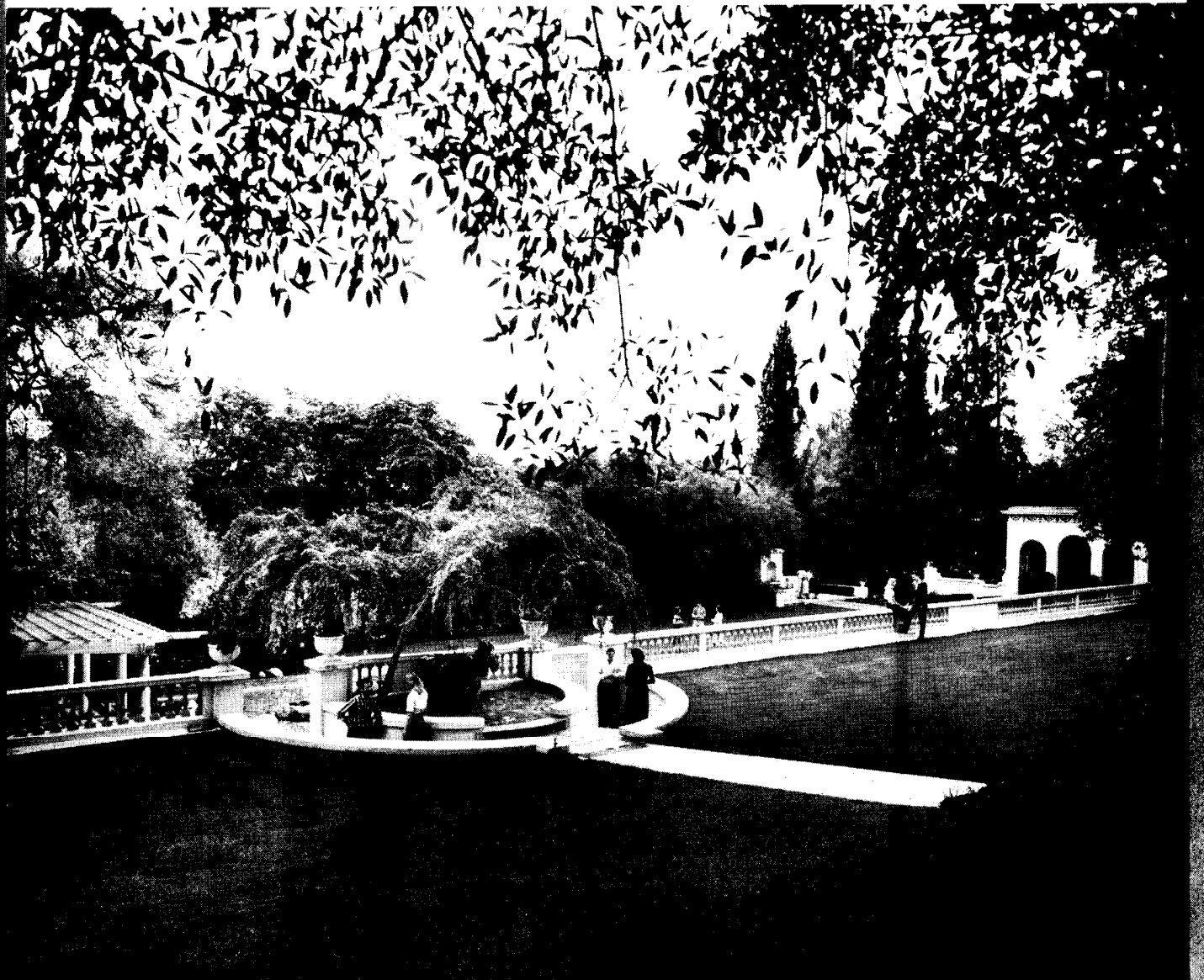


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1959



This is part of the inspiring AMBASSADOR COLLEGE campus in Pasadena, California. Read in the lead article the surprising advantages which AMBASSADOR has to offer high school graduating seniors.

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VOL. XXIV

NO. 5

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Publisher and Editor

Herman L. Hoeh

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Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides. Address all communications to the editor, Box 111, Pasadena, California. Our readers in Britain should address the editor, B.C.M. Ambassador, London W.C. 1.

Copyright April, 1959

By the Radio Church of God

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please inclose both old and new addresses. IMPORTANT!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I must compliment the staff on 'The Bible Story.' My two eldest sons really enjoyed it. As I read it to them I explain as I go along so they can understand it better. They listen very closely and are very interested. I also enjoy it very much. It is made so plain."

Lady from Kerrville, Texas

Another writes:

"'The Bible Story' is exceptionally well written, and I would like to have the complete series."

Minister Impressed

"I was recently allowed to read a copy of your magazine. As both a student in college and a pastor of a church I find myself challenged to think and seek rather than blindly accept. I was especially impressed with the reasonableness of the article 'How Long

Were the Days of Creation?'"

Minister from Fredonia, New York

"Tell Her the Truth"

"Last night I heard you speaking concerning the date and birth of Christ. A very good woman was on hand. She squirmed at you saying no one knows the date, when so many are saying he was born December 25. She has a nice little girl, and because the child heard what you were saying, she chafed all the more. She came into the section of the house where I was and asked me what she should tell her little girl since you had said what you did. My advice was to tell her the truth as you had told us all. You are making many things clear that we need to know. As you said, we have been lied to so much about God and His Holy Word."

Minister from Hamlet, N. Carolina

Husband Becomes Interested in God's Word

"I must tell you great news for which I thank God and you. In four years since I was awakened I've never been able to convince my husband of his need of God. One morning a week ago he took one of your booklets to read on the bus on his way to work. He came home that night and told me: 'This man makes sense.' This time when he returned to his ship (he is a seaman) he took almost all of the booklets you sent me and has written me, asking me to save everything you send for him to read. If you only knew him, you would realize what a miracle this is."

Woman from Oneonto, New York.

Overseas Listener Writes

"I have been receiving the magazine for three years and have not come across any other magazine so interesting, unique and easy to understand. I never grow tired reading the interesting and fascinating articles. Every time I find it helpful in understanding the Holy Bible. God's truths come to me like a revelation from Him. THE PLAIN TRUTH carefully and meticulously explains the prophecies of the Bible connecting them with today's fantastic world events. I must admit I did not learn about those vitally important truths

from other sources, although I came to know a lot of other denominational organizations. Words are inadequate to describe how grateful I am for your untiring efforts to help me and many others to understand the plain truths of the Bible in its truest meaning. God grant you more power.

"I would like you to know that I quit going to the churches of this world altogether. I found out they are not the true church of God after all. This unhappy state of affairs, over which is the true church, drove me to question their teaching and practices. Thank God, He introduced me to THE PLAIN TRUTH and The World Tomorrow broadcast."

Man from Tacloban City, Philippines

A Minister Writes

"I have the booklet you sent. In my going through the booklet, I found that really the Sabbath day is the special day blessed by God to be kept holy. I have resigned from Sunday keeping with my 20 stations. Therefore we are in need of tracts and pamphlets. We are praying earnestly for you. I close with Christian greetings."

Nigeria, Africa

Refreshed by Broadcast

"I am able to listen to your broadcast, of which the spiritual food has established myself and family. I am refreshed by your radio broadcast. Therefore sir, I pen to you, asking through your spiritual generosity to forward sir, some leaflets for distribution in this district. In Port Antonio proper I do own a mission capable of holding over 200 people."

A minister from Port Antonio,
Jamaica, British West Indies.

I'm Going to Preach the Truth!

"My dear friend. You will pardon me for keeping silent so long a time without replying. It is because I received booklets from you and found the things I have been preaching to people not quite true. When I read all this I went to my missionary in charge and told him that from now on I'm going to preach the truth to my people. I left them. I delayed reply because of

(Please continue on page 30)

Exciting News about AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Here is the ANSWER for those who would be truly educated!
Here is the enthralling story of a unique college blazing new
trails—recapturing true values!

by Roderick C. Meredith

WHILE the world is hurling itself to a "civilized" form of nuclear *suicide*, Ambassador College stands out as an oasis in the desert of human misery and confusion.

It represents an *amazing and wonderful* opportunity for young men and women of college age!

Ambassador's motto is: "*Recapture True Values.*"

When we take an objective look at this world, its "civilization" and its education, we can more intelligently appreciate the great need for such a motto—*and its attainment.*

Is This EDUCATION?

Strange things are happening in this "educated" nation of ours. In our cities, young people *from nine years old up* have been running wild in a destructive frenzy that is baffling law enforcement officers. For example, the city of Chicago suffers \$400,000 yearly damage to school property alone. Children break into schools, tear up textbooks, destroy the desks, splatter ink all over the walls, paint salacious signs over the place and sometimes set fire to the building.

Notice that these are the activities of *school children*. Is this the result of "education"?

This wave of violence now includes even the young, teen-aged girls as part of its sordid history. A growing section of American girls are beginning to follow the boys' example and live by the law of the jungle.

Miseducation Brings Trouble

The root CAUSE of the frightening wave of crime and violence among young people is the *wrong kind of education.*

As the apostle Paul said, the early intellectuals "*did not like to retain God in their knowledge.*" Neither do their counterparts today. They are very intent

on learning how to make a living, or how to build weapons to *destroy* human life, or, at best, how to feed *rats* scientifically. They are far too busy with these "important" matters to take time to learn: (1) *how* the earth and all life came into being, (2) *what* man is, (3) the *great purpose* of human existence, (4) the *immutable laws of life* which—if understood and obeyed—produce *health, happiness* and continuing *peace* with your fellow man, and (5) the *spiritual truths* which bring man into an intimate relationship with his Creator and open the way to *eternal life* as a son of the Almighty God.

No, these are the "inconsequential!" They are not worthy of the "educated" man's attention and study!

Or ARE THEY?

What do *you* think?

This world's "education" has completely *missed the boat!* It has rejected the very *beginning*—the starting point of all *true* knowledge. It is a FALSE EDUCATION built on a foundation of sand—the God-denying "theory" of evolution. Both it and its product, our "civilization," are *coming apart at the seams.* They are on their way *down* and *OUT*, even though most of the world is not yet awake to this fact.

But there is *one college* which is awake to the evils of this world's education.

This college is *Ambassador College.* And the spirit and vision of its educational policy is unique in all the world.

How Ambassador Began

Ambassador College is a liberal arts and theological institution, fully recognized by the State of California and empowered to confer degrees.

Believing that the most effective development of character, personality, poise and true culture is achieved by social contact of both sexes, Ambassador

was made co-educational.

From the beginning, it was operated with a full and competent faculty and has maintained a very high ratio of instructors per student.

Realizing the dangerous drift toward materialism and collectivism in modern education, the founder and president of the college, Mr. Armstrong, determined that Ambassador would be different.

From the beginning, students here have been encouraged to think independently on any and every subject. But they are taught to look for the *real truth.*

Students are challenged to *prove to themselves* the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible as His direct revelation to man. And without being hindered by the traditions of men, or fixed ideas of any kind, Ambassador's students are able to learn previously hidden truths on *many* subjects.

College Atmosphere

Perhaps the most important educational advantage at Ambassador is that students are taught *the real PURPOSE of human life.* This enables them to properly orient themselves in any other subject they may ever study — and to properly evaluate its true merits as related to the *great purpose* being worked out here below.

An amazing insight into many subjects is gained by students here because Ambassador encourages a vigorous intellectual curiosity in its faculty and student body alike.

Because the student enrollment is still relatively small, and the ratio of instructors high, many advantages are gained by a personalized type of instruction which is almost non-existent in the average university or college. This is especially desirable in the foreign language classes.

Unusual opportunities in the field of

musical training are provided at Ambassador. The Ambassador Chorale is an outstanding example of the type of musical training received here, and many of you have heard the chorale sing on the "World Tomorrow" program.

Also, the Ambassador College Orchestra shows unusual promise and is becoming an important addition to the musical training afforded Ambassador students.

Excellent training in the field of public speaking is offered at Ambassador. In addition to regular courses in public speaking and voice phonetics, the men students may join one of the *Ambassador Clubs* which are patterned after the Toastmaster's International Clubs—after-dinner speech clubs usually composed of business and professional men. The *Ambassador Clubs* have proven to be a most enjoyable and helpful addition to the speech training of all participating students. Ambassador affords truly excellent opportunities in this field.

Overall, even the visitor to the college will be impressed by the Ambassador attitude of being alert to question and study *anything* about how to live happily and successfully according to God's physical and spiritual laws. Special lectures on nutrition and diet are presented from time to time, and the students are challenged to come to a really *sound* basis for healthful, zestful living. There is a course in sex and the marriage relationship which is outstanding because it is taught completely from *God's* point of view, involving an understanding of His *great purpose* in creating sex, and at the same time incorporating all the latest scientific and medically proven data vital to the subject.

This atmosphere of *learning to live*, this spirit of true *intellectual freedom* unshackled from tradition—these things distinguish Ambassador College from all others.

Location and Facilities

Ambassador's location in beautiful Pasadena, California, is a most desirable one. Within a few miles of the campus are great libraries, two world famous astronomical observatories, famous galleries and museums, and outstanding technical institutions where great research projects are constantly in operation.

Downtown Los Angeles is fifteen minutes from the Ambassador campus by automobile on the freeway; Hollywood, twenty minutes.

Recreational areas lie in every direction. There is nearby mountain hiking and skiing, ocean beaches, Pasadena's famous Rose Bowl and its Civic Auditorium, where world renowned recreational and cultural attractions are presented frequently.

The beautiful Ambassador campus and buildings are an attraction themselves, and provide a truly inspiring atmosphere in which to study, work, and play. Ambassador's grounds are acknowledged to be among the most beautiful in Southern California, and the athletic field, though small, is fully equipped with track and field facilities and two of the finest tennis courts in this area, with flood lighting for night play.

Priceless Opportunity

The chance to come to Ambassador College should take on new meaning to any young person of college age. When you understand it, the opportunity is *matchless*—PRICELESS!

Here you will study and learn those things which really *COUNT* in life. *In no other place on earth* can you so fully learn the *real PURPOSE of life*—and with God's guidance develop your *whole being* to fulfill that purpose. You will learn how to really *LIVE* the full, vigor-

ous, productive, and abundant life that God intended.

Ambassador is a liberal arts college with a required course in Bible and Theology, and, in connection, the Graduate School of Theology.

But scores of happy, radiant young women students help give the Ambassador campus the balanced, zestful atmosphere that makes it probably the *happiest* place on this earth! The women play a most *important* part in campus life and have an unusual opportunity to become part-time secretaries and do supervised practice-teaching with grade school youngsters while they are still in college.

Ambassador offers a most *happy* and MEANINGFUL life for *women students* as well as men! At this point, we will state candidly that we desire the enrollment of MORE WOMEN STUDENTS for this fall term! We will extend to them every possible assistance.

Take advantage of this opportunity, girls! You will experience real blessings, opportunities, and challenges at Ambassador that are possible *nowhere else* on earth.

The realization of Ambassador's goals and standards fills Ambassador students with ZEAL, with DRIVE, with PURPOSE! This makes their college assignments *more* than just assigned study, their work *more* than just a means to room
(Please continue on page 15)

Personal letters from Mr. Armstrong and his assistants being typed by AMBASSADOR coeds who gain practical secretarial experience.



The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

Mrs. Armstrong's critical illness and healing; Mr. Armstrong's first miraculous answer to prayer, are among events covered in this 17th installment.

WHERE is the one TRUE Church today? That is the question that haunted my mind in the late spring and the summer of 1927. That is the question that perplexes thousands today.

I had just emerged from an unsuccessful six months' intensive research in the Bible, in history, and in religious literature in an effort to prove that "all these churches can't be wrong." Like most people I had been sure that the teachings and practices of the many large denominations were based on the Bible.

In early fall in 1926 that assumption had been rudely challenged. My wife had accepted the seventh-day Sabbath. To me this was humiliating fanaticism. I was proud. *What would my friends, relatives, and business associates think?*

Supremely confident that orthodox Church doctrines were derived from the Bible, I set out to *prove* to my wife, by the Bible, that Sunday is the day Christians are commanded to observe. I had never really studied the Bible before. But I felt completely certain all these churches could not be wrong. How many others, on blind assumption, feel the same way?

Disillusioned and Confused

But six months devoted to almost night and day intensive study had left me sadly disillusioned. I had made the disheartening discovery that much—if not most—of the teachings of Sunday School days were at total variance with the direct and plain "thus saith the Lord!"

I had also studied evolution. I had begun to doubt—but then found scientific PROOF—that God exists. I had PROVED that the Holy Bible is the inspired revelation of God.

As mentioned before, I now had a firm BASIS for belief. The Bible had

proved to contain AUTHORITY!

During that six months' diligent research, I had run the gamut of disillusionment, doubt, confusion, frustration—and finally, the SURE knowledge, *proved*, that GOD EXISTS, and that the Holy Bible is His revealed Word. I remembered my mother's annual spring house-cleaning days when I was a boy. When she began the job, everything was in confusion, more upset than before—hidden dirt and waste emerging. But I remembered that Mother never became discouraged. All this temporary confusion was necessary to clean out the dirt. Finally everything was put back clean and in order.

I was merely experiencing what many others do. For a while I was all mixed up, in doubt and bewildered confusion. But I came to realize I was merely undergoing a mental, philosophical and spiritual house-cleaning. I was uncovering a lot of religious dirt—hidden error and superstition which had been absorbed because I had always heard it, been taught it, or read it. The people around me had believed it. I had been one to "go along." But once this doctrinal refuse was uncovered and swept out of mind, then order, peace, harmony and serene faith appeared for the first time.

Finally, sadly disillusioned about believing "all these churches couldn't be wrong," I began to ask, "*where is the one true Church today?*" I read, in Matthew 16:18, where Jesus said: "*I will build my Church.*"

Therefore I knew He *did* build it. He said the gates of hell would never prevail against it. It had to be in existence still. But WHERE? Which church could it be?

I had been astounded to learn that the BIBLE teaches truths diametrically opposite to the teachings of the large and popular churches and denomina-

tions today. I saw in the Bible the real MISSION of God's true Church. But these churches, today, were *not* carrying on the real work and mission of Christ.

The SOURCE of their beliefs and practice was *not* the Bible, but paganism! There was no recognizable comparison between them and the original TRUE Church I found described in Acts and other New Testament Books. *Yet somewhere there had to exist today that spiritual organism in which Christ actually dwelt—a church empowered by His Spirit—acting as His instrument—carrying out His Commission.*

But WHERE?

I was to be some years in finding it.

Actually, like almost everybody else today, I did not know, then, *what to look for!* I still had to sift out the real truth *a doctrine at a time!* Finally, years later, after clearing up enough of these, the WHOLE PICTURE emerged, crystal clear.

The "Converted Jew"

Mrs. Armstrong and I began to attend many different churches. I wanted to check on each—compare it with the Bible. Also I continued to seek religious literature and religious magazines. I continued almost daily study at the Portland public library.

It was probably May or June, 1927, when I was baptized. One Sunday evening we attended a service at the Hinson Memorial Baptist Church. This church had announced the appearance of a certain well-known "converted Jew." After the service Mrs. Armstrong managed to get close enough to him to ask a question. She wanted to know what he, being a Jew, believed about what many people contemptuously designate as "the Jewish Sabbath."

"Sh—sh!" he hushed her up quickly, looking around anxiously in alarm. "I

can't talk to you about that here."

This really did arouse my curiosity. Now I was determined to know what a Jew who professed Christ would do with this Sabbath question. I made inquiries until I learned where he could be contacted. He was staying at a place maintained by one of the smaller denomina-

tions, on Portland's west side. I went there and sought him out.

They had given him a bare, unfinished and mostly unfurnished small room with a cot to sleep on. He had been taking a nap, but my knock on the door awakened him. In the privacy of this room, this Jew, whose name most of my read-

ers would recognize, admitted to me that he knew very well that the Sabbath had never been changed by God or by authority of the Bible, and that there is *no authority whatsoever in the Bible for Sunday observance*. But, he said, he did not dare confess this publicly or he would never be allowed to speak in the

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

- WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
- WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.
- WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.
- WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.
- WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.—10:30 a.m. Sun.
- CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—6:00 p.m. Sundays.
- KLZ—Denver, Colo.—560 on dial—10:45 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sat.
- XERF—1570 on dial—9:30 p.m., C.T.S. every night.
- XELO—800 on dial—every night, 8:00 p.m., M.S.T., 9:00 p.m. C.S.T.
- XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.
- WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sundays.
- WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—7:00 a.m., daily.
- KOME—Tulsa, Okla.—1300 on dial—9:00 p.m., Sunday; 6:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.
- WFAA—Dallas, Tex.—570 on dial—6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat. 820 on dial—8:30 p.m. Sun. (Note frequency difference)
- KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sunday; 6:15 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.
- KSTL—St. Louis, Mo.—690 on dial—11:00 a.m. Sun.; 7:00 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.
- WEW—St. Louis, Mo.—770 on dial—1:00 p.m., Sun. and Sat.
- WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—12:00 noon, Sun. thru Sat.

- WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.
- KFYR—Bismarck, N. Dak.—550 on dial—7:30 p.m. every night.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

- KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.
- KABC—Los Angeles—790 on dial—9:30 p.m., Sun.; 7:25 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 p.m., Sat.
- KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—1:30 p.m., Sundays; 7:00 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.
- KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily.
- XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.
- XEMO—San Diego, Cal.—860 on dial—7:30 a.m. daily.
- KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 p.m. daily.
- KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 p.m. every night.
- KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 a.m. daily.
- KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
- KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.

TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

- RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.
- RADIO MONTE CARLO—1466 kc.; 6035 kc. and 7140 kc.; 7 a.m. M.E.T. Saturday (in Russian) and Sunday (in English).
- RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays 16:30 Greenwich time. Sundays 10:45 Greenwich time (in Spanish).

TO SOUTH AFRICA

- RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.
- RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 kc., 9:30 p.m. Fridays.

TO ASIA

- RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 p.m. Mondays; 9:00 p.m. Fridays.
- RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 kc. Monday thru Friday: 10:35-11:05 p.m.
- RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—840 kc. 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.
- RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 kc. Sundays: 12:00 noon. (Time in Japanese to be announced.)
- ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS 9:00 p.m. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 kc.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 kc.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 kc.; DXMC, Davao City—900 kc.

TO AUSTRALIA

- 2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
- 2CH—Sydney—Sat., 10:15 p.m.
- 2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 p.m.
- 2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
- 3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
- 3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 p.m.
- 4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
- 4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
- 4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 p.m.
- 4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 p.m.
- 6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
- 6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
- 6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
- 6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
- 7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 p.m.

TO SOUTH AMERICA

- RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—6:00 p.m. Saturdays—1010 kc. 7:00 p.m., Sundays—HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc. HP5A, Panama City—1170 kc. HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc. HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.

The World Tomorrow in Spanish

- RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays
- RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays
- RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

many churches where he was a publicized guest speaker. A "converted Jew" was an effective drawing card.

My disillusionment concerning preachers widened. And later, when I heard this same man speak out *against* God's Sabbath, and in favor of Sunday, I knew he was simply dishonest with the sacred Word of God. He coveted a following and money more than the truth of God. I knew this by his own personal and private admission to me in our one personal talk. Yes, the MANY take the EASY road—the broad, popular road that leads to destruction—rather than the straight and narrow road of being persecuted.

Getting Relatives "Saved"

One must not assume, from what has been written about my surrender to God, and the *change* that came with God's Spirit, that I had reached spiritual maturity and perfection at one quick bound. No one ever does. A human baby must creep before it learns to walk. It must learn to walk before it can run. And it stumbles and falls many times. But it does not become discouraged and give up.

The newly converted are mere babes in Christ. I had not learned much, as yet. Vanity was far from being eradicated.

Upon surrendering to accept God's TRUTH—as far as I had then come to see it—my first impulse was to share it with my family and relatives. Once the natural-born hostility to God and His Law had been crushed, the Bible TRUTH appeared as a glorious light—the most WONDERFUL thing I had ever known. I was suddenly filled with zeal to get this precious knowledge to all who were close to my wife and me. I wanted to get *them* converted.

Suddenly I began to feel so *unselfish* in this new Christian experience that I felt my own final fate was not important, if only I could get those related by blood or marriage ties into God's Kingdom.

But sad disillusionment followed every overture. I had absolutely no success whatsoever trying to cram "my religion" down their throats.

For a short while—perhaps two or three days—it seemed to me that it

UND JETZT INS DEUTSCHE ÜBERSETZT!

Die Broschüren

„Gibt es GOTT?“

„WARUM müssen die Menschen Leiden?“

„Die Wahrheit über die REFORMATION“

„Wie oft sollten wir das heilige ABENDMAHL nehmen?“

„WOZU sind wir geboren?“

„Die AUFERSTEHUNG war nicht an einem Sonntag!“
sind erschienen!

Postanschrift:

Die Welt von Morgen

P.O. Box 1030

Pasadena, Kalifornien

made no difference whether I, myself, were fully obedient—the first consideration, I began to feel, was to get all these *others* saved!

Humanly, without realizing it, as most humans do, I had swung to the opposite extreme. Instead of being completely self-centered, I began to feel that what happened to me didn't matter. I actually felt willing to sacrifice myself in order to save the others. Of course I realized that if I continued in sin, I would receive the death penalty.

But this trend persisted for only a very few days. Almost immediately I "happened" (was God guiding me?) to be carefully reading through the first two chapters of the Book of Romans. God began to show me that I was like the Jews at Rome.

Paul was saying to them: "Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, and knowest His will . . . and art confident that thou thyself art a guide to the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, and instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge, and of the TRUTH in the law. Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? . . . thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonorest thou God? For the

name of GOD is blasphemed among the Gentiles (unconverted) through YOU!" (Rom. 2:17-24).

This Scripture opened my eyes—brought me to quick repentance of the course I felt a temporary impulse to follow. I saw that I could never be used to help others, unless I, myself, practiced what I preached. Unless I, myself, obeyed and believed—unless I were being saved myself—I could not be used to help or save others. On the contrary I would only blaspheme the very name of God before them, and thus bring inestimable *harm* to them!

Facing the Tobacco Question

Then, immediately I was baptized, the matter of smoking had to be settled.

Of course the Quaker church, in which I had been reared as a boy, taught that smoking was a sin. But I had been unhappily disillusioned to see that in so many basic points the Bible teaching is the very opposite of that I had absorbed in Sunday School.

"I've got to see the answer to the tobacco question IN THE BIBLE!" I said to myself.

Until I found the answer in the Bible, I decided I would continue as before—smoking mildly. I had started smoking when 19 years old down in Wiggins, Mississippi. You will remember that I was forced, there, to work over company pay-roll books until midnight every other night, and until ten on alternate nights, rising at 5:30 every morning. I took up smoking a pipe to help me stay awake during those long night hours of work.

Then, after returning to the north, I had continued to smoke lightly, averaging three or four cigarettes a day, or one cigar a day. I had never been a heavy smoker.

Now I had to face the question: Is smoking a SIN?

I wanted the BIBLE answer, for I had learned by this time that Christ had said we must live by EVERY WORD OF GOD. The BIBLE is our instruction-Book on right living. We must find a BIBLE reason for everything we do.

I knew, of course, there is no specific command, "Thou shalt not smoke." But the absence of a detailed prohibition did not mean God's approval.

I had learned that GOD'S LAW is His WAY OF LIFE. It is a basic philosophy of life. The whole Law is summed up in the one word LOVE. I knew that *love* is the opposite of *lust*. Lust is *self-desire*—pleasing the *self* only. Love means loving *others*. Its direction is not inward toward self alone, but *out-going*, toward *others*. I knew the Bible teaches that "lust of the flesh" is the way of SIN.

So now I began to apply the *principle* of God's law.

I asked myself, "WHY do I smoke?" To please others—to help others—to serve or minister to or express love toward others—or only to satisfy and gratify a desire of the flesh within my own *self*?

The answer was instantaneously obvious. I had to be honest with it. My only reason for smoking was LUST OF THE FLESH, and lust of the flesh is, according to the BIBLE, *sin!*

I stopped smoking immediately. This beginning of overcoming was not too difficult, for it had not been a "big habit" with me. Once weaned, I was able to see it as it is—a dirty, filthy habit. And today we know it is a serious and major contributing cause of lung cancer!

God designed and created the human body. He designed the LUNGS to take in FRESH AIR to "fire" and oxidize the blood, and at the same time to filter out of the blood the impurities and waste matter the blood has picked up throughout the body. Befouled smoke, containing the poisons of nicotine and tars, reduces the efficiency of the operation of this vital organ.

The physical human body is, God says, the very TEMPLE of His Holy Spirit. If we defile this TEMPLE—this *physical* body—God says He will *destroy us!* God intended us, if we are to be COMPLETE, to live happy, healthy and abundant lives, and to gain eternal life, to *take in HIS SPIRIT*—not poisonous foreign substances like tobacco.

Mrs. Armstrong Stricken

I was now beginning to *grow in Christ's knowledge* and in His GRACE. His Holy Spirit had renewed my mind. I could now UNDERSTAND God's TRUTH as I studied His Word.

I had come to understand, *the hard way*, the truth about Law and Grace. I had come to understand the Bible teach-

ing about water baptism. I had come to see that I could not help others unless I, myself, were obedient and practicing what I preached. I had come to see the truth about tobacco. Now God saw fit to teach my wife and me another most important and useful truth. He let us learn it through severe experience, coupled with Bible study.

Along about early August, 1927, a series of physical illnesses and injuries attacked Mrs. Armstrong.

First, she was bitten on the left arm by a dog. Before this healed over, she was driven to bed with tonsilitis. She got up from this too soon, and was stricken violently with a "back-set." But meanwhile she had contracted blood-poisoning as a result of being stuck with a rose-thorn on the index finger of her right hand.

For two or three days her sister and I had to take turns, day and night, soaking her right hand in almost blistering-hot epsom-salts water, and covering her wrist and fore-arm with hot towels, always holding her right arm high.

The back-set from the tonsilitis developed into quinsy. Her throat was swollen shut. It locked her jaw. For three days and three nights she was unable to swallow a drop of water or a morsel of food. For three days and three nights she was unable to sleep a wink. She was nearing exhaustion. The red line of the blood poisoning, in spite of our constant hot epsom-salts efforts, was streaking up her right arm, and had

reached her shoulder on the way to the heart.

The doctor had told me privately that she could not last another twenty-four hours. This third sleepless, foodless and waterless day was a scorching hot summer day in early August.

Does God HEAL Today?

On this late morning, a neighbor lady came over to see my wife.

"Mr. Armstrong," she asked, out of hearing of my wife, "would you object if I ask a man and his wife to come and anoint and pray for your wife's healing?"

That sounded a little fanatical to me. Yet, somehow, I felt too embarrassed to object,

"Well, no, I suppose not," I replied, hesitantly.

About two hours later she returned, and said they would come at about seven in the evening.

I began to have misgivings. I began to regret having given consent.

"What if these people are some of these wild-fire shouters," I thought to myself. "Suppose they begin to shout and yell and scream like these 'holly-roller' or 'pentecostal' fanatics do? *Oh, my!* What would our neighbors think?"

Quickly I gathered courage to go to our neighbor who had asked them to come. I told her I had been thinking it over, and felt it better that these people did not come. She was very nice about it. She would start immediately, and ask them not to come. Then I learned she would have to walk over a mile to contact them. They were living in some rooms in the former Billy Sunday tabernacle that had been built for Billy Sunday's Portland campaign some few years earlier. This tabernacle was out beyond 82nd street, near Sandy Boulevard.

It was now in the heat of the day—the hottest day of the year. I began to feel quite ashamed to impose on this woman, by asking her to make a second long walk on that sweltering afternoon.

"I do hate to ask you to make a second trip out there," I said apologetically. "I didn't realize it was so far. But I was afraid these people might yell and shout, and create a neighborhood disturbance."

"Oh, they are very quiet people," she hastened to assure me. "They won't shout."

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Les SIX livrets français sont offerts GRATUITEMENT à tous ceux qui nous en font la demande:

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"Dieu guérit-Il toujours?"

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"Pourquoi êtes-vous né?"

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After that I decided not to impose on this neighbor who was only trying to help us.

"Let's let them come, then," I concluded.

The Meaning of FAITH

That evening this man and his wife came, about seven. He was rather tall. They were plain and simple people, obviously not of high education, yet intelligent appearing.

"This is all rather new to me," I began, when they were seated beside my wife's bed. "Would you mind if I ask you a few questions, before you pray for my wife?"

He welcomed the questions. He had a Bible in his hands, and one by one he answered my every question and doubt by turning to a passage in his Bible and giving me the Bible answer.

By this time I had become sufficiently familiar with the Bible to recognize every passage he read—only I had never thought of these Biblical statements and promises and admonitions in this particular light before.

As these answers continued coming from the Bible, I began to understand, and to BELIEVE—and I knew the same assurance was forming in Mrs. Armstrong's mind.

Finally I was satisfied. I had the answer from the Word of God. I believed. My wife believed. We knelt in prayer. As he anointed my wife with oil from a vial he carried, he uttered a quiet, positive, very earnest and believing prayer which was utterly different from any prayer I had ever heard.

This man actually dared to talk directly to God, and to tell God what He had PROMISED to do! He quoted the promises of God to heal. He applied them to my wife. He literally held God to what He had promised! It was not because we, as mortal humans, deserved what he asked, but through the merits of Jesus Christ, and according to God's great mercy.

He merely claimed God's PROMISE to heal. He asked God to heal her completely, from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet.

It was not a long prayer—perhaps thirty or forty-five seconds. But as he spoke I knew that as sure as there is a God in heaven, my wife had to be

healed! Any other result would have made God out a liar. Any other result would have nullified the authority of the Scriptures. Complete assurance seized me—and also my wife. We simply knew that she was released from everything that had gripped her—she was freed from the sickness—she was healed! To have doubted would have been to doubt God—to doubt the Bible. It simply never occurred to us to doubt. We believed! We knew!

As we rose, the man's wife laid a hand on Mrs. Armstrong's shoulder. "You'll sleep soundly tonight," she smiled quietly.

I thanked them gratefully. As soon as they had left, Mrs. Armstrong asked me to bring her a robe. She arose, put it on, and I walked slowly with her out to the street sidewalk and back, my arm around her. Neither of us spoke a word. There was no need. We both understood. It was too solemn a moment to speak. We were too choked with gratitude.

She slept soundly until 11:00 a.m. next day. Then she arose and dressed as if she had never been ill. She had been healed of everything, including some long-standing internal maladjustments.

We had learned a new lesson in the meaning of faith. Faith is not only the evidence of that which we do not see or feel—it is not only the ASSURANCE of what we hope for—it is the definite knowing that God will DO whatever He has promised. Faith is BASED on God's written PROMISES. The Bible is filled with thousands of God's promises. They are there for us to claim. They are SURE. God can't lie.

If there is any one attribute of God's character that is more outstanding than any other, it is God's faithfulness—the fact that HIS WORD IS GOOD! Think how hopeless we would be if God's word were not good!

If a man's word is not to be trusted, all his other good points go for naught—he is utterly lacking in right character.

A Dumfounded Doctor

Shortly before Mrs. Armstrong had been confined to bed in this illness, she had taken our elder daughter Beverly to the doctor with a felon on her finger.

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

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

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need. God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of giving, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

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

It had now been bandaged for some days.

The morning after her miraculous healing, my wife arose about eleven, ate a breakfast, and then took Beverly to the doctor's office to have the bandage removed. Incidentally this was the last time we have ever called a doctor for any illness in our family.

"WHAT are you doing here!" exclaimed the doctor, looking as if he had seen a ghost.

"Well," answered my wife, "do you believe in divine healing?"

"I don't believe Mary Baker Eddy has any more 'pull' with God Almighty than I have!" asserted the physician.

"But I don't mean that," Mrs. Armstrong explained, "I mean miraculous healing direct by God as a result of prayer."

"Well—yes—I—do!" replied the astonished doctor, slowly, incredulously. "But I never did before."

Studying a New Subject

This awe-inspiring experience brought a totally new subject before me for study. And remember, I had plenty of time on my hands for Bible study. Only one laundry client remained. We were now reduced to real poverty. Although I had been beaten down and had made a complete surrender to God, giving my self to Him, yet without realizing it much of the self-pride and vanity remained. Of course God knew this. He was yet to bring me down much lower. I was yet to be humiliated repeatedly and thoroughly chastened before God could use me.

In those days we were constantly be-

hind with our house rent. When we had a little money for food we bought beans and such food as would provide the most bulk for the least money. Often we went hungry. Yet, looking back over those days, Mrs. Armstrong was remarking just the day before this was written that we were finding happiness despite the economic plight—and we did not complain or grumble. But we *did* suffer.

From the time of my conversion Mrs. Armstrong has always studied with me. We didn't realize it then, but God was calling us *together*. We were always a team, working together in unity.

And now came a new subject to study, and new enlightenment. We entered into it with vigor and joy. We searched out everything we could find in the Bible on the subject of physical healing. We discovered that God revealed Himself to ancient Israel, even before they reached Mt. Sinai, under His name "Yahweh-Ropha" which means "The Eternal our Healer," or "Our GOD-HEALER," or, as translated in the Authorized version, "The LORD that healeth thee."

He revealed Himself as Healer through David: "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who HEALETH all thy diseases." (Psalm 103:3). And again: "Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of food; they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Eternal in their trouble, and . . . He sendeth His word, and HEALETH them." (Ps. 107:17-20).

Then I made a discovery I had not read in any of the tracts and literature we had been sending for and gathering on this subject. Healing is actually the *forgiveness* of transgressed *physical* laws just as salvation comes through forgiveness of transgressed *spiritual* law. It is the forgiveness of physical SIN. God forgives the physical sin because Jesus PAID THE PENALTY we are suffering IN OUR STEAD. He was beaten with stripes before He was nailed to the cross.

What was learned on this subject of healing is today set forth in our free booklet, "Does God HEAL Today?" The reader is invited to request a copy.

Experience of the Crooked Spine

After we had made some little prog-

ress in gaining Biblical understanding of this subject of healing, Aimee Semple McPherson came to Portland.

She held an evangelistic campaign in the Portland Auditorium. My wife and I attended once, and then I went alone another time. Unable to gain entrance, because of packed attendance, I was told by an usher that I might be able to slip in at the rear stage door if I would hurry around. Walking, or running, around the block to the rear, I came upon a sorry spectacle.

A woman and child were trying to get a terribly crippled elderly man out of a car near the stage entrance. I went over to help them. The man had a badly twisted spine—whether from arthritis, or deformity from birth, or other disease I do not now remember. He was utterly helpless and a pitiful sight to look upon.

We managed to get him to the stage door. Actually, I should never have been admitted, had I not been helping to carry this cripple in. He had come to be healed by the famous lady evangelist.

We were unable to gain contact with Mrs. McPherson before the service. And we were equally unable, after the service. I helped get the cripple back into their car.

"If you really want to be healed," I said before they drove off, "I would be glad to come to your home and pray for you. Mrs. McPherson has no power within herself to heal anybody. I have none. Only GOD can heal. But I do know what He has promised to do, and I believe God will hear me just as willingly as He will Mrs. McPherson—if only you will BELIEVE in what GOD has promised, and put your faith in HIM and not in the person who prays for you."

They gave me their address, just south of Foster Road. The next day I borrowed my brother Russell's car and drove out.

I had learned, in this study, that there are two conditions which God imposes. 1) we must *keep His commandments*, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (I John 3:22); and 2) we must really BELIEVE (Mat. 9:29).

Of course I realized that many people might not have come into the understanding about keeping all of God's Commandments—He does look on the

heart. It is the *spirit*, and *willingness* to obey. And therefore some who really BELIEVE are healed, even though they are not strictly "commandment keepers." But once the *knowledge of the truth* comes, they must OBEY. In this case I felt sure that God wanted me to open the minds of these people about His Commandments, and that SIN is the transgression of God's LAW.

Consequently, I first read the two Scriptures quoted above, and then explained what I had been six months learning about God's law—and particularly about God's Sabbath. I wanted to know whether this cripple and his wife had a spirit of WILLINGNESS to obey God.

They did not. I found they were "pentecostal." They attended church for the "good time" they had there. They talked a good deal about the "good time" they enjoyed at church. They scoffed and sneered about having to obey God. I told them that, since they were unwilling to obey God and comply with God's written conditions for healing, I could not pray for him.

Was This an Angel?

This case had weighed heavily on my mind. I had been touched with deep compassion for this poor fellow. Yet his mind was not impaired, and I knew that God does not compromise with SIN.

Some weeks later I had borrowed my brother's car again, and happened to be driving out Foster Road. Actually at the time my mind was filled with another mission, and this deformed cripple was not on my mind at all. I was deep in thought about another matter.

Coming to the intersection of the street on which the cripple lived, however, I was reminded of him. Instantly the thought came as to whether I ought to pay them one more call—but at the same instant reason ruled it out. They had made light of, and actually ridiculed the idea of surrendering to *obey* God. Immediately I put them out of mind, and again was deep in thought about the present mission I was on.

Then a strange thing happened.

At the next intersection, the steering wheel of the car automatically turned to the right. I felt the wheel turning. I resisted it. It kept turning right. In-
(Please continue on page 32)

The Plain Truth about the PROTESTANT Reformation

The naked TRUTH is being laid bare! This shocking but fully documented series now concludes with an analysis of the real MEANING of the Reformation—and a hint of its true impact on modern religious thought, and on YOU!

by Roderick C. Meredith

PART XI

THERE is a basic but little understood REASON for the pitiful state of religious *confusion* that now exists!

It is time *you* really understood that *reason*. It is time you honestly faced the TRUTH!

We often hear modern religious leaders lament the fact that there exists such a veritable *babylon* of modern religious denominations and sects — all calling themselves "Christian." They sometimes admit that Jesus Christ founded only ONE Church—not hundreds of differing religious groups politically organized and directed by men.

Admittedly, this *babylon* of conflicting religious denominations was spawned by the Protestant reformers. We need to understand the *reason* for this pathetic outcome of their efforts.

Instead of *assuming*—as so many people do — we need to "*prove ALL things*" in the light of God's Word, the Holy Bible. We need to *honestly* face the question of whether the Protestant Reformation was *in any way* inspired of God. And we had better have PROOF for our beliefs!

As you read the final installment in this series, may the Living God help YOU to *open your mind* to the possibility that *you may have been deceived* in the past!

With the constant threat of World War III and *world suicide*, we are nearing the prophesied END of this age (Mat. 24:21-22). *New truth* and KNOWLEDGE is now being increased (Dan. 12:4).

Will you sincerely "*prove ALL things*," and quit assuming? Will you walk in

the *light* as God gives it? Will you OBEY *new truth* as God reveals it?

A CHANGED "Christianity"

In the previous installments of this series, we learned from the Bible and the record of history that a remarkable *change* took place in nominal "Christianity" soon after the death of the original apostles. *Pagan* philosophies and traditions crept into the visible Church. During the "Dark Ages" the religious hierarchy became a veritable cesspool of iniquities, whoredoms and abominations of every description.

We have seen how Martin Luther rebelled against this corrupt hierarchy, but *still retained most of its doctrines and traditions*. In fact, he rebelled against *all authority* and presumptuously *added a word to the Bible*. In his guilt-ridden desire to do away with obedience to God's law, Luther translated Romans 1:17: "The just shall live by faith *alone*." This attitude led Luther to condone the *bigamy* of the landgrave of Hesse, and the *slaughter* of hundreds of peasants in the infamous Peasants' War.

We discussed the harsh teachings and actions of John Calvin based on his theory of predestination. Recall his statement: "For *all men are not created on an equal footing*, but for *some eternal life is pre-ordained*, for others eternal damnation . . ." (Bertenson, *Documents*, p. 302).

The shocking result of Calvin's harsh system can only be understood by reading the account of how he *burned at the stake* a religious opponent, Michael Servetus.

Let us again ask ourselves: Was this

a return to the faith and practice of Jesus Christ and His apostles? Was this, indeed, a return to "the BIBLE, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible"?

Why Protestant Violence?

The *answer* to many peculiar and wicked Protestant deeds is that, even long after their separation from Rome and their "conversion" to Protestantism, the early reformers and their followers were still literally *saturated* with the *doctrines*, the *concepts* and the *practices* of their "*mother*" church at Rome. "The reformers *inherited* the doctrine of *persecution* from their mother church, and practiced it as far as they had the power. They fought intolerance with intolerance. They differed favorably from their opponents in the degree and extent, but *not* in the *principle*, of intolerance" (Schaff, *History*, Vol. VIII, p. 700).

As we shall see, this frank admission by Schaff reveals why so *many* of the Protestant doctrines and actions *seem* so totally inconsistent with their avowed intention of basing everything on "the Bible *only*."

We have seen that Martin Luther *played politics*, *condoned bigamy*, counseled a *lie*, encouraged the *slaughter* of the peasants and the *drowning* of Anabaptists.

It has been shown that the English revolt began with the *lust* of Henry VIII, and that he and Queen Elizabeth *and* their Protestant theologians all had a part in *slaughtering* hundreds of Catholic, Anabaptist and, later, Puritan dissenters.

Now we have reviewed the part that

John Calvin and the Swiss reformers played in the *persecution* and *drowning* of Anabaptists, in the cruel *punishment* and *execution* of their own Genevise citizens for failing to conform in all respects to Calvin's doctrine. Finally, we have described the *agreement* of nearly all the early Protestant leaders in the famous "lynch law" execution by *burning at the stake* which Calvin inflicted upon Michael Servetus for *purely religious reasons*.

We have *proved* that these were "cold-blooded" killings. They were *not* the result of the passion of the moment. Nor were those responsible afflicted by *temporary insanity*.

These *crimes* in the name of religion were *calculated* beforehand, and they were still *defended* by theological argument long after they had occurred!

We have seen that the *real explanation* lies in the fact that the early reformers "inherited" *much* of the *doctrine* and *spirit* of their "mother" church. They were as men *spiritually drunk*—unable to see clearly the *real meaning* and *outcome* of their teachings and actions.

Protestant Contradictions

While this thesis is not designed or intended to include arguments about the *hundreds* of differing Protestant doctrines and creeds, we do wish to consider the *principles* which guided the reformers in coming to their conclusions. Indeed, we have *already* outlined the basic doctrines upon which the Reformation was based. But now we wish to examine more thoroughly their *origins* and *results*, and to examine the essential *nature* of Protestantism as a whole.

We remember Chillingworth's claim: "The *Bible*, the whole *Bible*, and *nothing but the Bible*, is the religion of Protestants." We recall the Protestant affirmation of the Scriptures as "the inspired rule of faith and practice."

Fisher tells us: "Protestantism, under whatever diversities of form it appeared, and notwithstanding the varieties of character and of opinion which are observed among its leaders, is distinguished as a system of belief by two principles. These are justification by faith alone, and the exclusive authority of the Scrip-

tures" (*The Reformation*, p. 459).

Most Protestants have grown up *believing* these statements are *true*. What most people do *not* realize is that Luther, Calvin and the English reformers *rejected entire books* of the Bible or else completely negated their real authority. And they *forced* their interpretations into countless Scriptures where the natural meaning did not conform to their preconceived doctrines.

We recall that Martin Luther was so oppressed with a continual feeling of *guilt* that he wanted to overthrow every verse in the Bible which taught that *obedience* is required for salvation *in addition to faith*. He insisted that we are saved by *faith alone*. Remember that he high-handedly introduced—*contrary to Scripture*—the word "alone" into Romans 3:28, his only defense being: "It is the *will* of Dr. Martin Luther that it should be so" (*Alzog, Universal Church History*, Vol. III, p. 199).

Especially in regard to his insistence on *faith alone* and his *rejection* of countless Scriptures teaching the need for *obedience*, he was a *stubborn, self-willed man*.

The Bible teaches: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). This is clearly speaking of the *spiritual* law written by the very finger of God—the *Ten Commandments*. The inspired James explains this: "For whosoever shall keep the *whole law*, and yet offend in one point, he is *guilty* of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a *transgressor* of the law. So *speak ye*, and *so do*, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:10-12).

What *law* forbids adultery and killing? Obviously, it is the *Ten Commandments* to which James refers. And he concludes by telling us to *speak* and *act* according to this law.

To this the words of Jesus Christ agree. For when a young man came to ask Him the way to eternal life, He answered: "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*," and He proceeded to name some of the Ten Commandments (Mat. 19:16-19).

Completely ignoring the *direct* par-

allel between the teaching of James and of Jesus Christ, Luther haughtily declared: "Compared with the Epistles of St. Paul, this is in truth an *epistle of straw*; it contains absolutely *nothing* to remind one of the style of the Gospel" (*Alzog*, Vol. III, p. 208). Thus, Luther stubbornly *rejected the entire book* of James because it *does not agree* with his doctrines!

In *rejecting* the first five books of the Bible, Luther declared: "We have no wish either to see or hear Moses. Let us *leave Moses to the Jews*, to whom he was given to serve as a Mirror of Saxony; he has nothing in common with Pagans and Christians, and *we should take no notice of him*" (*Alzog*, Vol. III, p. 207).

Since Luther regarded Moses as having to do with *God's law*—*which Luther hated*—he wished to have "nothing to do" with Moses' inspired writings!

But since Paul was Luther's favorite writer, we wonder what his reaction was to Paul's inspired reminder to Timothy: "From a child thou hast known the *holy scriptures*, which are *able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All scripture* is given by *inspiration of God*" (II Tim. 3:15-16). Remember that *only the Old Testament* Scriptures were written when Timothy was a child.

And, since Luther stubbornly wished to "take no notice" of Moses, we might remind him of the apostle John's description of the victorious saints of God singing "the song of *Moses* the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb" (Rev. 15:3). But Luther's own writings promptly answer: "I look upon the revelations of John to be neither apostolic nor prophetic" (*Michelet, Life of Luther*, p. 273). He might then add: "Everyone may form his own judgment of this book; as for myself, I feel an *aversion* to it, and *to me this is sufficient reason for rejecting it*" (*Alzog*, Vol. III, p. 208).

And it is a *fact* that Martin Luther willfully *rejected* the authority of any book in the Bible to which he felt an "aversion."

Now, perhaps, we begin to understand the *real meaning* of the religious confusion of our time. Modern Protestants have inherited from Martin

Luther—acknowledged as the *greatest leader* of the Reformation—a spirit of *self-will* and a tendency to *reject* the all-inclusive *authority* of God's Word!

Seeing the foolishness and futility of the Roman Catholic penitential system, Martin Luther had *rebelled* against the idea of any "works." He had grown up as a Roman Catholic, was trained and schooled as a Catholic priest, and was *filled* with the Catholic concept of law and works.

Being, therefore, in a condition that amounted to *spiritual drunkenness*, he was *unable* to see clearly the difference between the *Bible* teaching of *obedience* to spiritual commandments, and the *Jewish* and *Roman Catholic* teaching of subservience to physical "works" and to man-made ecclesiastical laws and traditions.

Rebelling against obedience to God's law, which we have seen constitutes *sin*, he wrote to Melancthon: "Sin, sin mightily, but have all the more confidence in Christ; rejoice more vehemently in Christ, who is the conqueror of sin, of death, and of the world. While we are in this world, we can do no other than sin, we must sin. This life is not the abode of righteousness; no, we merely await here, as St. Peter says, 'new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'

"Pray earnestly, for thou art a great sinner.

"I am now full of the doctrine of the remission of sins. I grant nothing to the law, nor to all the devils. He who can believe in his heart this doctrine, is saved" (*Life of Luther*, p. 304).

Harboring a sense of *guilt* and *condemnation* anyway, Luther's mind evolved a doctrinal system whereby he could overthrow *all law* and the *rule* of God over our lives!

John Calvin was in much the same position. He had also grown up as a Catholic and was steeped in Catholic doctrines and concepts. Rebelling against the Roman church as a young man, he accepted Luther's arguments on salvation by faith *alone*.

But Calvin went one step further and developed his own theory of absolute *predestination*. As we have seen, this theory states: "For all men are not created on an equal footing, but for some

eternal Life is pre-ordained, for others eternal damnation" (Bettenson, *Documents*, p. 302).

We have already shown that this does violence to the frequent statement in the New Testament: "There is *no respect of persons* with God" (Rom. 2:11, Acts 10:34; Eph. 6:9). It also contradicts Paul's inspired description of "God our Saviour; Who *will have all men to be saved*" (I Tim. 2:4). Is *God's will* to be thwarted by the reasonings of John Calvin?

And, of course, we must remember not only the actions but the *false doctrines* by which Calvin, Luther and the English reformers tried to justify themselves for *imprisoning*, publicly *whipping*, *hanging*, *drowning*, or *burning alive* those who disagreed with their "pure" gospel teachings.

Rejecting or Distorting Scripture

At least in order to clear their own consciences, the Protestant leaders were forced to *distort* or *reject* many passages of Scripture which did not conform to their doctrinal ideas.

In defending his view on the "Lord's Supper," Luther argued that the *unbroken tradition* of the Catholic Church ought to be proof in itself. Luther stated: "To deny such testimony is virtually to condemn not only the holy Christian church as a damned heretic, but even Christ himself, with all his apostles and prophets . . ." (Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. VII, p. 531).

Schaff proceeds to comment: "A Roman controversialist could not lay more stress on *tradition* than Luther does in this passage. But tradition, at least from the sixth to the sixteenth century, strongly favors the belief in transubstantiation, and the sacrifice of the mass, *both of which he rejected*" (Schaff, Vol. III, p. 532):

Thus, we see that Luther was *inconsistent*. When the Bible did not provide the answers he wanted, Luther looked to *Roman Catholic tradition*!

But when this same tradition taught a doctrine or custom Luther disagreed with—such as *transubstantiation*—he turned with supposedly righteous indignation back to the Bible again. He wrote: "For that which is asserted with-

out the authority of Scripture or of proven revelation may be held as an opinion, but there is *no obligation to believe it* . . . Transubstantiation . . . must be considered as an *invention of human reasoning*, since it is based neither on Scripture nor on sound reasoning" (Bettenson, *Documents*, p. 280).

In plain language, Luther was *deceiving himself*!

He wanted to think he had the Bible on his side, yet whenever his unsound views of Scripture became apparent, he would run like a child to the arms of his "mother" church—and claim *Roman Catholic tradition* as his infallible guide.

Noted Protestant historians are forced to admit that *Calvin* and *Zwingli*—as well as *Luther*—*distorted* the plain meaning of Scripture to make it fit their own theories! "That principle Calvin took up and carried on; and as *Luther* found fault with the sacred writers whose utterances failed to fit in with his view of justification, so did *Zwingli*, and *Calvin* even more consistently than *Zwingli*, explain away all that seemed to limit or condition the truth on which they built" (Moore, *History of the Reformation*, p. 389).

Again, commenting upon the tendency of the English theologians to follow Luther's interpretations of the Bible, Moore comments: "They cannot, therefore, shut their eyes to the fact that even Luther's devotion to the Bible was so tainted with *onesidedness* that it contained in itself the seeds of decay" (Moore, p. 479).

So we find that the Protestant leaders often used *one-sided reasoning* to "explain away" any passage in the Bible that did not conform to their doctrines.

They would reject such Catholic doctrines as *transubstantiation* and the selling of *indulgences* by appealing to the Bible. But when they did not agree with what *God* said in the Bible, they would resort to their own tainted *human reason* or appeal to the *tradition* of the *Roman Catholic Church*.

The Protestants Followed Rome

What is the *meaning* of this apparent hypocrisy? Was this "the Bible *only*?" Was this a restoration of the *true Church*? Here is the Protestants' own

surprisingly candid admission!

Speaking of Luther, Fisher states: "In the retention of *rites* and *customs* he did not require an explicit authorization from Scripture. Enough that they were not forbidden, and are expedient and useful. His aversion to breaking loose from the essentials of *Latin Christianity* in matters of doctrine is equally manifest" (*History of Christian Doctrine*, p. 283). "The Reformers inherited the doctrine of persecution from their *mother Church* . . ." (Schaff, Vol. VIII, p. 700). Far more than most people even dream of, the Protestant leaders — and the many churches springing from that movement — have inherited most of their doctrines, their concepts of God and religion, and their traditions from the Roman Catholic Church—their original "mother" church.

Luther wished to retain many of the *rites* and *customs* of "Latin" or Roman Catholic practice, and many of their doctrines as well. In earlier portions of this thesis, we have seen how "some of the old *heathen feasts* became church festivals" (Hurlbut, *The Story of the Christian Church*, p. 79). We have noticed how the *pagan* festivals of Christmas and *New Year's* originated in the West—at Rome—not with the original Church in and around Palestine (Fisher, *History of the Christian Church*, p. 119).

We remember Wharey's statement that by the close of the second century "Christianity began already to wear the garb of *heathenism*" (Church History, p. 39). And we should consider again Plummer's comment: "And as soon as the revival of letters caused the contents of the New Testament and the teaching of the Fathers to be known, it was seen that what passed for Christianity at the close of the fifteenth century was *scarcely recognizable* as such, when placed side by side with what we know of Christianity at the close of the Apostolic Age" (*The Continental Reformation*, p. 11).

The unanimous verdict of Protestant historians is that the Roman Catholic Church was filled with *paganism* and *iniquity*. Many of her *rituals* and *church festivals* were borrowed directly from the *heathen* religions and the ancient cult of sun worship.

Why is it, then, that the Protestants retained so many of the Roman Catholic doctrines and rituals and religious festivals? Why did they keep professing their unity with the paganized Roman system?

Part of the answer lies in the fact that they somehow felt that Rome was the only historical descendant of the true New Testament Church of God. Since, without considering it, they were looking only for a *big, organized* denomination, they felt that Rome had to be the only remnant of the true Church—in spite of her almost *total paganism*.

The Protestant historian D'Aubigne voices this common conception: "A mystery of iniquity oppressed the *enslaved Church of Christ*" (*History of the Reformation*, p. 20). The reformers, having grown up from little children as Roman Catholics, believed that *this general religious system* really constituted the true Church of God. But somehow God had permitted it to become "enslaved" in a sink of *iniquity*.

Their job, then, the reformers felt, was to *purify* this foul system. Yet they sought to prove that they had not parted from the "essentials" of the Catholic system.

Luther said: "No one can deny that we hold, believe, sing, and confess all things in correspondence with the old Church, that *we make nothing new therein nor add anything thereto*, and in this way *we belong to the old Church and are one with it*" (Lindsay, *A History of the Reformation*, Vol. I, p. 468).

By their own statements, then, it is proved that the Protestants regarded themselves only as a *continuation of the historic Catholic Church*, but under a different and "purified" form. Luther himself vehemently affirms their essential *oneness* with the Catholic Church!

Speaking of Calvin, Fisher tells us: "He did not deny that the Christian societies acknowledging the Pope are 'churches of Christ' . . . He indignantly denies that he has withdrawn from the Church" (*History of Christian Doctrine*, p. 304).

Schaff tells us that it is speaking of the visible or *historic Catholic Church* that Calvin writes: "As our present design is to treat of the *visible Church*, we may learn even from her the title

of *mother*, how useful and even necessary it is for us to know her" (Schaff, Vol. VIII, p. 450).

The insistence of the Protestant leaders—on their *basic unity* with the Catholic Church, and their identification of her as their "mother" church is *most significant!*

God Identifies the Catholic Church

In the early editions of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament, there are many illustrations picturing the "Whore of Babylon" as the *Roman Catholic Church*. In describing this *widely understood interpretation*, Bainton tells us: "Fallen Babylon is plainly *Rome*" (*Here I Stand*, p. 258).

Countless Protestant books, pamphlets, and tracts make that same identification today. They brand the Roman Catholic Church as the "great Whore" of Revelation 17.

But, it must be admitted, most of the more conservative Protestant denominational writers have stopped making this identification. After those first editions of the Bible, and pamphlets and tracts, they suddenly came to the em-
(Please continue on page 28)

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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

(Continued from page 4)

and board, their recreation *more* than just a passing good time. All these activities take on new *meaning* and *purpose*. They become *vital steps* toward the development of the **WHOLE PERSONALITY**—*the whole being*—as a *sharp and effective instrument* in the hands of *Almighty God the supreme RULER of heaven and earth*.

This *realization*, this *goal*, this great **PURPOSE** makes Ambassador College truly *different*. It is *GOD'S own college*—and there is no other college on earth like it!

A Challenge

Here is a *challenge* to any young person.

If you have successfully completed high school or plan to do so in the near future, if you appreciate the opportunity to acquire a college education and to achieve it the *sound way*, and if you aren't afraid of "bucking the crowd"—of blazing new trails—then by all means *write immediately* for the Ambassador College catalog and receive full particulars about entering the college next fall, or as soon as you are able.

There are several things you need to understand about Ambassador. First of all, an underlying spiritual purpose permeates every activity at Ambassador. And while every student who comes should have a genuine desire to find spiritual truth and to *live* it—yet no one is pressured to believe any particular doctrine or theology, but every student is encouraged to *study* with an open mind to find God's will and then to obey it.

Secondly, Ambassador College maintains the very highest of scholastic standards, and any prospective student should be fully prepared to do college-level work before he enrolls. Frankly, we have found that the educational standards in some regions are so low that incoming students from these localities have not had adequate training in English, spelling, history, geography and other basic subjects to prepare for high-level college work.



A small part of the recently expanded Home Economics Department at Ambassador—the latest and finest built-in electrical equipment is in adjoining areas of the Department.

Such students would do well to take special outside courses and *drill* themselves intensively on these subjects before trying to enroll at Ambassador.

And any of you younger high school students who read this should take heed in time and really *apply* yourselves in mastering these subjects if you plan to attend Ambassador someday. Put forth real *effort* in preparing yourself to attend. *It will be worth it, every whit!*

It Requires Effort

A third factor every prospective student should consider is his financial situation. Before entering you should try to save at least a few hundred dollars, if at all possible, to aid in paying your college bills. Nearly every student works his or her own way through Ambassador—at least in part. And in many cases students will be able to find employment right here on the campus. But with a large freshman class expected this coming fall, there is no certainty that all the students may be employed by the college—so a number may have to find work off campus.

If you are employed by the college—and this principle also applies to your studies—you will be expected to *work* and *work diligently*. So be prepared to put your *whole heart* into whatever you plan to do here.

You may have academic, financial, or even parental problems in coming to Ambassador College. Many a student has

had to "take the bull by the horns" and overcome opposition of every kind to attend Ambassador College because it truly *is* different.

But if you have the kind of determination we want to see in Ambassador students, you will *find* a way to come!

And you'll always be glad you did, for Ambassador will not only fit you to a happy, useful life with real *purpose* now—perhaps including an opportunity to serve in the most important work on earth, but it will prepare you as no other college can for a joyful, abundant and *eternal life* in the *world tomorrow*.

And you who are of college age and realize the meaning of this work and of the times in which you are living, *think carefully* and *pray earnestly* as to whether you should attend Ambassador College.

All of you in the United States who wish the college catalog with full particulars about the college and enrollment, write *immediately* to Mr. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California. And those of you in the British Isles and Europe who wish information about the possibility of attending the college, please write to our London address: "BCM, Ambassador, London, WC 1."

Attending Ambassador College will require *extra effort* on your part. But *good things* don't come *easily*. Truly, this is *the opportunity of a lifetime*.

Now turn to the next two pages and see what life at Ambassador is actually like!



Life at AMBASSADOR

At left is MAYFAIR — one of the women student homes—surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds.





The AMBASSADOR CHORALE, above, is ready for its annual Spring Recital.

Mr. Armstrong delivers the Commencement Address from the Tempietto lower left photo.

The spacious grounds around Manor Del Mar, men's student residence, provide ample inspiration for study and relaxation.

Is Tithing in Force Under the NEW Testament?

Here is part two of an eye-opening article on a much misunderstood subject. We have been asked, "Wasn't tithing just for the Jews of a long-dead past?" Or, "Was it a form of national taxation in ancient Israel?" Or, "Was it to supply material needs to the poor?" You'll find the answers in this article, continued from the February issue, enlightening, plain!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IS "tithing" obligatory in NEW Testament times? Or has God left us to our own devices—for churches to resort to the old-fashioned oyster supper and ice cream socials, or to bazaars, entertainments, dances and church movie shows to raise money?

How should God's work be financed? Does God have a definite *system*?

What the "TITHE" Is

In the previous article we found what God means by the word "tithing."

It is an old English word, commonly used in England three and four hundred years ago. Today it is seldom used, except in this scriptural connection. This old expression "tithing" has been preserved in the Authorized, or King James translation, of the Bible—translated in 1611.

The word "tithing" means TENTH. A tithe of anything is the tenth part of it.

In patriarchal times, TITHING was God's system for financing His ministry. Melchisedec was High Priest. The patriarch Abraham, it is written, knew and kept God's commandments, His statutes and laws (Gen. 26:5). And he paid tithes to the High Priest!

Tithing was God's law hundreds of years before the Old Covenant started. TITHING is revealed as *God's system for financing His earthly ministry*.

Since tithing is God's permanent, continuous financing system, it had to *continue* thru the Mosaic dispensation. During that period when the Levites were the ministers, their work and labors had to be financed. But when the priesthood was changed, God did not change his financing system.

Christians of Paul's day did not need

to be instructed that TITHING is an obligatory and permanent law of God. But they *did* need much teaching to make clear to them that the Old Covenant was dead—the Levitical Priesthood changed and replaced by that of Jesus Christ—the *Melchisedec Priesthood restored!* The only question was as to *which* priesthood tithes are to be paid *now!*

So now in the simplest of language, let me make plain to you the PRINCIPLE of tithing, as revealed in the Bible. Then we shall look to the Scriptures themselves, from which this explanation is derived.

WHY God Retains the Tithe

But WHY does God retain *for Himself* the ownership of that *first tenth*—that TITHE—of your income?

Here again comes a TRUTH man would never know, and could not find out, except by God's revelation to man! *What* is man, anyway? WHY is he? Where is he going? GOD HAS A PLAN! God is working out a GREAT PURPOSE! He reveals it in His Word—His revelation—the BIBLE.

For the carrying out of His holy PURPOSE in placing mankind upon this earth, God has always had a PRIESTHOOD—a ministry, representing HIM, serving Him, carrying out His mission. Way back in the dim antiquity of patriarchal times, God's High Priest—His representative on earth—was Melchisedec.

During the national dispensation of Israel, under the Old Covenant, known as the Mosaic dispensation—those years from Moses until Christ—the tribe of Levi constituted the ministry of God,

known as the Levitical priesthood. Then later, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, He ascended to heaven as a living HIGH PRIEST. Today He calls ministers as His true representatives in a darkened and Satan-deceived world, to carry on HIS PLAN. Today the Melchisedec Priesthood is restored, in Christ.

Now it costs money to carry on the work of God. God's ministers who devote their entire time to God's holy and spiritual purpose are prevented from earning a living in the usual channels. Yet they work. If they are *true* ministers, they are men of ability who WORK HARD, and long, observing no hours. Actually they *earn* a living—they have *worked* for their food, shelter and clothing and physical need—the same as the farmer, the laborer, the clerk or the merchant.

And so God, in His wisdom, has provided for financing His work, and for His ministers' living. In God's program, these true ministers work for HIM, and HIM *alone*.

In God's great Plan, HE pays His ministers. It is HE who "hires" them—He who *calls* them to their work for Him.

So, in order to provide for the financing of HIS MINISTRY, God has from the very beginning RETAINED for HIMSELF the *first tenth* of the income of every human being on earth. The OWNERSHIP of that first tenth of income is GOD'S.

To WHOM Tithes Are Paid

But *how* can you pay God's tenth to Him? God is on His throne in heaven.
(Please continue on page 30)

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER SEVEN

ABRAHAM GIVES UP HIS SON

AFTER the destruction of the cities on the plain of Jordan, Abraham moved southward to a land called Gerar. Just as God promised, a son was born to Abraham and Sarah. An angel had already told them to name the baby Isaac. Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born. Sarah was ninety years old. (Genesis 21:1-3.)

In those days it was a custom to hold a feast in honor of a child between two and three years old. Therefore, when Isaac was that age, Abraham held a great feast because his son, Isaac, had grown out of babyhood and into a little boy.

Abraham had become an important and respected man in the land. No doubt he invited many other important men to the feast—quite likely even the king of Gerar.

When Hagar and her son Ishmael saw what great attention Isaac was receiving from so many people, they were jealous. Ishmael, you will remember, was Abraham's first son. Such a grand feast had not been given in his honor when he was that age. (Gen. 21:8-9.)

Even while the feast was in progress, Ishmael and Hagar made some unkind remarks about little Isaac. Isaac's mother overheard some of the things they said, and she became very angry.

Ishmael Leaves

For a long time Sarah had not cared to have Hagar and Ishmael living in the same tents with them. One reason was that Hagar, her handmaid, had given Abraham his first son, Ishmael.

Sarah went at once to Abraham and told him to send Hagar and Ishmael away.

This made Abraham sad. He had no wish to part with them. But he knew that this could never be a happy family with two jealous mothers living in the same household. It was a great problem to Abraham.

Then God spoke to him, telling him not to feel sorrowful because of Hagar and Ishmael.

"Do as Sarah wished and send them away," God said. "I shall take care of them. Isaac, and not Ishmael, will be your heir. But from Ishmael I will make a whole nation!" (Gen. 21:10-13.)

This promise made Abraham feel better. He obeyed God. Early the very next morning he prepared food and water for an early journey for Hagar and Ishmael. He hoped that by starting early they might reach some camp or place where they could rest and escape the hot afternoon sun. Probably he also hoped that they would not go too many miles distant to live.

While it was yet cool in the early morning, Hagar and Ishmael took the food and water and started out on foot from Abraham's tent. Hagar, who was an Egyptian, probably planned to return to Egypt. (Gen. 21:14.)

But the country through which they had to walk was a desert. Hagar believed that if only the two could reach the caravan trail that led south to the land of Egypt, they might meet southbound travelers who would take them along.

Somehow the two lost their way. Hagar could not find the caravan trail. What was worse, she found that they had drunk all their water! It was already the middle of the day. The sun shone upon them with such fierce heat that by the middle of the afternoon Ishmael could walk no farther. He fell to the hot sand, and was unable to get back up on his feet.

Perhaps you think it strange that a strong, young man of sixteen years would become weak and helpless while his mother still had strength to walk. Growing boys often need more food and water than people who are much older. So it was that Hagar came to realize that unless she could find some water very soon, her son would soon be dead!

But it seemed impossible that there would be any water in that sea of hot sand and rocks. With every passing minute Ishmael was suffering more and more with thirst. By the middle of the afternoon, when the heat was at its worst, he was in great pain, and could hardly move.

Hagar knew then that Ishmael was close to death. The best she could do was roll him under the weak shade of a desert shrub. There she left him, and walked a short distance away where she couldn't watch him die.

For many miles around there were only two human beings on that vast, hot

desert. And in the burning silence were only two sounds—the painful groans of a dying boy, and the bitter sobs of his wretched mother.

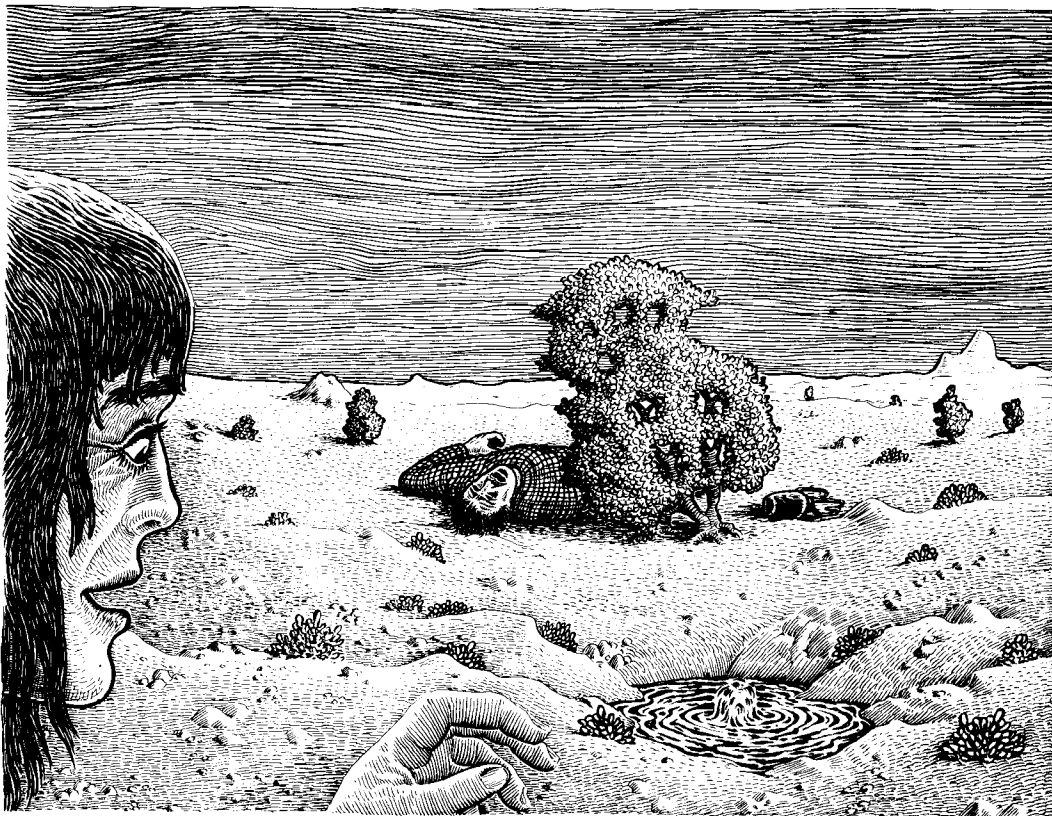
Ishmael Rescued

Then came a startling, different kind of sound—the voice of an angel speaking to Hagar!

“Don’t worry, Hagar,” said the voice. “Go help your son. God will cause a great nation to come from him!” (Gen. 21:17-18.)

Hagar looked up. She didn’t see an angel. But she did see something she hadn’t noticed before—clear, cool water bubbling out of the ground just a short distance away!

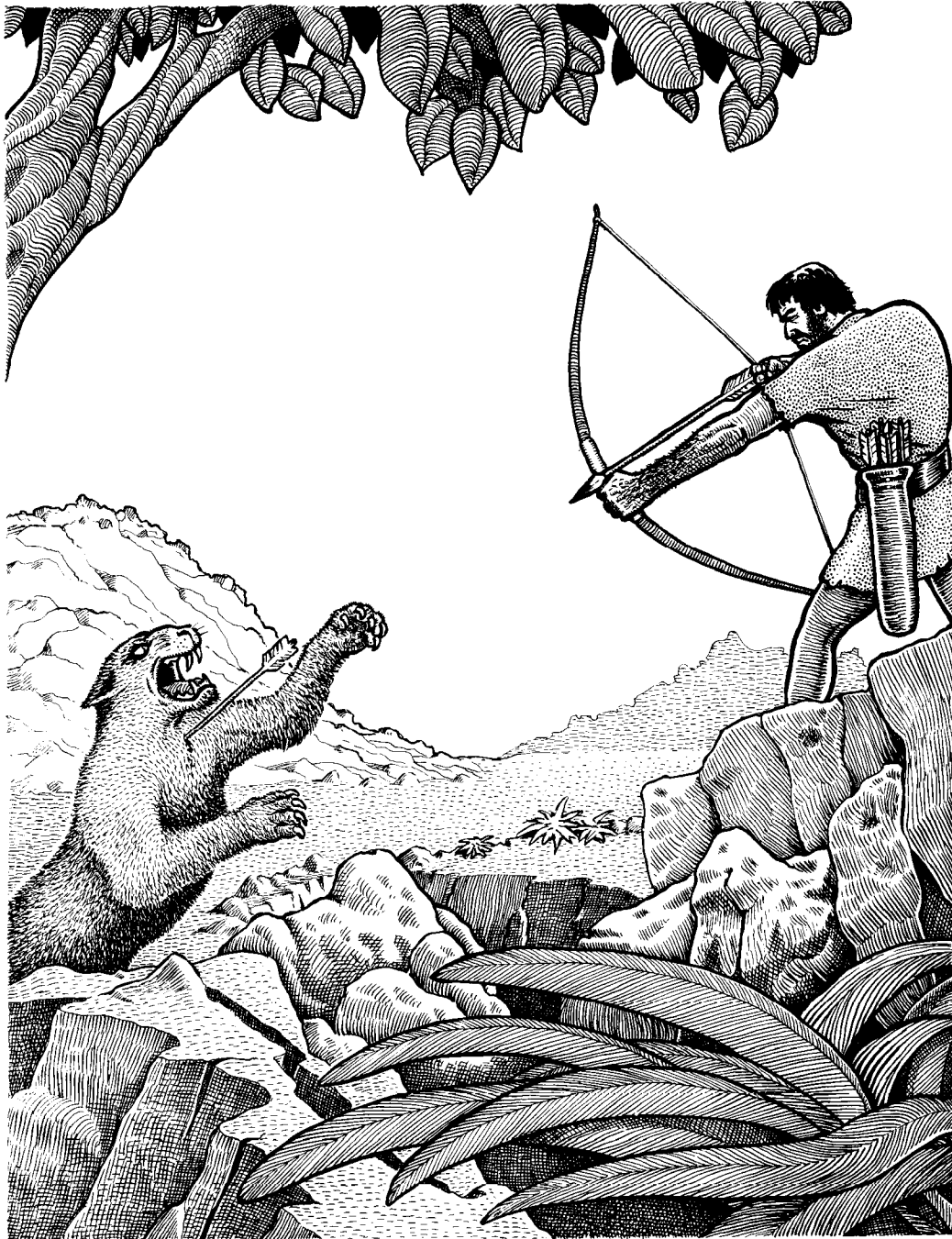
Hagar looked up to see water springing out of the dry desert ground.



Hagar hurried to the spring, filled her empty leather bottle, and thankfully poured some of the water between Ishmael’s parched, feverish lips. Ishmael’s life was spared—just as God had promised Abraham that He would look out for Ishmael!

From that time on, Hagar and Ishmael moved southeast and lived in the desert. Ishmael became very skillful with the bow and arrow, with which he shot

Ishmael learned to hunt with bow and arrow, and became an expert archer.



many kinds of birds and animals for food. (Verse 20.)

Ishmael spent so many years living away from people that he became almost like a wild man. (Gen. 16:12.) His mother brought him an Egyptian woman for his wife. Ishmael and his wife had children, and those children had children. In time, a whole nation sprang from Ismael—just as God promised. (Gen. 21:21.)

Today we know those people as those who roam the desert countries of Asia and Africa—the Arabs!

Abraham Put Through His Greatest Test

Down through the years Abraham had shown by obedience and right living that he was indeed God's servant. But God planned to put him to one more test—one that was the hardest of all.

At that time Abraham was living at a place called Beer-sheba, south of the land where Hagar and Ishmael had gone into the desert. Isaac had been growing up. Abraham was pleased with his son, and was thankful that God had given him this fine, young man.

Therefore Abraham was all the more shocked one day when he heard God call to him and say: "Take your son Isaac to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering!" (Gen. 22:2.)

Abraham could hardly believe what he had heard. But he obediently listened to God's instructions.

Early next morning Abraham had his servants prepare for the journey. He felt very sad when he saw them splitting the wood on which he was to offer his own son. The materials and provisions for the trip were loaded on a burro. Then Abraham and Isaac and two servants and the burro set out for Moriah.

Abraham had told Isaac and the servants that he was going to make a sacrifice to God. But he didn't tell anyone what that sacrifice was to be.

For more than two days they walked toward a certain high hill where Abraham had been told the sacrifice should take place. (Gen. 22:4.)

Meanwhile, many thoughts went through Abraham's mind. God had promised that through Isaac there would become nations whose people would be as many as the stars in the sky. But if Isaac weren't to live, how could this be? Would God bring Isaac back to life? And why should God ask him to give up this son in the first place? The sacrificing of sons and daughters was a terrible ceremony begun by Nimrod and practiced by certain idol worshippers in those days. Could it be that God wanted His followers to do the same?

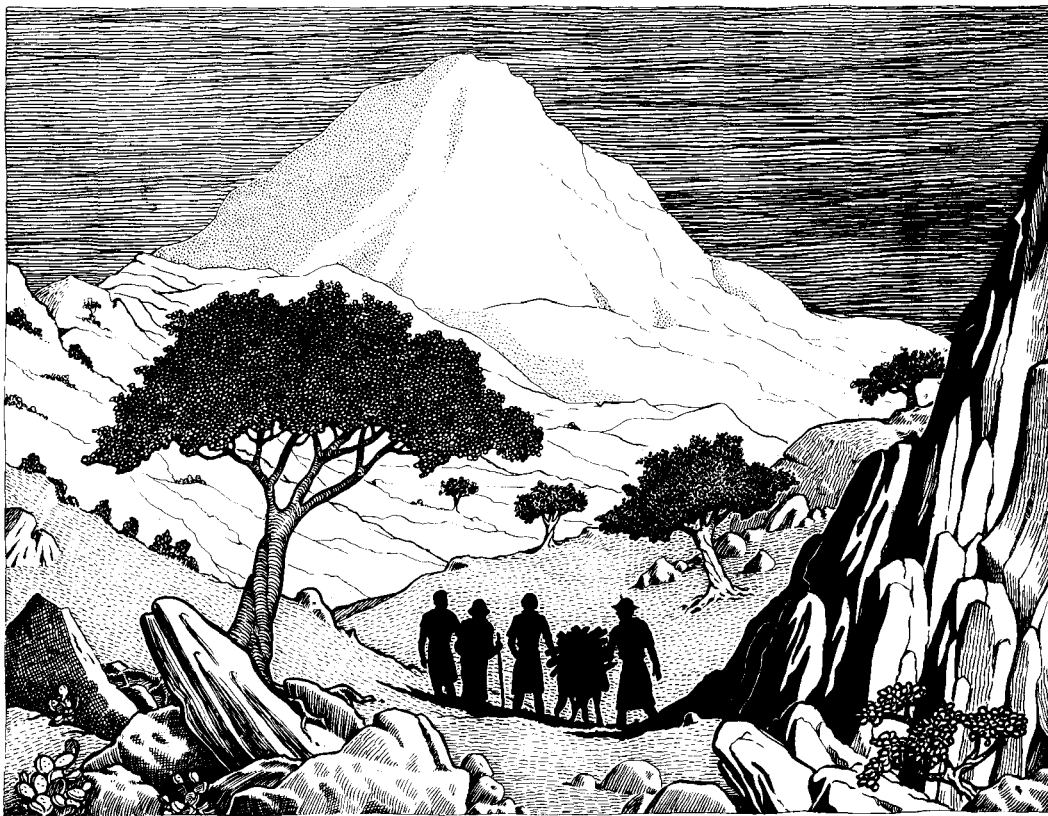
The more Abraham thought about these things, the more sorrowful he became.

But he did not argue with God or try to give excuses for not wanting to sacrifice his son. He knew that God was far wiser and more merciful than any human being, so he simply obeyed, no matter how he felt about what he was asked to do.

Abraham Obeys God Without Question

After two days of slow travel, Abraham sighted the high hill on which the human offering was to be made. After the group had reached a point close to the

On the third day of their journey, they sighted the mountain where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac.



base of the hill, Abraham said to his servants, "You two stay here with the burro. My son and I will go alone to worship." (Gen. 22:5.)

Carrying a knife, a torch, some rope and the wood for the fire, father and son set off for the top of the hill. Not knowing just what part he would have in the sacrifice, Isaac began to wonder what was to be offered.

"We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering," he asked his father. (Verse 7.)

"God will provide the lamb, my son," Abraham replied. (Verse 8.)

When they reached the top of the hill, Abraham picked out a brush-lined spot where the servants they had left behind could not see what would take place.

"Bring stones for the altar," Abraham said, and together they built up a flat pile of stones large enough for a person to lie upon. Abraham then arranged the wood on top of the stone altar.

At this point the Bible doesn't tell us exactly what happened. All the Bible tells us is that Abraham bound Isaac and put him on the altar. (Verse 9.) It appears likely that Abraham told Isaac at the last moment that he, Isaac, was to be the sacrifice, and that Isaac willingly let himself be put on the altar.

If Isaac did agree to lie upon the altar and be slain, then he was a most unusual and obedient young lad. If he didn't agree, it must have been quite a task for an old man well over a hundred years old to overcome a strong young man a hundred years younger.

However it happened, Abraham was the one who suffered most. With his son lying bound on the wood of the altar, he picked up the sharp knife with which to slay his son.

Isaac stared at the white knuckles of his aged father's shaking hand as it lifted the knife. Then he tore his gaze from the sharp point of the knife to his father's face. It was a sad face, because Abraham felt sure that within the next few minutes the son he loved so much would be dead. Abraham would have chosen to slay himself—but that was not what God had asked. And Abraham knew that no man can do better than to obey his Creator, no matter how hard it may be.

Isaac Rescued

Abraham tensed his arm for the blow.

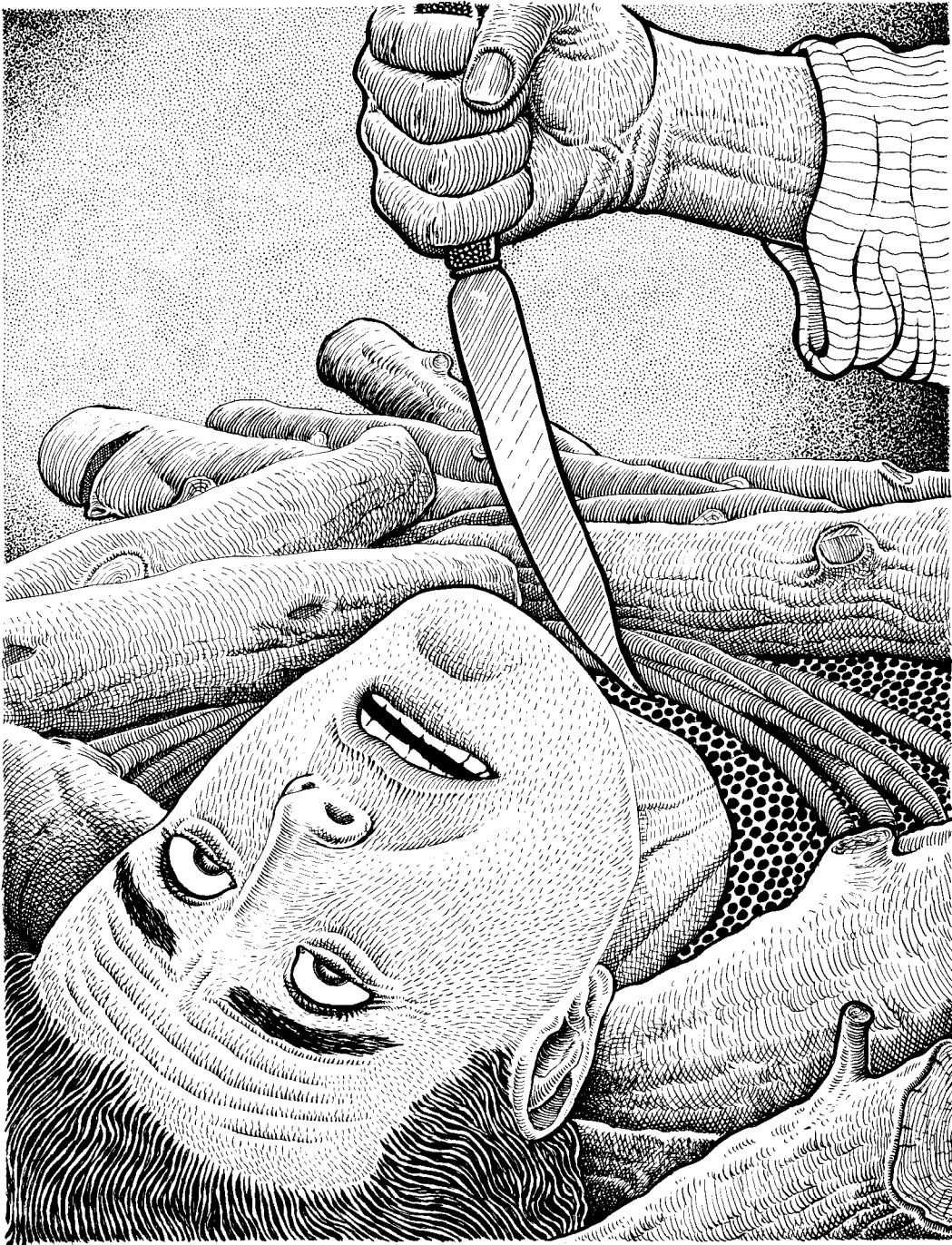
Then, just as he was about to run the knife blade into the flesh, a strong, clear voice called out Abraham's name!

Abraham stood motionless and listened.

"Do not harm Isaac," said the voice. "Because you have been willing to give up your son, I know that you fear me!" (Gen. 22:10-12.)

Abraham knew that God was speaking through an angel to him. He fell upon his knees, overcome with tears of joy and thankfulness that God had spared his son.

When at last he looked up, he saw a ram thrashing about in the brush nearby. The ram's horns were caught in the brush, so that it could not escape. Abraham knew God had provided the ram for the sacrifice in place of Isaac. (Verse 13.)



Abraham's quivering hand raised the sharp knife above Isaac's throat.

Isaac was a very thankful young man as his father slashed the ropes that bound him. Together, then, they prepared the ram and offered it to God.

Perhaps one might think that it was cruel of God to cause Abraham to almost slay Isaac. But God has always been loving and merciful—never cruel. Sometimes He gives some very hard tests to those who choose to obey Him, to prove their obedience or wisdom just as sometimes your school teacher or your parents give you tests to show how much you know and how willing you are to learn the right things and the right ways.

In Abraham's case it proved that Abraham loved God more than any other thing or person—even his own son. God already knew this. The proof was good for Abraham—and a good example for millions of Christians who would later learn and read of this event. It also pointed to a time two thousand years later when God Himself would be willing to give His only son, Jesus, to be killed because of all the evil things done by man.

But this is not all of the story!

Abraham's Descendants Promised GREAT Prosperity

Before Abraham and Isaac started back down the hill, the angel spoke again to Abraham:

"Because you have been willing to give up your son for Me," promised God, speaking through an angel, "I will indeed bless you. Your descendants will be *as many as the stars of the heavens* and as the sands of the seashore. They shall be able to conquer their enemies. All the nations of the world shall seek to be as PROSPEROUS as those who descend from you—and all because you have obeyed Me!"

Abraham's children are today numbered in the hundreds of millions, but most of them have forgotten who they are and why they are so prosperous today! Did you know that before?

Abraham and Isaac then walked back down the hill to where the two servants were waiting. They set out at once back to Beer-sheba, where Abraham and his family lived for quite a number of years. (Gen. 22:16-19.)

Later, Abraham moved to Hebron in the southern part of the land of Canaan. It was there that Sarah died at the age of one hundred and twenty-seven years. (Gen. 23:1-2.)

Not long before this happened, Abraham had bought a large field in that region. There was a cave in the field, and there he buried Sarah—the mother of many millions of people now living on this planet.

Perhaps you wonder why Abraham, who was a wealthy man with a great number of cattle, sheep and working animals, moved from one place to another so often. You might think that he would have been better off with a large house and huge

barns. For one thing, it was sometimes best to move from one location to another for the sake of the flocks. If there was not enough rain, the animals didn't have enough grass to eat. In that case Abraham simply pulled up his tents and herded his flocks to greener pastures.

The more important reason why Abraham lived in tents and moved about was that God directed him to move from one place to another. Most of the people in those countries didn't know much about God. They worshipped idols, and God didn't want Abraham or any of his family to fall in with the heathen ways of those people.

(To be continued in next issue)

REFORMATION

(Continued from page 14)

barrassing realization that *they were telling on themselves!*

For in one of the most easily understood passages in this inspired prophetic Book, God describes a great false religious system which was to arise and labels it "Babylon the Great" (Rev. 17:1-6).

In a typical sense, the Bible clearly identifies a "woman" with a *church*. In II Corinthians 11:2 and in Ephesians 5:23, Paul describes the true Church as being in the position of a *wife*.

Another reference to this identification is the well known prophecy concerning the *true* Church of God found in Revelation 12. Remember that Jesus spoke of His Church as the "little flock." He taught that it was to be *scattered and persecuted* (Mat. 10:16-23; John 15:18-20).

The Church of Revelation 12 is pictured as being *small and weak* of itself. It is pictured as having to *flee into the wilderness* during the Middle Ages (Rev. 12:5-6). Certainly this picture is exactly the *opposite* of the dominant, worldly, historical Catholic Church!

This is the Church the reformers *should* have united with, but did not. They *could not* because they *reject the authority of God's law!* For the true Church is here pictured as a small "remnant" of believers "which *keep the*

commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Verse 17).

In Revelation 19:7-9, the true Church is again pictured as a *woman*—the *bride* of Christ. She is arrayed in clean, white linen, which typifies "the *righteousness of saints*" (Verse 8).

Returning to Revelation 17, we see that the woman pictured here is a fallen woman—a "*great whore*." She sits upon "many waters." In verse 15, the prophecy itself identifies these waters as "*peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues*."

This fallen church, then, is a *great church*—ruling over many *nations and peoples*. She is accused of having "committed fornication" with the kings of the earth. Spiritually, that could only mean that she is guilty of mixing in the *politics and wars* of this world.

Christ said that His kingdom is *not of this world* (John 18:36). James speaks of those who participate in the material *lusts and wars* of this world as spiritual "*adulterers*" (James 4:1-4).

The prophecy now becomes plain! This apostate church is condemned because she has played politics and participated in the *warfare* of this world.

This fallen woman, or church, is arrayed in *purple and scarlet* colors. The purple symbolizes *royal power and dignity*. The scarlet signifies her *spiritual whoredom!*

She is a *wealthy* church "decked with gold and precious stones and pearls" (Verse 4). And, John writes: "I saw

the woman *drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration*" (Verse 6).

This church *cruelly persecuted and martyred* many of God's saints. But her *wealth, her power, and her royal majesty* inspired a sense of awe even in John! Later, God reveals: "The woman which thou sawest is that *great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth*" (Verse 18).

The Prophecy Fulfilled

All of these descriptions apply *perfectly* to the *Roman Catholic Church!* This is the church that has *persecuted* God's scattered people down through the ages. This is the church which has had its *own army*, and has actively participated in the *wars and politics* of this world!

Only the capital of Catholic "Christendom" at Rome could truly be called a "great city" which has *ruled* over the kings of this world. *There is no mistaking this identification!*

Alexander Hislop, in his remarkable book, *The Two Babylons*, states: "There never has been any difficulty in the mind of any enlightened Protestant in identifying the woman 'sitting on seven mountains,' and having on her forehead the name written, 'Mystery, Babylon the Great,' with the Roman apostacy (Hislop, p. 1).

He tells us: "It has been known all

along that Popery was baptised Paganism; but God is now making it manifest, that the Paganism which Rome has baptised is, in all its essential elements, *the very Paganism* which prevailed in the ancient literal Babylon, when Jehovah opened before Cyrus the two-leaved gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron" (Hislop, p. 2).

In this most enlightening work, Hislop proceeds to *prove* that indeed the Roman Catholic Church adopted the *philosophies*, the *traditions*, and the *church festivals* of the ancient *pagans*. Roman Catholicism is nothing more than *baptized paganism!*

Hislop states that "Rome is in very deed the Babylon of the Apocalypse, that the essential character of her system, the grand object of her worship, her *festivals*, her *doctrine* and *discipline*, her *rites* and *ceremonies*, her *priesthood*, and their orders, have all been derived from ancient Babylon" (*The Two Babylons*, p. 3).

No wonder God calls this system "Mystery, Babylon the Great"! The Roman Catholic system contains the very *same doctrines*, *rituals* and *pagan religious holidays* as the ancient, heathen city of Babylon—so often used to typify *sin*.

But thus far we have left out *two important points*. The first is that in describing this *great false church*, John states: "The inhabitants of the earth have been made *drunk* with the wine of her fornication" (Rev. 17:2). Hislop reveals that in the original Babylonian religion, the worshippers were *literally made drunk* so that they would favorably receive the pagan "mysteries" (Hislop, p. 5).

This indicates that, as this entire chapter is speaking spiritually, the worshippers of Rome are made *spiritually drunk* so that they cannot see spiritual truths clearly. God says: "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 18:3).

These poisonous teachings and false concepts have crept into *every civilized nation on earth*. The peoples of the earth have become *spiritually drunk* on these false doctrines!

When people approach the Bible and spiritual truths they become *mixed up*,

confused and *divided*.

"Babylon" literally means *confusion*. It is *great confusion!* It is "Babylon the Great"!

And doesn't this typify what we have seen of the Protestant reformers—arguing, bickering, *divided* even among themselves? And doesn't this describe the mixed-up, self-contradictory course taken by Luther, Calvin and the other reformers?

The reformers were actually rebelling against only a *small part* of the Roman Catholic teachings. And they were as men *spiritually drunk*—not knowing where they wanted to go, or how they get there—still guided and misled by a background of *paganized* Roman doctrines and concepts. And, as we have seen, when they *came out* of the Roman Catholic Church they brought *most* of her teachings and traditions right along with them.

The Protestant Movement Identified

Now we should be able to understand clearly the *full* name and description of this whole apostate system!

It is given in Revelation 17:5: "And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the *Mother of Harlots* and *Abominations* of the Earth."

The corrupt Roman "mother" church has given birth to *harlot daughters!* If the clear, consistent principles of Scriptural identification are to be honestly applied, the Protestant churches are "harlot daughters" of a paganized, apostate Rome!

They *came out of her* in protest. But, as we have clearly seen, they retained *most* of her pagan doctrines and concepts. They are still following Rome's example of mixing in the *politics* and *wars* of this world. And we have seen abundant *Protestant* testimony that they recognize her as their "mother" church!

One Protestant historian comments on Luther: "He started out to inaugurate a Church composed of those who had faith and spiritual vision, and who revealed an ability and power to proclaim the Word of God. But, in reality, he left in full operation a large relic of the *ancient creeds*, an extensive 'rump' of *superstition*, *tradition* and *magic*, and a heavy inheritance of external author-

ity" (Jones, *The Church's Debt to Heretics*, p. 228).

As Dr. Jones clearly implies, the Protestants still retain *many pagan doctrines* and *traditions* which they inherited from Rome. We have observed that some of these false traditions involve the *pagan holidays* which the early Catholics adopted and gave Christian sounding names. We ought to *look into these things!*

The Protestant churches stand *clearly identified* by God Almighty as the "*harlot daughters*" of apostate Rome!

Speaking of this entire Babylonish system, God commands: "*Come out of her*, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

The question is whether or not we will *obey our Maker!*

The Real Meaning of the Reformation

In evaluating the *real meaning* of the Protestant Reformation, we must bear in mind *God's* purpose—not merely the purposes and standards of mortal men.

We are forced to conclude that the Reformation certainly did *not* lead men to "the Bible *only*" as Chillingworth would have us believe. And, even in essence, the Reformation did *not* return men to "the faith once delivered" (Jude 3).

Even on some of the side issues of public morality, the reformers were *very grievously disappointed* at the first fruits of their labours. "Such catastrophes as the Peasants' War and the monstrous behaviour of the wilder Anabaptists, to say nothing of the bitter controversies among the Protestants themselves, were disquieting enough, without adding to the account any deterioration, real or supposed, in the morality of private individuals" (Plummer, *The Continental Reformation*, p. 184).

In *spiritual drunkenness*, groping their way out of apostate Rome, the reformers were not guided by the same *Spirit of God* that empowered the original apostles to *change men's lives*. We must remember that they were only *transferring authority* to themselves *within* the same pagan system. Naturally, the spiritual "fruits" do not compare with

inspired, apostolic Christianity.

"To a large extent the true way of stating the case is not that the teaching of the Reformers had made men worse, but, that it had *failed to make them better*. And it is here that the parallel between the Reformation and the first preaching of the Gospel breaks down" (Plummer, p. 189).

However, although they *completely failed* to restore the true religion of Jesus Christ, we may correctly say that Luther and the other reformers were used to accomplish at least two very worthwhile purposes. First, they freed men from the *binding authority* of the Catholic Church, and the superstitious *fear* under which they were continually held (Plummer, p. 136). And, secondly, misdirected as it sometimes was, they did give all men more real encouragement to *read the Bible for themselves*.

Even in the accomplishment of these two purposes, they were often aided by outside forces. The most potent of these was the *Renaissance*, which was already beginning to stir men to think for themselves even before the Reformation proper began, and the growth of *nationalism*, which was a powerful aid in breaking down *any* universal church authority.

We must acknowledge that in freeing men's minds from *some* error, the reformers added *much* error of their own devising. They did *not* turn men to the *truth*. Rather, they turned them to independent, *self-willed human reason*.

This has *multiplied* the already existing *religious confusion*. As we stated at the beginning of this thesis, the Protestant Reformation has spawned a veritable "babylon" of religious denominations, sects and religious movements.

This is *not* the "unity of the Spirit." This is *not* the one true Church Jesus Christ said He would build (Mat. 16:18).

Perhaps the only reason that Almighty God has allowed such confusion to exist in this age is so that the *true* Church of Revelation 12, Jesus' "little flock," may be permitted to carry the real *message* of Christ to the world just before He comes again.

For Jesus, the Son of God, said: "And this *gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a *witness*

unto all nations; and *then shall the end come*" (Mat. 24:14).

Meanwhile, God tells us that we *should strive* to recapture "the faith once delivered." *We should live* "by every word of God."

And in His Word, God describes this *apostate, divided* Catholic-Protestant religious system as "Babylon the Great." He commands us: "*Come out of her*" (Rev. 18:4).

God help you to HEED what you have learned from this article! If you are *not afraid* of the TRUTH, be sure to read the exciting sequel to this series in next month's PLAIN TRUTH. It will show you *what to do* about the knowledge which has been revealed to you. It will reveal FACTS about God's *plan*, about *prophecy*, about His *true Church* which you never understood before.

DON'T RUN from the *truth*! The END of this age is *near*! "The kingdom of God is at hand, *repent ye*, and *believe* the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

Letters to Editor

(Continued from page 2)

stamps, as I am not doing anything to help myself at present. I am preaching what I learn from you. Kindly help me with good books to conduct Bible studies with. People took all my booklets to study them."

A native minister in
Rhodesia, Central Africa.

Is not this a wonderful, heartwarming letter?

TITHING under New Covenant

(Continued from page 18)

And "*no man*," said Jesus, "has ascended to heaven." You can't go there. You can't *see* God, or hand your money to Him *Personally*. How, then, can you pay Him HIS TITHE?

Well, some large corporations, perhaps in a distant city, cannot be directly contacted by their many customers. And so they send around representatives, *collectors*, to collect for them what you owe the company. The collector comes in the name of the company. When you

pay the money which really belongs to the company to the collector, you have paid the company.

God's system of collecting from you HIS tithe is just that simple. Since you cannot see God, or go to God's throne in heaven, God instructs you in His revealed Word to pay it to HIS REPRESENTATIVE, who, in receiving it, represents God just as a collector to whom you pay a debt represents the company to whom you owe it.

And when you pay such a bill to a collector, you consider you paid THE COMPANY—not that you made a personal donation of your own money to the man the company sent. You paid it as TO THE COMPANY. From there on it is the COMPANY'S responsibility what happens to that money, not yours. And the company pays the collector his salary. He does not consider that *you* paid his salary—he receives his salary *as from the company*.

This illustrates plainly God's true principle of tithing. When you pay tithes today you are instructed by God's directions to pay them to God's called and chosen representative—the true minister of Jesus Christ. But you pay it, *not* as a personal contribution of *your own money* to a minister—but AS TO GOD. The minister represents GOD—receives not your money but GOD'S money from you *for* God.

Here again so many in this modern world have lost sight of God's clear directions. When they give the tithe to a minister they seem to feel it is a special entrusting of *their own money*, and they make it their duty to try to supervise *how* the minister handles it—even, in some cases today, down to the supervision of what the minister and his family may eat, or wear, or have in their personal private family life!

When YOUR Responsibility Ceases

But God's revealed principle is quite different. That first tenth of your income is *not yours*—never was yours! It *belongs to God*. And the method God himself instituted for your payment of His money *to Him* is to pay it to His called and true ministers.

When you have done that, *your responsibility for that money ceases*! You have no further concern, responsibility,

or direction in the handling of it than you have in money you owe the electric power or the telephone companies which you pay to their collector. Once paid, you have **DONE YOUR PART**—you have *acquitted* yourself of *your obligation*.

Of course you are expected to be sure the collector is the company's approved representative—not a thieving imposter *pretending* to be the company collector. And you should be equally sure you are paying your tithe to a called and **TRUE** minister of Jesus Christ. Satan has many more ministers today than Christ—and Satan's thieving imposters pose as ministers of Jesus Christ, put on sanctimonious airs, speak in pious and spiritual-sounding language! How are you to know? **BY THEIR FRUITS**, Jesus said, you shall know them! The **FRUITS** of God's Spirit, and of Christ's true ministry cannot be counterfeited!

So when you pay tithes to God's true and accredited spiritual representative, you pay it *as to God*. It is not a charitable gift from you to the minister. It is not *your* money—but rather it is God's way for you to pay to **GOD** that which **BELONGS TO GOD**.

And from there on, the minister who receives it *is accountable to God*. And you may be sure that **GOD'S** justice is **PERFECT**—that **GOD** Almighty will hold every minister *far more strictly accountable than you would be capable of doing!*

What **GOD** Does With His Tithe

Once paid, so far as you are concerned, you have paid **GOD'S** tithe to **GOD**.

The question now is *what does GOD do with it?*

And the answer, which we will show by the Scriptures inspired of God, is that God uses it **FOR HIS MINISTRY**—for **CARRYING ON HIS WORK!**

Now the *nature* of God's ministry on earth has changed with changing dispensations. Not much is revealed as to how God's ministry was carried on back in patriarchal times. We know Melchisedec was High Priest—that He held rank equal to that of Jesus Christ, actually one of the Godhead! The ministry, then, must have been of a *spiritual* nature. New Testament writings reveal that the **GOSPEL**, God's Spiritual Mes-

sage, was preached beforehand to Abraham. All we know of those days of the dim distant antiquity is that the tithes were paid to Melchisedec, a divine Being, for the service of God's ministry for that time.

But beginning with Moses a new and different dispensation was ushered in. God formed Israel as a civil nation, and also as a church (see Acts 7:38). But between Moses and Christ under the Old Covenant, God's ministry was purely *national*, for *Israel* alone—and purely **MATERIAL**, not spiritual.

As a Church, or Congregation, Israel was given a constant round of physical ceremonies and rituals—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal ordinances (see Heb. 9:10) — which, **NOTE IT!**—means of a material, not a spiritual nature. Israel under the Old Covenant was not given God's Holy Spirit. They had no promise whatsoever of salvation, astonishing as that may seem! They were not commanded to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to other nations. On the contrary, they were forbidden to have anything to do with other nations!

Consequently, the church ministry in Israel was one of ministering to *all* Israelites, and to Israelites *only*. There was no spreading of the Gospel. The ministry, rather, was largely a matter of physical labor—preparing animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, administering the different washings and physical ordinances and rituals. For this service, God Himself selected His ministers—the people had no choice as to who their ministers were. For this service, God took **ONE WHOLE TRIBE** of the twelve tribes of Israel—the Tribe of Levi. Every man born a Levite was a priest, or minister.

The Levites owned no land—had no secular source of income—devoted their entire time to the physical ministry of that dispensation. Yet, tho a physical ministry, this service was sacred and holy to God. And during these years from Moses to Christ *God Himself paid His Levitical priests by turning over to them all of His Tithe*.

Today, we are in the age of **GRACE**, the **NEW** Testament **GOSPEL** dispensation. Today, the Levitical priesthood is gone, and **JESUS CHRIST** is High Priest.

Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are *called* by special spiritual call from God thru His Holy Spirit—not by flesh birth—not by self-desire to become a minister—not by selection, appointment, or vote of the people.

Jesus Christ came as God's **MESSENGER**, bearing a Spiritual Message from God to man. That Message of His **GOSPEL**—the Good News of the coming **KINGDOM OF GOD**, a kingdom of immortals which human flesh and blood can never enter! *One must be born again!*

The Work of God Today Is Financed God's Way

And today, Christ's *commission* to all His true ministers is "Go ye into all the world, and **PREACH THE GOSPEL**" . . . "Go ye, therefore, and teach **ALL NATIONS**." And, for our day *now*. "This **GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the **END** (of the age) come."

Today the ministry is a **SPIRITUAL** ministry—a ministry of **PROPHECY**—a ministry of **SALVATION**—a ministry of **WARNING!** Today it is not physical and national, but spiritual and *individual*—it is not for *everyone* in a single nation, but for a witness **UNTO ALL NATIONS**.

Today, in these critical, chaotic days approaching the **END OF AN AGE**, the carrying on of God's true ministry is a *world-wide* mission, which must reach **MILLIONS** of people, and *quickly*, for the "night cometh when no man can work."

Today Christ's true ministry is a huge undertaking. It requires, not the mere financing of the personal needs of a few ministers, but the employing of tremendous available facilities for **PROCLAIMING THE WORLD-SHAKING WARNING**—for **PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM** into **ALL THE WORLD FOR A WITNESS UNTO ALL NATIONS!**

And these super-powered facilities God has invented and made available for **HIS PURPOSE**—great, powerful radio stations, and the modern printing press—cost a great deal of money, because they reach vast multitudes of people never before possible in any past age!

Today, God has **PROVIDED** for the

financing of His powerful ministry by the same system He has used from the very beginning—His TITHING system!

Thus Almighty God has purposed that **THOSE WHOM HE HAS SPECIALLY FITTED AND CALLED** for this tremendous mission in this chaotic and dying world may be **FREE** to proclaim **HIS TRUTH** fearlessly, boldly, and with **GREAT POWER!**

They cannot be subsidized, controlled, coerced by men or organizations of men. They are not hired by, nor obligated to, men or any organized group or denomination. They are called by God, guided, protected, and empowered by God, financed by **GOD'S OWN TITHING SYSTEM!**—yes, by **GOD'S OWN MONEY!**

That is how **THE PLAIN TRUTH** is published—without subscription price, **FREE** to all who will request it for themselves.

That is how the true **GOSPEL** Message is going out in great power around the world.

That is God's way, carrying out God's Plan in **HIS GREAT PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW!** We—and all our co-workers together—are happy to be privileged by the Eternal God to each have our small part in so glorious a work for **HIM!**

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 10)

stantly I applied all my strength to counteract it, and keep steering straight ahead. My strength was of no avail. Some unseen force was turning that steering wheel *against* all my strength. The car had turned to the right into the street one block east of the home of the cripple.

I was frightened. Never before had I experienced anything like this. I stopped the car by the curb. I didn't know what to make of it.

It was too late to back into traffic-heavy Foster Road.

"Well," I thought, "I'll drive to the end of this block and turn left, and then back onto Foster Road."

But, a long block south on this street, it turned right *only*. There was no street turning east. In getting back on to Foster Road I was now compelled to drive past the home of the cripple.

"Could it possibly be that an angel

forced the steering wheel to turn me in here?" I wondered, somewhat shaken by the experience. I decided I had better stop in at the cripple's home a moment, to be sure.

I found him stricken with blood poisoning. The red line was nearing his heart.

I told them what had happened.

"I know, now," I said, "that God sent an angel to turn me in here. I believe that God wants me to pray for you—that He will heal you of this blood poisoning to show you His power, and then give you one more chance to repent and be willing to obey Him. And if you will do that, then He will straighten out your twisted spine and heal you completely.

"So now, if you want me to do so, I will pray for you and ask God to heal you of this blood poisoning. But I will *not* ask God to heal your spine unless and until you repent and show willingness to obey whatever you yourself see God commands."

They were now desperate. He probably had about twelve hours to live. They were not joking and jesting lightly about the "good times" at "pentecostal meetin'." They wanted me to pray.

I was not an ordained minister, so I did not anoint with oil. I had never yet in my life prayed aloud before others. I explained this to them, and said I would simply lay hands on the man and pray silently, as I did not want any *self-consciousness of praying aloud* for the first time to interfere with real earnestness and faith. I did have absolute faith he would be healed of the blood-poisoning.

He was.

I returned the next day. The blood-poisoning had left him immediately when I prayed. But, to my very great sorrow and disappointment, they were once again filled with levity, and sarcasm about God's law. Again they were jestingly talking about having a "good time" at church.

There was no more I could do. It was one of the greatest disappointments of my life. I never saw or heard from any of them again.

You will read of astounding answers to prayer as we continue in these early experiences of the Christian life in the next issue.

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