

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



*BIG SANDY
JEKYLL ISLAND
SQUAW VALLEY*





More About Our Cover . . .

The three Festival sites in the United States! The top photograph on the cover shows *LITERALLY THOUSANDS* of God's People flocking to tents, booths, trailers, and motels after an inspiring service in *OUR OWN Tabernacle* at Big Sandy, Texas. The center picture is one of the modern buildings on fabulous Jekyll Island—in past years a resort only the wealthy could enjoy. God has opened these facilities for His People during the Feast of Tabernacles. The bottom picture is beautiful Blyth Arena in Squaw Valley, California. Nestled between high mountains, this beautiful setting provides an inspiring atmosphere for God's Feast! Read Mr. McCullough's lead article to show you how to make this your most enjoyable Feast ever.

What our READERS SAY . . .

Tithing

"In my last letter I told you about quitting my job because I wanted to keep the Sabbath. I went to my boss and talked things over with him and he said it was okay and I could take off for any other Holy Days. He is going to hire me back and maybe furnish me a house, rent free."

Man, Ohio

• *That's really good news! Have you thought of what you would have done had he refused?*

Persistent Prayer

"I'm so thankful that at last a Church has been started in Mobile, Alabama that I can now attend. God has answered my prayers after waiting for twenty-one years. Now at last I shall be able to meet with some of God's own children."

Mrs. S. H., Miss.

Little Tots Tithe

"I am nine years old. My sisters and brother and I have two dollars saved for first tithe. We've been saving about a year."

Signed—Betty, John, Mary, and Rebekah

Lesson Learned

"About four or five months ago I stopped paying my tithes, and stopped completely in obeying God. Believe me, I'm in trouble. I've even started the smoking habit once again, after having quit for 10 or 11 months. I knew the penalties but somehow I deliberately disobeyed. While I was trying to obey God and His law, things were never better. Now I'm in the worst financial crisis I've ever been in. Also, I've become very sickly. Ask God to heal me and to help me through this terrible mess. I've learned my lesson. Obedience to God really is the only way to be happy."

Odis M., Alabama

Lost Seventy-eight Pounds

"I weighed 278 pounds when I started reading the sin of eating too much. Now I balance the scales at 200 and still losing. I never tithed before, I do now. I never prayed before, I do now. I never said thanks at the table anytime in my life, I do now. I was miserable, I used to feel lost, but thank God I don't anymore. Thanks for the enlightenment."

Man, Tennessee

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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

HERE'S HOW TO USE YOUR SECOND TITHE

Each year you brethren have many questions which arise concerning the problem of—how to PROPERLY USE YOUR SECOND TITHE. Here are some of the main principles to guide you in planning your attendance at God's Festival—this fall! Plus, you will find many concrete examples, covering the problems which most often arise.

by Leslie L. McCullough

“WILL A MAN rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, *Wherein have we robbed thee?* IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Ye are CURSED with a curse: for ye have robbed me, **EVEN THIS WHOLE NATION”** (Mal. 3:8-9).

So thunders the Eternal God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. Yet the average man on the street goes blithely on his way—blindly ignorant of the CURSE now resting on this great nation of ours. Nevertheless, ignorant or not, **THE CURSE IS STILL THERE!**

Our exports are being turned back while our stores are being flooded by the *imported* shoes from Italy, transistors from Japan, suits from Hong Kong, cars from France and Germany, nails and wire products from Japan and Germany and dozens upon dozens of other items.

Go to your nearest sporting goods store and check the prices of baseball or softball gloves. Name brands such as Rawlings or Spalding retail from \$20 to \$35 in most stores. A comparable glove imported from Japan, while not quite as high in quality but nonetheless a good glove, will sell *in the same store* for just under \$10. Now which glove would you buy? Our economy is being undermined—and government experts don't know why.

Staggering National Debt

Our national debt, the total amount

owed by the private, public and corporate interests, is about to rocket into orbit. As reported to you in the September PLAIN TRUTH, the total public debt in the U.S. is now over ONE TRILLION, FIFTY-EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS!

Employment now stands at an all-time high, **BUT SO DOES UNEMPLOYMENT**. Individual, private debt is becoming so staggering that totally unprecedented, almost unbelievable numbers of individuals, families and small businesses are trooping daily into bankruptcy courts.

Our gross national product, that is the total value of the goods and services

produced by this country, this past year was FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS. God's tithe of that amount would be FIFTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS for the past year.

God's Tithe Misused

That is almost exactly the amount of our national budget—fifty-six billion dollars, which was allotted for *defense* spending. God didn't get *His tithe*. We as a nation stole it and made an offering to the pagan god of war!

IS IT ANY WONDER WE ARE UNDER A CURSE?

We have taken the very money which

Hundreds gather to enjoy a meal and fellowship after services at the Big Sandy Festival site.



should be used to help proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and used it to study and prepare to bring death, destruction and misery on mankind. What an effrontery to the One who blessed us with this fantastic wealth to start with!

The parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30, shows us that God is holding us accountable for *the way we use or misuse* the physical blessings and money He has given us.

God has abundantly blessed us and provided the tremendous, unparalleled wealth of our nation.

"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and HAVE GIVEN IT unto whom it seemed meet unto me" (Jer. 27:5).

In another place, He says, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Hag. 2:8).

ALL THINGS rightfully belong to Him because He is the One who created them. All He asks in return for letting us use His wealth is that we pay His tithe to Him.

Reason for the Tithe

In order to exist and carry on their business, the nations of the world today impress upon their subjects various

tax and income tax. Without these taxes, there would be no means of carrying on the duties of the state.

God likewise taxes His subjects. The difference is that His tax is far more liberal. With God there are no hidden taxes, no taxes on taxes nor the continual striving and struggling to figure out a new way to extort more money from the populace.

God's Way is simple, *as His Way always is!* He says one-tenth of all we earn or produce is HOLY unto the Lord (Lev. 27:30-33).

This tenth or TITHE is to be used to carry out the Work of God, to proclaim the Gospel and to provide for the called and chosen ministry. In the Old Testament, Numbers 18:20-24, God gave the tithe to the Levites. He chose this tribe to do the work of the priesthood or the ministry as it is called today. They were to have no inheritance with the other children of Israel but to receive of the tithes for their support.

Christ changed the priesthood from the physical tribe of Levi to the spiritual priesthood of Melchisedec (Heb. 7:12). The bulk of the seventh chapter of Hebrews is concerned with explaining the changing of the priesthood and the resultant change of those who were to receive the tithe.



Services had just begun when this photograph was taken of the brethren singing a hymn at Squaw Valley.

taxes. We have inheritance tax, property tax, amusement tax, liquor tax, cigarette tax, gas tax, school tax, state

The Apostle Paul further clarifies the subject in I Corinthians 9:1-14 where he shows that ". . . they

which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." Just as the tribe of Levi did in ancient Israel.

This law is every bit as binding upon us today as it was upon ancient Israel. Because of our DISOBEDIENCE to this law, we *as a nation* are suffering the CURSE of God. Our debts skyrocket and our financial burden increases. That curse will not be removed until we *as a nation* begin to obey and serve the Creator God by giving Him what is rightfully His.

You as an individual can be forgiven for having broken this law and be removed from under the penalty of this financial curse. Yet even among the people of God, some do not *always* obey and honor Him with a full and complete tithe of their increase.

Obedience Brings Blessings

Turn once again to Malachi 3 and read Verse 10. "Bring ye ALL THE TITHES into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, *that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*"

Perhaps this is the very reason many of you have not been blessed financially as abundantly as some of the other brethren in the Church. If you have not been rendering a full and complete tithe to God, YOU ARE UNDER A CURSE! You are not going to be blessed until you do begin to give to God what is rightfully His.

God is holding you *accountable* for the way you use His money. His tithe is to be used so that His Kingdom may grow and so that thousands and eventually millions and billions more human beings may be brought to repentance and deep conversion.

A Just God

Being a JUST God (Isa. 45:21) God has not only provided a tenth for Himself that His Kingdom may grow, but *He has also provided a tenth for YOU* that you may grow.

Turn to Deuteronomy 14:22. "Thou
(Please continue on page 16)

SEVEN PROOFS

of the *TRUE CHURCH* of God

This world is filled with churches! But Jesus said He would build HIS Church. WHICH ONE DID HE BUILD? Here is the SECOND major, infallible, irrefutable, unshakable, positive and ABSOLUTE PROOF of God's ONE AND ONLY True Church!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

ARE WE "CLOSER" to *some* churches than others? Are "our beliefs" in some way "similar" to the beliefs of other churches?

Do *you* know of churches that are almost "just like we are" in MOST things—but differ in just a FEW points of "belief"?

You may THINK you do—but after reading this whole series of vitally important PROOFS of the True Church of God, you will really KNOW—and *know* that you know—that there is NO CHURCH ON EARTH that is even *remotely* like the ONE TRUE CHURCH, except in some FEW, and comparatively MINOR, "doctrinal" points!

In the first article in this series, we saw the fact that God RULES *this* Church—the ONLY Church willing to unconditionally SURRENDER to Him, humbly accepting His absolute AUTHORITY *in everything!* That God is our RULER is proof number one!

PROOF NUMBER TWO: THREE DEFINITE SIGNS!

The second infallible PROOF of God's True Church is composed of three major parts. In a few cases, a church of this present evil world, or a now DEAD remnant of what *used* to be the SARDIS era of God's True Church may have one, or even TWO of the *three* identifying SIGNS given in the Bible.

But that is only ONE PART OF ONE PROOF OUT OF SEVEN! It

takes the perfect and complete TOTAL—*all seven* proofs—to really identify the TRUE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT!

There is NO group *on this earth*—shocking as it may seem—which has even ONE of these seven MAJOR proofs of where *God* is working! Some have a PART of one, such as a *few* doctrinal truths—but viewed in the wrong light! Some may have one, or even TWO PARTS of this *second* major point—but NONE has even ONE COMPLETE PROOF from the seven, and that means NONE has as much as two. Remember, unless ALL SEVEN are present—there is NO PROOF OF THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD!

The DEVIL *knows* these three signs! *Satan knows* the Truth about prophecy, about doctrine, about GOD'S POWER! But the Devil won't submit to the RULERSHIP of God, nor will he OBEY what he knows!

Surprising as it sounds—SATAN HIMSELF *could show more knowledge* of basic truths than ANY FALSE CHURCH ON THIS EARTH!

The BIG difference is, *he will* NOT OBEY!

But the True Church of God not only *believes* these basic truths—these great identifying PROOFS of God's True Church—but *obeys* them!

A Confusing Jumble of "Names"

The first of the three definite signs forming this second great proof is the NAME of God's True Church. Is the True Church of God the church of Martin Luther? Is it a church named

after a certain "method" of church government? Is it a church of the *people*—that is, a "congregational" church? That would be like saying it is a "church" church! Is it a church which believes in the *advent* (second-coming of Christ) and is therefore an "adventist" church? Is it a "Two-Seed-In-The-Spirit Predestinarian Baptist Church"? NO, it is not! Yet *all* these weird names can be found in various reference books, and are the *actual names* of some of the churches of this world. The True Church of God is *not* "Moravian," "Mennonite" or "Mormon"—it is not "Latter-Day," or "*Reorganized!*"

It is not Buddhist, Shintoist or Baptist; not the Fire Baptized Holiness Church, the Pillar of Fire Church, the Old Order of Yorker Brethren Church, the Amish Church, The Duck River Baptists, Free Will Baptists, General Six Principle Baptists, Primitive Baptists, Regular Baptists, Separate Baptists, or Seventh Day Baptists!

In short, the True Church of God is just *exactly that*—the CHURCH OF GOD!

And, according to *your Bible*, the ONLY name that the Creator-Ruler God will recognize as the identifying sign of HIS Church, the very Body of Jesus Christ and the Church which Jesus built, is "THE CHURCH OF GOD"!

Shocking as it may seem, *all* these counterfeit churches, with their sometimes laughable, pathetic and somewhat pitiful "names," *openly admit* they are not the CHURCH OF GOD!

When asked, "To which church do you belong?" and a person answers to the "Church of Martin Luther"—he is probably telling the *truth!*

That is, he is affirming that he is NOT a member of God's Church, a true member of the very Body of Jesus Christ, a member of the CHURCH OF GOD—but that he IS a member of a church which Martin Luther built! If he answers by any *other* statement of a similar nature, as I have just mentioned (and you can find all these names listed in *The Handbook of Denominations*, the book entitled *The Small Sects of America*, or by looking in an Almanac) then he most certainly IS NOT a member of the True Church of God!

The True Name of God's Church

A minister, preaching to God's true people may begin to *describe* the True Church of God. He may say, in his sermon, "This is the very Church which Jesus built—that LIVING Church which is the very Body of Christ, the Church in which God RULES—the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD!"

But is he saying this whole phrase is to be taken as the "name" of the Church? Is this the official TITLE that *God Himself* places upon His own True Church?

Wouldn't it look a little silly if you were to receive a letter from Mr. Armstrong with "THE TRUE CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST—THE CHURCH IN WHICH GOD RULES—THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD" as the *letterhead*?

In other words, brethren, though there are MANY *descriptive passages* about the True Church of God in the Bible, it would look a little silly to paint a sign with these as the *name* to be put over the door.

Wherever Almighty God speaks of His True Church, identifying it BY NAME—the *name* is always the *same!*

Jesus prayed, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world [but not OF the world], and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep *through thine own* NAME those whom thou hast given me, that they may be *one*, as we are" (John 17:11).

Jesus *prayed* the Father to KEEP His own true people in and through a particular NAME! Jesus prayed that *name* would be the name of the Father!

Did the Father honor this prayer? Notice Acts 20 and Verse 28. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves," wrote the Apostle Paul to the Ephesian Elders, "and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the CHURCH OF GOD, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

God DID honor the prayer of Jesus Christ! He DID give *His own name* to the True Church!

Wherever the actual *name* of the Church as an organized Body is given in the New Testament—it is called the CHURCH OF GOD!

Oftentimes, the *geographical location* was *added to* the legal NAME of the Church, "THE CHURCH OF GOD"!

There were *then*, just as there are *today*, many local congregations of that one True Church, which is a *spiritual* organism.

The Apostle Paul said, "We have no such custom, neither the *Churches of God*" (I Cor. 11:16), showing many local congregations! When the Apostle Paul addressed any *one* of these local congregations, he included its geographical location—just as you, when receiving a personal letter, read not only your NAME on the address, but also your street or box number or rural route.

Paul had addressed this letter to "The CHURCH OF GOD [which is the true NAME of the Church] *which is at Corinth*" (I Cor. 1:2).

Notice a few more examples.

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the *Church of God* which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia" (II Cor. 1:1). "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the *Church of God*, and wasted it" (Gal. 1:13). "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the *Church of God*" (I Cor. 15:9). "For ye, brethren, became followers of the *Churches of*

God which IN JUDAEA are in Christ Jesus . . ." (I Thess. 2:14). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the *Church of God*?" (I Tim. 3:5). "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the *Church of the Living God*, the pillar and ground of the truth . . ." (I Tim. 3:15). In this example, the Apostle Paul adds the *descriptive word* "Living," just as he went on to describe the Church as the "pillar and ground of the truth."

Do you see, brethren? The Apostle Paul also addressed the "Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ . . ." (II Thess. 1:1), and "the Churches of Galatia . . ." but did not intend these to be designated as the one NAME of the True Church of God to continue down through the ages!

Why "RADIO" Church of God?

Some few of the worldly churches understand a minor doctrinal point or two. Some FEW of the worldly churches have discovered this *doctrinal point of truth* about the true name for the Church! They have adopted this name, and call themselves "The Church of God." But a name is to convey MEANING! And if these various "Churches of God" of *this world* are not recognizing God as their RULER, are not completely SUBJECT to Him, are not OBEYING Him, do not keep His weekly Sabbath, the annual Sabbaths, and do not have ANY of these other *seven* major *proofs*—then, even though possessing the NAME authorized in Scripture, they are NOT the True CHURCH OF GOD!

Because of a *number* of organizations of men laying claim to the NAME of the True Church, just as MILLIONS of "professing" Christians have laid claim to the NAME of Jesus Christ—my father, when wanting to incorporate the fledgling beginning of the Philadelphia era of the True Church of God, for the purpose of conducting the BUSINESS of God on this earth, was

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Summer Growth-- New School Year Begins

SEVENTY-FIVE new students accepted for the Pasadena campus. Baptizing tours completed—HUNDREDS BAPTIZED. Mr. Armstrong and other leading ministers who have been abroad for the summer prepare to return. All these events HIGHLIGHT a very FRUITFUL SUMMER!

by Ronald Kelly

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS have been *jam-packed!* Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, along with others on the acceptance committee, completed reviewing almost FOUR HUNDRED applications for enrollment to Ambassador College this fall. *Only SEVENTY-FIVE* could be admitted.

Can you imagine how difficult it is to select only a small percentage of students who *earnestly desire* to attend God's own College? Many whom we would all want to see in college *must be turned down* simply because there is not enough room, or because present circumstances do not allow it.

Finally, however, as I write this article the final letters are being mailed out notifying the students whether or not they have been accepted. You should all *earnestly pray* these students will really *APPRECIATE* the privilege it is to attend Ambassador College. Pray they will be the ones GOD IS CALLING to serve in His Work!

Pray also that God will make it possible to have the proposed THIRD AMBASSADOR COLLEGE near Big Sandy, Texas. Plans are now being laid for the NEW COLLEGE to open *next fall*—just one year from now!

Mr. Leroy Neff, a faculty member and ordained minister, has just left Pasadena to be acting *Business Manager* of all our facilities in Big Sandy. When the college opens next fall, Mr. Neff will be on the faculty and will also be the Registrar of the college there.

You will all be *overjoyed* to hear how God has intervened for Mr. and Mrs. Neff. Many of you know Mrs. Neff had been suffering from a severe heart condition for over a year. She



Mr. Leroy Neff, now Business Manager at Big Sandy, Texas—who will become the Registrar when the new college in Texas begins.

had spent the past *nine months* or more in bed—not even having the strength to get up. All the ministers and brethren in Southern California had been praying for Mrs. Neff's recovery. Many of you had earnestly asked God to heal her.

GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS!

Two or three weeks ago Mrs. Neff began feeling better. It was recommended she have a *thorough physical examination*. Having been in bed *many months* made it difficult to get up to travel, but she was able to make it. The doctor then gave her a *complete check-up*. He had her *run* up a level of stairs TWENTY-ONE times. The

result of his examination was that Mrs. Neff had ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OR TRACE OF HEART TROUBLE! The doctor (who had never seen her before) said, "This lady *never has had* heart trouble!" And he was one of the best heart specialists in Los Angeles. Of course, we know she had a *very critical* and severe condition. But God so *completely HEALED* her that the heart specialist couldn't find a trace that she had ever had it.

Mr. Armstrong Returns

In addition to the new students, Mrs. Neff's healing, and more solid plans for the new college in Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong docked in New York after nearly four months at the college in Bricket Wood. Also returning to the United States after three years there are Mr. and Mrs. Ben Chapman. Mrs. Chapman, as most of you know, was Mr. Dick Armstrong's wife. Three years after Mr. Dick Armstrong's death in 1958, Lois, as we all know her, married Mr. Ben Chapman—an Ambassador College graduate and now an ordained minister. Their five-year-old son, little "Dickie" Armstrong, along with his new baby sister, Carolyn Chapman, are *anxiously awaited* by all who know the Chapmans.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman will spend a short time visiting with their friends and relatives and will then establish their home on Lake Loma next to the Neffs. Mr. Chapman will be on the college faculty and will direct the Radio

Studio which is due to be constructed in the *very near future*.

Right now, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are on the train expecting to arrive in Pasadena tomorrow at eight o'clock in the morning. Of course, by the time you read this issue of *The GOOD NEWS*, they will have been here about two weeks.

There will be many things to prepare before the college year starts, September 1. There will be many conferences where top-level decisions will be made. We certainly ask all of you to pray for Mr. Armstrong and all of God's ministers to have wisdom in making the decisions which will affect the lives of all of God's people.

Baptizing Tours

In addition to everything mentioned above, this week was also the *final week* of the summer baptizing tours. It seems this *one week alone* had as many significant events as one might think could happen in several months. Two of the tours have returned to Pasadena, the other is finished, but still on the highway driving since the tour ended on the East Coast in Nova Scotia.

Here are some comments and the statistics from the men on tour:

Mr. Dave Albert, tour leader, and Mr. Walter Sharp were traveling through the Central United States and way up into Canada. Mr. Albert reports: "Just as would be expected, the final percentages are almost exactly fifty per cent of the total number of persons originally scheduled. We had 401 letters of people whom we hoped to meet this summer; 376 of those people actually showed up to meet us and were counseled for baptism. And we baptized 201! Next year—we pray—many of those who were not baptized will be ready for this very important step.

"We know that this tour was as successful as it was *as a result of the PRAYERS* of God's people. Without those prayers there probably would have been fewer baptized. And we know that as a result of those same prayers, *God guided, protected, and blessed this tour*. We had no serious car trouble or acci-

dents in over 18,500 miles. And we remained in very good health during the eleven weeks we were on the road. Again we give you all our sincere and *heart-felt thanks* for your support of the baptizing tours!"

Mr. Frank McCrady, tour leader, and Mr. Paul Flatt, who will be our Student Body President this next year, met all of those who had written in from the Southern United States. Here are the final results and comments from this tour: "We were out on the tour for nearly ten weeks, traveling a total of 12,500 miles. We scheduled 453 to meet us—but only 322 met. And out of these only 130 were baptized. Many of these people did not seem to really have the zeal to step out and meet us—and many were not baptized because they were not *totally willing* to GIVE UP their own lives. However, we earnestly pray that many of these people will be ready for the next year.

"Though we went through the South, *we had no problems* because of the RACE SITUATION. We could certainly feel the *heat* of it, though. God *did really bless* us on this tour and incidents which could have turned out to be big problems seemed to smooth out—we are confident *God intervened daily*."

The third tour led by Mr. Sherwin McMichael, accompanied by Mr. Roy Page, an exchange student from the college in England, reports this: "We have now completed the visiting portion of our tour. ALL that remains now is the 4000 mile trip from the tip of Maine to Los Angeles. However Roy (Roy Page from England, and this next year's Student Body Vice President) was able to see a great deal of the United States. He commented how different it was from his native England.

"This last week of the tour has not been as fruitful as some others. This has been the pattern throughout all New England and Canada. This is partially due to the lack of regularly hearing the broadcast—and also to the unwillingness to change once they heard it. People in this older, more stable environment of New England just don't change until they are made to. But

God has changed many, for which we are very thankful.

"Our whole tour in all included scheduling 359 to meet us. Out of those 271 actually did meet and keep the appointments—we baptized 106, but as mentioned, many were just not willing to change and repent.

"The tour has been most profitable and enjoyable for us as God allowed us to serve Him this summer!"

Messrs. Meredith and Hill Near Completion of World Tour

As most of you readers of *The GOOD NEWS* know, Mr. Roderick C. Meredith and Mr. David Jon Hill have been on a very important *fact-finding* tour of the Middle and Far East. However, because of their plane schedule and the opportunities they had for travel this summer their trip took them from Los Angeles to New York, then to Europe, and down to the Middle East. From there, they went on through India and Pakistan over to the Philippines and down to Australia before coming back to the United States—*completely circling the globe*. Both Mrs. Meredith, Margie, and Mrs. Hill, Audrey, are very anxiously awaiting the return of their husbands. Both have the wonderful privilege and opportunity of flying to Honolulu where they will meet Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hill as they complete the tour. A dozen people have written in from the Hawaiian Islands requesting baptism. These people will be met and counseled at this time allowing the Hills and Merediths to return to Pasadena for the start of the college here.

Here are some interesting excerpts from a personal letter written by Mr. Meredith:

"Seeing this land of Israel is certainly an inspiration after spending time in the slow-moving Arab nations all around it. The Jewish people are really on the ball! There is building going on *everywhere*. More building than in any land we have ever seen, comparatively speaking. And there is a sense of *dedication* and *confidence* here that is certainly lacking in the Arab countries.

"The experience of seeing these

September, 1963

Biblical lands, meeting the people and soaking up the general atmosphere—all of this has made both of us feel closer to many events and personalities in the Bible, and inspired us to dig in as never before to really *understand* the knowledge of many points which are still vague.

"Seeing Petra was certainly fascinating, and neither of us had realized how BIG the place really is. Somehow, others haven't seemed to have made that clear. We hiked all around, and there are multiple *thousands* of caves all ready to be cleaned out and used! An interesting fact is that they are already cleaning out and fixing up many of these caves for tourist rooms. And they now have a rustic lodge or hotel right in the canyon, where we stayed, with room for 20 or more adults, and are now arranging additional facilities.

"So we may not *all* sleep in caves after all, especially those who are older or have some type of health problem.

"After arriving here in Tel Aviv, we got in touch with Herman Hoeh, and he came down Friday evening and spent the entire Sabbath and this morning (Sunday) with us. Needless to say, we had a most enjoyable and profitable visit and discussed many things we had just seen and observed.

"We are all learning much from these experiences, and they should definitely pay off for years to come. We are leaving in a short time for Lod airport to fly to Teheran this evening. We are looking forward to it although everyone has told us that the "rough" part of our trip still lies ahead. We think of all of you daily, and pray for God's blessing on His Work there in Pasadena, and His inspiration in the broadcasting especially. Please give our love to all the brethren and tell them to remember us."

Dr. Hoeh's Studies in Israel

Another one of God's leading ministers—Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, Dean of Ambassador College, has spent the summer studying at the Hebrew Union College in Israel. As you read in *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, Dr. Hoeh assisted with the excavation of the ancient Biblical city of Ashdod. Here



View of Petra from the Northeast. This vast area, which Messrs. Meredith and Hill visited this summer, might some day house many thousands of God's People as a place of safety from the coming tribulation.

are some interesting experiences Dr. Hoeh had this summer:

"July 1, I flew to Israel to join a group of men from the U.S.A. selected by the Hebrew Union College to participate in a study of archaeology in Israel and in a general education about modern Israel.

"This included actual participation in a 'dig' at Ashdod conducted for archaeological purposes. The digging began July 15.

"Before the excavations began two of the Ambassador College students came down from Bricket Wood—John Cheetam and Dennis Pebworth. They were privileged to tour the Holy Land

during the summer break of classes.

"Dr. Dothan of Israel was in charge of the 'diggings.' They have hired a lot of immigrants from North Africa to work here. Many of them are quite lazy and unindustrious. A very few are really good workers. We outwork the vast majority. We begin at 8 and go till 12:30; begin again at 1 and go till 4:30. There is a little breeze most of the time and fairly cool much of the day—but it is certainly HOT in the pits. It is very hard work because there is no shade in the pits except during the evenings.

"One evening after our working hours, one of the supervisors found an

inscription of Sargon's capture of Ashdod mentioned in the Bible. Which goes to show that archaeology has little to contribute in value beyond what could have been known from the Bible. Only in a few instances has it given anything beyond mere confirmation!

"One realizes how much is art and guessing in archaeology, not science, when on the spot.

"On July 25, we return to Jerusalem where lectures and other educational activities continue till August 23. I hope to return to Pasadena about August 25 after 10 weeks travel and study in England and Israel."

Certainly these experiences Dr. Hoeh has had will be of benefit and value to the colleges and Church of God. True knowledge based upon God's Word—THE BIBLE—has been revealed to those whom God has called to proclaim His Truth!

The New College Year Begins

By the time you receive this issue of *The GOOD NEWS* school will be in session. Many of you will have friends and relatives who will be attending Ambassador College this fall. Many of the young students will be out of local churches. They will all need your prayers to complete the job that God has in store for them. Certainly, they all would like you to pray for them often.

Those of us on the faculty know and realize what a tremendous opportunity it is to be accepted for Ambassador College. Some of you reading this magazine will be among those who were turned down and will not be able to attend college *this year*. You should continue to grow and study and pray so that you can be used effectively in the local area where you now are and perhaps be accepted next year or serve in any capacity which will prove fruitful and productive for your own individual lives.

The new faces and the many experiences of the older students will make the college year of 1963-1964 a truly exciting and fruitful year. You will be meeting many of these students at the coming FEAST OF TABERNACLES. Be sure you make their acquaintance so

you can have even a more active interest in the very Headquarters of God's Work here at Ambassador College. In just a very few short years, many of these young men and women will be serving you in your local areas.

Where God's Ministers Are

We have carefully prepared for all the brethren of God's Church a map which has been included in this issue of the magazine. We did not staple this in—we intend for you to use it! Be sure that you do not lay it aside or misplace it. It will be very valuable for you to help you be MORE EFFECTIVE in your *prayer life*! You can take this map and list of ministers into your private prayer room every single day. The Bible continually admonishes all of us to pray for God's ministers! This will help you fulfill this part of your prayer time and should certainly encourage all of you to become more acquainted with each one of God's ministers in a more *personal way*!

On this map you will see we have marked off individual *church areas*. Around each city is a circle shaded in dark gray with a radius of 100 miles. Nearly every baptized member who lives within the shaded area on this map *is able to attend a local church*. You can readily see God has provided *many churches* for His true and converted people. However, there are many areas—as is plainly indicated—where no local church is available in *hundreds of miles*! On my office wall right now is a map which has been prepared to give those of us here at Headquarters a perspective of where all of the baptized members are. There are literally *scores* of areas where we could start local congregations of *more than one hundred people* IF WE ONLY HAD THE MINISTERS!

All of you brethren in areas where you cannot attend a church certainly are praying—we know—that God will provide the qualified men who can soon come to your area to raise up church congregations. Every year that goes by more churches are started! You have read about them in past issues of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine. Within the next few months, undoubtedly,

more churches will be started. We ask you all to pray fervently—but be patient—that God will provide churches for many of the scattered brethren!

This very day as we go to press foundations are being laid for *two new church areas*—Odessa and Amarillo, Texas is one; Minneapolis, Minnesota and Sioux Falls, South Dakota is the other. Read more of this in the next issue after Mr. Meredith returns.

On this map you will also notice areas where we have placed a star. These areas are where we have regularly established Bible studies which meet once or twice a month. Although these Bible studies are not full church services, brethren from around these areas can gather once in awhile to counsel with God's ministers and to hear His Word expounded.

On the back of the map we have prepared a list of where all of God's ministers are. After each name, we have given you the responsibilities or local churches where these men are serving. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of people in the congregations. Notice carefully how many churches we have now reaching 200, 300, 400 and even up to 500 or more in church every single Sabbath Day. The growth in all of the churches is very inspiring and encouraging to all of us—as we know it is to all of you.

Once again, this has truly been a fruitful and eventful summer. God's Headquarters, as always, has been a *beehive of activity*! As students begin to arrive for the coming college year every day on our campus now, we all anxiously await the start of this school year and the soon-coming *Feast of Tabernacles* where we will be able to see all of you brethren gathered together in the three Festival locations which God has provided.

Mr. Meredith should return very soon and he will be once again writing the regular column of Church news in forthcoming issues of this magazine. Once again, brethren, be sure you are praying for all of God's ministers and one another to unite God's Church together in a bond of love that will prove that we truly are God's people and God's True Church!

How You *MUST* Teach Your *Children to* BEHAVE IN CHURCH

Every member of God's Church, around the world, should read every word of this letter.

by Richard D. Armstrong

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Armstrong has just run across a copy of a letter written by our son, Richard D. Armstrong, four and a half months before he died from an automobile accident.

He was then pastor of the Fresno, California, Church of God. Destruction resulting from lack of training and supervision of children had occurred at the hall where the Church met. One more infraction would have put the Church out of the hall.

Such a thing as this could happen at any Church. It was corrected promptly at Fresno, and brings no reproach upon that Church now—but it should sound a loud and emphatic WARNING to the members of all other churches that such an incident is never allowed to be repeated elsewhere.

As I re-read this letter, the realization came forcefully upon my mind that many of our brethren—especially those newer in God's Church—may not fully realize the SERIOUSNESS of strict training, and vigilant enforcement of the behavior of children at church services.

Brethren, we need to be RE-AWAKENED!

We need to realize the extreme seriousness of this matter. GOD IS HOLDING EVERY ONE OF YOU PARENTS RESPONSIBLE!

Our son Dick, as we called him, *loved* the brethren at Fresno. Previously he had been pastor of the three churches at Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi. He had told us with feeling how, al-

though he was younger in physical years than many members, they seemed like his own *spiritual* children—and he loved them as a parent loves a child.

At Fresno it was the same. Possibly Richard D. Armstrong was the most *loved* minister in the Church of God—because he, himself, felt such deep love and concern for Christ's flock, over which he was a shepherd.

I was *moved* as I read this letter again, after 5½ years. I do not think my son really wrote it, except as God's instrument. The living CHRIST, I feel, actually authored it.

But it contains a dynamic SERMON on the responsibility of parents for the training and the behavior of their children at church services. As the brethren at Fresno were his *spiritual* children, and God held him RESPONSIBLE for *their* behavior in controlling their children, this letter is also an example of how to deal with children. My son patiently made the Truth PLAIN to them—explained thoroughly. But he also TOOK ACTION! He took such action as to prevent a recurrence of the mischief. I want every minister of Christ, in all the churches, to take the same action, that parents may FEAR to neglect the discipline of their children, lest they be publicly and severely rebuked and held to account before all.

I want every member to read every word.

—Herbert W. Armstrong

March 12, 1958

TO THE BROTHERS of the Fresno Church of God, from your pastor, Richard D. Armstrong.

Last Sabbath it was very nice to have Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to speak to us, and the Ambassador Chorale. A pleasure which we do not often have,

which I am glad we were able to enjoy. I was also *very* happy to see so many there, especially of you brethren from up North and over in the West, and scattered abroad who are only able to come to the Fresno Church once in a while.

There were over 115 adults, not counting small children and those from Pasadena—including myself and the

entire Ambassador Chorale. Which meant, of course, that outside of the evangelistic campaigns held a year and a half ago in this same room, this was the largest group that we have ever had attending the Fresno Church.

I enjoyed the meetings last week immensely and I am sure all of you did, but I received some very sad news just as I was leaving Church last week.

Mr. Kelly, the janitor who sets up the chairs for our meeting and through whom we rent the hall, came to me visibly shaken and very nervous, but he had a very great problem he had to tell me about. Mr. Kelly has always been most courteous and friendly to all of us. He said that he hated to tell me, but our children had torn apart one of the toilets on the third floor where we hold our meetings. They had torn the float clear out of the toilet; taken all of the paper from several of the toilets and poked it into one and tried to flush this toilet and flooded it all over the floor. He said that they had left it in a complete, total, disgraceful mess, and that furthermore, several of our children had gone down to the second floor and gone into a meeting. The lodge members who own the building were complaining and asking Mr. Kelly to make sure that it didn't happen again, or we will be thrown out.

We shall not be allowed to meet here any longer *IF THIS EVER HAPPENS AGAIN!*

The Church of God Almighty, the very Body of Jesus Christ, must not suffer such a humiliating thing because we are not obedient to God's commandments. We shall not allow such a condition to continue. I hope you can imagine how I felt after the joy of having the Chorale and such a wonderful meeting, and then to have a blow such as this. I hate to have to give an answer for the Church, and I feel that I should go to those who are responsible, you, the parents. We don't know which child was responsible, but we do know this, that of those who come to Fresno regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, we have not had this problem. It is only when things do come up. Now that doesn't mean that any particular children or those who do only come once in a while are especially to blame. It does happen when we have a large group of children coming together and they are left *unrestrained* to play about on their own after Church.

God says in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and

not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Brethren, I have to give an account to God when something like this happens and it is up to me to see to it that it doesn't happen again. Go right on in your Bible and read through the first chapter of James. We are having our trials of faith which we should count all joy, because it works out patience and builds stronger character in us. We do have these problems—they must be solved, and they must be solved by the Scriptures—God's way. In Verse 13 of this first chapter of James, God says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." We are tempted of our own lusts, and even so is a child and if there is no parental control any child, and every child, does get into mischief.

I want to make this clear. There is no child that is specifically at fault, but all the children without exception have been too noisy, have been left to run free to themselves after the services are over, and this must cease. God says in Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby MANY be defiled." It is up to us to settle this particular problem according to God's will and from the Scriptures, and not let any root of bitterness spring up in us.

Notice James 1:22-25, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is not taking you into the Kingdom of Heaven if you simply agree with everything that God's Church teaches concerning such doctrines as heaven and hell, the Holy Days, paying of tithes, and training your children if you do not do these things. You have to live it.

You may be very familiar with God's laws, but if you don't obey them, you will go into the Lake of Fire for the knowledge that you do have. You may agree on every doctrine that is preached in the Bible, but if you don't live by it you will be burned as so much refuse in hell, and your children with you.

For instance, suppose that you know all about health foods. You study them, and you know all about vitamins; you know all about how to get pure, unspoiled and undefiled foods, so you know how to feed your child, but if your child doesn't know how to obey you may be just feeding him in the right manner and giving him a healthy body that will make him burn all the better, when God has to destroy him because he has built the wrong kind of character. You would be far better off with poor health, but a right heart and character in the eyes of God, than to be a perfectly healthy, physical human being and not living by every word of God.

Many of you have felt that perhaps it would be better to leave your children at home, but the Bible **COMMANDS** you to bring them into the services and it commands them to *BE QUIET!* Let's read the Word of God. In Exodus 20 are the Ten Commandments, "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Now notice the commandment about the Sabbath. "Remember the sabbath day, to *keep* it **HOLY.**" *God made it holy; we keep it that way.* "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God." Now notice how you are to keep the Sabbath: "In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, **NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER,** thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy

(Please continue on page 21)

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS!

Success and happiness in life—EVEN finally achieving the KINGDOM OF GOD depends on making RIGHT DECISIONS. Here from the Business Manager—an ordained Evangelist in God's Church, are SEVEN RULES which will help YOU make the right decisions—EVERY TIME!

by Albert J. Portune

HOW OFTEN do we find ourselves in *trouble* because we have made a wrong decision? Why is it at times we launch into some endeavor—begin a project—enter into a business arrangement—decide to make a major move or make a long-term purchase—then find that things turn out **WRONG**?

Many of God's people have had the sad experience of discovering they have made an *unwise* decision. There is a way to *avoid* this pitfall! God has made available certain principles which, if diligently applied, will always result in the **RIGHT CHOICE**. Yet many do not know these principles. Most of us fail to apply them **ALL**. Many are too **IMPATIENT** to take time to apply them.

Right Choices—the Whole Purpose of Human Life

God has shown from the beginning that it is up to us to **CHOOSE**. Our very lives and ultimate *eternal life* depends on making the **RIGHT CHOICE**!

Notice God's deadly and serious warning in Deuteronomy 30:19. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you **LIFE** and **DEATH**, **BLESSING** and **CURSING**: therefore **CHOOSE LIFE**, that both thou and thy seed may live."

God wants us to make the right choices. He wants us to *learn how* to make right evaluations and come to the right decisions. Every decision we make in life is either a **RIGHT ONE** which

leads toward *life, happiness* and *prosperity*, or it is a **WRONG ONE** and leads toward *unhappiness, destitution* and *death*.

Man's Basic Ability to Make Decisions

Our primary **KEY** we *must learn* before we learn the **SEVEN** rules to making wise decisions is what **NATIVE** ability man has for coming to right conclusions.

Whenever we have a decision to make, the first step we take is usually the most *disastrous*! That mistake is assuming that we—**OF OURSELVES**—have the *ability* to come to a right conclusion. Yet, the Word of God clearly shows us that the basic equipment man has been given to make decisions is equipment that will irrevocably lead him to make the **WRONG CHOICE**.

The basic nature that all mankind has inherited—believe it or not—will inexorably lead him to make the **WRONG DECISION**.

Notice Jeremiah 10:23: "O Lord, I know that the *way* of man is **NOT IN HIMSELF**: it is **NOT** in man that walketh to **DIRECT HIS STEPS**."

If we could only learn this *primary lesson* we would be over the greatest hurdle in directing our lives to successful conclusions. Yet, contrary to God's direction in His Word, we too often lean to our *own understanding* and misguided ability to make decisions instead of looking to God! (Prov. 3:5).

Whatever decision or choice we have to make in life, *IF* we can only realize

that the *basic nature* we have will **ALWAYS** tend to lead us to make the **WRONG DECISION**, we will be able to take the first step in avoiding disaster. Almighty God is careful to tell us in Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25: "There is a way that **SEEMETH** right unto a *man*, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Rule One—Ask God for Wisdom

This brings us to the *first* rule in making wise decisions. If we are to reach a right choice we must go to a source **OUTSIDE** of *ourselves* for the answer!

The Word of God tells us ". . . for the Lord is a God of *knowledge*, and by **HIM** actions are weighed" (1 Sam. 2:3).

God is the source of ALL knowledge! He alone can guide us to make the right choice. Whenever we have a decision or choice to make, the *first thing* we must do is **GO TO GOD** in **PRAYER** and acknowledge that *He alone* can direct us to make the wise choice. Ask Him for the **WISDOM** to see what is right. Ask Him for guidance in your pursuit of the right course.

Too many of us leave God out of our decisions. Too many of us plunge ahead seeking advice from other sources and gathering facts **BEFORE** we acknowledge God as the primary source of right direction. Seeking God's wisdom and direction is **FIRST**, then we can follow the next six rules successfully.

God tells us *three times* in His Word: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10). When we come to the place where we *fear* to go ahead without FIRST going to God, then we will stop making wrong choices.

Solomon an Example

When Solomon became King of Israel after his father David, he knew he was faced with many momentous decisions. The responsibility of ruling a mighty nation and making all the decisions that are part of being a monarch weighed heavily upon him.

What was the first thing Solomon did? His actions are an EXAMPLE for us—recorded in the Word of God. "And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead . . . for thou hast made me king over a people like the *dust of the earth in multitude*. Give me now WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can JUDGE [decide for] this thy people, that is so GREAT?" (II Chron.1:8-10). Because Solomon sought God FIRST and acknowledged Him as the source of RIGHT DIRECTION, God granted him wisdom and knowledge to make right decisions and choices. God blessed him and the nation Israel over which he ruled (Verses 11-17).

No matter how large or small a decision we have to make, we should *always* go to God FIRST and acknowledge Him as the source of direction, wisdom and knowledge to make the right choice.

Even if we must make a quick—rapid-fire—decision, we always have time—even if for only an instant—to pray within ourselves, "Father, help me to see *your will*."

Rule Two—Search God's Word for Examples

After FIRST acknowledging God and asking Him for wisdom and guidance, we must next realize that God has recorded for us IN HIS WORD

literally hundreds of examples of right and wrong choices and their *results* in people's lives.

In the Old Testament, when God was bringing Israel out of Egypt, the people had to make many decisions; some were right—*many were wrong!* These examples are priceless in helping us avoid making similar mistakes in decisions we must reach.

Some of the *wrong decisions* which led to disaster for the people are recorded a second time in I Corinthians in the 10th chapter. Notice what the Apostle Paul says about these occurrences: "Now all these things happened unto them for *ensamples*: and they are *written* for OUR ADMONITION, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (Verse 11).

By a deep knowledge of God's Word—through constant study and meditation—we have a *backlog of experience* to draw upon. We certainly can profit by the mistakes others have made, and also from their wise decisions.

Jesus' Example

Jesus, under severe temptation from Satan to make a wrong decision, knew this principle well. When the Tempter sought to entice Jesus to choose *immediate* world rule—showed him luring world kingdoms to tempt Him—Jesus said: "IT IS WRITTEN, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Jesus also said twice more "IT IS WRITTEN!"

Jesus knew God's Word. He drew *heavily* upon it to make His choices. *We should follow His example!*

The unjust judges of this world follow this *principle* even if their choices may be wrong. No judge presiding over a court case ever comes to a decision without knowing the decisions that have been rendered previously in similar cases. Lawyers always rehearse previous court cases for what has happened in the past.

We have literally hundreds of "court cases" upon which God has rendered *HIS* verdict—IN THE BIBLE. Yet far too many of us neglect to seek that knowledge from God's Word and apply it to our decisions. Far too many

of us just do not know God's Word *well enough!* Therefore we make wrong decisions on points for which there are *direct examples* in the Word of God.

Rule Three—Get the Facts

The third rule for making wise decisions is one many of us NEGLECT because we are in too much of a hurry to come to a decision—we are IMPATIENT.

Each decision we have to make will usually have *many* factors to consider. Having only a portion of the information available may cause us to decide *prematurely* and *WRONGLY*.

One of the high-pressure selling "gimmicks" or procedures today is to overwhelm a prospective buyer with a lot of "loaded" or one-sided truths and half-truths. These "facts" *seem* to show *conclusively* that to buy is the "right choice." But often to the buyer's chagrin he will only discover *too late* that there was *another side to the story!* Had he *CAREFULLY CONSIDERED*, he would *never* have made the purchase.

Whatever decision or choice we have to make, in whatever time is available to us, we should ferret out and weigh every possibility and contingency so we can see every facet every angle of the choices available to us and what the results and effects might be. NEVER BE HURRIED OR PUSHED INTO A DECISION!

A good course of action to follow is to sit down and *make a list* of all the pros and cons on a sheet of paper. Forcing yourself to take the time to do this will cause you to see things you would not have considered before. List objectively all the facts you have at hand, then ask yourself questions for which you *do not* have the facts—then GET THOSE FACTS before you decide.

One key which will save you many headaches and pocketbook pains is learn to "wait 24 hours"—especially in reference to impulse buying. Every salesman knows a person is most apt to buy on the spur of the moment after he has been pushed "off balance" by his basic desire to possess plus the

strong "pitch" he has just been given. But if you will say, "I'll think it over"—leave the store—go home and wait until tomorrow—most likely many factors will come to you which you were unable to consider under the pressure of the moment.

This key also applies to any choice you have to make. We are always "off balance" until we have carefully weighed ALL the facts.

Rule Four—Seek Wise and Abundant Counsel

In getting the facts, we should not always lean to our own knowledge of the subject. We should seek those who have the most accurate information relative to our choice.

Let us suppose you are considering a change from one area of the country to another. This involves a change of job—change of home—change of school for children—change of climate—change of cost of living—and many, many other things. A wise decision cannot be reached without learning what these factors are like in the new area. One way to learn these facts is to ask or counsel someone who is an AUTHORITY on these factors in the new area.

In every case seek wise counsel from a *reputable authority* or sources you can *rely on*. Don't rely on backyard advice or "*water-cooler wisdom*" for a decision in *your* life.

Don't be satisfied with *one opinion only!* A primary principle from God's Word shows us to seek wise counsel: "WHERE NO COUNSEL is, the people fall: but in the MULTITUDE OF COUNSELLERS THERE IS SAFETY" (Prov. 11:14).

Seek Ministerial Counsel

After we have gleaned all the facts available from our own research and from wise and abundant authorities, we should seek additional counsel from *God's ministers* or *elders* if available.

God has placed His ministry in His Church to guide and help His people to the most important choice of all—to *choose life!* God's ministers are wise

counsellors to help you reach a wise decision. Seek their counsel before coming to a *final decision*.

In Ephesians 4 God shows us the purpose for which He has placed a ministry in His Church: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the *perfecting* of the saints, for the *work* of the *ministry*, for the *edifying* of the BODY of Christ" (Verses 11 and 12).

Certainly God's ministers can give wise counsel and guide you to make the right choice. Make available to them all the facts and circumstances you have gleaned. They may see things from a point of view you had not considered.

Paul shows us that ministerial counsel is to be sought and followed: "Obey them that have the *rule* over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls [lives—*psuche* in the Greek], as they that *must give account!*" (Heb. 13:17).

Rule Five—Make a Definite Decision

In applying the preceding rules, we will have come to the place where we are ready to make a definite decision. Now is the time!

We have asked God for wisdom and direction; we have searched His Word for examples and lessons; we have gathered and weighed all the facts and eventualities; we have sought authorities, wise and abundant counsellors and ministerial guidance. The choice or decision should now be CLEAR.

Make that decision DECISIVELY—POSITIVELY!

Don't vacillate! Don't waver!

Again God's Word gives us the example. "For he that *wavereth* is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed . . . A *double minded* man is UNSTABLE in all his ways" (Jas. 1:6, 8).

This brings us to the *sixth* rule.

Rule Six—Have Faith in Your Decision

Faith is one of the most *powerful forces* we can employ to cause circum-

stances to turn out right. Once we have come to a decision based on God's principles we can have FAITH it will work out correctly.

We should EXPECT our choice—to turn out RIGHT and GOOD. We can have ABSOLUTE FAITH that it will!

"Faith is the substance of things (or conclusions) HOPED FOR, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Believing is now *our part!* The whole eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a testimony of those who made choices and decisions in their lives toward an ultimate goal and they attained them THROUGH FAITH!

Jesus said, "If thou canst *believe*, ALL THINGS are possible to him that BELIEVETH!" (Mark 9:23).

Trust your decision. Trust the God who led you to it. Believe in it and HAVE FAITH!

Rule Seven—Follow Counsel and Work Diligently for the Desired End

The last rule is where many fall down. The right conclusion to a decision is NOT AUTOMATIC! We must go *all out* to bring the desired end to reality.

In the course of obtaining all the facts and getting wise and abundant counsel we will have discovered many things to DO!

Now that we have made our choice and have faith that it will work out, we need to "*roll up our sleeves*" and "GET TO WORK!"

Another basic principle from God's Word will help. Wise Solomon learned from God: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, DO IT WITH THY MIGHT" (Eccl. 9:10).

Here is where many of us fail. We do not diligently and systematically go step-by-step through every phase of effort toward the desired goal!

Resolve, in every choice or decision, to thoroughly and judiciously DO YOUR PART.

Don't Forget Your Counsellors

So many times we seek wise counsel from authorities and then ministers—

we learn the right course of action—and then we proceed to *forget* that counsel and do things *differently*—according to our own reasoning.

Remember the advice given and follow it accurately—write it down if necessary.

We CAN make wise decisions, brethren! God wants us to. He has given us the *means* to direct our lives to a wonderful and eternal reward through wise choices.

There is never a time in YOUR LIFE when you can afford to NEGLECT these principles.

Write them down on a card and *carry them with you*. *Learn them*—make them a part of you. Put them into practice in YOUR life.

God promises: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken DILIGENTLY unto the voice of the Eternal thy God, to observe and to do ALL his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Eternal thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

"And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Eternal thy God.

"BLESSED shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

"BLESSED shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

"BLESSED shall be thy basket and thy store.

"BLESSED shalt thou be when thou comest in, and BLESSED shalt thou be when thou goest out" (Deut. 28:1-6).

Second Tithe

(Continued from page 4)

shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And *thou shalt eat* before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; THAT THOU MAYEST LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD THY GOD ALWAYS."

Part of the reason for doing these

things is that *you* may GROW SPIRITUALLY in the love, fear and respect of the Lord your God.

Now how can you be sure this tithe is meant for *your* use? The first tithe was always given to the Levite—since Christ, to the Melchisedec Priesthood for the carrying out of the Work of God. It was absolutely FORBIDDEN for the average person to take of that tithe for his own personal use.

Your own Tithe

Notice again Verse 23 where God says: "And THOU SHALT EAT before the Lord thy God." Here He is speaking to the people and telling them THEY are to eat of the tithe of their corn, wine, oil, etc. This then is a *separate* or *different* tithe from the one to be used to carry out the work of the ministry.

It is a *second tithe* which God has commanded for OUR OWN USE. God isn't unjust. He has *matched* the tithe which He has commanded for His own by giving us a tithe *of our own*. We are allowed as much as God has required for Himself. Nothing could be more fair than that.

This tithe is to provide us with the expense money to take a vacation *every year* so that we might observe God's annual Holy Days. He tells us we are to eat of this second tithe IN THE PLACE WHERE HE SHALL CHOOSE TO PLACE HIS NAME. But have you noticed what fantastically beautiful places God has chosen in which to place His name?

Fabulous Squaw Valley, right in the heart of the gorgeous, breath-taking Sierras, was constructed at the cost of 21 million dollars of the taxpayers money. Thousands of tourists flow through there each summer *on their vacations* which are financed by bank loans, credit cards or savings accumulated over long periods of time. Yet every fall, God's People completely take over the valley and enjoy almost the sole occupancy of it and its beauties as a result of the second tithe God has given them. No bills to stare them in the face when they get home. Everything paid for and out of the way as a result of their second tithe.

Big Sandy with our own huge Tabernacle and all the beauty of the East Texas woods is a sight to delight the eye. In order to get there, many pass right by and have the opportunity in a short side trip to see such sights as Carlsbad Caverns and many other great natural wonders of the earth.

Jekyll Island was the exclusive playground of some of the richest men in the world. Now its beauty and exclusiveness will be shared by those of God's Church during the Feast of Tabernacles this year.

God surely has blessed and abundantly provided for our every need as a result of our obedience to Him. Not many of the people of the world can be assured a vacation *completely paid for EACH YEAR*. Most of them on their vacations work around the house or find a part-time job and save for years to enjoy the kind of trip provided for us each year.

Some Rob Themselves

In spite of all this, some gripe, grumble and carp about having to save this tithe for their own use. Some only save a *part* of it. Others wait until it's time to leave for the Feast and take their last check or two, pile the children into the car and start out for the Feast hoping against hope they will have sufficient cash to keep from running up a bill they will have to pay after they get home.

These same people often wonder why their car seems to break down more often, their gas mileage seems to be low and someone *always* seems to get sick before they return home. They are being punished and don't seem to realize why.

In principle, God is referring also to the second tithe in Malachi 3. If you are not faithfully, carefully, diligently and FEARFULLY saving your second tithe, HOW CAN YOU EXPECT GOD TO BLESS YOU.

This tithe is for *your* benefit. It is to provide for *your* expense to the Feast, for *your* transportation, for *your* food and for *your* entertainment and pleasure during these Holy Days. God has commanded that you keep this tithe so that you might use it for yourself.

What a thoughtful and loving Creator to command us to save a tithe for our enjoyment and pleasure.

Learn to USE—NOT Abuse Your Tithe

He does, however, expect you to properly USE your second tithe and *not just spend it*. Anyone can throw money away. It takes a wise man to use it in a proper manner. In Deuteronomy 14:24-27, God tells you some of the ways in which you use your second tithe—specific things for which to spend it.

Ancient Israel, being a farming nation, was told to bring their second tithe of their corn, wine, oil, etc. *to the place where God would choose to set His name*. He then said that if the distance would be too great and the produce too bulky they could sell this tithe, thereby getting money which would be much easier to carry, and use that money to provide their transportation to the Feast and the food they would need once they got there.

Some of you reading this article are farmers by occupation. You could certainly bring a part of your second tithe in the form of canned or frozen fruits, vegetables or meats. This produce could then be used to provide your meals during the time you are at the Feast. Others of you work at some other trade or occupation to earn your living. You are not paid in the form of produce but with a salary check. A tenth of that check should be laid aside *each payday* to provide for your expenses to the Feast.

That should be a tenth of the *gross* amount of your check. In other words, the tithe should be figured on the total amount you earn *before* your taxes and other deductions are made. This money should generally be placed in a bank for safe-keeping. Large sums of money should *never* be stuck away in a drawer in your dresser. One of the members of my church had to learn this lesson the hard way. His house was broken into recently and nearly \$300 of his second tithe stolen. He learned a bitter hard lesson. Apparently the lesson was well learned. He repented deeply of being so foolish and a few days later God

allowed him to get back the bulk of the amount which was stolen.

It is usually better to keep this second tithe in a completely *separate* account from your checking account. In that way you are not tempted to "borrow" from your second tithe and thereby find yourself in serious trouble. Many is the individual who has rationalized himself into thinking he can "borrow" from his second tithe for some *special* occasion and repay it later. Some have borrowed from their second tithe to start a business which they were sure would enable them to return the money in a short time. Usually they have found that their business has gotten worse instead of better and that they *NEVER* were able to repay the money they had stolen. As a result, they had to miss the Feast for a year, lose out spiritually and generally learn a very bitter lesson.

By putting this money in a special savings account, you can obviate the possibility of getting your personal money mixed up with your second tithe and at the same time, earn a small amount of interest on your savings account. In that way, you are *using* your tithe to earn a small amount more for you.

How Should It Be Used?

Then comes the question of how to *properly* use your tithes for the Feast. What about your automobile expenses? Can you use a portion of your second tithe for repairs needed on your automobile in order to go to the Feast? Can you buy tires for your automobile? What about a battery? Just what expenses can and should be paid from your second tithe?

Under these circumstances, it is good to ask yourself the question, "Is this expense *necessary* in order to attend God's commanded Feast or is it simply work the car needs and this would be a good way to pay for it?"

If your car needs repairs in order for you to attend the Feast, you may pay *a certain portion* of the cost of repairs from second tithe.

You need to figure the *total* number of miles you drive each year. Then figure what percentage of those miles



Children at play in Squaw Valley. God has provided His people with breath-taking scenery and lovely surroundings in which to enjoy His Festivals.

was driven in attending God's Feasts. If you drive on an average of 10,000 miles a year and the total mileage driven to attend God's Feasts is 1000 miles, you could then pay one-tenth of the upkeep of your automobile from your second tithe. The same thing would apply to tires or other necessary upkeep of your car.

But the important thing to remember is that you *NEED* to attend God's Feasts. That is the command God gives (Ex. 12:17; Deut. 16:16). It is conceivable, in some cases, you could spend the bulk of your second tithe using this prorated method and then not have enough money left to pay for your expenses to the Feast. Obviously this would not be the thing you should do.

If that part of the upkeep on your car which could be paid by second tithe would be so large as to take most of your second tithe, you should plan on using some other means to get to the Feast. Perhaps you should even plan on doing the repairs with your own money in order to assure yourself that you will have sufficient to attend God's commanded Holy Days.

Can You Buy Clothing?

Another question that frequently comes up concerns the buying of clothing from second tithe. Normally, you should not plan on buying clothing from your second tithe. The only clothing you would normally purchase from second tithe would be special types of clothing which would be needed at the

Feast and are not *normally* a part of your wardrobe. Many of the brethren from warmer climates here in Southern California and other areas of the United States in traveling to the Feast in Squaw Valley have to buy heavier and warmer clothing than they normally need at home. It wasn't a regular part of their wardrobe but an additional expense need to properly attend the Feast.

It would only be on a very rare occasion that you should buy an integral part of your wardrobe with second tithe money. Such an occasion might be the individual who has had a difficult year or suffered some hardship and doesn't have proper clothing to wear in order to attend God's Feast. But such a case is an *unusual* one indeed!

Whatever Your Soul Desires

At times people have asked whether or not they could buy slip covers for the furniture, tricycles for the children and a gun or fishing equipment for Dad. In spite of the fact that these things would not be used *primarily* at the Feast, they reason that the Scripture says you are to buy *whatsoever your soul desires*, and their soul desires slip covers for the furniture, tricycles for the children and a gun or fishing equipment for Dad. This is erroneous reasoning.

God is talking about your buying whatever you might desire to be used **AT THE FEAST!** He is *primarily* talk about food and drink.

The whole reason for spending your tithe in this way is that you may learn to look forward to the wonderful, enjoyable and pleasant time you have worshipping God.

Gifts?

Then what about gifts for the children? Is it wrong for you to buy some small gift for your children on the way to the Feast? The answer is no. But here again caution should be used. You should not be buying your child great expensive gifts simply because it is from your second tithe. A small doll, books or games which *will help make the Feast* a pleasant and enjoyable time

for your child are perfectly all right. But **DO NOT** buy the year's supply of toys on the way to the Feast.

You should be teaching your child the very principles of tithing the year around. If your child is old enough to have a small income from mowing lawns or doing odd jobs around the neighborhood, he should be keeping a second tithe. But if your child is so small that he is unable to do that, you could take this opportunity to teach him how to properly use money by giving a small amount to the child and guiding him in the spending of it during the Feast.

Let your child learn to make decisions and learn the value of money by doing his own shopping. Let him learn that he only has a certain amount to spend and will have to stay within that amount. These lessons are *priceless* in future years.

Side Trips?

In journeying to the Feast, is it right and proper to plan your trip so that one or two of the natural wonders and scenic spots might be included on the way. These wonders help us to realize the power, glory and might of our God. They help us in our worship of Him which is certainly only right.

These side trips might take you as much as one hundred miles off your regular route of travel. But when the trips begin to entail an additional two or three hundred miles in the *opposite* direction of the Feast, they should not be taken *on second tithe*. If a trip of this nature is to be undertaken, it should be done at your own expense.

Some have wanted to detour several hundred miles in order to see relatives and members of the family and haven't been too pleased when a minister has advised against it.

Let's look at the problem for a moment. If you begin to make these side trips to see the family, what is happening? The **MAIN REASON** for the trip, the observing of God's Holy Days which picture His Plan of salvation, becomes almost forgotten. It becomes a matter that the reason for the trip is to see the family and incidently you are going to one of God's Festivals.

Brethren, **THAT IS WRONG!** We are to be putting the Kingdom or Family of God first in our lives, *not our own family*. This second tithe is to help us serve God more fully, *not our own families*.

Used at Home?

What about those who do not have sufficient second tithe to go to the Feast? Can they stay home and use what they have there? For the answer to that question, turn to Deuteronomy 12:17-19: "Thou **MAYEST NOT EAT WITHIN THY GATES** the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil . . . But thou **MUST EAT THEM BEFORE THE LORD THY GOD** in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose . . ."

God says we are to use our second tithe only *in the place which He has chosen*. In the fall season of the year, there are only **THREE PLACES** in the United States where God has chosen to put His name—Big Sandy, Squaw Valley, and Jekyll Island. Your tithe is to be used in going to these places and for your expense while there. But **NOT AT HOME!**

During the other Feast seasons of the year, Unleavened Bread and the other Holy Days, God many times has services right in your own area. In that case, you could use a *small* amount of your tithe for expenses of that Feast because that is the place where God has put His name *for that Feast*.

You could use a small amount of it to help provide the food which is so abundantly served during those days. If you were to have someone from an outlying area in your home at that time, a portion of the groceries to feed these people could be purchased out of your tithe.

Remember that the Feast of Tabernacles is when God's Church is all together at the Feast. Never cut yourself short by spending too much at the other Feasts that you cannot be with God's people at the great Feast in the fall.

How to Use at the Feast

Just how should you use your tithe in going to the Feast and while you are

at the Feast? God tells us in Deuteronomy 14:26-27 that we are to enjoy ourselves in what we eat and what we drink. He commands us **TO REJOICE** before Him.

Certain families in the past have journeyed to the Feast by sleeping each night in their car. In the morning, they would stop at a Safeway store, buy some fruit and cereal and eat them in the car. When night fell again they would once more curl up in the car for a few short hours of uncomfortable, cramped sleep.

It wasn't that they didn't have sufficient second tithe to eat in restaurants and sleep in motels. They were simply denying themselves so that they might turn in a large amount of excess tithe once the Feast was over.

They were **DISOBEYING** one of the major commands concerning the Feast. They weren't **REJOICING BEFORE GOD**. They were stoically depriving themselves of the enjoyable pleasant time they should have been having.

During the Feast season and on second tithe, you *should eat* in **GOOD RESTAURANTS**. You *should stay* in **NICE MOTELS**. You should learn to enjoy and appreciate the **FINER THINGS** which you may not be able to afford at other times of the year. You should learn to leave a tip and conduct yourself in a proper manner when in a public place.

This is the time you can afford to buy the **BETTER** wines and the more expensive cuts of meat which are offered in good restaurants. In this way, you will learn to better your own standard of living the year around. To some people, a rug on the floor is a needless luxury simply because they have never learned to appreciate some of the nicer things in life. Yet once you become familiar with these things, you can see their desirability.

A Word of Caution

Here it is necessary to insert a word of caution. God expects us to live **BALANCED**. It is right to use your second tithe to eat in good restaurants and to stay in fine motels. But it isn't

right to **SQUANDER AND THROW AWAY** second tithe just to get rid of it. God isn't a wastrel. He doesn't want us to be one either.

Since the Feast is now being held in *three locations* here in the United States, most of you have far shorter distances to travel in order to attend. Many of those with good paying jobs find that they have an abundance of second tithe even after they have paid all their own expense.

Because of this abundance, some *few* have brought ridicule on the Church of God by the way they have spent their tithe. These people have unthinkingly squandered their money just to get rid of it. They have felt *they* had to spend it all on themselves or they were being deprived of what is rightfully theirs.

They have been **SELFISH** and concerned only with their own desires not thinking of others. This selfishness has caused them to pay *more* than a house or motel is really worth simply for their own comfort and convenience.

In Squaw Valley, the people began to bid against one another in order to stay in the most convenient location. As a result, the owners of the houses began to take advantage of God's Church by charging *far more* than the house was worth. Those with the money paid the price while others had to go begging. This past year the prices on some motels, and especially houses in Squaw Valley itself, had gone up as much as **TWO HUNDRED PER CENT** over two years ago.

These price rises were primarily due to the *careless, thoughtless* way some of you used your second tithe. As a result, the people we deal with began to try to take advantage of us and are ridiculing God's Work just as the nations of this world ridicule the United States and the way it throws its wealth around.

These problems have been solved and brought under control now. But they were brought about by the **SELFISHNESS, GREED AND THOUGHTLESSNESS** of God's People. Let's be sure it doesn't happen again. Be sure *you are* not guilty of *mis-using* your tithe.



God's people relax in friendly conversation after lunch at the Tabernacle site in Big Sandy, Texas.

What About an Excess?

What if you are one of those who has been abundantly blessed by God and have an excess of tithe? What are you supposed to do with it?

God's way is the way of giving and sharing. Jesus said, ". . . freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). Paul repeated the same thing in Acts 20:35 by saying, ". . . It is more blessed to give than to receive."

God has given us love, repentance and forgiveness. He has blessed us from His abundance. Should we do less with those less fortunate than we?

God repeatedly exhorts us to remember the Levite, the widow, the fatherless, the poor, and the stranger within our gates. The Levitical priesthood has been replaced by the ministry of today. Your excess second tithe helps to pay the way of *your* ministers to the Feast so you will have someone there to preach to you and explain the Bible to you.

The ministers do not save a second tithe even as the Levites didn't save a second tithe. Your excess second tithe is to help pay the way of your ministers to the Feast so that they might teach and make clear the Plan of salvation to you.

Your extra second tithe can also be

used to help some of the elderly or widows who have no second tithe attend the Feast. Since you cannot know who has the most urgent need, you are to give your extra second tithe to the ministry who will make sure those most deserving will be given the privilege of attending, and rejoicing before the Lord their God.

You *are not* to deprive yourself in order to give more into the second tithe account. God commands you to REJOICE before Him, but at the same time, you are not to deprive someone else of the privilege of attending because you have *mis-used* the abundance God has given you.

Remember, be BALANCED in all things.

Once you can see how much you need in order to rejoice before God and return home again, you can turn any *extra* which is *over and above* what you NEED into the business office here in Pasadena or one of the business offices at the Feast.

God will bless you for giving someone else the chance to share in your abundance.

Now let's all look forward to the most enjoyable and marvelous Feast ever by determining RIGHT NOW to be there REJOICING before the Lord our God. Drive carefully. Really enjoy the abundance God has given you! Remember to be praying for the safety of one another and don't forget to thank the loving God who makes it all possible through the second tithe He has given to you.

Seven Proofs

(Continued from page 6)

unable to incorporate it as, simply, "The Church of God"!

Realizing the doctrinal truth of God's Word that the various churches were also identified as to their GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS, God led Mr. Armstrong to incorporate the PHILADELPHIA era of the True Church of God as "The Radio Church of God."

God says, of this Philadelphia era of His Church, "See, I have set before thee an OPEN DOOR" (Rev. 3:8). The

Apostle Paul said, "For a great DOOR and effectual is opened unto me . . ." (I Cor. 16:9), speaking of the door God opened before him for the preaching of the Gospel! He said, "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach *Christ's Gospel*, and a DOOR was opened unto me of the Lord" (II Cor. 2:12). When the Apostle Paul began the second 19-year cycle of the preaching of the True Gospel—now taking the Truth of God into EUROPE, he spoke of this opening before him as a DOOR!

The DOOR that God has opened before His True Church today is mainly the door of RADIO! For *years*, there was only the *one* small local congregation, up in Eugene, Oregon—but a RADIO door had been opened, which was growing by leaps and bounds—fast becoming NATIONAL, and soon to become WORLD-WIDE!

Therefore, since God has opened this great *door of radio* before His True Church, it was obvious that to FURTHER IDENTIFY this True Church of God, not alone by *geographical location*, but by the great DOOR God had opened, that it should be incorporated, legally, as "The Radio Church of God"!

But the actual BIBLICAL NAME of the True Church has always been, and always WILL BE—THE CHURCH OF GOD!

WHAT the Church Really IS

God *names* things, or people, WHAT THEY ARE! There is real *meaning* in a name.

When God writes of HIS Church, He calls it HIS! It is the Church—and the *only* Church, that truly BELONGS to Him. His true Church is directly *owned* by Him, it is *His instrument*, His own property, to perform His WORK on this earth!

The English word, "church" merely means "congregation." Wherever you find the word "church" in the New Testament, it is translated from the Greek word, "ekklesia," from which such English words as "ecclesiastical" or "ecclesiastics" are derived. The word simply means "group" or "collection" of people! There is nothing holy, nothing sacred, about the word CHURCH,

by itself. It is only when you further identify WHICH GROUP OF PEOPLE, with the name of GOD, that there is *anything* holy about the name!

Therefore, when a person of this world says he or she belongs to the "Lutheran Church"—he is not necessarily misappropriating that name! That is—he is affirming that he does, indeed, *belong* or *pertain* to that GROUP OF PEOPLE who follow the teachings of *Martin Luther*—not God!

Those members of worldly organizations of MEN, with their *human* names, are, in most cases, CORRECTLY LABELED! They are correctly identified! That is—they really ARE an "Adventist" or "Baptist" or "Methodist" group—and they most certainly ARE NOT the GROUP THAT BELONGS TO GOD!

"I will build MY Church," said Jesus Christ. And it IS HIS! Jesus Christ is the direct HEAD of the Church (Col. 1:18), which is described as His own Body (Eph. 1:23). The ONLY ones who are *truly members* of that ONE (Eph. 4:4-6) Body are those who have been PUT INTO it, by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Notice, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into ONE BODY, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Cor. 12:13).

The BAPTISM with the Holy Spirit is the *receiving* of the Spirit at the time of the laying on of hands, after REPENTANCE, and WATER baptism. It is NOT, as some of the wildest, emotional FALSE churches of *this world* have said, a PHYSICAL EMOTION OR SPEAKING IN TONGUES!

Notice, then, it is *only* those who HAVE received God's Spirit that are in the True Church. The Church is not a physical building. The Church *comes to*, and assembles *inside* of, a building, or a rented hall. But the *building* is not the Church—but a building! It is that group of CONVERTED PEOPLE, in whom is the very SPIRIT OF GOD, which makes up the Church!

Jesus said we must REPENT (Luke 13:3, 5). Peter said REPENTANCE must precede baptism (Acts 2:38;

3:19). God inspired Paul to say, "For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, *they* are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).

"If any man have *not* the Spirit of Christ," God inspired Paul to write, "HE IS NONE OF HIS!" (Rom. 8:9). Yet—it is only through OBEEDIENCE to God—through total repentance, complete *surrender* to God, symbolized by figuratively *laying down your life, and your whole being* in water baptism, that you may *receive* the Spirit of God!

NOT ONE of you, brethren, is a member of the True Church of God merely because you *attend*. Weekly Sabbath attendance, or being at the Festivals—tithing, participation in social activities, taking part in a local Church paper, or being "active" in the "church," NONE of these things mean, of themselves, you are a member of the True Church of God! Unconverted children, unbaptized ones *in attendance* at Feasts, or a local meeting, THEY are not MEMBERS of the Body of Christ!

It is ONLY those who have really been conquered of God, who have unconditionally REPENTED, been baptized, and have really received of HIS SPIRIT who are members!

They are then JOINED TO HIM! They do NOT join *themselves* together, becoming a "group" of human beings, known by a certain name. Rather, they become directly JOINED TO CHRIST!

Notice it! "I am the true VINE, and my Father is the husbandman," said Jesus. "Every branch IN ME that beareth not fruit he taketh away."

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I AM THE VINE, *ye* are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:1-5).

The newly begotten child of God becomes directly JOINED TO CHRIST! He is the Vine, supplying the life-giving sap from the roots which produces the *fruit* on the branches!

The BRANCHES, or the individual *members* of the Church are joined,

ONLY THROUGH THE VINE! If any member is not *truly* IN CHRIST, and Christ LIVING IN HIM, then he is NOT a member of the True Church!

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you," wrote John, "that ye also may have FELLOWSHIP with us: and truly our fellowship is WITH THE FATHER, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:3).

The true FELLOWSHIP of one member of the Church to another is IN and THROUGH the FATHER, and the SON! *Any* worldly organization of *men*, banding *themselves* together, in their OWN fellowship, is just like a group of branches, lying in a pile! Not joined to a productive, life-giving VINE, they are UNPRODUCTIVE, THEY ARE LIFELESS, THEY ARE ROTTING . . . AND THEY BEGIN TO STINK!

Do you see, brethren? The NAME of the True Church of God is a vitally important PROOF of the Church! It is NOT to be taken lightly! And it has *real meaning*.

God names things what they *are*. If you ARE a member of His own Church, then you should be *named* what you ARE! But if you *are* a member of a group of people—*dead branches*—*not* joined to the only True Vine, then you should *also* be named, just what you ARE!

That is why so *many* of the "names" of the worldly churches are so appropriate! The "Catholic" or "worldly" church is JUST THAT! It is a church of the WORLD—*universally* so—COMPLETELY worldly, and not of God! The "Separate Baptists" ARE truly SEPARATE from the True Vine! The "Methodists" DO truly have a DIFFERENT METHOD from God's! The "Congregationalists" truly HAVE banded THEMSELVES together, as a pile of rotting branches!

There are a tiny FEW who *know* the true Biblical *name* of God's True Church, and have STOLEN THAT NAME. But having this one STOLEN "proof," which is only ONE OUT OF THREE PARTS OF THIS SECOND MAJOR PROOF OF SEVEN, will not *ever* make them, *really*, the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD!

How truly *grateful* and *thankful* we

should be that God, in His mercy, has called us to become true members of the very Body of Christ—truly JOINED to the Father and the Son, through the Holy Spirit—and *not* wandering in the spiritual darkness of this blinded world! What a *blessing*, if we are truly members of the CHURCH OF GOD!

Behave in Church

(Continued from page 12)

cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates." So as you are to keep the Sabbath Holy and keep what God has made sacred time, so are your son and daughter, your children. The Sabbath is Holy time, sacred to God, and as such our children should not be allowed to run loose like so many wild animals.

I think that most of you know, as I have said before, that at home I have a little dog. My brother gave him to me as a wedding present. I have to teach that dog. I have to teach him to sit still, and to stay still. I have to teach him there are certain pieces of furniture that he dare not touch or come near. I also have to teach him that though he smells food, every nerve in his body quivering, that while my wife and I are eating at the table he cannot sit and beg, but must lie in the other room with the door open. I don't have to pen him or cage him like a wild animal, because he is tame. He has been trained. If I can train my dog, you can train your children, and I mean this sincerely. Two hours a week is not too long for your children to sit PERFECTLY STILL, and listen to the service and to *stay* still AFTER the service is over. It is the Sabbath day and it is Holy, and your children are to keep it Holy as well as you. The Ten Commandments include your children and the command to keep the seventh day Holy. Your children must be IN CHURCH, and they must keep the Sabbath HOLY the same as you do. This is a part of the Ten Commandments, and there is no use in kidding ourselves. You are just heading for the Lake of Fire if you don't obey this. Remember it is the parents who are held responsible.

The next command, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may

be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." It is a dual command. It is not only to the child, it is certainly understood that the parent must teach the child obedience to that command. Then, "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

These are the commandments of God. Have you ever wondered why in Exodus 21:15 Jesus Christ, the Logos, the Spokesman says, "He that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death"? And in Verse 17, "He that reviles (the true word here is reviles, not curses, or it should be even more correctly rendered *sasses*) his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death"? I think most of you remember the example in II Kings 2:24 where Elisha looked back and cursed these children who were sassing him and God caused two she bears to come out and tear forty-two of them in pieces, but have you ever stopped to realize why!

Because God was so kind that He was not going to let them go on and live building the wrong kind of character which would lead them to the Lake of Fire. God had them destroyed before it was too late so they could be resurrected in a better world, where if their parents had not taught them any better God would use His force to whip them in line and keep them from living a long life of disobedience that would finally imbed so deeply the wrong kind of character that they would have to be destroyed in hell fire, and would be totally unable to ever live by every Word of God and build good and honest character into themselves.

Your children are living under a different dispensation. You know and understand the laws of God in a way that they couldn't then, and you are held responsible and so are your children. I want you to notice that the same Christ that gave these laws said later, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

You have to shape and mold and develop the character of your children so they will learn to love God and hate evil. Turn to Leviticus 19:32, starting in Verse 30, God says, "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. Thou shalt *RISE UP* before the *hoary head*, and *HONOUR* the *face* of the *old man*, AND FEAR THY GOD: I am the Lord." How many of our children are so quiet and obedient that when an elder comes into the room they will rise? How many of your children address their minister as Mr. rather than by his first name? How many of them address you as father and mother, and not just as pop or mom, or by your first name? They should literally obey this command in Leviticus to rise before those who are elders and learn to show honour and respect them. This is the *Word* of GOD! Are you willing to *obey* it? Are you *LIVING* by it? There are many scriptures in the Bible that show that our children are to be present during the Passover, one of the most sober meetings of the year. They are to see you partake of it and you are to explain to them why you partake of it.

Notice Deuteronomy 6:1, the statutes, and the commandments, and judgments that God has given to us, one of which is that you teach *DILIGENTLY* all of these unto your children.

Frankly brethren, one of the major reasons that we are having these problems is the fact that you are not holding Bible studies in your own homes with your children. You are not fulfilling your responsibility, your duties toward them in teaching and training them by the Word of God and to live by it. You should not try to wheedle and plead them into looking at it your way. You should *COMMAND* them. You are the *AUTHORITY* of *God Almighty* to your children. God has given you that authority. It is up to you to exercise it. Notice Leviticus 20:9, "Every one that sasses (the King James says curses but this should be rendered *sasses*) his father or his mother shall be surely put to death . . .

his blood shall be upon him." Brethren, I have seen children stand and sass their parents right here in the hall where we meet. This should not be, but I can't correct it, only you can.

There is one thing that I can correct, and that is the situation of the children running loose and wild after Church is over. Now I have asked Mr. Stewart of the Fresno Church to get up and go out several times during the services and see if there are any children outside, and if they are running around playing on the stairs or in the toilets he is going to bring them in and we will stop the service, interrupt it right there, and ask you, the parent, to give an account.

We are the Church of God. We bear the name of God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. We cannot destroy property that does not belong to us, but which God blessed us with. Again, let me say that this shall not happen again. I have given Mr. Stewart instructions to grab any child, he sees misbehaving after Church, outside of our meeting room, by the nap of the neck and haul him right in to me and I am going to ask *you*, the *PARENT* what is wrong. I am also requiring henceforth that *EVERY CHILD STAY INSIDE THE ROOM WHERE WE MEET UNTIL YOU THE PARENTS ARE READY TO LEAVE* the building.

Now, I wish you to understand that this is done in love, but I am trying to live by every Word of God. I am trying to fulfill what God has said in Hebrews 13:17, watching for your souls as one who must give account to God Almighty, and I do not intend to have the Church of God suffer the humiliation of being thrown out of the place that God has given us to meet because we cannot keep our children in check. So henceforth, your children will stay inside the meeting room and *KEEP QUIET*. They shall not play. It is the Sabbath, sacred, Holy time to God and your children are commanded to keep it.

Sincerely,

In the Name and by the Authority of Jesus Christ,

Richard D. Armstrong, Pastor
Church of God, Fresno, Calif.

Your Bible Questions Answered

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

"Since the soul is *not* immortal and since the body remains in the grave until the resurrection—how do you explain the APPEARING OF SAMUEL TO SAUL — AFTER SAMUEL'S DEATH?" (I Sam. 28).

This scripture has puzzled many—and it was written to do *exactly* that! We read in Isaiah 28:11 that God would speak, "With stammering lips and another tongue . . . precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken." Many portions of the Bible are *purposely written* to be OBSCURE!

But we—in God's Church—can understand these apparently confusing scriptures. God has revealed to us the *keys of knowledge*.

One scripture does not contradict another. Christ said in John 10:35, "The scripture *cannot be broken*." Many times one scripture *seems to contradict* another—*seems* to say the opposite to another, but in reality it *does NOT*!

Turn then to I Samuel 28:6. Notice carefully, that Saul had inquired of the Lord—as to how the outcome of the battle would go. But in this particular verse God did not answer Saul. He gave him *no answer*, neither by any dream nor by any prophet.

In the context, we see Saul went to the witch at Endor—who had contact with *familiar spirits* or DEMONS! This was the immediate conversation between Saul and the woman: "Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel" (I Sam. 28:11). We see that Saul wanted to speak to Samuel—to find out how the battle the next day would go for him. He was very *desperate*—and *frightened*.

The woman—having contact with the

demon—complied with Saul's request for the "raising of Samuel." We read in Verse 12: "And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice. . . . And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for *what sawest thou*? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw a GOD-LIKE BEING coming up out of the earth" (Jewish translation).

Notice carefully, what we have—Saul *believing* that the woman could raise Samuel from the grave. The *woman* also *believing* that she could raise Samuel from the earth. But when Saul asked the woman WHAT SHE SAW—she merely recorded that she saw a "god-like being" ascending out of the earth.

The account continues in Verse 14. Saul then asked the woman, "*What form is he of*?" And she said, AN OLD MAN cometh up; and he is COVERED WITH A MANTLE. And Saul *perceived* (or thought) that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself."

Again, *notice very carefully*. When Saul asked the woman *what she saw*—these are the words she used to describe the vision: "*a god-like being*" (Jewish translation), "*an old man*," "*he is covered with a mantle*."

NOT ONE WORD THAT IT WAS SAMUEL!!

Of course, *Saul wanted to see Samuel*—the woman *thought she could raise Samuel*—Saul *reasoned in his mind*

(perceived) that it *was* Samuel. But it *wasn't* really. What did Saul see?

It was a demon!

Satan is the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)—he is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4)—he can TRANSFORM HIMSELF into an ANGEL OF LIGHT (II Cor. 11:14). Satan—and his demons—have the power to produce visions—*seemingly to appear in other human forms*, in other *animal forms*—in various *shapes and sizes*. I Samuel 28, describes a *demon* bringing forth an apparition in the form of *an old man* covered over with a huge blanket or mantle.

The *next question* in this chapter is in Verse 15: "And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" *Why* does the account read as though Samuel were speaking to Saul *if it was a demon*?

It is merely a matter of what Saul *thought* it was.

We read in Genesis 3:4 that Satan deceived Eve—"And the *serpent said* unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." But we know this was NOT A SERPENT SPEAKING—but Satan the Devil *himself*! Yet the account says, "*the serpent said*." In like manner in I Samuel 28 where it records "Samuel" speaking—it was actually SATAN OR A DEMON speaking *through the form* that he had produced in vision to Saul and the woman.

It is quite evident that this was *merely a demon* appearing to the witch of Endor and Saul. This scripture in *no way contradicts* the multitude of CLEAR SCRIPTURES proving that the soul is not immortal. This *does not contradict* the scriptures which prove we remain in the grave until the resurrection.

For the Feast of Tabernacles

Be certain your RESERVATIONS are in for all motels—if you have not secured reservations at one of the Festival sites, be sure to write immediately.

Those who ordered TENTS will be able to pick them up at the Festival site assigned to your area. They will be available when you arrive.

We were UNABLE, this year, to obtain stoves, lanterns and other CAMPING EQUIPMENT. For you who ordered those, there will be a special letter sent to you—if you included money, it will be credited to your account or refunded at the Feast.

GOOD NEWS

For New Members!

Many of you brethren who have been added to God's own Family this past year have seen copies of the 1963 ENVOY and wished you could have one of your own. Some have written of their regret at being too late to purchase this year's excitingly beautiful ENVOY. Others have written that IF there were any copies left to please send them one.

THE GOOD NEWS

THERE'S GOOD NEWS for you *NEW BRETHREN!* We have a very restricted number of 1963 ENVOYS yet on hand. Reserved copies will be available to *YOU* on a *first-come-first-served* basis. However, you **MUST ACT FAST!** Send in your order **WITHOUT DELAY** to insure your purchase of a copy of this splendid edition for your very own! When our present supply is exhausted, the 1963 ENVOY will pass into history. There will be absolutely no more 1963 ENVOYS produced!

ABOUT THE ENVOY

Some scattered brethren, not acquainted with *The ENVOY* may ask, "What is it?" This year's book is a 224-page up-to-the-minute pictorial record of God's Colleges both here in Pasadena, California and in Bricket Wood, England. For the first time you will be able to view the beautifully spacious grounds God has provided for those being trained for His Work. Through the pages of *The ENVOY* you will be introduced to the students who attended the past 1962-63 academic year. You will meet those who taught and trained the future leaders in God's Work. You will be made a part of and drawn right into the dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, fast-paced life as it is lived by those called to God's Colleges.

EVEN MORE

And even more than this, the 1963 ENVOY is a *living*

history of God's Church during the 1962-63 school year. It is designed to fully acquaint you with God's Work and His People. Through its pages you will come to appreciate the bond of fellowship enjoyed by God's People as they gathered to worship, work, and play together at the past Feast of Tabernacles.

You will meet God's Ministers and others who carry on His Work in their many capacities around the world. Yes, you will, for the first time, truly be able to appreciate the world-wide scope of God's Work. A Work of which you now wish to be an interested, vital, active part.

You new brethren can't afford to miss this opportunity to be drawn closer to the "Body of Christ" and made an even stronger part of God's own Family—His team—doing His Work at this tremendous age-end era in which we live.

But remember—**ACT FAST—don't delay!** Fill out the coupon below or print the required information in a letter if you wish and *rush* it **IMMEDIATELY** to: "*The ENVOY*" P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

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