

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1956



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE is different—even its restful, beautifully contoured campus is unique. Students find it inspires them to achieve their very best.

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding.

VOL. XXI NO. 8

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as the Lord provides. Address
all communications to the editor.*

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By the Radio Church of God

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

Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

Frequently zealous co-workers will ask us to send the names and addresses from our mailing list of those in their vicinity.

The letter will read something like this:

"I'm so hungry for regular fellowship with others who listen to the program and who know and love the truth. I think it would be a wonderful idea if I had your mailing list so I could go around and get all these people to meeting regularly together."

At first glance such an idea may seem splendid. But Scripture teaching and the lesson of experience compel us to refuse. This is difficult for some to understand, so we feel it well to explain.

Jesus compared His followers to sheep. The Bible speaks of ministers as shepherds. It is a most apt comparison. What would happen to a little flock of six sheep on a mountain-side here, and a dozen sheep in a valley there, without any shepherd? And especially if there were a lot of wolves in sheep's clothing seeking flocks to devour.

While Jesus' first and Great Commission to His apostles was to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the world, He also commanded, "Feed my sheep."

But to whom was this command given? Not to untrained lay members, but to Peter and the apostles whom He had

specially called and educated and trained for this purpose. Jesus' intent was for the sheep to be fed by those He had called to this special ministry—those true and faithful servants properly trained. He did not intend for the sheep to gather *themselves* together, without a shepherd, and try to feed themselves, and guide themselves along the proper path.

Paul solemnly commissioned the God-chosen ministers and elders of the Church of God at Ephesus:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over whom the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers (bishops or pastors), to feed the Church of God . . . For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (Acts 20:28-30).

He warned them that even among their own local members some would rise up to lead the flock astray.

We had to learn this lesson by experience—and the price was costly!

As prophecy foretold, God's true Church is small in number, scattered, opposed, and often persecuted. As a result, many begotten members in God's family cannot meet each week with others who know and obey the truth of God. In such cases a person must depend upon personal Bible study and prayer, as well as the WORLD TOMORROW broadcast and the literature God makes available, for the spiritual food needed for growth in Godliness.

Even if most of you are deprived of attending church services, you hear your pastor more often—and right in your home via radio—than most church goers

DAILY TV

Plans have been made to put The WORLD TOMORROW on Television DAILY—or at least five times a week.

In order to create the special fund required to make this possible, we have cancelled the weekly TV series temporarily. Announcement will be made as soon as we are back on DAILY. Radio Station WABC in New York is now added, besides weekly TV on the only station in Manila, Philippines.

hear their pastors. Every time the WORLD TOMORROW is on the air, *you are attending* a great church service, in one of the largest fellowships on earth—attended by millions of others!

Let's not grumble! Rather be thankful you are so much better off than before!

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—11:15 P.M., Mon. thru Sat., Eastern time.

WLS — Chicago — 890 on dial — 11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 8:30 Sunday night.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—Sundays, 11:15 P.M. Eastern time. 10:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.

WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time.

XELO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 P.M. Mountain Standard time.)

XFG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.

WCAE — Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—4:00 P.M. Sundays.

KXOK—St. Louis—630 on dial—9:00 P.M. Sundays.

WXYZ—Detroit, Mich.—1270 on dial—10:05 Sundays.

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XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 P.M. every night.

KGER—Los Angeles—1390 k.c.—12:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 12 noon Saturday, 2 P.M. Sun.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—7:30 A.M. daily. 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M. daily.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

TO ALL OF EUROPE

RADIO LUXEMBOURG
Mondays: 23:30 Greenwich time

TO ASIA & AFRICA

RADIO CEYLON
Tuesday: 10:15-10:45 P.M. India-Pakistan Beam and Ceylon Beam.
Wednesday: 11:30-12:00 noon African Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E. Asia Beam.

RADIO FORMOSA
Wednesday: 5:50-6:20 P.M.

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES
Saturday: 10:00-10:30 P.M.

How AMBASSADOR COLLEGE is different!

***This is not just another college. It is basically different.
Many have not understood what these differences are.***

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT'S TIME our readers understood clearly *in what particulars* Ambassador College is totally different from all other liberal arts institutions.

For the high school graduate facing the decision of selecting the college to attend, the choice is not between several of which Ambassador is one. The choice is either Ambassador or all other colleges, of which one is then selected.

The student whose choice is Ambassador could never enroll in any other college. The student who understands this distinction, and prefers the type of colleges and universities that have dotted our countries for generations, could never choose Ambassador.

Differences are Fundamental

The underlying, basic distinction may be stated in few words.

When God created the earth, and then created human life upon it, He created also inexorable LAWS—both physical and spiritual—to govern all relationships, which produce automatically good and desired results when obeyed, and evil when disobeyed. To our first parents God revealed the fundamental KNOWLEDGE of life—of these invisible LAWS as a WAY OF LIFE—of God's PURPOSE in human life—and of His PLAN for working out that purpose.

This KNOWLEDGE is the very foundation of all knowledge. This knowledge is inaccessible to man—totally undiscoverable—except by direct revelation from God the Creator and Ruler over all. The value of all other knowledge, which man may discover by himself, depends altogether on the possession and

right use of this basic REVEALED knowledge.

Adam and Eve rejected God's revealed knowledge. Mankind has always rejected it, and has established on earth a civilization—a WAY of life—and a system of KNOWLEDGE, which rejects divine revelation and runs diametrically counter to the ways of God's living laws. Consequently, much of the knowledge disseminated and taught in this world's institutions of learning is false. It is a system of truth mixed with error, but with all the foundational knowledge—the MOST important things to know—missing utterly.

The schools of this world do not know, and cannot teach, what is the PURPOSE of life, what man really IS, the WAY of life that produces happiness, joy, health, peace, prosperity.

The education of this world has produced only competition, strife, war, death. It has flooded the world with inequality, injustice. It has bequeathed upon humanity only sorrow, suffering, anguish, fear and worry, discontent, wretchedness, poverty, sickness and disease.

I am writing these words in Marseilles, in southern France. We have recently travelled over Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Greece. We have driven over quite a little of England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and now, again, France. And I want to interpose right here and say that you people in America DO NOT REALIZE the material blessings you enjoy. No other nation on earth possesses the universal prosperity, or lives in the com-

forts and luxury about which you probably grumble and complain. Next blessed today are Britain, Canada (which I might include with the United States), Switzerland, Luxembourg. Germany is rebounding into prosperity rapidly, as a result of hard work, sacrifice, determination and perseverance. Then, in a still lower degree of prosperity, yet above the middle-east, are France, Italy and Spain. In the middle-east we saw very primitive conditions. The educated and prosperous FEW live well. But the main vast populace lives in filth and poverty. Americans cannot understand unless they see it. MOST of this world lives in poverty, disease, filth and despair.

This world, and its educational system, has not retained GOD in its KNOWLEDGE.

At Ambassador College, the revealed knowledge of God forms the basis of all disseminated knowledge, not only in the Bible and Theological courses, but in all courses—especially in history, geology, biology, and kindred branches.

The colleges of this world teach students how to earn a living, but Ambassador teaches them HOW TO LIVE.

A Specific Example

To give you two or three specific cases in point. This fall Ambassador College enters upon its tenth year of existence. Among its very first students, now graduated some years ago and serving on the faculty, are Herman L. Hoeh, Roderick C. Meredith, and Kenneth C. Herrmann.

Mr. Hoeh is now acting Dean of the
(Please continue on next page)



This is the Ambassador Chorale, under the competent direction of Leon Ettinger.

College, and professor of History and of Theology. Mr. Hoeh came to us in the very first year of the college direct from Santa Rosa High School, in California, where he stood at the head of all his classes having nothing but straight A grades in all four years' high school. At Ambassador College he received two or three B grades, at times when pressure of outside duties assisting me appropriated too much of his time from studies—but all other grades in four years of college and one solid year of graduate work were straight A's. He is the only student so far to have been able to earn our Master's Degree in one year.

Personally, I regard Mr. Hoeh as a wizard in research. We entered him, and Mr. Meredith, in Mr. Hoeh's senior year in a national competition with the picked top students in research ability from the nation's colleges and universities. I think some 30,000 students, the top pick of their professors, were entered. Both Mr. Hoeh and Mr. Meredith came through with the highest possi-

ble grade-point, equalled by only 98 out of 30,000 of the nation's best selected students.

I mention this merely to show you that Ambassador students, and Ambassador academic standards are not substandard or inferior, as some might assume because of the very fact that we do retain GOD, and His revealed KNOWLEDGE in our curriculum. On the contrary, Ambassador standards are the very highest.

In his graduate work, Mr. Hoeh specialized in history. He has been able to do extensive travelling in connection with his studies, in both America and over much of Europe. He has delved into nooks and crannies of history that the average historian has ignored or never discovered. He has searched old records in the libraries of the world. And he has made important, exciting discoveries, showing that much that is taught as history is perverted or entirely false.

A New Point of View

In many instances, other historians

have groped in the dark, not knowing what to look for, because they have rejected the revealed knowledge, *and even* discredited the history of the BIBLE. Studying, delving into intricate research from the vantage-point of THIS BASIC KNOWLEDGE, Mr. Hoeh has made vitally important discoveries.

It is my personal opinion that he is today the most accurately informed historian in the world.

In the same way, Mr. Kenneth Herrmann, acting registrar and professor of Science, I regard as having the most true knowledge of geology, and its origins and causes, of any man on earth.

He has travelled, and examined geological formations first-hand, and entered into extensive research. You have read his articles in The PLAIN TRUTH.

Do not misunderstand me. These are not supermen by any means. They both make mistakes, as do ALL MEN. But they are willing to confess error and correct mistakes, when revealed. They study
(Please continue on page 12)

What Is "Worldliness"?

Does the Bible REALLY condemn such things as dancing, card-playing, drinking, theatre-going? Here is a frank, straight-from-the-shoulder explanation of what GOD regards as "sinful."

by Roderick C. Meredith

DO YOU love TRUTH—or do you love your *own way*? You'd better make up your mind about that right now—because if your mind is *closed* and *sealed* from accepting any new truth by blinding PREJUDICE, then you are probably reading this article in *vain*.

But if you really *want* truth—whether or not it agrees with your present ideas and convictions—then you need to *study* and *prove* this subject under discussion in *your Bible*. Consult the *Bible*—because it is *God's Word*—and it is HIS opinion you want, not the scores of disagreeing, conflicting, confusing HUMAN ideas on this subject.

How to be Sure

To be absolutely *sure* of getting the complete, unbiased *truth* on any spiritual matter, learn how to properly study and understand what the Bible says. Remember that the apostle Paul was inspired to write: "*Prove* all things; hold fast that which is *good*" (I Thes. 5:21). So don't take your former opinion—or *any* opinion—for granted. Look at all sides of the question—*openly* and *honestly*.

Jesus Christ said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word of God" (Mat. 4:4). Notice that at the time He said this, the only written word of God was in the *Old Testament*. He said we are to LIVE by it—together, of course, at this time, with the *New Testament*. Do you *believe* what Jesus said?

Paul reminded Timothy (II Tim. 3:14-17) that he had known the holy scriptures from a child, and said that they were able to make him "wise unto salvation." The ONLY scriptures existing in Timothy's youth were the OLD Testament scriptures. Then Paul continued: "ALL *scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for *doctrine*, for *reproof*, for CORRECTION, for instruction in righteousness."

So we are to be *corrected* and *instructed* by the *Old Testament* scriptures—as well as those in the *New Testament*. How *clear*! How *simple* it becomes if we *honestly* want to know the truth.

Let's accept God's *correction* and *instruction* in this matter from the *Old Testament* as well as the *New*.

Another point to remember: Jesus said, "The scripture CANNOT be broken" (John 10:35). Thus, no scripture—when *properly* understood—*contradicts* or *breaks* the meaning of any other scripture. So whenever there *appears* to be a contradiction between any two scriptures—whether between Old Testament and New Testament, or otherwise—there is either a *misunderstanding* of the intended meaning of one of the scriptures, or there is a *mistranslation* involved.

Bearing these factors in mind, be willing to look through the *entire Bible* on any matter, and consult ALL the scriptures and examples—not just *part* of them.

Last of all, it's between *you* and *Almighty God* as to whether you REALLY want to find the *truth*. If you are hunting for an *excuse* to cling to your old errors and mistakes, you will find it. If you are looking for a way to "kid yourself" and *get around* the truth, you will find that also.

Perhaps you had better stop and ask yourself: "Do I love the praise of *men* or the praise of *God*? Do I fear what MEN will say or think, or do I fear the Creator-GOD who gives me every breath of air I breathe?"

God knows your *heart*. It is God who will JUDGE you in the Judgment Day.

So *rid* yourself of blinding PREJUDICE. Seek God's will with open-mindedness and *honesty*!

God's Attitude Toward Material Things

Since the problem of "worldliness"

revolves around *material* things and their uses, let's understand God's over-all attitude toward the physical things and circumstances surrounding man.

First of all, many people *assume* that God loves the *poor* people—and that He would have us all *do without* any abundance of material things. Because James wrote: "Hath not God chosen the *poor* of this world rich in faith," a lot of professing Christians can hardly bring themselves to believe that a person of means could really be a sincere follower of Christ.

What about this? Must we *give up* material wealth, must we drive a second-hand car, must we buy *cheap* things in order to be a really *zealous* Christian?

The answer to James' inspired statement lies in a proper *understanding* of it. God has "called" or "chosen" more of the poorer classes in this present age because—as a general rule—they are the ONLY ones who will willingly *yield* themselves to Him. They have not become so wrapped up in and OVERLY attached to *material* things as to prevent them from understanding God's message. Having little in a *material* sense to lose, they will more readily accept *spiritual truth*.

But IF we can learn to *rightly use* material possessions, God *intends* that we should PROSPER. After all, God Himself is no pauper!

Notice these inspired words of the Apostle John: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in *health*" (III John 2).

Yes, it is God's will to *bless* us in material goods if we will learn to use them properly.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have *life*, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). Solomon wrote: "The substance (*material wealth*) of a *diligent* man is PRECIOUS" (Pro. 12:27), and he exhorted:

"*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy MIGHT*" (Eccl. 9:10).

So if we work hard, if we use our God-given minds, if we are *diligent*, it is God's will that we be *blessed* and *prospered* materially, and that we live a happy, full, ABUNDANT life.

The *danger* in material wealth is that most people come to "set their hearts" on it. They get so *involved* in making a living, in making an impression on their business and social acquaintances, and participating in general in this world's ways and customs, that they find it almost impossible to *accept* and *obey* God's truth when it comes along.

Material prosperity as such is certainly *not* "worldliness"! In fact, the *lack* of sufficient material goods usually indicates a lack of *diligence* and *wisdom*. God's concern is that we learn to evaluate material things properly, and to use them *wisely* for our own good and the good of others.

Are Physical Pleasures Evil?

Now that we see that just having wealth or physical goods is not a sin, what about the physical pleasures men indulge in? Are they necessarily *evil*?

One of the principal texts often used to condemn the pleasures of the "world" is I John 2:15-16. Let's examine it carefully, bearing in mind that it does *not* contradict the rest of the Bible.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the *lust* of the flesh, and the *lust* of the eyes, and the *pride* of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

You will notice that it is the LUST of the flesh, eyes and life that God condemns. *Lust* is illicit, illegal desire. *Lust* is desiring or using something contrary to God's will and to His revealed *laws*.

For instance, many people who have grown up in *ignorance* of God's true plan and purpose for humanity suppose that SEX is *sinful*. Just the very word—"sex"—is a nasty, filthy word to them, and they cannot imagine how anything good could possibly be associated with it.

It has probably never occurred to them—or to those who taught them—that it is GOD who made us *male* and

female—it is God who created SEX. And it is God who even *commanded* the man and woman to *use* sex in a righteous, holy, God-intended manner when He told them: "Be FRUITFUL, and *multiply*, and *replenish* the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

Notice that it is *not* the THING that is wrong. It is *lust*—the *wrong* USE of the thing—that is *sin*.

Lust is not a "thing," an object, or an entertainment. *Lust* is the WRONG USE of material objects or things.

Lust is a *wrong attitude* of heart and mind which causes one to *misuse*, to *misapply* what God has created for good.

Sex is not evil—it is the *wrong use* of sex, outside of marriage, in a way God never intended. The *moving picture* is not "sin"—it is the *wrong use* of this invention that becomes *sin*.

Dancing, liquor, a deck of cards—these things are not "sinful" or "worldly." It is only the *wrong use* of these things which violates God's will.

Remember that it is the *lust* of the flesh and eyes that constitutes "worldliness." The pleasurable use of your five senses—as such—is NOT "worldly."

God *gave* us our five senses so that we might enjoy life to the *full*. God is *not* some fiendish MONSTER who delights in our *suffering*—who wishes us to *do without* and *deny* ourselves all the right enjoyments and pleasures of this physical life.

Christ came to show us the way to happy, ABUNDANT living. So the *right* enjoyment of physical pleasures is *not* "worldliness"—or *sin* in any sense.

What is Being "Worldly"?

If it isn't *wrong* and "worldly" for us to enjoy material things and physical pleasures, then just what is being "worldly"?

Again, recall that it is only the *wrong* USE of physical things that God calls "worldliness." This involves the *lust* of the flesh or eyes—which is COVETOUSNESS. And *covetousness* is *breaking* one of the ten points of God's great spiritual law.

God tells us through the apostle James: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in *one point*, he is *guilty* of ALL" (James 2:10).

So "worldliness" is just one form of *breaking God's law*, which is SIN. For as

we read in I John 3:4: "*Sin* is the *transgression* of the law."

Contrary to much of today's religious teaching, that is GOD's definition of *sin*—a plain, direct statement in His Word. *Don't ever forget that definition*—because it is *God's* definition!

Thus we see that "worldliness" is simply *lusting* for, or *using* material things in a way which *violates* the principles of God's law. No thought or action is "worldly"—regardless of what misguided, mixed-up *men* might think—UNLESS it breaks the letter or spirit of the *Ten Commandments*.

"Sinful" Pleasures?

Now let's get *specific*. Many people who think they are Christians firmly believe that "worldliness" and "sin" consist mainly of *drinking, dancing, card-playing* and *theatre-going*.

How can we *prove* whether or not these things are *worldly* or *sinful*?

ONLY by the *Word of God* and the *inspired example* of Jesus Christ and other true servants of God. And *much* of this proof will be up to YOU and to your *honesty* before God. For to completely answer every little technical point and trick argument that people might bring up on this subject would require an *entire book* of several hundred pages!

But let's be HONEST—and look at the plain, clear principles involved, and the examples of Christ and His servants and prophets. Let's look for TRUTH—not an excuse to get around it!

First of all, is DRINKING a *sin*?

The *principle* is this: Jesus Christ set us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). "Jesus Christ is the *same* yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hcb. 13:8). Jesus has *not* *changed*! He would still be living the *same* kind of life if He were to come in the flesh today as He did live 1900 years ago.

Now notice His *example* in John 2:1-11. Here is the account of how Jesus turned water into *wine*. If you will look up the meaning of the word "firkin" (verse 6), you will see that this amounted to many gallons of wine!

The account is very clear. It simply shows that—according to Jewish custom—they were having real *wine* at the
(Please continue on page 14)

The Origin of LIFE

Can Evolutionists explain the sudden appearance of complex life forms in the "lowest" fossil strata?

by Kenneth C. Herrmann

Synopsis of Part I

EVEN STAUNCH evolutionists acknowledge that "little or nothing is known about the origin of life." But they offer three alternatives:

1) That life has always existed; 2) that life came into being by some slow, natural process (the evolution of life from *dead matter*); 3) the *correct solution* to the problem—life forms were *suddenly created* by a Being having life inherent in Himself.

This last theory they list as a "possibility," but their united efforts are to present the second one—evolution—in a "plausible manner." However, it is the universal opinion of those scientists working in the field that "there is *no evidence* that" the emergence of life from dead matter—the very basis of evolution—"has *ever* taken place or does at this time."

That is quite an admission!

The first alternative—that of organic life having always existed—is completely untenable to atheist, agnostic, and Christian alike. But the second explanation to account for the origin of life—the theory of evolution—is equally untenable! Notice:

The first fossil remains are in many instances IDENTICAL TO LIVING FORMS. In many cases these creatures were *buried alive* as if by some *great catastrophe*. Instead of a few simple primitive forms, myriads of complex creatures are found *at the very bottom of the Cambrian strata*. In the pre-Cambrian below, nothing or next to nothing is to be found. The few fragments found, even after the most thorough world-wide search, *are identical with Cambrian fossils*. They could more properly be called Cambrian fossils.

The problem for the evolutionist remains: *Why has it been impossible to find a fossil layer with but a few simple primitive organisms?*

An immense period of time is sug-

gested between the pre-Cambrian and Cambrian strata. The "supposed" record is *supposedly* destroyed. But complex life forms appear suddenly in this Cambrian strata all over the world.

Was there ever an earlier record? *How could such a world-wide record be destroyed?*

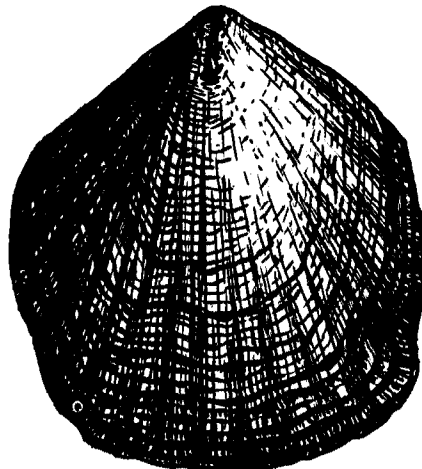
Part II

Five Rejected Theories

Evolutionists claim their record is destroyed. Yet, true men of science among them have inadvertently given us the following facts. They list FIVE THEORIES for the *lack of preservation* of the life *which they believe existed* in the pre-Cambrian—then they take each in its turn and disprove it.

We ask: Why are there no fossils in the pre-Cambrian rocks? They answer with a theory and then give objections which disprove the theory.

Here are their theories and their objections.



Do you know the mystery of this little creature? Here is evidence that each creature produces after its own kind—that it doesn't become a different, more advanced kind.

Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., ardent evolutionist admits that though "Brachiopod species of the genera *Lingula* [which you see above] are the oldest known molluscs . . . [they] are still represented by living species in the ocean. They have persisted with but little change during the whole of geological time, from the early Paleozoic periods downwards, for the living shells do not appear to indicate any marked divergence from the earliest forms." From **Geology** by Geikie.

THEORY NO. 1) All life was destroyed by the metamorphism of the rocks in which they occurred. *Objection:* 90% of pre-Cambrian rocks are schists, gneiss and marble, distorted by heat and pressure, but the remaining 10% are not. *The remaining 10% should contain fossils if evolution were true.*

THEORY NO. 2) Life only existed in those areas which were metamorphosed. *Objections:* This would be very fortunate for the theory of evolution but is most improbable due to the widespread occurrence of the unmetamorphosed areas which were *certainly accessible to ocean life and thus ought to contain fossils.*

THEORY NO. 3) The oceans were too acid for calcium to be used for shells and thus no trace of the animal was preserved. *Objections:* The oceans were more likely fresh to begin with. Also, *siliceous and chitinous skeletons could have been formed and preserved apart from the calcium requirement.* Such types are found in the Cambrian rocks.

THEORY NO. 4) There wasn't enough calcium in the ocean for the animals to have shells. *Objection:* Limestone layers 50,000 feet (?) thick were deposited in this early strata showing *an abundance of calcium.*

THEORY NO. 5) Life forms lived only in the upper zones of the ocean at first and had no hard parts. Either they became lazy, grew hard parts, and being heavier settled to the bottom, or else they found the ocean bottom first, then became lazy in their new environment and grew hard parts. Thus the sudden appearance of fossils. *Objections:* For

life to spend many millions of years in the uppermost portions of the ocean *without finding shore, shallow water or ocean bottom* is nothing short of ridiculous. Even after accepting such an idea the problem remains as to why suddenly many forms of life should take on *complete skeletons with no intermediate "evolutionary steps."*

No transitional forms are found. Each species thus learned to develop its hard shell *suddenly!*

A great number of species occur together with hard shells in the lower Cambrian. *All must have "learned" the secret of hard shell development simultaneously.*

Thus this fifth theory is also completely lacking in facts, logic and plain good judgment.

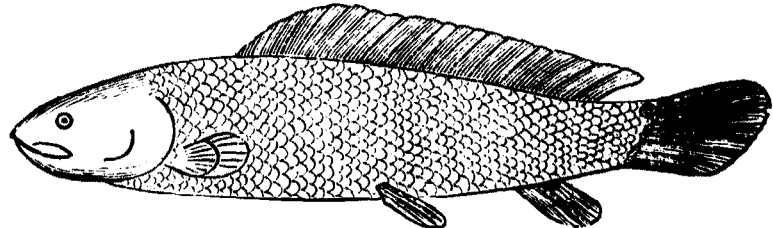
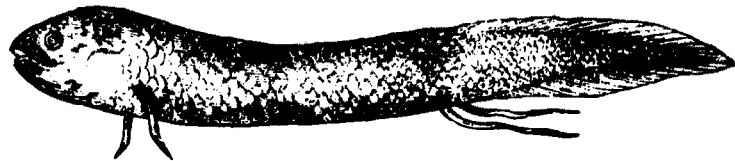
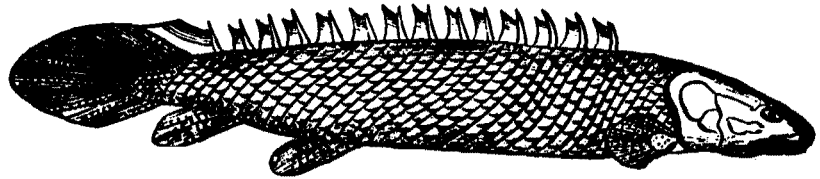
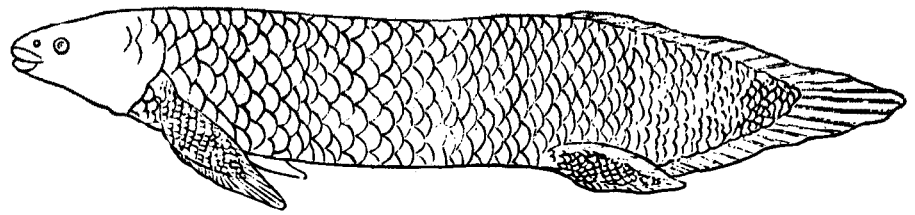
Why Men Can't See

Thus at present *scientists have left themselves without an explanation* for the complex, numerous "advanced" life forms of the Cambrian rocks and the complete absence of life in the layer usually beneath it. In rejecting the Scriptural account (Genesis 1) as evidence they find themselves without any explanation.

THE CORRECT CONCLUSION you ought to have drawn from the evidence presented is that in the beginning *life forms were created complex* as we find them; then at a later date they were *buried in the rocks by catastrophic upheavals of earth and water.* They did not evolve to that complex stage as the evolutionary theory demands.

Since the days of Darwin, men have clung tenaciously to the theory he published but never proved, *even to himself.* Why? Because to believe otherwise would in the end lead to the acknowledgement of the Creator revealed in the Bible. To acknowledge this Creator would be to consent that certain obligations might be due Him. It would also put these educated men in the rather uncomfortable place of having a *rival whose knowledge was as far superior to theirs as wisdom is to foolishness.* Intellectual pride would have to vanish.

Man's mind, the carnal mind he is born with, is *enmity* against God (Romans 8:7). It will not think rationally when faced with the Biblical facts prov-



Many fish living today are identical with or little different from the fish pictured here, which evolutionists say evolved, lived, and became extinct hundreds of millions of years ago. (After Le Conte.)

ing the existence of the Creator who has revealed himself to man through the Scriptures.

It is quite possible that *had no Bible ever been written* proclaiming the existence of our Creator, that the efforts of scientists in every field would have quickly discovered the facts of creation.

Had no floods ever been described in the Scriptures, historians and archeologists alike would have discovered the evidence, reasoned correctly with it and arrived at the correct historical account of the earth. Geologists would have studied the fossil strata and held forth

(Please continue on page 10)

Did the "Thief on the Cross" enter PARADISE *immediately*?

Jesus said He would be in the grave three days and three nights after His crucifixion. Then could the thief have been WITH Christ in Paradise that very day?

by Herman L. Hoeh

EVERYONE is familiar with the *strange* story of the "thief on the cross," recorded in Luke 23:43—but almost no one understands the MYSTERY that shrouds it.

It has been generally *assumed*—without proof—that the "thief" entered Paradise on the very day he was crucified.

If he did, then he reached Paradise *before* Jesus did—because Jesus said He would be IN THE GRAVE during the three days and nights that immediately followed the crucifixion! Since Jesus was dead and buried—in the grave—then He could not have been WITH the "thief" in Paradise, could He?

Just *where* is Paradise? How and WHEN does one enter it?

WHERE Did Jesus Go?

Notice Luke 23:43 carefully. Jesus said that the crucified malefactor would be WITH Him in Paradise. If we can prove where Jesus went when He died, then we can prove if the malefactor really went to Paradise *that day*!

Turn to I Corinthians 15:3-4. Paul reiterates: "For I delivered to you"—speaking to Christians—"among first things what also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; AND THAT HE WAS BURIED; and that HE hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures."

Notice that *Jesus* was buried—it does not say the body was buried, and that the soul went to Paradise. It reads that He—Jesus, Himself—*was buried*. He was *dead* for three days. He DIED for our sins. Then He came to life. He arose!

John gives us further proof where Jesus was. "Now in the place where He was crucified was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb wherein man was never yet laid. There"—in the tomb—the grave—"they laid *Jesus*" (John 19:41-

42). It was Jesus who was laid in the tomb, not merely the body of Jesus. *Jesus was dead!*

Here is what the angelic messenger told the women about the resurrection: "Be not amazed: ye seek Jesus . . . He is risen; He is not here: see the *place* where they laid HIM!" (Mark 16:6).

There was the PLACE Jesus went that day—the *grave*, the tomb in the garden nearby the site of the crucifixion!

Nothing could be plainer!

Jesus was in the *grave that day*, lying there asleep in death. He did *not* go to Paradise that day. He was *not* with the thief that day—the thief was not buried with Him in the same tomb! What could be more clearly proved!

Jesus Was in Hell!

To make this even plainer, turn to Acts 2:31. Speaking of Christ, Peter quotes the prophet David as follows: "He [David] seeing this before spake of the RESURRECTION of Christ, that his soul was not left in *hell*, neither did his flesh see any corruption."

This verse, translated in the King James Version, proves that Jesus was not in Paradise, but in *hell*. The word "hell" ought to be rendered "grave." The original inspired Greek word used by Peter was *hades*, meaning the "grave." It does *not* mean a fiery, burning hell. The Bible uses another word for that.

So Jesus was not in Paradise, but in hell or the grave!

He was resurrected *out of hell* or the grave!

This verse in Acts 2:31, when properly translated from the inspired original Greek, reads: "He foreseeing this spake of the RESURRECTION of the Christ, that neither was HE"—He, not merely the soul—"left unto Hades [the grave] nor did His flesh see corruption." *Jesus* was

RESURRECTED OUT OF HELL—the grave—where He had lain dead for three days and three nights.

Hell or the grave is not Paradise. Since Jesus did not enter Paradise that day—the day of the crucifixion—then neither did the malefactor enter it. Christ has "pre-eminence" in *all* things, we read in Col. 1:18. Therefore the malefactor who repented *could not have preceded Christ* to Paradise. Whenever the repentant malefactor enters Paradise, Christ will be there too! He said so: "WITH Me shalt thou be in Paradise."

WHEN Did Jesus Preach to the Spirits in Prison?

Many have seized upon I Peter 3:19-20 as supposed proof that Jesus was alive when He was dead—that He preached to spirits in prison during the three days and three nights in which He was in the grave asleep in death! Even if Jesus had gone to a prison during that time—which He did not do—certainly Paradise is *no* prison! Paradise is just the opposite from a prison!

But notice what these verses in Peter's letter really say. *Wicked angels* who followed Satan are in chains of darkness, *imprisoned* for their own folly (Jude 6). Remember, the Bible reveals that *angels* are spirits, but man is mortal flesh—composed of the dust of the ground (Heb. 1:14). When did Jesus preach to the imprisoned spirits?—read it—"When once the long-suffering of God waited IN THE DAYS OF NOAH, while the ark was a preparing." That's *when* Jesus preached to the spirits or wicked angels—in the days of Noah, not during the time He was dead and buried in the grave!

Of course! When Jesus died, He *was dead*. "For the living know that they

shall die; but the dead know not anything" (Eccles. 9:5). And "Whatsoever thy hand attaineth to do by thy strength, that do; for there is *no* work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, IN THE GRAVE, whither thou goest" (Ecc. 9:10). The place where Jesus was *that day* was the grave—where there is no knowledge of anything. Scripture says so!

WHERE Is Paradise?

Since we know where Jesus was when He died, we now need to locate Paradise. Paradise means a "garden, pleasure-ground; grove, park"—"a grand enclosure or preserve . . . shady and well-watered . . . enclosed by walls." That is the definition you will find in *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*.

Paradise certainly could not be hades or the grave or the abode of wicked imprisoned spirits. It is a beautiful park or garden, of which the exquisite Garden in Eden and the coming millennium are only temporary earthly types.

Where is Paradise? Notice II Cor. 12:1-5. Paul speaks of one whom He knew who had marvelous visions and revelations from the Lord. In a vision he was "caught up even to the third heaven"—God's throne! "He was caught up into PARADISE, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for man to speak."

Observe that in being taken in vision to the presence of God's throne in the heaven of heavens—the third heaven—(our earthly atmosphere is one heaven; the stars are in the second heaven)—that this person also came into Paradise. Then Paradise is located in the presence of God's throne.

But we find in John 20:17 that, in the morning following the day of the resurrection, Jesus had not yet ascended to the Father in heaven. "I am *not yet* ascended unto the Father," He said. Then Jesus had not yet reached Paradise—and this was already the fourth day after the crucifixion!

Here Jesus plainly proves that He did not go to Paradise that day!

What Is Paradise Like?

Let's continue with the Bible description of Paradise. Turn to Revelation 2:7.

"To him that OVERCOMETH, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God." Observe that the tree of life is in the Paradise of God.

Next, turn to Revelation 22:1-2. These two verses are referring to "the holy city new Jerusalem coming down *out of* heaven *from* God" (Rev. 21:2). In this city, which is also a type of the Church, we find "a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, amidst the street thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was a *tree of life* . . .!"

Did you notice that? The new Jerusalem, which comes out of heaven—the city whose maker and builder is God—THE NEW JERUSALEM CONTAINS THE TREE OF LIFE. In the new Jerusalem is the Paradise of God—a veritable city *park* or garden so far beyond human comprehension as to be unmentionable to man! Paradise will ultimately be on this earth made new!

Jesus said the repentant malefactor would be with Him in this Paradise! The new Jerusalem is not yet finished—Jesus is still preparing a place for us in it (John 14:2). Not until *after the millennium* will it be fully ready (Rev. 20:1-5). Not until then will it descend to earth—*not until then* will the repentant malefactor enter Paradise!

Then what did Jesus mean by saying, "TODAY thou shalt be with me in Paradise"?

What Jesus REALLY SAID!

Here is the BIG surprise. What Jesus *really* said is not what you have supposed! Here is what the inspired historian Luke actually wrote: "And He said to him, 'Verily I say unto thee *today*, thou shalt be with me in Paradise.'" See the Lamsa translation and others, too.

The mystery of this famous saying of Jesus is solved by *proper* punctuation. Most translations are improperly punctuated in order to make it appear that Jesus would be in Paradise that day. But the Bible proves Jesus was *not* in Paradise that day. A comma placed before the word "today" is incorrect. The comma should follow it—"Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

Here is what the *Companion Bible* states about this verse:

"The interpretation of this verse depends entirely on punctuation, which rests wholly on *human* authority, the Greek manuscripts having no punctuation of any kind till the ninth century, and then it is only a dot (in the middle of the line) separating each word" (Appendix §173).

This is the testimony of competent Greek scholars. The inspired original Greek could be read either way. Since the punctuation can change the meaning entirely, WE NEED TO LET THE REMAINDER OF THE BIBLE INTERPRET WHAT JESUS SAID! Then we can punctuate this verse properly.

By using the word "today," Jesus was stressing *the time of His promise*—not the time He would be in paradise. Think of it!—a dying man, being crucified, promising *on that very day* that He could guarantee that the repentant malefactor could be with Him in Paradise! By what authority could He fulfill such a promise given *on the very day of His death*? Why, by the authority of God the Father who would raise Jesus from the dead. Here was a promise of the resurrection. Jesus knew *on that day*—"today"—the day of the crucifixion—that He would resurrect the repentant malefactor, and, after a lifetime of overcoming, grant him eternal life—the privilege to be in the Paradise of God.

The repentant malefactor crucified with Jesus is still dead and buried. Jesus alone is the firstborn from the dead. But the time is coming when this man shall be resurrected also and shall enter the Paradise of God promised *to come to this earth!*

Origin of Life

(Continued from page 8)

the truth to the world with fervor equal to that with which they now propagate the godless doctrine of evolution.

But the human mind is rebellious against God; it will not willingly subject itself to the law of God; neither will it acknowledge that a revealed history of the earth and life forms is correct.

(Continue on bottom on next page)

What Should We Eat?

To answer this question, we have asked Dr. Merrill, special lecturer on health and nutrition at Ambassador College, to give our readers a MODEL DIET.

by Ralph E. Merrill, M.D.

IT IS NOT normal for you to be sick. Sickness is an unnatural condition resulting from breaking the laws God set in motion to regulate your physical health.

Experience has proved that nearly all physical illnesses result from *ignorance*—ignorance of the right kind of diet. We usually eat either what was never created to be eaten, or what man has so altered and perverted that it has become harmful for children and adults alike.

Here, in chart form, is a MODEL DIET that will keep you physically and mentally *healthy*—if you *continually* follow it. This chart explains what you should eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You may add to your diet other healthful foods locally produced which are not listed here. But be sure you always follow the principles of this diet—if you want to stay healthy.

What to Eat for BREAKFAST

Fruit: Choice of one orange, one-half grapefruit, or other fresh fruit.

Protein: Eggs, soft-boiled, poached, or scrambled.

Bread: If needed, use whole-grained bread made from *freshly* stone-ground grain to which no preservative has been added. (Most flour has been bleached and/or contaminated with preservatives.)

Cereal: If added calories are needed,

use only whole grain cereals—wheat, oats, corn—that have been milled locally and to which no preservatives have been added. Instead of bread or cereal, potatoes, preferably cooked in their jackets, may be eaten. Potatoes prepared in this way and whole grain wheat are excellent for avoiding constipation.

Beverage: *Milk* is best, preferably *certified raw* milk.

Remember, you will have to determine the proper quantity of these foods for yourself. There is insufficient space for that in this chart.

What to Eat for LUNCII

Soup: Choice of thin vegetable soup, like plain tomato, spinach, or pea soup.

Salad: Mixed vegetable, like tomato and lettuce, cucumber, or cole-slaw. Any dressings used should be homemade.

Protein: Cottage cheese, large helping.

Beverage: Milk, preferably certified raw.

Note: Many who live in rural areas will prefer to eat their heavy meal at noon. They should substitute the dinner menu (which follows) for the lunch, and use the lunch menu, with slight alterations in protein, for the evening meal.

What to Eat for DINNER

Salad: the same as for lunch.

Vegetable: One or two of the following:

Asparagus, beets, carrots, eggplant, green peas, lettuce, parsnips, potatoes, either cooked in their jackets or baked. Spinach, squash, stringbeans, tomatoes, yams. If desired, the vegetables may be prepared as soup or stew.

Protein: A serving of one of the following:

Beef, cheese, chicken, duck, fresh fish, lamb, liver, mutton, turkey.

Use no canned or salted meat or fish that contain preservatives. Frozen foods are good. Avoid all pork products and blood.

Beverage: Milk, preferably certified raw.

Dessert: Fruit, fresh or stewed, especially prunes, UNprocessed cheese, or nuts.

Remember to use fruits and vegetables that are in season—they are less expensive and better for you. Avoid frying any food in excessive fat.

The following products should be avoided, if at all possible: All foods containing *white sugar* or glucose, as these sugars rob the body of *calcium* and the *B-vitamins*; all foods made with *white flour* which has not been milled locally; all *canned* or *packaged* foods that contain preservatives. These foods are usually devitalized by being highly refined and "processed."

tree? The roots, trunk and branches are gone. Only the twigs remain.

Blood relation between individuals and many so called species of the Cambrian strata is certain. Further speculation is in the realm of philosophy, not true science.

This tree of evolution is thus shown to be but a dream in the minds of men and like a dream it will disappear for them when their eyes are opened.

Evolution thus becomes *the opiate of the atheist* to distort his vision and keep him from seeing his God.

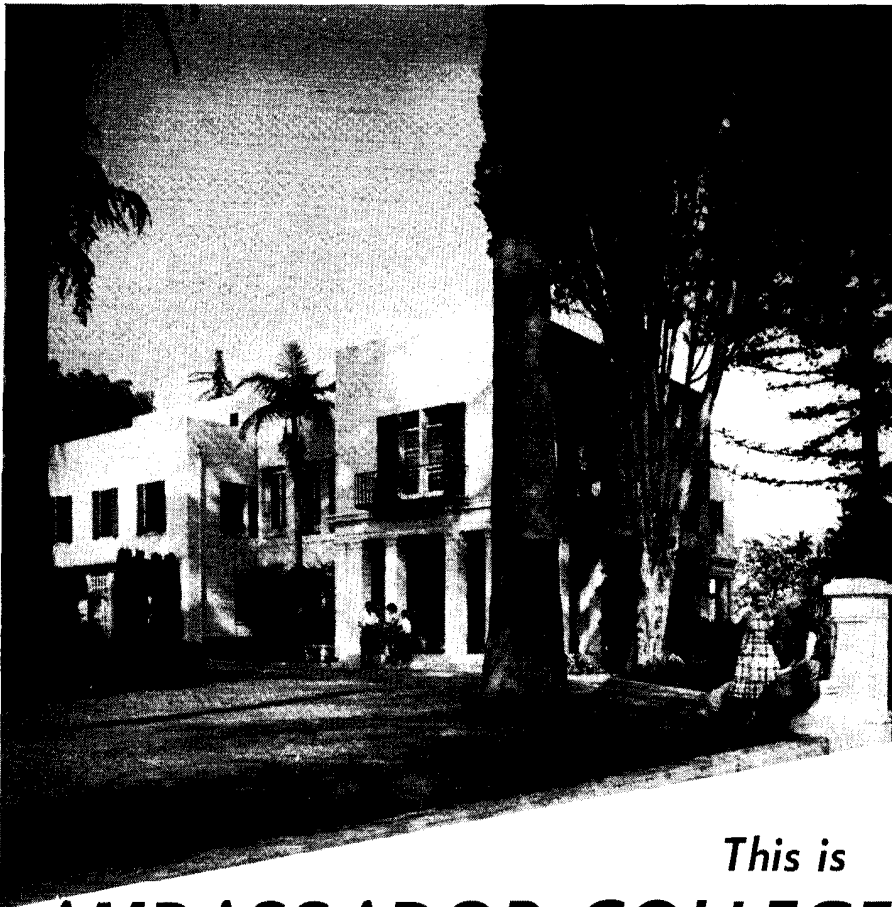
The carnal mind cannot accept God. It must cling to this "*favorite belief*" that life came into being by some slow natural process.

Where Is the Evolutionary Tree?

The *roots* from the tree of evolution disappear in our search for the evolu-

tion of life from dead matter. The *stump* vanishes when we ask for those "few, simple, primitive" life forms. The *thirteen great branches*, the 13 phyla into which all animals are classified, fade away when we find all represented in the earliest fossil strata. Even the *smaller branches* vanish when we see this Cambrian life "already evolved" into classes, orders, genera, and species.

It's about time to ask where is the



This is
AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Here you see in the picture to the right the magnificently landscaped grounds of the Ambassador campus. The main College building, above, is the focal point of campus activity. The students are inspired by the expansive, restful grounds to study their utmost.

AMBASSADOR is different!

(Continued from page 4)

with the open mind, unshackled by the worship of traditions in these fields, which unfortunately seems to close the minds of historians or so-called scientists to the admission of any new truth.

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith is Professor of Bible and Theology, and I personally regard him, and Mr. Hoeh, as the most sound and able teachers of this subject in the world today. These men are just "natural-born" teachers. It seems as if they were born for this profession.

They are mortal, fallible, human. They are far from having reached their true goal—perfection—a goal which I'm sure God will give them, by His power, some day. But I fully and sincerely feel that I KNOW that they are the very best in their respective fields in the world today.

Do not, however, conclude from these specific examples that Ambassador College is staffed only by these three of its own graduates. Its faculty is competently staffed with two doctors, seven masters, and five bachelors. I am simply happy that the three mentioned have come up through the ranks, as it were, from among our own students. And they are simply representative, in their respec-

tive fields, of all the others—each of whom is thoroughly competent in his field.

As an example of our competent staff, French is taught by a teacher who learned his French over here in Europe, and speaks it natively as they speak it in France. Spanish is taught by a teacher who learned the language in Mexico, and holds the Master's degree from the La Escuela Interamericana, Saltillo, Mexico. German is taught by men who are of German parentage, and have spoken the language since childhood, one of whom has spent considerable time in Germany.

I am actually seeing the great value of this on our present tour of Europe. Both our sons are with Mrs. Armstrong and me on this present tour. My elder



son, Richard D. Armstrong, took a major in French in Ambassador College, and here in France he speaks it fluently and without "foreign accent," just as they speak it here. Our other son, Garner Ted, majored in Spanish at Ambassador. He speaks it just as it is spoken in Mexico and South America, and in Spain, without "foreign accent," except for the very slight difference between the pronunciation of certain words in Spain and in South America. We expect to be in Spain tomorrow evening, and then we shall see Ted speak their native tongue fluently, just as the Spaniards do in Spain.

You may grasp a little of the DIFFERENCE between Ambassador and other colleges when I say that these foreign languages, as taught in most colleges and

universities in America, are a sort of American "textbook" Spanish, or German, or French, and quite different from the way these languages are spoken by the natives of these countries. It would be quite difficult for the average student of the average college to be understood in the country whose language he had learned at college.

Whether in music, foreign languages, history, mathematics, literature, home economics or any other subject taught at Ambassador, I feel that our courses are on the very highest level. There is nothing inferior or second rate at Ambassador.

I trust it is understood, too, that there are many subjects, such as mathematics, English, the exact sciences, which are not theoretical, or philosophical, and nat-

urally are taught at Ambassador in the same manner as at other colleges. Two plus two equals four, in any college anywhere. The world is not in error on such points. The world has a great deal of TRUTH—but, unfortunately, in so many fields, it is truth *mixed* with error.

One other specific example comes to mind. We have added, this past year, a course in Teacher training, where some students with special aptitudes for teaching are trained to be teachers in one of our own grade or high schools. This course is taught by two competent men, each possessing a Master's degree. This world's faulty education *begins* in the very first grade. We believe there is much that is criminally wrong in the educational system in the elementary and preparatory grades. To correct this,



these courses at Ambassador are taught from the same over-all Ambassador viewpoint and concept—which is that of the revelation of GOD. We believe it is the most efficient and RIGHT of any Teachers' course in America.

The Choice Is Yours

The GOD-point-of-view permeates every course, and every activity of Ambassador College. Jesus Christ said man shall LIVE by EVERY WORD OF GOD. The Bible—the Word of God—carries the AUTHORITY of God. The fact we look on this revelation from God as the supreme AUTHORITY in life and in practice, living by its every word so far as God enables us to understand, accepting the revealed KNOWLEDGE of God as the basis and foundation for ALL knowledge—this marks the DIFFERENCE between Ambassador and all other colleges on earth today.

If any student prefers the misled and mis-guided knowledge of MAN, with its mixture of truth and error, along with the philosophic doctrines of the ancient pagan philosophers, and the atheistic concepts of the modern evolutionary theory, through which all other knowledge is viewed, then that student would be unhappy and uncomfortable, indeed, at Ambassador.

But if a student prefers TRUE knowledge, with God's revelation as the starting point and basic concept, and the knowledge discoverable by man built truthfully on that solid foundation, with the doctrines, the truths of God and the revealed knowledge, historic and otherwise, of God, as the basic CONCEPT



Here is a view of MAYFAIR—splendid 28-room women's dormitory.

through which all facts are viewed and understood—if a student wants to know the PURPOSE of life, and HOW to live, and the WAY to happiness, peace, true enjoyment and prosperity, and to acquire TRUE knowledge that really WORKS and PAYS OFF in happy, abundant living, then there is only one college on earth where he can find these TRUE VALUES, and he should lose not even one more minute, nor let any possible hindrance stand in the way of applying immediately for admission. The kind of students we now have, and desire, have the ability, and the determination, to simply take the proverbial "bull by the horns," and come in spite of apparent obstacles.

If you were not an all-A student in high school, don't be discouraged—I

had no such record in high school myself. Neither did Mr. Meredith, Mr. Herrmann, nor other top-flight men who have gone through Ambassador College, such as my two sons Richard D. and Garner Ted Armstrong, nor Raymond Cole, Raymond McNair, or others. But their grades were all high in college, because they applied themselves with determination—as the grades of any competent student can be if he will put forth the effort.

YOU can be a competent student, too—the choice is yours! It is not too late to write an airmail letter or to telegraph us for your copy of the 1956-57 Ambassador College Catalog. Write today if you have thought about entering this *different* College—don't delay!

What Is "Worldliness"?

(Continued from page 6)

wedding feast, and ran out. Jesus helped them out, for it was a time of rejoicing, and there were probably several hundred people there.

So He turned the water into *wine*—and it was real, *fermented wine*. They would NEVER have said to the bridegroom, "Thou hast kept the *good wine* until now"—if Jesus had provided only

grape juice which they would have regarded as an inferior beverage for this occasion.

Also, the original Greek word used here is "oinos," and it *always* means the *fermented* juice of the grape—nothing else.

Jesus was here only carrying out the principle He gave through Solomon: "A

feast is made for laughter, and *wine* maketh merry" (Eccl. 10:19). If properly used, wine is an aid to relaxation and affability at a special occasion.

But being "merry" is NOT being "tight" or "drunk"—which God's Word condemns (I Cor. 6:10).

Paul instructed Timothy about the medicinal and health value of wine when he wrote: "Drink no longer water, but use a *little wine* for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (I Tim. 5:23).

Again, the Greek word is "oinos"—

fermented wine, not grape juice!

There are many, many examples in the Old Testament where God's servants used *wine* in a proper way and with God's blessing. Perhaps the most significant one is given in Genesis 14:18. Here we read of Melchisedec—whom we have *proved* in past articles to be none other than *Christ*—"brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." This seems to be a type of the observance later called the Passover—which many mistakenly call the "Lord's Supper" today.

God Himself here gave *wine* to Abraham—the *father of the faithful*. And again, the original Hebrew word used *proves* that it was *fermented wine*—NOT grape juice. The original word is "yayin"—and *always* means *fermented wine*.

This same Hebrew word is used in Amos 9:14 to show that when Christ frees our people from captivity after His return, and brings them to the land of Palestine, they will "plant vineyards, and drink the *wine* thereof."

So Christ—who is the *same* always—is going to *bless* His people with good food and *wine* in the millennial rule!

Contradictory Texts?

Some die-hards still cling to certain texts which *appear* (to them at least) to condemn wine, but in reality condemn only the wrong *USE* of alcohol.

One of these is Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a *mock*, strong drink is *raging*: and whosoever is *deceived* thereby is not wise."

The simple explanation is that wine certainly does *mock* and *deceive* many individuals who have not learned the proper, temperate *USE* of such beverages. Yes, God's way is *moderation* and *temperance*—NOT prohibition! And there is a *great difference* between these, which so-called "temperance" people seem unable to recognize.

Another text which is often twisted and misapplied is Proverbs 23:29-32. Here is a warning to those who "tarry long" at wine. Of course! One who "*tarryes long*" at wine is a "winebibber," or in modern terminology a "barfly" or an "alcoholic."

Such *excessive use* of wine is bound to bring harm on the person involved and on others. Therefore, it is breaking

the spirit of God's law and is *SIN*. But this is *no condemnation* *WHATEVER* against the moderate, sensible use of wine, following Jesus' example.

The latter part of this passage warns us not to "look" upon the wine when it is "red," when it "moveth itself aright."

In the *first* place, it is not a sin to *LOOK* on *anything* except in *lust*. *Secondly*, the terms "red" and "moveth itself" refer to wine when it is in the *process of fermentation*. This is *BEFORE* it is fully fermented. And if at this time you "look" on it so as to finally *drink* it, you will become violently ill and possibly even *DIE*!

Even today, the term "red" is often applied to wine which is in the midst of the process of fermentation. Again, this has *NOTHING* to do with the proper use of fully aged wine.

God's Way Is Moderation

There are many other texts which *some* people will want to argue about. But the *principle* should be clear to any honest person from the examples we have covered.

Can't we get our BALANCE?

Drunkenness and *alcoholism* are breaking God's law and are therefore *SIN*—which leads to *death*! (Rom. 6:23). No *drunkard* shall inherit God's kingdom (Gal. 5:21).

But on the other hand, wine has been given as a *blessing* from God. It can help one *relax* at a meal or *rejoice* at a social occasion, and it can be a definite aid in building up one's blood and health—as Paul advised Timothy. It is a thing which *glorifies* God when it is used *sensibly* and *moderately*.

Incidentally, true *moderation* means drinking a great deal *LESS* than do many who call themselves "moderate drinkers" today. Overindulgence in drink is *NOT* to be tampered with! *Alcoholism* is a growing *CURSE* in our land today!

Nevertheless, God gave us wine and alcoholic beverages to learn to use *properly*—and to develop *CHARACTER* by the proper exercise of *wisdom* and *self-control*. *Prohibition* is *NOT* God's way—and it does *not* develop character.

This proper *use* of alcohol and *moderation* in drinking is a great *responsibility* to God. But it is only the *wrong USE* which becomes *sin*.

The same principle of the right or wrong *USE* of a thing applies to nearly every action which some consider as "worldly." The real question in each case is "Is this particular thing being used in a way that *BREAKS* God's law?"

If so, then it is *sin*—or "worldliness."

Dancing and Card-Playing

But if any action or pleasure *does NOT* of itself break God's law, then it may be quite harmless as long as it is properly *used*, and only the wrong or "worldly" *use* needs to be guarded against.

Such is the case with *dancing*. The Bible is full of examples of dancing. To cite a few, we can turn first to Exodus 15:20, where Miriam and the women of Israel rejoiced in the dance over God's deliverance of their people from Egypt.

In I Samuel 18:6, the women came out singing and dancing to greet David as he returned after a military victory. In Psalms 149:3, we read that the saints are to praise God "in the *dance*."

In the account of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), we are given an example of how human joy ought to be expressed—for the "father" is obviously typical of God Himself. Here we see that *dancing* (verse 25) is a natural and *RIGHTEOUS* way to express human joy.

Certainly, we do not know exactly *how* the people danced and what particular *steps* they employed. But the *principle* is that dancing *as such* is not evil.

Such wrong *USES* as dancing in a *lustful* manner in a smoke-filled nightclub while half-drunk—these *uses* of dancing are obviously *WRONG*. And it is sadly true that these wrong uses characterize *the vast majority* of dancing situations today!

But, if real Christians—young or old—wish to relax or rejoice by dancing with others of Godly faith and character in a *righteous* manner, and in a clean, wholesome atmosphere and surroundings, that is *NOT* sinful or "worldly."

God says: "There is a *time to dance*" (Eccl. 3:4). Let's see to it that this time is *used properly*!

The principle regarding such matters as *card-playing* or *theatre-going* ought to be clear by now. The Bible makes no *direct* statement about either—but the principle is obvious in the light of God's

laws and the Biblical examples.

A deck of *cards* is NOT a sin—and neither is playing with those cards merely for amusement. The only danger is that one might waste too much time in such amusements, and Christians are to use their time *wisely* (Eph. 5:15-16).

The wrong *use* of a deck of cards—or *any* physical object—for the purpose of *gambling* DOES become *sin*. God commands: "Six days shalt thou **LABOR**, and do all thy *work*" (Ex. 20:10). As God is the supreme Builder and Creator—so are we to learn to *build*, to *construct*, to *produce*.

Gambling makes one a *leech* on society and *violates* this entire principle and thwarts the very purpose of human existence! Also, the very basis of gambling is the idea of getting something for nothing—of *desiring* material gain at the **EXPENSE** of someone else. This directly breaks another of the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not *covet*" (Ex. 20:17).

So card-playing as such is *not* sin. But the wrong **USE** of this activity does break God's law and is therefore "worldly" in the truest sense.

Movies and the Theatre

The matter of *theatre-going* revolves around the *reason* why one goes, and the *type* of play or movie being offered.

To frequently attend *any* kind of plays or movies for the purpose of pleasing "self" and of *escaping* from the responsibilities of life is definitely "worldly." And this very thing is done *all too frequently* by MOST Americans. Let's not *deceive ourselves* about this. We are a nation of escapists!

Also, common sense ought to tell any real Christian that most plays and movies today are simply *filled* and *saturated* with scenes suggestive of illicit sex, with scenes of murder upon murder, hate, greed, lying, cheating, gambling, drunkenness and every conceivable type of vice and sin. Indeed, the movies are a *living testimony* as to why God is going to **PUNISH** this world. Having one's mind filled with this sort of thing *hour after hour* is **CERTAIN** to cause one to break God's laws in his heart, and probably his actions as well.

You cannot vicariously *kill*, *steal*, *seduce*, *gamble*, and *get drunk* through the

eyes of a movie hero and not have those thoughts affect your character! And what a frightful **CURSE** *television* can become by these same means. Let this be a warning against the *improper* **USE** of movies and TV!

But on the other hand, the *right use* of the moving picture, stage plays, or television can certainly be experienced. For instance, Walt Disney has produced a number of full length feature movies showing the astonishing *wonders* and *beauty* of nature as God created it. These are truly educational and inspirational in every sense of the word.

There are a number of plays and movies which have a historical or other type of educational basis, and are not unbalanced in regard to violence and lust. But they are in the minority, and you will have to be alert to find them. Even a clean, wholesome love story or comedy would not influence you to break God's law.

The *right kind* of play or movie is hard to find. But God will condemn no one who sincerely uses these means as a proper educational or recreational experience. It is only their *wrong* **USE** which becomes *sin*.

Keeping the *spirit* of God's law does, however, involve having a right attitude and motive in *everything* we do. Thus, God inspired James to write: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

What does this mean—we are not to *love* the "world"? Does this mean we are to hate our fellow man?

Certainly not. For James had just

written that we should keep the royal law: "Thou shalt *love* thy neighbor *as thyself*" (James 2:8).

The "World" Defined

To understand the meaning of this and other similar passages, we need to know the definitions for the Greek words translated "world" in the New Testament. One of these—the one used in James 4:4—is *cosmos*, which means the *society* or *system* of things men have set up on this earth.

The other word is *aion*, which literally means *age*. This is used to denote this present time of man's rule on the earth under the sway and influence of Satan.

Cosmos is the word used in James 4:4, and so this passage simply means that true Christians are not to love the *system* or *society* that men have set up here on earth. This *system* is based on *competition*, *greed*, *selfishness* and *vanity*. At the present time this system is bringing us more and more wars, total corruption of morals, and soon—**WORLD SUICIDE**.

Christians are *not* to love this system or participate in any of its *evils*—which are *many*. Of course, it is—as the tree our first parents partook of—a *mixture* of *good* AND *EVIL*. That is, and always has been, a very **BAD** mixture.

So we are to *come out* of this system which God calls "Babylon" (Rev. 18:4), and **FORSAKE** its practices, ways, and customs which are usually a mixture of good and *EVIL*.

Worldliness Under the NAME of Christ

Many of the religious customs and ways men today are observing are the *exact opposite* of those taught in the Bible, and that Christ and the early true church set us an example by keeping. It doesn't matter whether or not human church leaders give these practices "Christian" sounding *names*—they are not truly *Christian* unless they came from **CHRIST** and are commanded and exemplified in the *Bible*.

Here is some *real* "worldliness" that millions of professing "Christians" are participating in. They observe such *pagan* institutions as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and New Year's Day when they have *no* Bible example or command

And Now . . . The WORLD TOMORROW heard in Australia!

2CH—Sidney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.
2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.M.

for keeping these days. Rather, every one of them is directly or in principle CONDEMNED in your Bible! (If you don't as yet understand the truth on this matter, write *today* for Mr. Armstrong's free booklets on *Easter* and *Christmas*.)

Many a pious-appearing "Christian" who would soundly condemn such things as dancing or card playing in *any* form will REJECT God's *truth* on matters of far greater importance, and will persist in customs which are truly "worldly" because they are BREAKING the laws of God.

Where do YOU stand?

Do you *love* this present world, your part in it, and what *people* think so much that you will DEFY God's will in matters like this? This is *real* "worldliness" in its truest sense.

The apostle Paul commands: "Be *not* conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the *renewing of your mind*" (Rom. 12:2).

Yes, being a CONFORMIST is all too easy nowadays. It takes real *courage* to come out of this present system of things and *obey God*.

It is also very hard for most people to get the right *balance* in spiritual things. They want to think of God as a stern MONSTER who *forbids* what would give man happiness.

You should REJOICE in the fact that God has designed His very laws to show you how to avoid heartache and misery, and that He *wants* you to learn how to live the kind of happy, joyous and ABUNDANT life which will best fit you to live forever in His kingdom in the *World Tomorrow*.

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!

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in a short space. *Send in your questions*. While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

What is "The Synagogue of Satan"?

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

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

This is not true!

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

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

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

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

So here is a church made up of Gentiles, falsely claiming salvation, falsely claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading herself as a "Christian" Church.

And notice, this false church was already developing in the days of the apostle John—it had its congregations already in the city of Smyrna and in Philadelphia, in Asia Minor (Rev. 2:9 and 3:9)—beside congregations in many other cities as we read in I John 2:18-19:

"... you have heard that *antichrist* is coming, so now many antichrists have come; ... They went out from us, but they are not of us." Notice that the spirit of antichrist—the teaching of the synagogue of Satan—was found in those who *left* the true Church of God, who departed from the faith, who claimed they were still Jews inwardly but who LIE. The synagogue of Satan refers to the great apostacy that occurred at the close of the apostolic age, the apostacy which gave rise to the host of denominations we have today—a *great mother church and her daughter churches* (Rev. 17).

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

Even though those who are Jews by birth (Gal. 2:15) have made proselytes from the Gentiles (Esther 8:17), that is not what the synagogue of Satan refers to. Many Gentiles are made *citizens* of America and Britain (the descendants of the house of Joseph), the same as many Gentiles have been brought into Judah—but that does not make them

(Please continue on page 24)

Is This the ONLY Day of Salvation?

Is there a contest between God and Satan—God doing His best to get everybody saved—Satan trying to keep them lost—with time now fast running out on God?

by Dr. C. P. Meredith

WHAT ABOUT the millions of people living NOW in Russia and China where religion is suppressed? They did not choose to be born into those godless nations. Are they lost forever because they never heard the TRUE Bible teachings?

Could a *just God* condemn to the lake of fire those people who died before the gospel was brought to them?

Paul, in Ephesians 2:11-12, says Gentiles formerly had no chance of salvation: "Being in time past Gentiles . . . at that time ye were *without Christ*, being aliens . . . and strangers from the covenants of promise, HAVING NO HOPE, AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD."

Clearly, these people who have *not* heard the way of salvation and the name of Jesus Christ ARE LOST FOREVER IF THERE IS NO FUTURE OPPORTUNITY OF SALVATION! They have not received the Holy Spirit, the *only* means by which God will resurrect anyone to eternal life (Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:42).

Would God be fair to condemn them because they cannot hear the truth?

God's Desire for Mankind

It is God's desire that all avail themselves of the opportunity for salvation: "God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:3, 4). Some will say, "Oh, so *everyone* is going to be saved—universal salvation." The Bible does *not* teach this.

Notice what II Peter 3:9-10 says: The Eternal "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should *come to repentance*." It is God's will or wish that all would come to a knowledge of the truth so

they would repent and be *saved from the penalty of sin*—death. But some people are not going to repent—for if all repented and met the *conditions* to eternal salvation, there would be no necessity for casting human beings into the lake of fire of Revelation 20:15 and 21:8 which will destroy the wicked. Malachi 4:1-3 absolutely disproves the doctrine of universal salvation derived from heathen philosophy, because the wicked will be ashes, *neither root nor branch*. There is no possibility of a resurrection from the lake of fire.

Yes, God is desirous that ALL of us may attain eternal life. He is "long suffering," not being quick to judge us—desirous that *all* will accept HIS WAY OF LIFE as revealed in the Holy Bible so we may become his spirit-born children at the resurrection.

The Common Attitude

"Well," many might say, "it certainly seems from what the Bible says, that God would not be fair if he did not give those people who lived in the Old Testament times a chance in the future; but all of US *since* Christ are having *our* chance *now*, and we *must* be saved by the time Christ comes again or we will be lost."

Yes, that does SEEM to be the idea and *almost everyone today* believes it to be a fact! It appears to be *so evident* that no one even *questions* the matter. IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED! Did *you* ever hear it questioned? No, you probably NEVER HAVE *in your lifetime*! *People do not investigate!* "EVERYBODY CAN'T BE WRONG"—IS THE POPULAR ATTITUDE!

It would APPEAR from the common teachings that salvation is open to EVERYONE *today* and that all one has to

do now is to join a church and be "saved." IS EVERYONE FREE TO ACCEPT SALVATION AND BE SAVED ANY TIME ONE WISHES TO BE? Or are some *blinded* to salvation in this day?

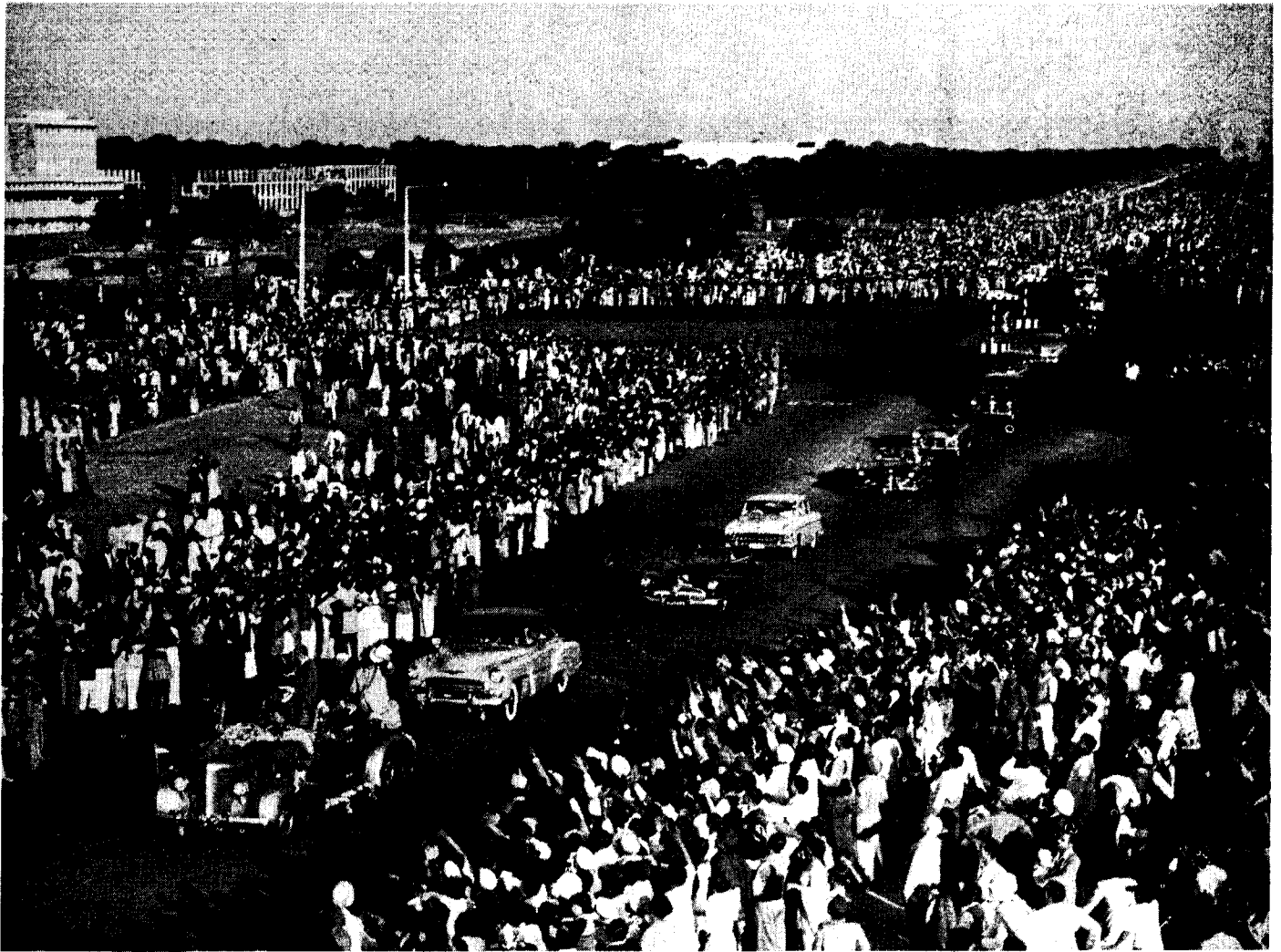
Let us see what the Bible teaches about this subject. It is neither discussed nor understood by the churches today, *yet it concerns every one of you!*

Israel Blinded

Note what Moses said to the Israelites shortly after he had led them out from Egypt: "ye have seen all that the Eternal did . . . in Egypt . . . those great miracles: yet THE ETERNAL (*not Satan*) hath NOT given you an *heart to perceive*, eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." (Deuteronomy 29:2-4). GOD, HIMSELF, HAD BLINDED ISRAEL! *They would not have known about this blindness EXCEPT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD!*

Observe also what God said He would do to Ephraim, head of the ten tribes of Israel, after they had sinned: "For with STAMMERING lips and ANOTHER TONGUE will I speak to this people—the WORD of the Eternal was upon them precept upon precept; line upon line—here a little, and there a little (this sounds like the way in which the Bible is written today, does it not?)—THAT THEY MIGHT GO (not come), and FALL BACKWARD (not be rescued), and BE BROKEN and SNARED AND TAKEN." (Isaiah 28:11 and 13).

What had the tribe of Ephraim done? It had sinned (verses 7 and 8)—and what did God do? GOD HID HIS LAWS which, if obeyed, would have preserved them from being punished. Because they rejected knowledge (Hosea 4:6) GOD BLINDED THEM so they would continue to sin and suffer its consequences. Why?



—Wide World Photo

In this picture you see but a fragment of the teeming millions of India—most of whom have never heard the true gospel of the Kingdom of God. These people are being duped by atheistic communists. They are without God and without hope today, but the time is coming when they SHALL HEAR THE TRUTH and be given eternal life—that's **good news!**

Now notice Ezekiel, chapter twenty. This chapter is VERY IMPORTANT, for it is a *summary of all of God's dealings* with rebellious Israel. Particularly take note of verses 11 and 12: "and I gave them my statutes and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even *live* in them . . . moreover also I gave them my *sabbaths*."

What did God do when they rebelled? Verses 24 and 25 tell us: "Because they had not executed my judgments . . . have polluted my sabbaths . . . therefore I GAVE THEM ALSO STATUTES THAT WERE NOT GOOD AND JUDGMENTS WHEREBY THEY SHOULD NOT LIVE." God said he gave them over

to other laws by which THEY SHOULD NOT LIVE! Statutes that would *bring death*—"the statutes of the heathen . . . and of the kings of Israel" (II Kings 17:8; Acts 7:42).

ALL THROUGH THE BIBLE, after it tells of God's punishments, it quotes what God said was his reason: "THAT THEY MAY KNOW THAT I AM THE ETERNAL." This phase occurs over fifty times, with slight variations. Ezekiel 20:26 is an example. Yes, God wants everyone to *truly know him!* Whoever rejects knowledge will be punished in order to learn of God and his ways by hard experience.

But what was the reason for blinding

Israel? Because they were lost forever?

Why God Blinds

God has made man's natural mind so that it wants to do things that are *contrary* to HIS laws: "The carnal mind (with which we are ALL born) is enmity against God" (Romans 8:7). Read also Romans 3:9-18, Galatians 5:19-21 and John 3:19. "The flesh (man's natural heart and mind) LUSTETH against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are *contrary* the one to the other" (Galatians 5:17). ALL, as originally born, have a desire—LUST—to go contrary to God's laws! (James 1:14 and Psalms 81:11-12).

A person's carnal mind remains at enmity against God *until* that person becomes sick and tired of the RESULTS of HIS OWN ways and REPENTS of them, and calls on God to CHANGE HIM by giving him the Holy Spirit—the very mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5).

God has made it natural for man to reject truth and to do what is right in his own eyes, to want to sin—to want to break God's laws. It is by man's own carnal mind that God blinds him, not to destroy him, but to bring him to repentance. Concerning blinded Israel Paul said: "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all" (Romans 11:32). So ancient Israel isn't lost forever.

Human beings, like Israel of old, want to do what *they think* is right. God, in love and wisdom, blinds human beings who by nature reject the truth so they will unwittingly SIN ALL THE MORE OFTEN and thereby LEARN THEIR LESSON ALL THE MORE DEEPLY—the lesson that human customs are wrong and only by living according to the commands of the Eternal can one be happy!

The Creation of Character Takes Time

Nothing that God has ever created begins to compare with the delicate thing that He is creating in man—CHARACTER. God knows that it TAKES TIME to do this. He, himself, said "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me and keep my commandments always" (Deuteronomy 5:29). God is NOT IN A HURRY TO SAVE ALL UNTIL THEY HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON. That is the *reason* He has allowed 6000 years for mankind to learn it.

The Eternal let Israel try various *forms* of human GOVERNMENT as the books of Judges and Kings explain. Human beings are *blinded* to the Kingdom of God because they believe that their own forms of government are right. Today, we have democracies, dictatorships, and other forms of government. NONE HAVE BROUGHT HAPPINESS!

God has actually given the attitude of a wild animal to Gentiles because they would not accept Him as Supreme

Ruler (Daniel 4:16-17 and Romans 1:28). They will, by having this mind, bring *increased* misery upon themselves and ultimately will learn that God rules and that His government and laws are good.

Christ, in His day, did not try to disturb the blindness that was over man's mind. To the disciples He said: "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but onto them (the vast majority) that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see and NOT perceive; and hearing they may hear and NOT understand" (Mark 4:11-12). The parables were spoken to HIDE the truth, not to make the meaning clearer.

MAN DOES NOT KNOW HIS OWN INABILITY TO RULE EITHER HIMSELF OR THE WORLD as *compared* with the ability of God! The Father wants us to develop our initiative and ability, *but* he also wants us to recognize that HE is the One to whom we should *go with our problems* and that *His laws are best* and that He is the true ruler of the earth. He wants us to know that we must have His very spirit within us to fulfill our desires (Acts 2:38).

Job did not recognize God in His true character, and God took steps to make him understand. Job was too self-righteous (Job 32:1). He spoke constantly of *his own* righteousness. It was always "my integrity" and "my righteousness" (Job 27:3-6). Only God is completely righteous for "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God finally humbled Job and he repented. "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5, 6).

Of all things that God has ever created, man is far superior to others in his ability to reason, and also in his ability to make things. BUT—these abilities are of no value to God—indeed they are a hindrance—if man's WILL or *desire* to use these abilities is *against* God's will! "Thy kingdom comc. THY WILL BE DONE on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). GOD wishes HIS will to be done in us!

When man has had an opportunity to exercise *his own will* and seen the

evil results of it, he is ready to have his old self—his own will—killed, "buried with him (Christ) by baptism into death" (Romans 6:4), and WILLING to present his body as a LIVING sacrifice to God—a living body through which God can carry out HIS WILL! (Romans 12:1).

Are the Majority Blinded?

Paul, speaking to the Romans concerning their Gentile forefathers, said: "As they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a REPROBATE MIND . . . being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness . . . full of envy" (Romans 1:28-29). Again, "For God hath concluded them (*all* mankind) all in unbelief that he may have mercy on all" (Romans 11:32). The GENTILES were blinded then and THEY ARE BLINDED TODAY! ALL NATIONS are blinded today!

What about modern Israel—the democratic nations of Europe and America? "Even so *at this present time* there is a REMNANT (just a remnant) according to the ELECTION OF GRACE" (Romans 11:5). A FEW had received the chance of salvation—but notice verse 7: ". . . the REST (the VAST MAJORITY) were BLINDED." The same is true today: the few, whosoever *will*, may come to God, but the vast majority *won't* because they are blinded to God's truth by thinking their ways are better. Jesus *never once* said that everyone is in this age called to salvation. Paul said: "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (I Cor. 1:26). Only those drawn by the Spirit of God and who come through Jesus can approach God (John 6:44).

So we see that the VAST MAJORITY OF ALL RACES TODAY ARE BLINDED! The PREACHERS are AMONG THESE BLINDED: "MANY shall follow their (the false teachers) pernicious ways,"—the MANY—not the few! (II Peter 2:1-2). ". . . BROAD is the WAY that leadeth to destruction . . ." (Matt. 7:13). People today are IN BABYLON! Remember, it is *Babylon THE GREAT*—not *Babylon the small* (Revelation 17:2, 18:4).

The VAST MAJORITY will continue to
(Please continue on page 23)

How to Figure the TITHE

In response to questions sent in by hundreds of readers, we have asked Hugh Mauck, whom Mr. Armstrong has placed in charge of the Mail Receiving Department, to answer your questions on how to tithe.

by Hugh M. Mauck

SINCE I have been aiding Mr. Armstrong by reading YOUR letters—letters sent to God's minister from God's people through the Mail-Receiving Department, I have noted literally hundreds of letters asking in various ways: "Are we robbing God?"

The greater percentage of these letters say: "We know that God commands us to pay HIS tenth, but how can we know what His tenth is? How often does He expect us to pay on our increase? Should PENSIONERS pay tithe—should they give offerings? Does God expect us to pay on our gross income? We WANT TO OBEY GOD—but how can we know His will?"

In a previous issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, an article appeared explaining why your letters can not all be answered immediately. Now you know many of the duties God has given to Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers.

We are all sorry that your questions on tithing could not have been answered in article form much sooner than this, but as time permits all of your questions will be answered in article form.

I was faced with this same problem a few years ago when I was operating a small retail and contracting business in Florida. I had to do a lot of praying and research to come to a full understanding of God's Will—to know how to figure His tithe. God HAS revealed these answers to His Church. WE CAN KNOW how to figure His tithe.

What Is Your Increase?

Notice the principle of tithing as found in Deuteronomy 14:22. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the INCREASE of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year." Remember that, although Israel was primarily an agricultural nation, *all wealth comes out of the earth.*

Any increase you may acquire as the fruits of your labor *comes* from the "land" (Lev. 27:30). All of the tithe of the earth whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of trees, or of the minerals under the land, the fowls of the air, and the fish of the sea is the Lord's. Tithing applied to the spoils that Abraham took from the four kings (Gen. 14:20), which included *all kinds of material goods and victuals* (verse 11).

Whatever you acquire as your possession—ONE TENTH is not yours—it is the Lord's; the FIRST TENTH is His.

This means that if you are engaged in agriculture and your income is derived only from the farm—ALL THAT YOUR FARM PRODUCES is *income*, but not necessarily *increase*.

For example: Suppose you have a fifty acre farm divided into two portions. You sow both portions at a cost to you (including your hired labor, your seed, your tractor fuel, repairs, and upkeep, your fertilizer) totaling \$4,000.00. You receive a return from your produce of \$10,000.00. The \$10,000.00 is your *total* GROSS income. The \$4,000.00 is your expense of producing the gross income. It is deducted from the gross income. Your profit is \$6,000.00 which is your ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME—in Bible language: INCREASE. You pay tithe on this ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME. Your tithe for the increase of your field is then \$600.00.

Let us suppose, now, that a drought hits your farm.

You sow both fields at a cost of \$4,000.00 and *only one produces*.

Your GROSS income is now only \$5,000.00. You still subtract your expenditures from the gross and your ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME is \$1,000.00 and your tithe is \$100.00.

Even though your income does not give you enough to live on for long, YOU STILL OWE GOD His tithe. You CANNOT withhold God's tenth on the grounds of loss in business. This means that you must, in years of plenty, save for the lean years. If you are faithful with God He will be faithful to you (I Cor. 10:13).

Your income must be figured on the basis of a maximum time of *one year*, "from year to year" (Deut. 14:22). Suppose your gross income is less than your expenses for each field so that you lose \$1,000.00 in one year. *You would not owe God any tithe* from that field that year. But *you cannot deduct that amount from the following year's increase*.

What Most People Forget

If you have your own GARDEN for your own home use, your own MEAT, eggs, butter and bread, so you do not have to spend money at a grocery store, *you must figure up the value of such commodities that you and your family consume and count that as income INCREASE*. You MUST pay tithe on that amount. That, too, is increase of your field.

The amount of money, room and board, or other compensations paid to your hired help (employees) can be deducted as expense from the gross income. However, *your own labor* which includes the labor of any member of your family not listed on your payroll, *can not be deducted*—since you are the owner of the land and the increase of the land is YOUR WAGE. No deductions whatsoever can be permitted for household expense. That is what the 90% God gives you is for.

(Please continue on next page)

Deducting for Depreciation

If it becomes necessary to purchase a tractor, truck, or other machinery needful for producing a profitable increase, it can be classified as expense and is deductible. For example: A tractor costs you \$3,000.00. You keep it for five years. After five years you sell your tractor for \$500.00. Your cost of owning the tractor for the five years has been \$2,500.00 or \$500.00 a year. Your deduction from your gross income would be \$500.00 each year and not \$3,000.00. Your depreciation value is \$500.00 per year or approximately 16.6% of the machine per year.

Since you begin to figure depreciation before you resell the tractor, the amount of depreciation would be determined by the *laws of the land* which regulate depreciation values. This information can be obtained from your tractor dealer according to the government income tax standards.

If, after depreciation, you make a profit by reselling, you tithe on the amount of profit.

This same principle would apply to the purchase of any equipment—buildings, additional land, or improvements. Any deduction that the Government Income Tax Bureau would not accept is *wrong in God's sight also*.

Other Forms of Income

Borrowed money is not money that belongs to you. It is merely loaned to you for your use and therefore is not increase. You DO NOT pay tithe on borrowed money.

Once you have paid your tithe from your income, you have completed your obligation to God—except for offerings. If the government pays you a tax refund, it is not an increase, *if you have previously tithed on your adjusted gross income prior to paying government taxes, then you DO NOT pay tithe on income tax refunds.*

A wife does not pay tithe on the grocery money that she receives *from her husband even though he does not*

pay tithe. It is his responsibility to God.

If he is an unbeliever, but is broad-minded enough to allow the freedom of her belief so that she may tithe upon at least a part of their income, then she should do so. But if the husband is *violently* opposed to the truth, *she is not to say anything to him about it nor is she to take his responsibility until he asks her about it or designates that authority to her.* For the husband is the head of the wife (I Cor. 11:3).

But if the wife has *her own income*, separate from that of her husband, then *she is obligated* to pay tithes, for that is *her* increase.

If the husband and wife have a joint income from some business investment and one is a believer and the other is not, the believer can NOT tithe his partner's share of the income, nor force him, or her, to tithe. The believer must tithe *only that which is his or her own increase.*

You DO NOT pay tithe on a gift or any form of gratuity for which you do *not* perform some type of service. If, however, you are employed in an occupation *whereby you depend upon gratuity* (tips) for your income, then it is your recognized increase and **MUST BE TITHED.**

If you receive a free gift from a friend you need not pay tithe on it. The Levites were given command (Num. 18:26) to pay a tithe *of the TITHE*—but not of the offerings or the gifts. However, you should give an offering for having been blessed by God with the gift.

A pensioner is not required to pay tithe on his pension. The pension is a *free gift* from the state, county, or city—it is gratuity that you do not merit, nor perform a service for—*the government considers it a gift.* In most cases if you do tithe on a pension *you are in danger of having it taken away from you*, for that is one of the stipulations of receiving such compensation. In some cases you are not permitted to tithe any portion of a pension to any religious body or charitable organization in regular

amounts. You may give offerings in irregular amounts and do as you know Christ would do.

Those who receive gifts on which they are not obligated to pay tithe are encouraged to give offerings and gifts. God loves a "cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7). He commands us to send to His headquarters tithes and "OFFERINGS" (Deut. 12:6). God blesses all those who desire to give an offering or gift over and above the tithe.

How Often Should We Pay Our Tithes?

This depends upon the individual circumstances. If you are an employee and you receive your pay check once a week then your tithe should be paid *once a week*: for throughout your Bible the principle is that the **FIRST TEN PERCENT** is God's. It does not belong to you.

If you receive your wages once a month, then your tithe should be paid *once a month*; and if once or twice a year then the tithe should be paid as it comes into your hands.

For the businessman, the principle is the same as for the farmer. The tithe is paid on the **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME** which is determined by normal business procedure. After all normal business expenses are deducted, the **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME** is subject to tithe and should be paid as the monthly books are balanced.

The employee and the laboring man tithes on his full wages *when he receives them . . . before withholding tax, social security, insurance, and other obligatory deductions are counted off.*

Income tax is *not deductible* from God's tithe *at any time.* God is **FIRST**, before all things—you owe God first and **THEN** the others after.

Now that you know how to tithe, it is time **ALL** of you begin to **OBEY** what you now know God *commands!*

As more questions arise we will write future articles to explain tithing problems.

The ONLY Day of Salvation?

(Continued from page 20)

remain so BLINDED that they will even fight against Christ at his second coming—NOT RECOGNIZING who He is, for the devil will have them so deceived that they will think Jesus is antichrist and fight against Him at Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-14).

People today who are blinded to the truth can have salvation NOW if after suffering the consequences of sin, they will earnestly ask God (Luke 11:8, 9, 13) to SHOW THEM HIS WAYS (REMOVE THEIR BLINDNESS) and then BE WILLING TO FOLLOW THESE WAYS AFTER THEY ARE REVEALED.

Only a relatively small number will receive salvation in this age. These will be used to teach, rule, and judge those called later (Rev. 1:6; I Cor. 6:2).

But what of the vast blinded majority of all times who never had an opportunity?

Are they damned because God created them with a carnal mind which blinded them to the ways of salvation?

Future Chance for Blinded?

Now, as God is just and it is He who has blinded most of the people that ever lived from understanding His laws and the grace which they must accept to be saved, then He will have to remove the blindness to give them a chance—their first chance—will He not?

YES!

And He has PROMISED TO DO IT!

"And he will DESTROY in this mountain the face of the COVERING CAST OVER ALL PEOPLE, and the VEIL THAT IS SPREAD OVER ALL NATIONS" (Isaiah 25:7). It is no stigma or disgrace to your loved ones or others that they are among those that are blinded *now*. God's PLAN called for the removal of blindness from only a *few* NOW. It is HIS responsibility!

Salvation in Millennium

God has allotted six thousand years to mankind here on this earth in which they can try out all methods of living which THEY THINK will bring them

happiness. LOOK AT THE WORLD TODAY FOR THE RESULTS! NOW—in this very END TIME—man is writing *finish* to a history of his poor attempt to rule himself without God's help—a history that all may profit by when they have their first chance. The world today is feverishly preparing to drench itself in a bath of blood. What happens after this?

"The people that walked in darkness (BLINDNESS) have seen a GREAT LIGHT (the BLINDNESS REMOVED)—for unto us a child is born . . . and the government shall be on his shoulders . . . of the increase of his government . . . there shall be no end" (Isaiah 9:2-7). This tells of Christ's birth and his taking over the rule of this earth for 1000 years at His second coming (Rev. 20:4).

This is THE TIME GOD HAS SET TO REALLY START TO SAVE THE PEOPLE. Blindness will be removed—the people will see God's mercy and laws clearly. All now living who live into that period will have their *first* opportunity for salvation. Christ will come with "ten thousands" of His saints to execute judgment and convince all that are ungodly of their ungodly deeds (Jude 14, 15). The devil will be chained so he cannot deceive people (Revelation 20:10). Christ will pour out His spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17), and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Eternal (Isaiah 11:9). God will cleanse the people and give them a new heart and a new spirit, and cause them to walk in His statutes and judgments (Ezekiel 36:25-27). The whole chapters of Isaiah 11 and Zechariah 14 describe this time more fully.

But, the people who live on from this life into the thousand year period are relatively few compared to the MILLIONS AND MILLIONS THAT HAVE DIED BLINDED—WHAT ABOUT THEM?

When Is Vast Majority Saved?

Notice Revelation 20:4: "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Now read verses 11-12: "And I saw a GREAT WHITE THRONE and him that sat on it . . . and I saw the dead, small and great, stand (A RESURRECTION) before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the

book of LIFE (there is a chance of obtaining ETERNAL LIFE), and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books." They are to be judged by what they HAVE DONE in *this life* AND by what they WILL DO after they are resurrected to mortal life!

This is THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT when the VAST NUMBER OF UNSAVED DEAD will be *resurrected* and be GIVEN THEIR FIRST CHANCE FOR SALVATION—all those millions and millions who have lived and died since the time of Adam up through our age, and have not known the TRUE way to eternal life.

Satan will have been cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10) after he has been liberated for a short space of time at the end of the thousand years; and the earth will have been purged of the people who, knowing the truth, allowed him to deceive them during this short space of time. ALL WILL BE INVITED to the marriage supper (salvation) and if they refuse, then they are LOST FOREVER! (Luke 14:16-24).

SALVATION will be open to ALL just as in the *thousand year* period, only now there will be *many more* to accept it. This will NOT be a SECOND CHANCE for if they were blinded by God when they formerly lived, they never had a chance. The cities of Tyre and Sidon will be rebuilt and the evil people of those cities who were formerly blinded will be given their *first* chance (Matthew 11:22). Also, Sodom and Gomorrah will be rebuilt (Matthew 10:15), and her evil citizens have their *first* chance. God is a JUST GOD—He is giving even the WORST OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BLINDED BEFORE CHRIST'S SECOND COMING, THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SALVATION!

Ezekiel 37:11-14 gives a good picture of how this physical resurrection will be accomplished for ALL people, for here it is speaking of Israel as a type. Note Ezekiel 36:25-27 also; this shows how the SPIRITUAL BEGETTAL AND GROWTH comes about at this time. Here are people receiving the Father's Holy Spirit for the first time, just as a few are being *called* today to receive it.

People will live for a hundred years during this age (Isaiah 65:20). But all

this information ought not come as a surprise, for man could and would know of it if he were observing God's command to KEEP THE FEAST DAYS which show God's PLAN OF SALVATION for the WORLD. In Leviticus 23:34, the FEAST of Ingathering or Tabernacles represents salvation in the 1000 year period and the EIGHTH DAY in verse 36 represents the GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT period when the VAST MAJORITY will be saved.

No, the BLINDED WORLD today DOES NOT UNDERSTAND that the Father is in the process of making from mortal man, here on this earth, a *spirit family of His very own*—a family that is being carefully trained. His family will constitute the Kingdom of God, living by and administering His laws of love which are written in the heart and mind (Romans 7:22-24).

AFTER *blinded* man has had a lifetime of sad *experience* living by *his own* way of life, then is resurrected back to this earth and has *his blindness removed* so that he can SEE and PRACTICE GOD'S WAY OF LIFE—the only way that leads to happiness, and can SEE HOW MUCH BETTER GOD'S WAY IS THAN HIS OWN—*then*, AND ONLY THEN, it is that God REALLY starts to save the *vast majority* of mankind and give eternal life to those who are willing to come under his loving rule and aid HIM in administering wisely the great power HE will give to them!

Question Box

(Continued from page 17)

part of the "Synagogue of Satan." That is not what Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 are referring to. The "*synagogue* of Satan"

is not referring to a race but to that great *church* and her daughter churches who falsely profess to be "Christian"—Jews inwardly!

What is the Biblical NAME for the Church?

The Bible gives the true NAME of the Church in *twelve* different places. Twelve, remember, in God's *complete* number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7) II Corinthians 1:1. "The CHURCH

OF GOD which is at Corinth."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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