, WHERE?

"The first pope, in the real sense of the word, was Leo I (440-461 A.D.)" says the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Vol. 7, page 629. To him the form of GOVERNMENT of the Roman Empire was the most marvelous thing on earth. It became an obsession. He applied its principles to the CHURCH, organized the Church into a GOVERNMENT, forming the PAPACY.

This CHURCH GOVERNMENT or ORGANIZATION is the IMAGE OF THE BEAST!

Says Myers' *Ancient History*: "During the reign of Leo I, the Church set up, within the Roman Empire, an ecclesiastical STATE (government) which, in its constitution and its administrative system, was *shaping itself upon the imperial MODEL*."

This CHURCH GOVERNMENT, then, according to this historical authority, is in fact a MODEL, a COUNTERPART, AN IMAGE of the "BEAST" which is the Roman Empire GOVERNMENT.

The *Britannica* calls it an ECCLESIASTICAL WORLD EMPIRE!

This IMAGE—man-made and man-ruled church government—compelled people to WORSHIP THE CHURCH! And since the church was organized into a worldly government, this was *worship* of the IMAGE—FALSE worship—IDOLATRY!!

But this Church became a MOTHER, and DAUGHTER CHURCHES came out of her, in "protest," calling themselves "PROTESTANT." And ALL have worldly, political CHURCH GOVERNMENT. "Upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (Rev. 17:5). Her daughters are called "harlots." Together, they are called "BABYLON." They are pagan, teaching pagan doctrines and customs, cloaked in the NAME of "Christianity!" And ALL NATIONS are deceived!

Yes, human-organized CHURCHIANITY is the "IMAGE" of the "BEAST." When people speak of "MY Church," they mean their organized denomination. And today people seem to IDOLIZE their CHURCHES! This is "worshipping the IMAGE of the BEAST."

"COME OUT OF HER," God says (Rev. 18:4). God help us to HEED!

END

“Well, WHAT CAN I DO?”

FEW REALIZE the *first duty* of every Christian, as a member of the true Body of Christ, is *to preach the Gospel!*

“But what can *I* do?” you ask, bewildered. “I can’t preach. I wasn’t called to the ministry.”

Oh yes you were! Every converted Christian can, and *does* preach—but *not in the way you think!* Nearly all professing Christians are failing in their first duty—jeopardizing their very salvation—because they DO NOT UNDERSTAND this vital truth.

A Different Kind of Preaching

Many are in danger of losing their very salvation because they are all mixed up on this point. It is SO VITAL your eternity may hinge on it!

To His disciples Jesus said: “Go ye into all the world and PREACH THE GOSPEL.” And if one should think that Great Commission applied to the Apostles, *only*, as called and ordained ministers, remember that of all those who should be converted under their ministry Jesus commanded “. . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Mat. 28:20).

There are more ways than you would think in which *you* can “preach the Gospel.” AND YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!

Most people seem to think that *to preach* is to lecture others with your mouth! But often the most effective preaching is not oratory at all! For instance, how many millions are there who have gone to church and heard preaching they considered good from the pastor or evangelist, and yet they have become disgusted, soured, embittered, and finally turned away from Christ *because too many of the church members did not practice what their pastor preached!*

“If *that's* Christianity,” untold thousands have said in disgust, on noticing the hypocritical and *unchristian* lives of church members, “I don’t want any of it.”

“Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

The daily lives of professing Christians often preach more effectively to the unconverted than the oratorical persuasion of the minister.

And the pity is, that if you are living the wrong kind of life, you may do more harm than the good Spirit-inspired minister of God can do.

Do you realize that you influence everybody with whom you come in contact? The example you set, the life you live, the way you deal with people, affects the very life and character of all who know you or deal with you, in some small measure at least.

I know a fine Christian girl of college age who seems to have more joyous and happy sunshine within than the Southern California climate has without. I know this girl has her problems in life, her concerns, afflictions, disappointments, the same as everybody else. But somehow she has learned to TRUST GOD with them all—to commit them to Him, knowing all things work together for good to them that love the Lord, knowing God will work all things out for them that trust Him. And it is seldom those who are thrown with her from day to day ever see an unhappy expression cloud her smiling face. She brings sunshine to all around her. She makes others just *feel better*.

And I know a *most* worldly man who said of this girl: “There’s a girl that almost makes me want to be a Christian. If ever I saw a person who really *lives* a Christian life, it’s that girl.” This man has heard her preaching, and I have talked to him personally for hours, but that happy “Pollyanna” has preached more convincingly to him by her beaming personality and good wholesome Christian *living* than all the oratory he ever heard.

By our actions, and our daily lives, and associations with others, we often either drive them *away* from God, disgusted, or awaken their interest and draw them toward it.

BUT WE CAN NEVER TALK OR ARGUE PEOPLE INTO BECOMING CONVERTED! We can *lead* them, but we cannot *drive* them—except away from Christianity!

Even the Starry Heavens Preach

The most effective “preaching” is that done by WORKS, not words.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth SPEECH, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where *their voice* is not heard” (Psalm 19:1-3).

The heavens are the WORKS of God’s hands. Thus His WORKS—His accomplishments—declare His glory. What He

has produced *preaches*. In the vast starry heavens one beholds the awe-inspiring POWER of God—His all-mighty power, skill, wisdom, and science!

They are His ACTIONS—they preach in every language, without words, yet there is no language where their voice is not heard.

Likewise, *your* actions may speak louder to your friends and neighbors than my words. For good or evil, every Christian preaches—by the life he lives! What kind of preaching is YOUR life doing?

YOUR Part in the Verbal Ministry

All this, however, does not in any manner replace or relieve us of responsibility for carrying on the great verbal ministry of actual word-of-mouth preaching.

Jesus set the example. He was the divine Messenger, sent of God, who brought us God’s Message of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. Jesus set an example by the life He lived. This example is for every Christian. “He that overcometh, *and keepeth my works* unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations”—in the Kingdom of God, said Jesus (Rev. 2:26). The called minister, too, must *live* the Gospel as well as preach it.

The Gospel of Christ is the Message Jesus preached—the Message God sent to the world by Him. The life He lived was the kind of life He proclaimed. His MESSAGE was the Good News of the KINGDOM OF GOD—that is, of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. It is the Message of government, individually, personally, and also nationally and internationally as it will be, *by the will of God* instead of conduct according to the will of man. Jesus said, “Not my will, O Father, but THINE be done.” He revealed the will of God. His life exemplified God’s will.

Still, there was a definite MESSAGE—the Message of the coming world-ruling Kingdom of God, and of government by the will of God in the individual lives of Christians *now*. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?” (Rom. 10:14-15).

And so Jesus *called* to Him and His ministry His twelve apostles to *carry on* with proclaiming to the world the great powerful Message God had sent by Him.

And later He called the Apostle Paul, and thru him other young ministers were taught and trained and sent out to proclaim the same Message to Gentiles.

But the powerful organized denominations and religions in the world opposed and combatted this Message—the true Gospel—with all their power, strategy and cunning. When they were unable to stop it by force, they adopted the strategy of joining in with the Church, working their own leaders into positions of leadership and then perverting the true Gospel. Instead of the Message God had sent to the world by Jesus Christ, they began to proclaim a Message *about His person*. Instead of the TRUTH of God, they substituted the fables of paganism. Instead of the WAY of God, they installed the mystic rites and impressive ceremonies of Babylon. Instead of the GOVERNMENT of God, both in the Church and in the private lives of its members, they instituted government by MAN and the will of man.

And down thru the centuries, with everything vital in the true Gospel Jesus brought and proclaimed, perverted by pagan substitutes, these forces of Satan continued to DECEIVE the world by freely TELLING THE WORLD ABOUT A SAVIOUR—freely telling about His virgin birth, His shed blood, His resurrection and ascension. They preached the fundamental truths of Creation and these things ABOUT Christ.

The Protestant movement threw out many of the pagan rituals, forms and ceremonies; retained, at first, the fundamental doctrines of Creation, the Virgin birth, the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension—but it retained many of the pagan *doctrines*, and therefore a false way of salvation, and it continued embracing the governments of this world and the way of government by the will of man. But the MESSAGE, or true Gospel, of Jesus Christ, it totally ignored! And today, more and more, Protestantism is turning "modernist"—rejecting even those old-time fundamentals!

But now we have reached "The TIME OF THE END"—the time when Jesus prophesized "This GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the END (of this world) come" (Mat. 24:14).

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS ON EARTH TODAY IS THE PROCLAIMING OF THIS MESSAGE—THE VERY SAME MESSAGE GOD SENT BY JESUS CHRIST, AND WHICH CHRIST HIMSELF PROCLAIMED.

And EVERY true Christian to whom the knowledge comes has a *vital part* in the proclaiming of this dynamic, powerful and vital Message!

What is YOUR part? What can YOU do?

Well, let us see this as it is. Jesus Christ has called your pastor and editor to this mission as surely as He called the Apostle Paul to a special mission carrying this same Gospel to the Gentiles. But He said this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached *in all the world*—unto ALL NATIONS!

Sixteen years ago your pastor began preaching in a little country schoolhouse. He could not afford printed advertising or handbills—so he went over the countryside personally inviting people to come. The one-room schoolhouse seated about 36—attendance averaged around 40—usually some had to stand. The Gospel was preached, several precious souls were brought to Christ, into the TRUTH, converted. But all his personal efforts, alone, were reaching in those days only around 40 people at a time.

Then opportunity came to go on the air—on a smallest-powered station in America. The radio ministry started as small as it could start. The cost was very little—\$2.50 a week. But that was more than he had. A small number of friends and brethren became CO-WORKERS with him, and they began putting some of God's tithe money and their own offerings into this ministry along with his personal efforts and his voice. He was really surprised to discover God had endowed him with a good radio voice, and the gift of using it effectively. And so by then, instead of preaching to 40 people at a time, he and his co-workers, by COMBINING their portions of God's tithe money with his personal efforts were preaching to more than a thousand people at a time.

Interest grew. People had never heard that vital, live, powerful, dynamic MESSAGE THAT JESUS PREACHED before. They had heard pagan fables and messages ABOUT the *person* of Christ, but not the very Message He preached.

Now a larger number was being converted, and added to a gradually growing family of CO-WORKERS. And after two or three years the Message was going out over a larger station in Portland. As new co-workers were added, we were enabled to begin proclaiming the Message of Christ to Seattle and the Puget Sound region.

New co-workers there enabled us, by 1942, to send out the Message to Southern California over a strong Hollywood station. And these co-workers joining *their* offerings and portions of God's tithe and *their* prayers and encouragement to those of the Pacific Northwest made it possible to begin sending out the Message to the entire United States, Canada, and Mexico.

After a few years, our growing family of co-workers made it possible for the same voice, called of God, to proclaim

this Gospel of the Kingdom EVERY NIGHT over the MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATION (standard broadcast) IN THIS HEMISPHERE, and then to establish in Pasadena AMBASSADOR COLLEGE where young people can be taught and trained for personal part in this great and fast-growing ministry, THAT THIS GOSPEL SOON MAY GO OUT INTO OTHER NATIONS, PROCLAIMED IN OTHER LANGUAGES, ALL OVER THE EARTH.

And altho AMBASSADOR COLLEGE is still perhaps the smallest in America (God always starts things thru human servants the smallest, but they always grow great), yet already God has given us six young men I am convinced He has CALLED, and already qualified to begin active personal work. Two of them are now on a nation-wide tour visiting those converted by this great work, baptising them and giving them personal help.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Now look back. Alone, and without co-workers, I was able to preach this great Gospel to about 40 people at a time.

Today, with a few thousand co-workers, the same voice preaches the same dynamic Gospel of Christ for the first time in 1900 years to a cumulative audience of ABOUT SIX MILLION PEOPLE every week! Let us say that MY part, alone, is 40 people. But YOUR part—that of our co-workers, adding their prayers, their generous offerings and faithful portion of GOD'S TITHES, is approximately six MILLION PEOPLE hearing this Gospel every week!

Of course that is the combined part of thousands. But the most careful estimates indicate that EVERY TWO DOLLARS (the widow's two mites) sent in to this work carries the Gospel to FOUR THOUSAND precious souls!

Think of it! By the miracle of radio, organization, the growth of this work, altho my personal effort without it could preach to only a little handful of people, yet BY the power of these things God has opened to us, every single one of your dollars carries that SAME PREACHING to the ears of TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE! Just one of your dollars, or one of God's tithing dollars, now reaches many times more people with the true Gospel—the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED—than my personal efforts did without it!

Yes, THERE IS INDEED SOMETHING YOU CAN DO! The person who is able to put a single thousand dollars into this great work is actually doing thousands of times as much in fulfilling this Great Commission of Jesus Christ as I was able to do before God opened up before us these super-powered vehicles for carrying His Message! And the person who can, and is willing to, place several thousand dollars in it is actually DOING something

with Christ's own Gospel that he probably cannot quite realize!

This great work has been built BY FAITH! It has grown and developed by a living, active faith—the kind that is mixed with OBEDIENCE, and with our works, God-empowered and God-directed. So lastly, YOUR PRAYERS for this great work are a most vital thing YOU can contribute! Yes, indeed, there is something YOU can do!

Heart to Heart Talk

Continued from Page 7

Never "feed a cold." This idea came from an old saying of Benjamin Franklin's—but what he meant was, "If you feed a cold, you WILL have to starve a fever." Fast immediately for either cold or fever. One inexperienced doctor prescribed heavy feeding of starchy and greasy foods for a young woman, one of my converts, who was a pneumonia patient in an oxygen tent. His fantastic theory was, "the fever burns up the carbon in the food." There was nothing I could do about it—the poor girl was in a hospital. All I could do was say to the nurse, "You'd better tell that doctor to advise the fire department that the way to put out a fire is to pour kerosene on it. The flames will burn up the kerosene." The nurse could do nothing but follow orders. The poor girl died in a few hours, of course. And I suppose that should not, in public print, be called deliberate murder! A fever is a fire to be PUT OUT, not fed! NEVER FEED A COLD OR A FEVER!

You will save lives if you will always remember this.

It is indeed a hopeful sign that the medical fraternity is at last beginning to make an approach toward a real study of foods, diet, and the importance of these to sickness and disease. Some of the greatest physicians have made this chief contributing factor to sickness or health a scientific study, but unfortunately what is called "medical science" as a whole has not made the study of these vital factors it should have. Instead, it has studied medicines and drugs—which are in most cases POISONS, not foods.

In the case of numerous common diseases such as asthma, biliousness, bronchial troubles, catarrh, hay fever, constipation, digestive disorders, heart troubles, obesity, rheumatism, etc., a series of short fasts of not to exceed seven days will prove helpful. After one such fast, follow a natural body-building diet of NATURAL foods, avoiding the meats forbidden in Leviticus 11, eating only LEAN clean meats, avoiding all fat and greases, all fried foods unless fried in pure butter, all starches (everything made from white flour, except bread which should be toast-

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon The PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of giving, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

ed until hard clear thru), all white sugar and excess sweets. Be sure to use only WHOLE grains—such as whole wheat, steel-cut oats, brown rice, and get plenty of raw green leafy vegetables (avoiding greasy salad dressings such as one buys at the store), cooked non-starchy vegetables, and fruits. Then, after perhaps a month of building up on this natural diet, take another fast, and repeat until you get good results.

Always, during a fast, take an enema twice a day, and a light shower or sponge-bath (never soak in a tub of hot water) at least once a day. You will not feel like doing heavy work. Get plenty of rest. Break the fast with a few stewed prunes and two slices of whole-wheat toast, toasted hard clear through. For the second meal, repeat this and add one cooked non-starchy vegetable. Thereafter return to a normal, careful and sensible diet.

P.S.—In a fruit-juice fast, NEVER take more than one 8-ounce glass of citrus-fruit-juice at a time, and never more frequently than every two and a half or three hours. Three or four times a day is more effecting. Drink plenty of water.

Water Baptism

Continued from Page 5

After Jesus had completed His earthly ministry, had paid the penalty of *your* sins on the cross, had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent for all flesh on the following day of Pentecost.

Thousands were in Jerusalem for this festival. When the Spirit of God came upon—and into—the disciples that morning, thousands came in awe and wonder at the majestic spectacle. Peter preached the first inspired sermon of this Christian dispensation. Thousands were convicted in their hearts. They realized their lost

condition. They realized Christ was indeed Messiah—SAVIOUR!

"What shall we do?" they cried out to Peter and the disciples. "HOW SHALL WE BE SAVED?"

Peter was now inspired. The answer came straight and direct!

"REPENT!" shouted the inspired Peter in great power, "AND BE BAPTISED, 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).

There are the conditions—JUST TWO—the same as Jesus gave them at the very beginning of His Gospel—REPENT, and BELIEVE! For one cannot be rightly baptised *except* he believe (Acts 8:37). Baptism is an ordinance symbolizing FAITH in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Once these conditions are complied with, God stands bound by a PROMISE to put within the repentant believer HIS SPIRIT—which means His LOVE, faith, understanding, gentleness and goodness, power, etc.—His *attitude of mind*—the Spirit of a sound mind—His very LIFE—the impregnation and begetting of eternal life, and the very character of God! The HOLY SPIRIT in one CHANGES one!

"For the PROMISE is unto you, and to your children . . . even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (verse 39).

WATER BAPTISM, THEN, IS A REQUIRED PART OF THE WAY OF SALVATION!

Jesus' Example!

Jesus in all things set us an example, that we should follow His steps. He was the example for Christian living for the individual, and also the living example for His called ministers (I Pet. 2:21).

Jesus, tho He had committed no sins to be remitted, was baptised, setting the example for us. You'll read of it in Matthew 3:13-17. In being baptised, Jesus was immersed into the water (not sprinkled or poured) because "Jesus, when He was baptised, went up straight-way out of the water." Immediately the Spirit of God descended upon Him, in this case visibly, and the voice of God from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God help us, that by His help, power, and grace, we may be enabled to live such overcoming lives He may finally say the same of us!

Jesus also set the example for ministers. Did you know that Jesus baptised more disciples than John the Baptist?

Listen: "After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judea; and there He tarried with them, and baptised. . . . When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptised more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself baptised not,

but His disciples) . . ." (John 3:22 and 4:1-2).

Meaning of "In the Name of Jesus Christ"

There is an important meaning here. Actually Jesus did not do the physical work of baptising these people Himself—He had His disciples do it for Him! And what they did, by His authority and command, is attributed to Himself! So it was considered as if Jesus Himself had baptised them.

Here is a most important truth. His disciples did the baptising IN HIS NAME—that is, in His stead—they did it *for* Him, *by His authority*—and that was considered just the same as if Jesus had actually done it Himself! In fact, the Holy Spirit actually inspired the direct statement that Jesus baptised more disciples than John. When, at His direction, and by His authority, His chosen disciples, chosen by Him, did it *for* Him, it is considered that JESUS did the baptising. He did it, in other words, by and through His disciples!

To ask for anything in prayer, or to do or perform anything, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, is to ask or do it BY HIS AUTHORITY. It is to act for Him. To do it for Him, in His stead. It is acting as if by power of attorney to act FOR Him. It implies He has delegated that authority to us. And indeed He has! For we are commanded to do all things IN THE NAME OF CHRIST!

Jesus Commanded Baptism

Keep in mind the clear picture of the True GOSPEL. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Message which GOD SENT to the world, and Christ was the divine Messenger who brought and proclaimed it. It was not primarily a Message about Himself, but about the Kingdom—the GOVERNMENT—of God. Jesus devoted three and a half years to teaching this Message to His twelve apostles.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave them the final GOSPEL COMMISSION for this age,—and in it He commanded baptism as an obligatory ordinance for this Gospel dispensation:

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach THE GOSPEL" (the Message God sent and Christ proclaimed) "TO EVERY CREATURE. He that believeth, and is baptised, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). Note these points: The GOSPEL to be preached was not the present-day message ABOUT the *Person* of Christ, but the Message He brought and preached—the Good News of the GOVERNMENT of God. What is it necessary to BELIEVE to be saved? That which is preached—the GOSPEL! When even the preachers today do away with God's LAW, and therefore the Government (Kingdom) of God—

for there can be no Government without law—they *deny* that which must be believed to be saved—and their followers cannot be saved, but are deceived! And, also, it is "he that is baptised" that shall be saved. It's part of the divine Commission—a required ordinance for salvation!

Notice Matthew's version of the Great Commission:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ." surely the disciples were to teach these nations that which Jesus had taught them—the Message God had sent Him to deliver and proclaim to the world—the Good News of the Government of God—a Message that has not been preached for 1800 years or more! ". . . baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mat. 28:19-20).

Here again, in the final Great Commission for preaching the Gospel in this age, Christ commanded BAPTISM. And here He specifically stated "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

New Testament Ordinance

The apostles understood this as a divine Commission and Command. They carried it out. They always baptised repentant believers.

The first inspired sermon after the Holy Spirit came to convert Peter and the apostles was mentioned above. Peter commanded all to repent, and to be baptised.

And "they that gladly received his word were baptised: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them . . . and when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women" (Acts. 8:5, 12).

Some, who do not believe in water baptism, may say this baptism was not with water, but with the Holy Spirit. But later, when the apostles sent Peter and John down to these people at Samaria, they, "when they were come down, prayed for them, *that they might receive the Holy Ghost. For as yet He was fallen upon none of them; only they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus*" (Acts 8:15-16). None of them had been as yet baptised with the Holy Spirit—yet they already *were baptised*. Since they were not baptised with the Spirit, they were baptised in water.

Baptism Definitely Commanded

As Peter preached the first inspired sermon after the coming of the Holy Spirit, and commanded baptism—to the Jews in

Jerusalem, so God sent Peter also to first preach the Gospel to the Gentiles ten years later. It was at the house of a very devout Gentile, Cornelius. But devout though he was, he did not understand—did not have saving KNOWLEDGE. He knew no better than to fall down at Peter's feet and worship him, a mere man. God had sent Peter to instruct him.

Peter preached to Cornelius' family, "The word which God sent"—the Message God sent by Jesus Christ as Messenger. And "while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit yet on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44). In verse 45 it is described as "the gift of the Holy Ghost,"—"ALSO"—indicating the same "baptism" with the Holy Spirit as Peter and the apostles had received. In Acts 11:15-17 it is plainly described as the SAME "baptism" with the Holy Spirit the apostles had received. Now these *had* received the "baptism" with the Spirit.

"Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid WATER, that these should not be baptised, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:46-48).

Here is a definite inspired COMMAND to be baptised in WATER.

Immersion, Sprinkling, or Pouring?

As in all other points of doctrine, the churches today are in utmost confusion—some practicing pouring, some sprinkling, some immersing. Some say it makes no difference. Those who sprinkle usually apply it to children.

The word "baptise" is not an English word. It is a Greek word. The New Testament was written in the Greek language. In translating it into English, the translators left this Greek word untranslated. Literally, in the Greek, the word is "baptizo." The definition of this word is "IMMERSE." It means to plunge into, put into, dip. It does not mean "to sprinkle" or "to pour." The Greek word for "sprinkle" is "rantidzo," and "to pour" is "cheo" in Greek. The Holy Spirit did not inspire the use of these words, but "baptizo," meaning IMMERSE, or PUT INTO.

Therefore sprinkling or pouring IS NOT BAPTISING!

When one understands the meaning of the words inspired it is silly to talk about "which form or mode of baptising shall we use—sprinkling, pouring, or immersing?" It is as ridiculous as to ask which form of IMMERSING shall we use—sprinkling, pouring, or immersing? Or as to ask "which form or mode of skiing shall we use—swimming, ice-skating, or skiing?" Swimming and ice skating are not skiing. Sprinkling and pouring are not baptising.

John baptised in the Ænon river near

Jerusalem, "because there was *much water* there" (John 3:23). He would only have needed a cup full to sprinkle, or a pitcher full to pour—but baptising required "MUCH water" in a river. Also this verse says John baptised "*in Ænon*"—the subject put *IN* the river, not water *ON* the subject.

Jesus set us an example—there was no other purpose in His baptism—and He was put down into the water, for he went up *OUT OF* the water. Both Philip and the eunuch went down *INTO* the water (Acts 8:38). There was no reason whatever for Philip to go actually into the water, *except* for the reason there was no other way he could plunge the eunuch *INTO* the river. They came up *out* of the water (verse 39).

The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism is a BURIAL, and a RISING from a grave (Col. 2:12). Neither sprinkling or pouring is a burial, and one rises up out of neither. They do not picture the symbolic meaning of baptism, and therefore are meaningless. "BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are RISEN with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead."

When one is plunged *INTO* the water, he is in a watery grave. He would not live ten minutes unless brought up out of the water—unless RISEN from this watery grave. Therefore a person immersed under water is in a literal grave.

Notice further: "Know ye not, that so many of us were *baptised* into Jesus Christ, were baptised into *His death*? Therefore we are *buried* with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was *raised up* from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For, if we have been *planted together in the likeness of His death*, we shall be also in the *likeness of His resurrection*" (Rom. 6:3-5).

There is the beautiful symbolism—the real meaning of baptism.

It pictures, in symbol, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

But it is a DUAL picture, as all things in God's Plan are DUAL in operation. It also pictures the crucifixion of the old self (verse 6-7), or of the sinning life; the *burial* of this sinning self, and the coming up out of this watery grave symbolic of a CHANGED person resurrected to a new, righteous, spiritual life in Christ Jesus.

Going down into the water pictures the DEATH of Christ, and of the old self.

Buried in the water pictures the BURIAL of Christ, and of the old self.

Coming up out of the water pictures Christ's RESURRECTION, and a spiritually resurrected person walking henceforth "in newness of life."

Water baptism is the ordinance or-

dained of Christ by which we express our FAITH in Christ as Saviour—our ACCEPTANCE of His death, burial, and resurrection for us, and our repentance of the old life and burial of it, rising to new and higher life henceforward. It is a beautiful ordinance, full of meaning!

Not Baptised Into a Denomination

Notice carefully, too—we are "BAPTISED INTO JESUS CHRIST" (verse 3 above), or, as Jesus expressed it in Mat. 28:19, into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—NOT INTO SOME CHURCH ORGANIZATION OR DENOMINATION.

In many sectarian churches today the minister will refuse to baptise one except into his church—his group or organization of *human* beings. That is not proper baptism. We are to be baptised into the DIVINE Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And it is to be done "in the name"—by the authority—of Jesus Christ.

Now water baptism is a required CONDITION to receiving the Holy Spirit. At Samaria, and again at Ephesus, they did not receive the Holy Spirit until *after* they were baptised in water (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-6). True, at Cornelius' house they did receive the Holy Spirit, and thereby were baptised BY the Spirit into the CHURCH before water baptism—but Peter immediately commanded water baptism. This was a rare exception to the rule.

BUT THERE IS NO PROMISE THAT ANYONE WILL RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT UNTIL BAPTISED IN WATER—even though God in His wisdom and love may on rare occasions make an exception. The command is, "*Repent, and be baptised*"—and THEN "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Must Baptism Be Administered Only By Ordained Ministers?

Finally, *who* is authorized to administer baptism?

Must the repentant believer be baptised only *by an* ordained minister? How much depends upon the goodness, or belief, or spirituality of the man who performs the ordinance?

First, let us look to the *example* of Jesus; next to the *instructions* of Christ; and then to the teaching and practice in the early New Testament Church.

Was Jesus Himself an "ordained minister"—that is, ordained and approved by one of the organized denominations? No, He was despised and rejected of them—opposed, persecuted, belittled as "an Independent." And He baptised more disciples than John. Even John was not recognized, ordained, or accredited in any way by any organized group or Church. He was in their sight a rank outsider.

Actually, as pointed out above, Jesus Himself immersed no one with His own

physical hands—His disciples did it for Him, by His authority. And right there is the point which answers the whole question. The one qualified to do the immersing must always perform it *IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST*—which means by His authority, acting for Christ as His disciple.

The principle is that *IT IS CHRIST WHO IS BAPTISING YOU*. The man who puts you under the water is merely performing this physical act *for* Christ, in His stead. You are not to look to the human man, further than to conscientiously try to go to one you honestly feel is a man of God, called of Christ, and used of Him. And if later you change your mind about the man, or later he turns the wrong way, *your* salvation does not depend upon that man or any other mortal man, *BUT SOLELY UPON CHRIST!* There is no cause to be baptised again by another man.

Always there is the chance that you may be deceived in the man you believe qualified to act for Christ in the act of baptism. If it depended upon this *man*, you would have to have *divine* powers of reading minds and hearts to be sure. You might have to be immersed fifty times before you could be absolutely sure of the man who did it—and even then you could be mistaken. Just be as careful as you can, as God gives you to see, in the man who acts *for* Christ in baptising you—and then *DO NOT LOOK AT THE MAN—LOOK AT CHRIST*—consider that it is CHRIST who is baptising you, by and thru a human instrument. And even if the instrument turns out to be imperfect, remember all humans are imperfect, and it was done *for*, and in the name of the *only* One who ever was perfect. And since it was in reality done BY CHRIST, it should *never* be done over by another.

Not Ordained Ministers

Now back to the example of Christ. In His own earthly ministry, He had this immersing performed for Him by His disciples. At that time they were not even converted—had not yet received the Holy Spirit—for the Holy Spirit was not yet given (John 7:39) because Jesus had not yet ascended to heaven to send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) which first came to enter within and convert these disciples the day of Pentecost.

Peter was their leader, and even after this baptising, Peter denied Jesus three times. If you had been baptised by Peter in Christ's name, would you, on learning of his denial of Jesus, be baptised over again?

These men, who baptised for Jesus when He was with them in Person, were not ordained ministers—were not recognized by any organized church—were merely STUDENTS of Jesus at the time, be-

ing taught, not yet prepared to be sent out as His Apostles and His ministers. And the indications are they were *young* men, perhaps not yet old enough to be made preachers or evangelists. They were not perfect, not yet converted (Luke 22:32).

Consider now Christ's teaching. Those who go forth teaching, or preaching, His Gospel (the modern organized denominations preach a *different gospel*) are the ones He commanded and commissioned to do the baptising (Mat. 28:19-20).

Consider the example of the inspired early Church. Philip was not an Apostle, or a regular minister, but merely a deacon commissioned by the Church only to perform physical acts, such as waiting on tables (Acts 6:2-5). Yet he went down to Samaria and preached Christ and His Kingdom, and the people who believed were baptised (Acts 8:5-6, 12). The text does not even state that Philip did the baptising—he may have had some of his new converts do it.

If you study the New Testament on the point, you will see it does not appear to attach great importance as to *which man* puts the believer under the water, since it is considered by the one baptised that CHRIST does it. The Holy Spirit sent Philip later to baptise the eunuch (Acts 8:26-39).

Paul Baptised Few

Consider, finally, Paul's example and teaching.

The Corinthian Church was having a contention as to *which man* they would follow. Just as today, some follow Luther and call themselves by his name, Lutherans. Others follow John and Charles Wesley who laid great stress on method and orderly procedure, and call themselves

Methodists. Others follow Campbell, Fox, and other leaders. At Corinth some wanted to follow Paul and start a church with him at the head—others wanted to follow Peter, others Apollos.

"Is Christ divided?" asked Paul of them (I Cor. 1:13). "Was PAUL crucified for you? or *were you baptised in the name of Paul?* I thank God that I baptised none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I had baptised in mine own name. And I baptised also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptised any other. For Christ sent me not to baptise, but to preach the Gospel" (I Cor. 1:13-17).

Notice, PAUL BAPTISED VERY FEW. He had others—perhaps lay members who were not preachers at all—do it for Christ. He was the called minister by whom Christ carried the Gospel to the Gentiles—thru whom CHRIST *as head of the Church* ruled the Churches which had been raised up by the preaching of Paul and the young men he taught and sent out under his direction. Paul did not consider it important or essential that he, personally, baptise all those being converted under the ministry God carried on thru his supervision. "Christ sent me not to baptise," he said.

Many, today, being converted under the ministry God is carrying on thru supervision of Herbert Armstrong seem to think it important that Herbert Armstrong baptise them. But, as in the days of Paul, there is danger lest people get to looking too much to the person of the human *instrument* God is using, INSTEAD OF LOOKING TO CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF GOD.

And so, as Paul did, we today often have others do the baptising. It is done IN THE NAME OF CHRIST—it is really

CHRIST doing it, thru human instrumentality. A man does it merely as a *servant*, or instrument of Christ—just as performing a service, never to his own credit or glory or honor.

Baptising Tour

Therefore, as these words are written, men from AMBASSADOR COLLEGE, men whose fruits show they have been called of God, consecrated and well-trained men who have UNDERSTANDING of God's Word and are competent to explain it and qualified to baptise, are making final preparation for a Coast-to-Coast baptising tour.

Hundreds being brought to Christ, whose lives are being *changed* by this work of God, are awaiting baptism in all parts of the nation. The two men starting now will be unable to reach more than a part of all ready to be baptised.

But all truly repentant believers are urged to write air-mail, or telegraph the editor immediately, and if you are near the route these men will take, arrangements will be made for them to visit you. In many cases people living too far off the route will be asked to meet these men at the nearest point of contact.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE is already bearing rich fruit beyond all value in money. A wonderful harvest of precious souls is being reaped. Other baptising teams will tour the country later.

* * *

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH: Is water baptism the ordinance by which we "join a Church"? What about the "thief on the cross"? Should you wait until living a better life? What about baptising children and infants? These questions will be answered in the next PLAIN TRUTH.

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