

The Good News

The National Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

*Here is irrefutable evidence that identifies the ONE TRUE
CHURCH—the church Jesus said He WOULD build!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

CAN YOU really *prove* to yourself, and to others who may be willing to learn, that you are in *God's* church? Can you show—step by step—how totally *different* God's church is from all others, and *why* it is different?

God commands Christians to "*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3).

This church—God's church—is doing that. Through God's calling you have been led to realize that the message you hear on "The World Tomorrow" broadcast, and the articles you read in The PLAIN TRUTH are the very work of God—that they are the direct instruments of the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth.

And *now*, through the articles in *The GOOD NEWS* magazine, and perhaps after attending some of the annual festivals, you have come to realize that this is not only *God's work*—but also *His Church—THE VERY CHURCH JESUS SAID HE WOULD BUILD* (Mat. 16:18).

But we know there are *many* churches which claim to be the true church—the church Jesus built. In past articles, we have already shown you *absolute PROOF* that *God's church* began on the day of Pentecost, June 18, 31 A.D.—not on some other date which groups of men

pretending to be God's church have concocted *contrary to the scriptural revelation*. And we have set forth the historical evidence which reveals that God's church has continued from the time of Christ until now, and that it has *always* remained *faithful* to the basic teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

Vital Knowledge

Now you are about to read *seven basic truths* which identify God's church and set it apart from all others. *No other people on earth have ALL SEVEN*—or, for that matter, even *three*—of these fundamental principles, *except GOD'S CHURCH, our church*.

Some smaller churches and sects do seem to have more of the truth than the great denominations. But *NONE* has more than *one* or *two* of these seven fundamentals correct—and even these points they usually twist or distort because they fail to understand their relation to *God's plan* as a whole.

STUDY these *seven principles* carefully. They will help you recognize *God's people* wherever you may find them—in church history, or in different individuals or groups you may hear about or come in contact with.

Most important, this knowledge

should cause you to understand as never before the *GREAT GULF* that exists between *God's church* and all others—that this is not just "another church" or a "new idea"—but *the very church Jesus built!*

Knowing these principles will help you prove this to others who may be sincerely trying to find *God's truth!*

Jesus said that in the end time, *our time*, "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, *if it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect" (Mat. 24:24).

It is the solemn duty of God's called ministers to feed His sheep, the "elect," with the spiritual "meat" they need so they may grow to *spiritual maturity*, and *cannot* be deceived. And it is *your* responsibility to *study*, and *prove* these truths so that you may *never be deceived* in this time when the Devil himself is stirred against God's people and is trying in every possible way to deceive or mislead them.

So *STUDY* these points carefully!

(1) God Is Ruler

The first point which God's church recognizes as no other is that God is supreme *RULER* of the universe, the world,

His church, and our individual lives *here and NOW*.

In Daniel's time, God abased the great king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, by causing him to become insane and to dwell with wild beasts, "till he *knew* that the most high *God* RULED in the kingdom of men, and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will" (Dan. 5:21).

In Acts 17:16-31, we read the account of how Paul spoke of God to the heathen philosophers at Athens. He told them that God: "Hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the *times* before appointed and the *bounds* of their habitation" (verse 26). Here we find it is *God* who determines the *times* of a peoples greatness, and *HE* sets the BOUNDS of their territory.

Throughout the Bible, it is revealed that *God's purpose stands—He alone RULES supreme*. And if man wishes to continue living, he must learn to OBEY that rule!

No matter what the atheists, the doubters, the modernists, and those who follow man's traditions think, we in *God's church* must both *learn* and *live* this truth first of all.

Rules Church

The *rule of God* also operates in His church. While men have concocted every imaginable type of church government, the Bible sets forth the *true* form clearly.

God's government is always from the *top* down. Jesus Christ is the *LIVING head* of the church. Paul was inspired to write that God, "gave him (Christ) to be the *head* over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22). And again, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as *Christ is the HEAD of the church*" (Eph. 5:23).

In I Cor. 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11 we find listed the offices God has set in His church. In Ephesians, the account is more complete in regard to the offices of authority in the church. We read: "And he (Christ) gave some, *apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and *teachers*; FOR the *perfecting* of the saints, for the work of the body of Christ."

We find in the New Testament examples that the prophets had no authority to rule the church or direct the work of others in the ministry—*unless* they also held an administrative office in the church.

Offices of Authority

So that means that the officers of authority in *God's form of church government* are: First, *apostles*, whom we find are directly chosen of God for that office and who are in authority over all lesser

offices in God's church. They are responsible to Christ—the *living, active HEAD* of the church—for instructing, correcting, and directing the church, and for organizing and supervising the carrying out of the gospel ministry of the church.

Secondly, there are *evangelists*, who are *appointed* and *trained* by the apostles, whose authority they are under. In the New Testament church, they were usually younger men such as Timothy and Titus, and would often accompany and assist the apostles in their ministry—sometimes being sent on a mission alone or stationed in one place temporarily as a presiding pastor over other local pastors and elders.

Third, there are *pastors*, who preside over and preach to local congregations. They are under the authority of the evangelists and may be appointed by them.

Fourth, there are *teachers*, who are non-preaching *elders* under the authority of the pastors, but who may preside over and direct and teach the local congregations if there is no preaching minister available. These would usually be lay members of the congregation, but are nevertheless in an office of authority in God's church and have their share of responsibility in *directing, edifying, and protecting* God's church—the "little flock."

The term "elder" is usually applied to this last class of non-preaching ministers, but it is also a general term applied to one in *any* of the four principal administrative offices mentioned above. Even the apostle Peter was "also an *elder*" (I Pet. 5:1).

Beside these administrative offices there are various "helps" and "governments" (or *governors*) mentioned in I Cor. 12. These would include deacons and deaconesses, and many others who serve in the work of the gospel—perhaps without any specific title—but nonetheless laying up for themselves great "treasure" in heaven.

As explained in previous articles in *The GOOD NEWS*, the apostles, evangelists, and elders have been given authority by Christ to *RULE* His church. They are given authority to "bind" or "loose"—applying *God's laws*—NOT human reason—to specific cases within the church. Occasionally, as in the council mentioned in Acts 15, they must make a *binding decision* regarding some particular point which may not be clearly and specifically explained in the Bible.

In all these matters, they are to seek God's guidance and seek *His* will. Christ has "set in office, and He is responsible to guide them in *ruling* His church.

This is *God's government* in His church, and all who are truly converted will OBEY that government. But it is all to be administered in *LOVE*, and for the

edification and spiritual perfection of all concerned.

Denominations of men have "congregational," "episcopal," and many other *human* devised forms of church government. But they *will not* have God's form.

This thing of *government and obedience* is *VITAL* to God. It is the very basis of God's plan in preparing us for His kingdom. And He will guide us only if we do things *His way*.

No other church on earth has God's form of church government! No other church is really RULED by God and belongs to Him!

God Rules Our Lives

Many people acknowledge, at least in theory, that God is over-all Ruler of the world and of His church. But they have not yet fully learned that if we are ever to be "saved"—born into God's kingdom, He must literally *RULE* our individual, personal lives.

Jesus Christ said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word of God*" (Luke 4:4). Jesus *magnified* that Word and showed how we are to live even by the *spirit* or *intent* of God's Word.

God's church is composed of those individuals "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17).

God repeats this same principle in Rev. 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

A real Christian will *obey* God's commandments and he will have the very faith of Jesus—he will have Christ living *His* life in him through the Holy Spirit. And remember: "Jesus Christ the *SAME* yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). So He will be keeping the *same* weekly and annual Sabbaths, observing the *same* kind of *zealous, totally-surrendered* life that He did nearly two thousand years ago when He trod this earth in human flesh.

A truly converted person will *obey* even the *least* of the commandments, for as Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the *least* in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall *do and* teach them, the same shall be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 5:19).

Such a Christian will seek to glorify God in *everything*—in the way he walks, talks, dresses, in the manner he does his work, in the way he sits down, stands up, closes a door. In *every* thought, word, and action he will seek to do it as Jesus would—praying for His guidance constantly, and earnestly *studying* God's Word to find more *instruction*, correction
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Nazi Underground Plots in Britain!

by Herman L. Hoeb

I HAVE just arrived from London with news that ought to startle you! In London I expected to hear the languages of many lands uttered on street corners and in hotel lobbies. For there are always travelers from India, Africa, Arabia and the European continent—not to mention the American with his accent!

But the MOST IMPORTANT tongue I heard was that of the *German*.

It is astounding to realize the *influence* of German traders and commercial agents abroad—in England as elsewhere. And to think that only ten years have elapsed since World War II ended.

The "Forgotten" Germans

It seems that in Western dealings with the German nation there are always the "forgotten" Germans. They are forgotten because of a peculiar *blindness* which afflicts our way of thinking. This blindness has produced two fundamental errors.

Our *first* error developed during the past World War. Almost everyone ended up hating *all* Germans. It became a *racial* matter quite different from our present attitude toward Russia—which is to distinguish between the communist *party* and the Russian *people*. Nearly everyone wanted to forget the minority of "good" Germans—those who did not agree with Hitler—those who did not join the Nazi Party even under duress. Those were the "forgotten" Germans!

But everything is *changed NOW*—there is a *new* class of "forgotten" Germans—the *Nazi businessmen abroad*. And this leads us to our *second* error.

Blind hatred breeds *ignorance*—it breeds an unwillingness to face reality. Millions hated "good" Germans and "bad" Germans alike. Then the *REALITY* dawned! The millions became conscious that they shouldn't have hated as they did. How were they to rectify their mistake? By facing reality? Not at all!

But by *TRUSTING all* Germans—the "bad" as well as the "good." This is our *second* error and it will prove our undoing!

"Ex-Nazis" Become Businessmen Abroad

In Britain, as elsewhere, the people

have tried hard to forget the stern realities of the past. Almost universally the people are being swayed by *American influence* into following the mistaken concept that the last war reformed the minds and hearts of Germans everywhere.

The die-hard Nazis are taking advantage of this attitude.

The British equivalent of the American F.B.I.—Scotland Yard—and provincial detectives have uncovered mountains of evidence of secret Nazi gatherings in Great Britain. Many of these secret meetings have been held in such important cities as Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, according to published reports.

Those in attendance are mainly German students, who have been granted opportunities to study in Britain, and German girls, who work in hospitals, private homes, or as teachers. Though these young people were too young to join the Nazi Party in the height of its power, they provide excellent material for Nazi indoctrination.

The leader of these Nazi cells now being organized is a 40-year-old German who poses as a commercial traveler. When questioned by newsmen he bluntly denied that he was a Nazi—or that he spoke German or had ever been to Germany. He resided in England during the last war—just in case Hitler would lose. His attempts to revive the defunct Nazi regime are obvious. He is in contact, through a woman companion, with Otto Strasser, former leader of the German "Strasser Party," a segment within the Hitler Party, and with Wolfgang Sarg, present leader of the Nazi Revivalist Party.

When questioned by William Blackley, of the *Sunday Chronicle*, about his connections, he said: "The Germans are our good friends. *Britain has agreements with Germany that prove it.*" The Communists are the menace. Why should I direct a Nazi Party in Britain while we have such a brotherhood with the German nation?"

German Efficiency Provokes Admiration

Together with Germany's "peace" of offensive, German efficiency has inspired mighty admiration abroad—from both

British and American onlookers. And the die-hard Nazis are taking advantage of this influence too. Rather than being antagonized by competition, our people are being induced to expand German economy as a means of protection against Communist aggression.

As Mr. A. V. Sellwood recently wrote: "Let us face it, they"—by that he meant the Germans—"they work far harder than the average Briton. They are efficient too. . . . There can be *no* stopping the Germans in their *MARCH TOWARDS PROSPERITY THROUGH SHEER DETERMINATION, SKILL, AND RESOURCEFULNESS.* The *whole world* will feel their competition.

"And with this revival of German industrial might there may develop the old ambition to be a great military power once again."

He continues: "I do know that those old enemies must now be treated as friends—however much *doubt* there may be in our hearts of the *wisdom* of it.

"Whether we like it or not: we have to *TRUST THE GERMANS.* There is no alternative."

This is the typical British and American attitude. It is a *GRAVE MISTAKE.*

We never really corrected our first mistake—our failure to distinguish between good and bad. And so we are making the *SAME* mistake *again*—failing to distinguish between the bad and the good, humanly speaking.

We do not want to face the reality that, underneath the surface, Nazism lies sprouting in the hearts of millions; and that many German businessmen are foreign agents.

The Hand of the Catholic Church in Politics

Whenever we speak of a Nazi revival, we do *NOT* mean the same kind of Nazism that was totally defeated ten years ago. That form of fascism cannot be revived again. Instead, we see the form of a different Nazism emerging, a form guided by the hand of the Papacy.

For example, the German Secret Service is trailing the underground Nazi organizations and has dispersed several attempts at reviving the party *politically.* Behind this Secret Service move is the

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*ministering to its members
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 at Ambassador College*

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Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

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tion, and reproof for ourselves.

Yes, there are religious bodies who observe the Sabbath, or who observe the proper mode of baptism, or who believe in this or that other point of truth.

But there is only *one* church whose real members must be willing to go *all the way* for God—who are willing to do *anything* that God commands in His Word—and who are willing to *grow* continually in truth and *obey* it.

This church is *God's* church, and—I hope—*your* church. It alone is *totally RULED* by God.

(2) The Three Signs

There are three identifying signs that point to God's true church. Certain denominations may possess *one*, or in rare cases *two*, of these signs. But only *God's* church has them all. Taken together, they constitute the *second proof* of God's church.

The best-known of these signs is the *weekly Sabbath*. In Mark 2:27-28, Jesus said: "The sabbath was made for *man*"—*all mankind*—and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Then the *sabbath* is the "Lord's day"—the day He is Lord of. *Jesus said so!*

After all, Jesus Christ actually *created* the Sabbath! For we read in John 1:3: "*All things* were made by him" (the Word who became Christ).

When Christ, who was the "Lord" of the Old Testament (I Cor. 10:4), called Israel to be His chosen people, He gave them the Sabbath as an *identifying sign* to keep them in everlasting remembrance of Him as their Creator and God. Although Israel continually broke the Sabbath and most of the world in the so-called "Christian" era has refused to keep it, Jesus *did* keep it setting us an example (Luke 4:16). The apostles and the early true church kept it, and it is now an identifying sign for *spiritual* Israelites (Gal. 3:29 and 6:16).

Some churches observe the Sabbath who are *not* God's churches—even the orthodox, Christ-rejecting Jews still keep it. But we automatically *know* that any church which does *not* keep the Sabbath *CANNOT be God's church!* It is rejecting the principal identifying SIGN of God.

The *second sign* is the keeping of the *annual Sabbaths* or *Holy Days* of God. These began to be instituted *before* the Old Covenant was ever made with Israel (Exodus 12 and 13). They were later
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Nazi Underground Plots

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influence of the Vatican. The Church learned through the last war not to let a political party master the State completely. The Church hereafter intends to remain SUPREME by balancing off the State and the common people. This struggle is NOW taking place in Argentina, where the Church does not intend to let Perón run the country single-handed. The Vatican will *force* the Argentine dictator to come to terms and sign a concordat granting the Church special privileges.

The Church intends to do the same with the Nazi revivalists! Despite the thorough and extensive underground work of secret Nazi leaders, the Catholic Church will see to it that Nazism will never again rise to power *by itself*. The Church is already testing its strength in Argentina and *when* it wins it will have rooted out the last fascist dictator who has stood in her path.

Don't think the Nazis in Argentina are oblivious to what is occurring in Argentina. They are watching to see which way the wind is blowing. When they see that the Church has the power to uproot dictators, they will know that their only hope is through an ALLIANCE WITH THE VATICAN on the Church's terms.

This is what you must WATCH!

The Nazi underground will employ its *economic, military* and *political* power *only as the Catholic Church determines*. What is coming might be aptly described as the last revival of *political Catholicism* with its dreaded INQUISITION!

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 KMBC, Channel 9—10:30 P.M.
 HOUSTON, TEXAS
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Correct ME!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

DO YOU like to be told you're **WRONG** about something? Chances are, you don't. Most human beings do not like to be told they're wrong! Possibly you've heard it said that one of the most difficult things for a human being to do is to admit that he's been wrong. A truer statement was never made!

To the complacent "man on the street" with the self-satisfied "this is the way I look at it" idea, it never occurs that perhaps there is something terribly **WRONG** with him! Has this thought *ever* occurred to *you*? Most of us can **READILY** see the mistakes of others, and that fact is hardly necessary to repeat—because we all know it! We're anxious to *criticize*. We frequently voice our "opinions" about prices, about taxes, and wages. We become annoyed with our Government, with our neighbor, with our friends and relatives. But—**HAVE WE EVER BECOME ANNOYED WITH OURSELVES?**

The barber-shop philosophers of the world are **AWARE** that something is wrong somewhere. Most of them **KNOW** there need to be some changes made. But to the "average" person engulfed in the struggle of making ends meet, and of earning a wage, there has never occurred the thought that maybe *he* is terribly **WRONG** about something. Stop and think! Have you **EVER** heard someone say to a friend: "I'm terribly upset—I believe I've been **WRONG** about my beliefs, and I think I've made a **MISTAKE** in most of my opinions." Have you? I doubt it!

God's Word Corrects

Most of us are "uplifted" by the minister that will stand in front of the group and tell us how **WRONG** the rest of the world is. But are we willing to shake the minister's hand that will stand in the pulpit and shout at us that **WE'RE WRONG?**

Many people express it this way: "Church should be an enjoyable period of relaxation and rest from our daily existence—a *change*. We want the minister to help us with our problems, to give us that feeling of 'goodness' that helps us carry on through the week to come." But is that the **BIBLE** definition of a Church service? Let's investigate openly, and find out!

In II Timothy 3:16 we see that **ALL**

scripture is given by inspiration of God. We must all **AGREE** on that statement! But what of the *rest* of the verse? **READ IT!** ". . . and is profitable for doctrine, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for instruction in righteousness." **YES, ALL** scripture is **PROFITABLE** for correction and reproof!

How many of us tuck our Bibles under our arms as a weapon against all humanity **EXCEPT OURSELVES?** How many of us really know *how* to study our Bibles? Do you know there is a definite, clearly stated **PLAN** of Bible-study *revealed* in God's word? The Bible itself tells us **HOW** to study it!

Be Willing to CHANGE

We all would like to be called "sons" by our Almighty Heavenly Father, wouldn't we? God has revealed the way whereby we may be His sons through the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 55, vs. 6, 7 and 8, where the Almighty clearly tells us that we must *forsake our own ways and our own thoughts!* Then, after forsaking *our own ways*, or, in other words, after **REPENTING**, or **CHANGING** from the *old way*, God will forgive us of our past sins, and through His own freely given **GIFT** will empower us with His Holy Spirit, and begin dealing with us as His own **SONS!** (I John 3:1). After this **GIVING UP** of our own selves and our own human thoughts, ideas and *customs*, God will begin treating us as His very own children.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? *All* we have to do is to forsake *our own way!* But what then? Goal achieved?

Listen!

After this begettal as a very child of God, we are told then ". . . My *son*, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him" (Hebrews 12:5). But what is this? *After* we are made the very **SONS OF GOD**, He is going to **CHASTISE US!** This wonderful twelfth chapter of Hebrews continues to tell us: "For whom the Lord *loveth* he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Do you want this **SCOURGING?** Apparently not many today do—or admitting we are wrong would be one of the **EASIEST** things to do! To continue reading in Hebrews, ". . . If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father

chasteneth not?" **HOW PLAIN!** Read for yourself these *meaningful* words in your *own* Bible, and see how God deals with His own children!

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are *exercised* thereby." Yes, **EXERCISED** thereby! (I remember it was not too many years ago that the kind of chastening *I* received from my fleshly father was literal **EXERCISE!**) And so should our chastisement from our *Heavenly* Father become constant **EXERCISE!**

Be Truly Wise

Consider the definition of a *wise* man given by Solomon in Prov. 15:31. "The ear that heareth the *reproof* of life abideth among the *wise.*" So a person with *wisdom* is one who *accepts* and does not reject—**REPROOF**. The great wisdom of Solomon directed him by God's divine inspiration to write: "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke" (Prov. 13:1). However, **JUDGMENTS** are reserved for scorners (Prov. 19:29), and the Bible definition of a scorner is "one who will not hear reproof." So are we *scorners*, or the very *children of God?*

God's command to His ministers is to **CRY ALOUD**, spare not, lift up your voice and show my people their **SINS!** (Isa. 58:1). The Apostle Paul, exhorting Timothy in the faith said: "Preach the word . . . *reprove, rebuke, exhort* with all long-suffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2). And again, the Apostle Paul told Titus to rebuke *sharply*, and to rebuke with *authority!* (Titus 1:13; 2:15). And if God's ministers are speaking with God's authority, using His true word, which Paul described as being "sharper than a two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12), their words will *not comfort* the people, and the word of God will be used **PROFITABLY!**

David was a man after God's own heart. But God doesn't judge by the *outward* appearance, as does man, but God looks on the heart (I Sam. 16:7). David sinned, as do all men, but his heart was right, and he always repented bitterly. Surely if all scripture is written by direct inspiration of God and is profitable for instruction, then we can find instruction from the manner in which David

prayed. David had the thing people seem to lack today! He actually ASKED FOR RIGHTEOUS REPROOF! (Psalms 141:5). David considered it a *kindness* if he received correction. How utterly unlike today's "man on the street" David must have been!

The prophet Jeremiah actually *asked* God for correction when he said: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, *correct me*, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to north-

ing" (Jeremiah 10:23-24).

Salvation is a *personal* thing! It is between *you* and the Almighty Creator-RULER of this entire Universe! (Rom. 14:12). Have *you* been using your Bible profitably? Have *you* been on your knees before God *asking* to be SHOWN YOU'RE WRONG? Have you opened your Bible, *eagerly searching* for a mirror to evaluate your MISTAKES? Could it be that *you* have been WRONG about something?

Why take chances? Let's all open our Bibles and say to God earnestly: "Correct ME!"

Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

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commanded to be kept FOREVER (Lev. 23:21, 31, 41).

Jesus *kept* the *annual sabbaths*, setting us an example. The New Testament church *began* on one of them—the day of Pentecost. And the early *Christian* church continued to observe them during the apostles' lives (Acts 20:6, 16; I Cor. 5:8).

These *seven* annual sabbaths picture the great *plan of God* and keep us continually in remembrance of it. The churches have lost sight of that plan because they have REJECTED God's annual sabbaths. But *God's true church* has always *kept* these days—and they help identify it as the very church of God.

The Correct Name

The *third* special *sign* which points to God's true church is the *name*. In Jesus' last prayer for His disciples, He said, "Holy Father, *keep through thine own NAME* those whom thou hast given me" (John 17:11).

God's people were to be kept in the *name* of God. All the way through the New Testament, the true church is called by God's *name*—"the church of God."

Paul told the Ephesian elders: "Feed the *church of God*, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). And the official title by which Paul addressed the church was: "the *church of God* which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1), or "the *churches of God* which in Judea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thes. 2:14).

Thus we see that the correct Bible name is: "the church OF"—which *belongs to* and is *ruled by*—"God."

As Mr. Armstrong has explained, the present church has been incorporated as "The Radio Church of God" for very good and scriptural reasons. The present

membership and work of the church in our time is not primarily "at Corinth" or "at Pasadena" or "at Gladewater." Its membership is scattered and mostly reached by *radio*—the principal medium used in getting out the gospel.

So in our modern day of mechanization, the church is more correctly designated by the *medium* it employs to reach people than by any particular location. Also, there are several different churches which happen to know this particular truth, and are called "church of God." So to prevent confusion, it is better that we are called "The *Radio* Church of God."

The *name* of God is sometimes wrongly appropriated—just as is the name of Jesus Christ. But whether false churches use it or not, scripture shows that it MUST be applied to God's true church—the *church OF God*.

(3) Truth About Pagan Doctrines

God's church has *always* understood the truth about the many pagan doctrines that were injected into the *professing* Christian church during the age of the so-called early church fathers and, later, during the middle ages.

God's people *know* that man does *not* have an "immortal soul"—that God told Adam: "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). They know that God says: "The soul that sinneth, *it shall DIE*" (Eze. 18:4 and 18:20).

The real people of God have *never* believed in the nightmarish kind of "hell-fire" doctrine so often taught today. They know that the soul WILL *die*—not be tortured forever and ever. And that "the *wages*"—or reward—"of *sin* is DEATH" (Rom. 6:23).

Neither do the true children of God believe in "going to heaven"—*God's throne*—where Jesus clearly stated: "No *man* hath ascended up to heaven, but he

which came down from heaven, even the Son of man" (John 3:13). And again: "Blessed are the *meeek*: for they shall inherit the EARTH" (Mat. 5:5).

In the Bible, and in the history of God's true church, we find that God's people have always realized the pagan idolatry and symbolism connected with the observance of Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, Halloween, etc. His people have *obeyed* God's command: "*Learn NOT* the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2).

As before mentioned, there are *many* churches which have—at least in *part*—one or two of these seven basic principles correct. This particular point about pagan doctrines is understood by *several* well-known denominations and sects. Yet even here we find the principle of misguided *human reason* at work. They have taken—as did Adam and Eve—of the tree of the knowledge of *good AND evil*—a *bad* mixture.

So although understanding these pagan doctrines in principle, some of these churches try to "work things out" so that they can *go to heaven*—even if only for a while. Or they find some *excuse* to have Christmas trees in their homes even though God says, "NO!"

The point to remember is that *every* church or religious body—even the *heathen* in the African jungles—has *some* TRUTH in its teachings. But is invariably mixed with a greater proportion of ERROR.

Only *God's* church has these seven basic principles really straight. And there are undoubtedly many minor details and technicalities which *we still* need to learn.

But God's people are always distinguished by their *willingness* to GROW into *new truth*, and to OBEY it as soon as it is proved.

(4) God's Power

In Mark 16:17-18, Jesus Christ stated: "These *signs* SHALL follow them that believe: In my name shall they *cast out devils* (or *demons*); they shall *speak with new tongues*; they shall *take up serpents*; and IF they drink any deadly thing, *it shall not hurt them*; they shall *lay hands on the sick*, and they SHALL recover."

The very POWER of the Creator is to follow—and witness to—His true church.

Throughout the book of Acts, there is abundant testimony that these signs *did* follow the early church of God. And in church history, we find evidence that they continued to do so.

Notice that these signs were not said to follow *every* believer, but to follow *them*—*collectively*—as a *body*. They are to follow the *body of Christ*—the true CHURCH.

The Bible interprets the Bible. And in the scriptural account of these signs, we find that they were usually carried out *through the ministers*—usually the apostles, and sometimes evangelists, elders, or deacons. Study this point in the book of Acts and you will soon see that God always worked through His MINISTERS—not the average lay member of the congregation.

Of course God did use some women (Acts 21:9) to *prophesy*, or foretell future events as did Agabus (verse 11). This of course does NOT contradict the scriptures which forbid a woman to *preach* or *lead* in a public gathering (I Cor. 14:34-35). The gift was to be handled in a more private way, as Agabus did.

Also, men and women alike may be given the gift of speaking in foreign tongues or languages when this is necessary in dealing with peoples of a foreign tongue. This gift has not yet become necessary in our work, and we can see that it was exercised only in certain situations in the New Testament church.

But the Bible accounts of healing, of casting out demons, and of *accidentally* handling a serpent ("*Thou shalt not TEMPT the Lord thy God*")—all were accomplished through *God's called* MINISTERS.

When among *faithless* people, Jesus Christ himself "could there do no mighty work" (Mark 6:5). And speaking of our day, Jesus asked doubtfully, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find FAITH on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

But even in this day of little faith, the signs Jesus mentioned ARE following *God's true church!*

Scores are being healed, and demons have been cast out! Jesus didn't brag and boast about His miracles like some of the "fake healers" of our day. However, we do find that the apostles would sometimes inform the converted brethren of how mightily God was working—so that all might *rejoice* (Acts 14:27; 15:12).

So we plan to show you brethren in future issues of the GOOD NEWS how MIGHTILY God is working in His church today.

There are many fakes and pretenders, but only the *true church*—the very *body of Christ*—has the very POWER of Almighty God working in and through it. And let us realize *how much* CLOSER to God we need to get through diligent study and earnest prayer and fasting that we might be worthy of exercising the spiritual gifts of God in *far greater* measure than we are now.

(5) Health Laws

This world is SICK—through and through. The simple reason is that the people of the world are constantly

breaking the *physical laws* God has set in motion which govern our bodies.

God's children, through His word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can above all other people have a really *true* and *balanced* understanding of these laws of health. And through God's power, they can have the WILL to obey them. And this *true understanding* and *attitude* constitute the *fifth proof* of God's true church, and its great difference from all others.

God's church understands the law of clean and unclean meats—and knows that this law was in existence at the very *beginning*—and involves the very *nature* of the *meat* and of *our stomachs*. Remember that even back before the flood, God told Noah to take into the ark *seven* pairs of the "clean" animals (the extra pairs undoubtedly for *food*) and only *one* pair of the "unclean."

Knowing that we are to "live by every word of God," we can discern from countless Bible passages the *correct* principles involving our *diet* and *health*.

With God's guidance, we will NOT become health food "fanatics" or go to a wrong extreme in any health measure. But we WILL have an increased awareness of the value of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. We will learn the tremendous value of *radiant health* in our Christian lives.

We will learn to eat *natural* foods as God caused them to grow. We'll learn to *exercise*, to *breathe*, to *sleep*, to do EVERYTHING—even *have our baby*—NATURALLY, the way God intended when He set in motion His *physical laws*.

With *God's Word* as the *sound-minded* basis of even our physical lives, we will *glorify* God in our bodies.

There are many *vegetarians*, *exercise fiends*, health food "addicts," and others whose ideas are totally UNBALANCED and *contrary to scripture* and in many cases *contrary to the example* of Jesus Christ himself, but the *sensible, balanced*, and *right* approach to health is one which ONLY God's true church has straight.

(6) Prophecy

You have often heard it said that fully *one third* of your Bible is *prophetic*.

The *sixth* PROOF of God's church is that it ALONE really *understands* Bible

NOTICE!

Due to his many added burdens of the TV production, Mr. Armstrong's article explaining the "make-up" problem will not appear until the next issue.

prophecy and the *revealed future*.

This may *sound* like a *boastful statement!* But *hundreds* of you brethren were first interested in the *truth* because you became interested in Mr. Armstrong's explanations of *Bible prophecy*. Many of you "checked-up" to see if what he said was true.

And you found it was! I have met *hundreds* of our listeners from one end of this nation to the other—and many more in Europe. They all say practically the same thing: "We have never in our lives heard *anyone* make the prophecies as *plain* and *clear* as Mr. Armstrong does."

WHY is this?

WHY don't the denominations accept that tremendous *key* to prophecy—the truth of Israel's identity? *Why* can't they understand the book of Revelation?

WHY is it that no one else really *understands* and can PROVE what Bible prophecy says?

The answer is *simple*.

The Bible says: "A *good understanding* have all they that DO *his commandments*" (Psalm 111:10). And again: "The *Holy Spirit*, whom God hath given to them that OBEY him" (Acts 5:32).

The churches of this Satan-deceived world have REJECTED the laws and commandments of God. Therefore, He *will not* give them His Holy Spirit. They have *cut themselves off* from a "good understanding" and the spiritual mind that can come ONLY through God's Spirit.

The *proof* of PROPHECY is perhaps more readily seen than any other. It is becoming *abundantly plain* that this church—*God's church*—is the ONLY instrument that God is using to *warn* this world of His coming *judgments*—and to show *why* and *how*.

Every week God's church—through Mr. Armstrong's voice—is THUNDERING that warning *around the world*." He that hath an ear, *let him hear*."

(7) True Spirituality

The *seventh proof* which sets God's true church apart from all others is its understanding and practice of—*true spirituality*.

The reason is simple. The members of God's church are led by *God's Holy Spirit*. The Holy Spirit is the very *nature* and *character* of God. It is Christ living His life within us (Gal. 2:20). And He is the *same* yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus said: "Howbeit when he, the *Spirit of Truth*, is come, he will *guide you INTO all truth*" (John 16:13). Again: "Blessed are they which do HUNGER and THIRST after *righteousness*: for they shall be *filled*" (Mat. 5:6).

The apostle Peter instructed us: "GROW in grace, and in the knowledge

of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

God's church is distinguished by its willingness to *admit error* and CHANGE. God's people zealously *seek* new knowledge and understanding. They HUNGER and THIRST after righteousness.

Such an attitude is almost *unheard-of* in the churches of this world. Even those churches may understand *some* of the seven principles mentioned herein will REJECT the others.

WHY?

Is it because they just haven't had opportunity to learn these truths?

No! This work of God sends out magazines and booklets *by the thousands* which clearly explain these points. And these churches *certainly know about* our work and message—far more than most of you brethren may realize.

The ANSWER is that they are *unwilling to change—unwilling to be corrected* by the Word of God. They will NOT permit the Holy Spirit to guide them. Therefore, they CANNOT be God's churches composed of His begotten children. "For as many as are LED BY the Spirit of God, *they are the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:14). And: "For if any man have *not* the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*" (Rom. 8:9).

Also, God's church knows that true spirituality is a WAY OF LIFE.

Throughout the book of Acts, Christianity is called "this way" or "that way" (Acts 18:25-26; 19:9, 23; etc.). We are instructed: "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

God's church ALONE has demonstrated its willingness to recapture that *faith*—that way of life which involves the days we observe, the food we eat, the way

we dress, the way we walk, speak, write—EVERYTHING.

Yes, *everything* must be *totally surrendered* to GOD'S will. That doesn't mean following human "do's" and "don't's" and other *ideas* which may "seem" *right to men* (Pro. 14:12), but diligently *studying* the Bible *instructions* and living *examples* to prove what GOD'S way really is and *following* it—whether it conflicts with denominational teachings or not.

Lastly, God's true church understands the purpose God has in giving us His Word, His laws, His way of life. For our members understand the great DESTINY that is ours if we *overcome*.

God's people ALONE understand the real PURPOSE being worked out here below—that God is *reproducing Himself*. We understand the *literal* meaning of the statement that Christ became "the firstborn of MANY brethren" (Rom. 8:29). We know that we are to be *literally BORN* of God just as he was.

Understanding Our Calling

Yes, above all people on earth, we know that the great *purpose* in the trials and tests of *character* building that God puts us through is that Jesus' prayer

might be answered, when He prayed, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, *that they may be ONE as we are* . . . and the GLORY which thou gavest me I have given them; *that they may be ONE, even as we* (God and Christ) *are ONE*" (John 17:11, 22).

We are to be *born* into the very family of God—and to be GOD—just as Jesus Christ!

Understanding *true spirituality* and its tremendous PURPOSE should give all of us a *zeal* for overcoming that no other people have.

And knowing these SEVEN PROOFS of God's true church should help us realize more than ever the great GULF that lies between God's church and the many churches of this world—with their inevitable *mixture of good AND evil, truth AND error*.

We may be *everlastingly thankful* that God has called us out of this deceived world and put us in His church, the very *body of Jesus Christ*.

We may well reflect on the incident recorded in John 6:66-68. Jesus had been giving His followers some spiritual "meat"—and it was more than some of them wanted to obey. "From that time many of his disciples went back, and *walked no more with him*. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, *Will ye also go away?* Then Simon Peter answered him, *Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*"

Christ is now working through His body—His church. It alone is fully yielded to the *instruction* and *correction* of His Word. It alone is RULED by Him. It alone has His *true MESSAGE*—the words of *eternal life*.

Where else might WE go?

HOLY DAY CALENDAR Fall 1955

Festival of Trumpets, Saturday, September 17.

Day of Atonement, fast day, Monday, September 26.

Festival of Tabernacles, begins sunset, Friday, September 30; ends sunset Friday, October 7.

Last Great Day, Saturday, October 8.

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