

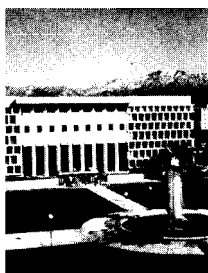
The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



NEARLY COMPLETED
HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1969



More About Our Cover...

An unfinished portrait of Ambassador's magnificent new Hall of Administration. Before the workmen were through, most of the offices were full of their new occupants. Everyone was most anxious to begin work in this desperately needed facility. Later, when the Hall of Administration is all dressed up with its lovely landscaping and all the scaffolding is gone, we will offer you a formal finished portrait — but we thought you might be about as anxious to see it as we were to move into it!

Conn — Ambassador College

What our READERS SAY . . .

Ministry Helpful

"I would like to comment on meeting one of your ministers. He was unlike any minister that I have ever met in my life! He was friendly, helpful, and I knew his feet were on the ground. I often hesitated about churches and ministers in the past because of the poor showing Christendom's ministers presented. It made me feel badly because they were not reflecting the true image of the Christ as the Son of man, and a strong healthy carpenter at that! I thought my hands were strong in handshakes, but I wasn't a match. We spoke for several hours and cleared up many points that were troubling me."

Philip M. M.,
Union City, New Jersey

"I was visited by your representative today for the second time. I can't help feeling that for the first time I have found a church that cares and takes the time to see how people who are interested in the True Church are getting along. It's a wonderful feeling. The Church I belonged to before seemed to never have time for my questions. Usually they excused themselves on difficult questions by telling me to accept it on faith . . . Thank you for taking the time to show me all these wonderful truths."

Mrs. B. A. L., Mesa, Arizona

Bible Story

"I have been informed that your series, 'The Bible Story,' is now in print

in all volumes. The volume which I now have, has brought me a great deal of pleasure as well as making plain some of the mistaken ideas I had about Bible characters. Mr. Wolverton makes the Bible LIVE!"

George W. C., Sumter,
South Carolina

• *Not all volumes are in print, but the first six volumes are. They contain the first ninety-nine chapters. All these volumes are available for the asking. As you know, of course, the series is now called "The Story of Man," and is currently in chapter One Hundred Twenty-Four.*

Pesos for God

"Enclosed herewith is one hundred pesos as my tithe for the God we do revere. I am a Roman Catholic but I am more inclined to your doctrine because it is purely Christian, devoid of any mythological belief."

E. P. A.,
Surigao del Sur, Philippines

Family Called

"We have so much to be thankful for. God called my husband and myself into His Church. God also called my husband's entire family. He called all of my family except for one brother-in-law. My husband and I now have a child of our own flesh after nine years of waiting. God does heal. (We had adopted a baby after six years of marriage.) Doctors said there was no

(Continued on page 23)

The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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and new address. IMPORTANT!

Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE



Here's the 1969 Conference news — the theme of this momentous meeting, the ordinations, new appointments, a brief summary of last year's accomplishments, and a glimpse of 1969.

WE ARE involved in the most significant, most awesome, most challenging WORK that exists on earth today! We — the brethren of God's Church — have ALL been called to *personally* be an integral part of this earth-shaking Work. We must ALL *pour out* a deep, personal commitment, and a steadfast, unbending LOYALTY toward this very Work of God.

These were the pre-eminent themes which dominated the recently concluded 1969 Ministerial Conference. Personal Commitment and Loyalty! These were the thrilling yet sobering principles which compelled every minister attending the Conference to experience more inspiration than ever before, to be aware of a greater responsibility, and to realize a more complete conception of the imagination-defying job that lies ahead of us in finishing this great Work.

Top Level Conference

This Ministerial Conference was the "highest level" Conference ever held, in that the attending ministers were primarily District Superintendents, top representatives of Big Sandy and Bricket Wood, and Directors of the Foreign Work from around the world. The sessions were very basic and enormously profitable. Emphasis was placed on seeing the 'forest,' not the individual trees and surely not the 'twiggy' branches. Minor doctrinal or 'picky' Scriptural questions were preempted by the overall monumental purposes, objectives, plans and policies of God's Work as this age cascades toward its close.

It was brought out that many of the brethren in God's Church just do not have the *vision* so vitally necessary to comprehend either the Goal of the entire Work or their specific personal role in it. Time and time again, we were told that we are *yet* grossly *underestimating* the shattering Mass-Impact that God's Witness will have on the nations of this world. When the complete history of mankind will eventually be written, it will be this very Work today which will be afforded a most prominent position. Indeed, it will be our *individual* actions, our *personal involvement* in the Work, during the next few years, which will radically alter the destinies of every human being on the face of the earth. We, as a unified Church, need to be closer to God than ever before in order to "tool up" for the final all-out push to complete this Work. These concepts were the powerful meat of this Ministerial Conference!

Keynote

Perhaps the most inspiring moment for the Headquarters congregation came when Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong delivered an "impromptu" sermonette at the special Friday night preaching service on the Sabbath during the Conference. It epitomized the entire Conference. Mr. Armstrong exhorted us that our whole hearts must be totally and completely wrapped up in God's Work. Only then can we grow spiritually! God's Work *must* always be pre-eminent in our minds, the crux of our prayers, the very focal point of our lives. Personal, selfish Bible study

and inward, self-centered prayers are worthless — God's Work must be **FIRST!** Saving this world, *not* just saving ourselves, must be our goal.

Mr. Armstrong went on to emphasize that we have *not* just been called to be in the Kingdom — all mankind will eventually be called for the Kingdom. But we, as the brethren in God's Church in this calamitous age preceding Christ's return, have been called for a *special assignment*, the most important task in the history of the universe! We are preparing the way for Jesus Christ's triumphal rule! We are preaching and publishing His Gospel around the world for a witness! We are being *personally* trained for the rulership, for the government, and for the education of the World Tomorrow.

The fate of the world is in our hands!

Each one of us will have many vital tasks to perform — and we must be preparing **NOW!**

Is it any wonder then that Mr. Armstrong was visibly shaken because so many brethren have failed to catch the vision, failed to realize their personal part in the Work *today*, failed to grow toward their forthcoming responsibilities in the World Tomorrow? Every person who would put himself first, Mr. Armstrong continued, making *his* Bible Study, *his* prayers and *his* problems predominant would eventually fall away, while every one who would put *God's Work first* would surely enjoy unlimited personal growth. The point was crystal clear — *you* must learn and apply this keynote in *your* life also. I hope this brief

summary starts you on a personal rededication to the tremendous worldwide Work God has *drafted* you to perform.

New Appointments

As God's Work mushrooms, so do the new positions of responsibility. During the Ministerial Conference, several appointments were announced as God's Government expands to meet the demands of His fast-growing Work.

In the early hours of Friday, January 7, Mr. Ronald Dart was sound asleep at his home in England. A momentous phone call roused him and changed his and his wife's whole life. By late afternoon, that same day, he was in Pasadena — with a new job: Deputy Director under Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong supervising the entire Foreign Work!

That night Mr. Dart delivered a sermon that will be long remembered. He told of his Freshman year at Ambassador in 1958, a scant 10 years ago. "There are an unlimited number of 'top jobs' in God's Government available," those Freshmen were told. "Surely, all the 'top jobs' were already taken" thought those same naïve Freshmen. Then Mr. Dart proceeded to name some of the other members of *that* Freshman class besides himself: Mr. Charles Hunting, Mr. Richard Plache, Mr. Dean Wilson, etc. The positions WERE indeed available — God was just waiting for the men to qualify! Those "top jobs" were plentiful then, and are even more plentiful NOW. God is waiting upon us to grow! But to qualify we must all put God's Work first, being profoundly committed and 100% Loyal! Then we will receive the unequivocal, exhilarating rewards that God promises to His servants.

Also called back to Headquarters to fulfill important new responsibilities was Mr. Dennis Luker. He is now assisting Mr. Roderick C. Meredith in his many duties as Superintendent of Ministers. Mr. Luker had been District Superintendent over the Oakland and later the Minneapolis Districts.

The transfer of Mr. Dart to Head-



Ronald Dart, Evangelist. (Not all those ordained will be pictured because the photos are not available.)

quarters has necessitated certain changes. Mr. Sherwin McMichael, who has been in for a semester of College here at Headquarters and who *was* scheduled to go to Cincinnati, will now have the privilege of going to Bricket Wood to serve on the faculty there! Those who have known Mr. McMichael will realize what a fine example he will be to the Ambassador students on the English campus.

Replacing Mr. McMichael in Cincinnati will be Mr. Edward Smith, who has been pastoring the Abilene and Odessa Churches in West Texas. He will be replaced in that area by Mr. Larry Salyer.

Another important transfer was made during the conference. Mr. John Butterfield was transferred to Headquarters in Pasadena to take on greater responsibilities as Director of Printing Worldwide. Mr. Butterfield was serving as Plant Manager of the English Press, and now finds himself in charge of *four* Printing Plants — Pasadena, Watford, Sydney and Big Sandy!

Here is more GOOD NEWS! On January 19, 1969, Mr. Colin Wilkins opened the new monthly French Bible study in LYON, France. The

total attendance was 54 — a very encouraging start.

A new monthly Bible study at BRUSSELS, Belgium, will begin on February 9 — with Mr. Carn Catherwood as its minister.

Headquarters Building Completed

We have just completed moving into the new *Hall of Administration* which is the official name for the newest and finest building at Ambassador College. The Hall of Administration is a fitting name for this strikingly beautiful and impressive building, since, as Mr. Armstrong pointed out during the Conference, this will be the very Headquarters for the Most Important Work on Earth! It is the finest building in Pasadena, and we feel that it is the finest building of its type in the world! You see its rough portrait in an unfinished state on this GOOD NEWS cover. A thorough pictorial tour will appear in the 1969 ENVOY. This magnificent edifice is already yielding enormous benefits to this great Work!

There is other exciting news about the Pasadena Campus! The Pasadena City Council recently unanimously approved closure of all the streets running through Ambassador College. These streets will eventually be torn up and replaced by exquisite landscaping and walkways, further enhancing and augmenting the beauty of Ambassador College. The master plan for Ambassador College is steadily growing towards fruition: the operational prototype for the World Tomorrow!

New Ordinations

One of the greatest joys of the Ministerial Conference is the announcement of the ordinations: new men being brought into the ministry of Jesus Christ, and the raising in rank of ministers who have proved their dedication to God and effectiveness for His Work. God's Church was surely blessed at this Conference as 36 men were ordained [completion (3) x (12) organizational beginnings = 36 for those numerically inclined]. 13 men

(Continued on page 23)

The Pull of the World

Many in God's Church are being lured back into the world! Countless others find its pull so strong that their spiritual growth is being stunted. You need to know — and avoid! — this deadly trap which Satan is using to ensnare the very sons of God!

by Raymond F. McNair

THE salvation of many in God's Church is hanging by a thread! This very instant their eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

Unless these careless members can be jolted into an awakened sensibility — they will forfeit their eternal life. They will forever lose their golden opportunity to share in the glories of eternal sonship in the family of God!

It's high time these members of the Church of God understood how they — at least many of them — are dangerously near losing out on the most wonderful opportunity ever offered to any being in all the aeons of eternity!

What is this hidden trap into which some have already fallen, and into which many others are about to be ensnared?

What is this great danger — this deadly peril — facing the members of the Church of God — right at this very instant? *They are being lured back into Satan's world!!!*

World Corrupted Through Lust

Two thousand years ago, the Apostle Peter was inspired to speak of the "glory and virtue" to which God has called us. He then explained that it is through God's "exceeding great and precious promises" that we become "partakers of the Divine nature" (II Peter 1:3, 4).

But . . . *before* we can become partakers of God's nature, it is first necessary that we *escape* "the corruption that is in the world" (verse 4).

Notice *how* the world has been corrupted.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the *divine* nature, having ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION *that is in the world through LUST*" (verse 4).

According to this verse, the whole world has been corrupted through *lust*! Today's world is even more corrupt.

Many members in the Church of God seem to *forget* that they were once called out from a very corrupt world. They forget that they grew up in a world that was utterly corrupt through the carnal urge to lust, to covet — to wrongfully desire everything imaginable.

How the Saints Escape

How do the saints escape the world's entanglements?

"For if after they [Church members] have *escaped the POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD through the knowledge* of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome [by the pollutions of the world], the latter end is worse with them than the beginning" (II Peter 2:20).

This verse clearly reveals that IT IS POSSIBLE for members of God's Church to become entangled in and be overcome by the world — *after* they have first escaped its many pollutions.

We are then told that "it had been *better* for them *not to have known* the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to *turn from* the holy commandment delivered unto them" (verse 21).

To return to the corruptions and pollutions of this vile world — after having escaped through conversion — is like a washed sow returning to her wallowing in the mire, or a dog returning to eat its own vomit! Yes, this is the way God Almighty looks upon members who go back into the hell-bent world.

Sad Examples

It is a sad fact that many are returning to the mire and vomit of this world — many are being lured away from the wonderful opportunity of sonship in the Kingdom of God, and are returning to a bankrupt world that — in comparison to the unspeakable splendours of sonship in the very family of God — has nothing whatsoever to offer!

I know of one lady in God's Church (who once showed the fruits of God's Spirit in her life) who returned to the world which she had known before her conversion — the world of *drunkenness, smoking* and other fleshly sins. She then became a *persecutor* of the Church of God.

Another man I know of was finally lured back into the medical world where he could earn scores of thousands of dollars annually. He loved the praise of men, and he lusted after mammon. He *may* be able to have more of these "pleasures of sin" now than he would have had, had he continued diligently, patiently obeying God; but he was very short-sighted. He has taken a flying leap right toward the Lake of Fire.

One baptized member recently left

the Church — because she fell to lusting after another man, and became willing to give up her *husband*, her *child*, her *Church* and her *God* — and her very salvation!

In recent months more than one member has left the Church — because of his love (or *lust!*) for a woman who was not a member. In each case the member was willing to become “unequally yoked” with an *unbeliever*, rather than patiently wait for Almighty God to provide him a wife in His due time. Such short-sighted members are about to forfeit their very eternal life because of their *lust* toward a worldling!

These are only a few specific examples of some of the very members of the Church of God who have been enticed back into the world — lured by its glittering glamour. These — and many others like them — are being lured by an itching, longing, lustful desire to get *here and now* the forbidden things which this world has to offer — things which God forbids them to have!

Here are some of the things which, right this instant, are exerting strong pulls upon members of God’s Church: *mammon* (riches, material possessions), *sexual gratification* (fornication, adultery, etc.), excessive drinking of *alcoholic drinks*, *smoking*, and numerous other lusts and illicit pleasures of this world. And I might add, *T.V. addiction*. Watching too much T.V. and/or the wrong type of programmes is a very corrupting influence in the lives of many.

God Almighty certainly wants His children to enjoy the right kind of pleasures (Psa. 16:11). But there are many “pleasures of sin” (Heb. 11:25) which God forbids us to partake of, because He knows that such pleasures have a kickback — that they boomerang right back on us. God doesn’t want us to get the hangovers, headaches, pains, sickness and death that go with the wrong kind of pleasures.

Food can be very good but gluttony is a sin; *alcoholic drinks* are fine, but

drunkenness is a terrible sin; *sex in marriage* was created by God as a supreme expression of love, but fornication, adultery, homosexuality and other sexual vices are evil and always exact terrible penalties.

The World’s Powerful Pull

God certainly knew that this evil world would exercise a very powerful pull upon His begotten sons. That’s why He has called us *out of* it. We must be *in* the world, but He has commanded us not to be *of* it (John 15:18, 19; 17:9-18).

Jesus said: “I pray *not* that thou shouldest take them *out of* the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not *of* the world” (John 17:15, 16).

Why does God continually tell His children to *beware of the corrupting influence of this world?*

Firstly, Satan the devil is “*the god of this world*” (II Cor. 4:4).

The devil has organized the present world order, this world’s civilization, its chaotic world system. And it does not take much enlightenment to see that this world is truly deceived, corrupted, mixed-up, chaotic, evil, hate-filled and very decadent. God refers to today’s civilization as “this present evil world” (Gal. 1:4). Does this include all nations? Yes. “The whole world lieth in wickedness” (I John 5:19).

“A Friend of The World?”

The Apostle James admonished Christians to “keep themselves unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27).

God loves the *people* of the world (John 3:16), but He hates the evil ways of this world’s system. He knows that the ways of the world lead to unhappy, sick, degraded, poverty-ridden, empty and mixed-up lives. God will not compromise one *iota* with Satan and his civilization.

God calls those who get too involved in this world adulterers and adulteresses: “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that *the friendship of the world is enmity with God?* whosoever

therefore will be *a friend of the world is the enemy of God*” (Jas. 4:4).

A truly begotten son of God cannot be of the world and of God — cannot keep one foot in the world and one in the Kingdom of God — cannot serve the God of the World Tomorrow and the god of this present evil world. A member of God’s Church cannot do both. He must choose between God and His ways and Satan’s world and its evil ways.

What does God say is the real motivating force behind this present satanic world? “*Love not the world*, neither the things that are *in* the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15).

But why can’t one love the world, and still have God’s love in him?

“For all that is in the world, the *lust of the FLESH*, and the *lust of the EYES*, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (v. 16). The whole world is based on vanity, self, lust and greed.

What will happen to this present satanically oriented world?

“And the world passeth away, and the *lust* thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (verse 17).

But why is it, brethren, that members of God’s Church can’t see the folly of becoming wed to this world — of partaking of its evil ways — and of *perishing* with it? Can’t we see that the only thing which will survive this present *civilization* and this *age* is the *perfect character* which is now being formed in those who are the begotten sons of God?

Saints to be Pacesetters

God’s Word reveals that it is “the saints [who] shall judge the world” (I Cor. 6:2). See also Daniel 7:27; Revelation 20:4.

But how can we learn to judge this present evil world, if we sink to its level, allowing ourselves to be corrupted by it? Do we think we will ever be able to rule and judge the whole world,

(Continued on page 16)

TEEN-AGERS — ARE YOU ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE?

Life can really be worth living! Here's a firsthand experience that should help you, the teen-agers of God's Church, to see it like it is — the good, enjoyable way of life!

by Paul S. Royer

TEEEN-AGERS — I've something vital to share with you. I've just been handed some information that is of extreme importance to all teen-agers. Its impact caused me, an old, hardened, converted fighter pilot, to choke up as I felt its wallop. It contained a message that is absolute, a message that can mean untold, unimaginable blessings on one hand — or death on the other *for you!*

A teen-ager, the son of a *long-time member* of a Church family, wrote Mr. Armstrong a letter about an experience he had — I'd like to share that letter with you exactly as he wrote it, caps and all.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This letter concerns Mr. Paul Royer mostly. I hope he reads it. My parents have been attending God's church as members since I was two years old. I have had the opportunity to read not only the PLAIN TRUTH, but also most of the booklets published by Ambassador College and the GOOD NEWS. I have read almost every article written *about* teen-agers and *for* teen-agers specifically, including the one Mr. Royer wrote for the October, 1967 GOOD NEWS, "What's In It for You — TEEN-AGERS?" I want Mr. Royer to know that I didn't pay ONE BIT of attention to that article when I read it, in October, '67.

It is now one year later. I read his article again. I read to page 13 where he talks about those teen-agers who don't want to be bothered with the facts — those who want to "live a little." He says, "To you I'd say, go to it — live it up — have fun, no one can help you — YET!! Give it a few more years, a few broken skulls, throw in a tribulation. . ."

I read it this second time from a hospital bed! I got that broken skull — along with three broken ribs, a broken leg and a hundred stitches worth of deep gashes!! But that's not nearly all.

I lost 2½ quarts of blood. The ambulance attendants thought me dead three different times on the twelve mile trip to the hospital! When the

doctor had me on the operating table slicing my stomach open to remove my spleen, he actually pronounced me dead and stopped the operation. He told me afterward that it was a miracle I lived — and another miracle that after having my heart stop for about a minute I was still a sane human being! I think I am a lot saner now than I was a year ago.

I have been in this bed for three months and I still have at least one more month to go. It will probably be 18 to 24 months before I can walk without the aid of crutches or a cane! But it goes even further than that.

I had plans for Ambassador College this year. Now I haven't the *chance* to go this year, and most likely next year as well. I doubt that I will be able to work for quite some time — the doctor said I couldn't do hard work *at all*.

Yes, I sure messed myself up good. But it took that for me to realize what my error was and to correct it. It took all that to WISE UP and STRAIGHTEN UP! But it will probably keep me out of the tribulation and it probably saved my eternal life! I sure HOPE so.

I also hope that the rest of the teen-agers of God's Church don't have to go through what I did to find out that the ways of the world are NO GOOD!! Believe me, it's NO FUN. Let them go out and smash into an oak tree at about 75 miles per hour if they DON'T believe it. Mr. Royer, I hope you write another article like that one a year ago. I promise you — I'm one teen-ager who will read and HEED every word of it!

Sincerely yours,
Jack Sanner, Salem, Oregon

Quite a letter isn't it? A painful experience, a ghastly affair, yet it could, if you're alert, if you're wise, save you — your life!

Thinking back, are you, could you be one that, like Jack, didn't pay "ONE BIT" of attention to the '67 teen-age article? If you haven't listened or heeded before, maybe Jack's near fatal error can profit you and you can change before you become a statistic.

While you're pondering that one, let me clue you in on an exciting fact, that few of you seem to understand! You, my friend, are right now occupying the office, the responsibility the position of a prince! No, I'm not kidding — that isn't a come-on, it's a fact. You are a prince! The only thing in question is what kind of a prince are you!

Born to Be a Prince

Just like Prince Charles, the heir to the throne of England, you, the teen-agers of God's Church have been called to rule. God, in His terminology, refers to you, the teen-agers of today, as princes!

Because you *have been called to rule*, your life is DIFFERENT. It has different demands placed on it and such is the case of any prince. Prince Charles' life is different from that of other teen-agers in Britain. As a prince he stands out as being different. People, the other teen-agers, look on him as being different. As a result he *does not lead a normal life*.

Now a prince must be told that he is a prince. Prince Charles had to be told that he was a prince. Jesus Christ was born flesh. He once was a sweet little baby knowing absolutely nothing. Jesus Christ's parents had to tell Him that He was different, that He was a man of destiny, that He was born to rule. You, the teen-agers of God's Church, need to be told; you need to understand that you, too, are different, that you are called to rule.

As a boy, Jesus was tempted to do all the things the other children did. Probably Mom or Dad had to explain



DPA Photo

How teens ought NOT to look! Here are some teens "enjoying" life — drinking, smoking, taunting their elders! Can you tell the fellows from the girls?

to Him how He was different, that *Princes* didn't act that way.

Jesus Christ had a wise father who taught Him to be careful. He was told that people noticed the way *He* acted. That people's lives were affected by His actions then; and in the future millions of people's lives would be affected by the way He acted as a fleshly person walking the earth.

Just like Jesus had to be told, like Prince Charles had to be told, you, the teen-agers of God's Church must be told that you are different, that you are of the called-out ones, children of destiny!

Because you *are* different, *people* look on you as *being* different. Different when you keep the Sabbath, the Holy Days. When you live by God's Word you are an *oddball* to the world. You, when you obey God, aren't too well liked by worldly friends — are you, teen-agers?

Jesus Christ had to go through some of the same trials you must go through. He had to endure hardship before He could qualify to rule, and so will you before you rule!

To the teen-agers of God's Church today, the called-out Princes of this

age, Christ says: "Don't get all upset, believe in God, believe in Me" (John 14:1). In the next verse He tells you of the offices, the responsibilities that He is preparing for those He is calling — you and your parents.

In the fifteenth chapter of John, He tells you, the teen-agers of the Church, not to think it strange when your school friends look on you as being odd. "They persecuted me and they will persecute you," for keeping the Holy Days and the Sabbath. "Relax," He says, "in this world you *will* have problems. Remember that I [Christ] had them, too, I've overcome them *and* the world, even as you must overcome the world before you can inherit the fantastic position of authority and rulership that I have reserved for you" (John 16:33).

Jesus Christ has a crown, a title, a great responsibility, a fabulous reward for you, the teen-agers of the sixties and seventies. Such a high calling demands high standards, sacrifices, special character and special training.

How Has Life Treated You These Past Twelve Months?

The question that might be posed now — how has life treated you the

past twelve months? How have you treated life? Has life been good to you? Are you happy, or have you a story to tell, a not-too-pleasant experience? Maybe you've already damaged a part of your life that will rob you of benefits for the rest of your natural physical life.

Perhaps you *have* found the good life — the happy one of balance! The life that reflects a shining alertness in your eyes, a smile that says you're glad to be alive. You *know* that you're going to arrive — that you will soon assume a *big* job — just around the corner in the millennium.

Or you just *might* be one that's just barely hanging on — still with a smirk on your face, hair hanging down over your eyes, pimples — the tough guy — "I'll show them. I'm gonna live a little, Buddy, — just give me time!!" If you live in this category, you might try this on for size: Proverbs 30:17!

It's a shame that a few tough guys will have to learn how they *should have lived* as they lie pinned to a steering wheel like a stuck pig, a shaft of twisted steel through their chest,

(Continued on page 20)

BIBLE CRITICISM— Intellectual Idolatry!

Disbelieving in any God, men with minds swayed by evolutionary thought have attempted to discredit, and virtually destroy Bible testimony. Bible history has come under attack. Bible personages have been called fictitious. Bible events are regarded in circles of “higher critics” as legendary. Bible miracles came soon to be regarded as sheer superstition! Is the Bible mere tradition or ancient myth? What about Bible criticism? Is it honest, reliable? It is time you knew about the DOUBLE STANDARD used by the critics of God’s Word!

by William F. Dankenbring

JUST WHAT IS Bible criticism? How does it affect YOU?

For more than one hundred years, the western world has abounded with highly educated men who have devoted their lives to tearing down and “de-mythologizing” the Bible. Since the time Darwin shocked the world with his evolutionary theory, Bible scholars and German rationalists have applied his theory to the Bible itself!

According to critics of the Bible, the books of the Bible gradually EVOLVED INTO EXISTENCE, and are the legendary writings of an ancient race of men—the Hebrews. Did God inspire the Bible? Of course not, they tell you. The original God of Israel, Himself, they claim, was merely an ancient tribal deity! He was merely the local mountain “god” of the Sinai region, adopted by wandering Hebrews as they passed through.

An Ancient Drug-Taking Cult?

Notice the amazing words of one ardent Bible critic. John Marco Allegro, a humanist professor and Hebrew language scholar working with the Dead Sea Scrolls, said the roots of Christianity lay in an ancient drug-taking cult and the New Testament is “just a cover story” for it.

Said Allegro, “Now my views are more critical than ever about the New

Testament story.” He added, with seeming disdain, “It is no more than a COVER STORY for a vegetation cult, involving the use of drugs of earlier times.”

This scholar called Bible priests and prophets the “dope pushers” of their day and compared them with South American drug-using Indians. When the prophets saw visions, they were probably “taking a trip” on LSD or something like it, he said.

Says Allegro, “The Bible is a literary work and not a religious or historical work. It’s got to be accepted on that basis.

“If you can lay bare the real purpose behind the Old and New Testament stories, then the whole foundation of the church must be shattered. They’ll have to think again. Figures like David and Solomon, Samson and Delilah, are *just myths*. The very possibility that Jesus ever existed is *open to question*.”

Drugs and Scholars

Another member of the 12-man team analyzing the Dead Sea Scrolls, Dr. James A. Sanders, has taken the opposite tack and said there is no evidence to support Allegro’s speculations. Dr. Sanders noted that Allegro cited no evidence for his opinions and said they seem “to reflect his own state of mind rather than anything in antiquity.”

But his bold-faced declarations and suggestions should not simply be ignored. What about modern Bible criticism? Can it be relied upon to reveal the TRUTH? Or is it a lot of speculation, guesswork, and fraud? *You need to know!*

Bible Skeptics

Surprisingly enough, even many modern ministers publicly declare the Bible is not inspired by a Creator God. Harry Emerson Fosdick, a noted American minister, wrote, “We know now that every idea in the Bible started from *primitive* and childlike origins...” (*The Modern Use of the Bible*, p. 11).

He spoke of certain “crudities” in the earlier writings in the Bible and said, “Their lack is a lack of maturity.”

Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed, who translated the Bible into English, said of the first twelve books in the Bible, “It is man’s first attempt to organize his knowledge of his past into what we would call an outline of history. Genesis,” he wrote, “is a great encyclopedia of *Hebrew* thought...” — NOT divine revelation from Almighty GOD!

The book of Joshua, he says, “is the legendary story of the conquest of Canaan.” The book of Ruth, he believes, “belongs to Israel’s *fiction*, rather than to its history, and should be among

its *tales and stories*" (*How to Read the Bible*, p. 39, 51).

THESE are the words of ministers translators, and Bible scholars! WHY do they believe the Bible is merely a grouping of stories, legends and myths?

There is a REASON!

Most professors and scholars are unwilling to admit the divine inspiration of the Bible because *if they did*, they would have to recognize its AUTHORITY over their lives — they would be obligated to OBEY it!

How can you know what to believe? How can you be sure?

James Moffatt, an English Bible translator, claimed, "The Old Testament is a collection of religious literature thrown up in the course of this story" — the story of history of the Hebrew people.

Moffatt did not believe the Bible to be inspired by the Almighty God. He believed portions of the Bible were badly edited and arranged, so he tried to improve on them. He rearranged entire chapters to suit himself.

According to James Moffatt, "Ezekiel was a priest, but the collapse of the temple turned his priestly fervour into theory instead of practice, and predictions run out into a kind of ecclesiastical Utopia."

He claimed that the traditions of national unity and supernatural guidance "are at the heart of the *tales and traditions* within the first five books of the Bible."

Why do all these men reject the Bible as inspired truth? Why do even ministers repudiate the Bible as divine revelation? What grounds — what PROOF — do they stand on?

Criticism in "CHAOS"

Modern scholars themselves have some remarkable things to say about the field of Bible criticism. John Bright, of the Union Theological Seminary, said, "The whole field is in a state of FLUX. It is moving, certainly, but it is not always easy to say in what direction."

Wha-a-a-a-t?

Read that again. That's quite a statement!

But that is not all. Bright adds,

"Sometimes it gives the impression that it is moving in several MUTUALLY CANCELING DIRECTIONS *at once*. Even upon major points there is often little unanimity to be observed" (*Modern Study of Old Testament Literature*, p. 14).

Think of that!

That is the state of modern Bible criticism, TODAY! Controversy reigns supreme. New theories, says Bright, "make their appearance from time to time." New light has been thrown on theories of yesteryear so that a "revision of them is required, SO DRASTIC as to amount to *virtual abandonment*."

Notice carefully these staggering statements. These were made by LEADING BIBLE SCHOLARS — leading modern critics of the Bible!

They confess that the whole field of Bible criticism seems to be "moving in SEVERAL MUTUALLY CANCELING DIRECTIONS at once." Does that sound like something you can BELIEVE in? Something you can have faith in?

They admit that even on "MAJOR POINTS" there is often "LITTLE unanimity" to be observed! Does that sound rational, logical — the way it should be?

They admit that hardly a statement could be made about Bible criticism that would be absolutely provable, absolutely true, acknowledged by the majority of scholars!

Perhaps the most generally accepted statement one could make about the whole field of modern Bible criticism is that it is in a STATE OF FLUX!

George E. Mendenhall, however, goes further. He wrote, "The 'fluidity' in this field . . . may with perhaps less courtesy but more accuracy be called CHAOS." Mendenhall confesses that Bible criticism has come to an "IMPASSE" (*Biblical History in Transition*).

Confusion is rampant. Theories come and go. They make their appearance like lions, but soon depart meekly like lambs.

Too often, in far too many theories of Bible criticism "only those facts which FIT THE HYPOTHESIS are taken up and others IGNORED."

Doesn't sound too promising, does it?

How did Bible criticism come to such

a state? What led to the present modern CHAOS — the present IMPASSE?

Obviously, something is seriously wrong with modern Bible criticism!

Evolutionary Criticism

After the rise of the theory of evolution, popularized by Charles Darwin, the evolutionary concept wormed its way into many facets of education — including Bible criticism. Critics came to believe that ancient Israel developed from a primitive animism or polytheism to monotheism in a period of five or six short centuries.

Theologians and critics concluded that the first books of the Bible could not have been written by Moses — for writing, they believed, was invented at a later time. Hebrew religion, they taught, gradually evolved. The evolutionary process led to the rising up of Christianity. Therefore, the entire Old Testament, having served its purpose, was discarded.

Of course such a belief makes Christianity itself merely one stage of the evolutionary process. Now, with the "God is dead" theology, and the advent of modern science, technology, and western civilization, historical "Christianity" is also in danger of passing away!

It must either evolve with the times — or become defunct.

It must either change, and adapt itself to the modern world — or be replaced by a NEW RELIGION with Science as the Messiah!

Thus, the evolutionary concept became the backbone of Biblical criticism. Biblical records were rejected as unreliable. Biblical history came to be regarded as myth. Biblical miracles were called superstition and legend.

In this way Satan managed to have the entire Word of God thrown into QUESTION! He duped the world into embracing a *fable* — the fable of evolution — and into rejecting divine TRUTH!

The WHOLE WORLD *has been* deceived! (Rev. 12:9.)

When the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch.

But you can PROVE the Bible is re-

(Continued on page 18)

“SEVEN TIMES IN A YEAR...”

How would you like to give over one million dollars to God's Work this year? Would you like to have given more last year? Some in God's Church are missing out on tremendous blessings. Read this article and find out how you can be a bigger help to God's Work and receive additional blessings yourself.

by Ronald Kelly and John Robinson

“HONEY, LET'S GET those kids in the car or we'll be late for services,” Jim called as he crowded his Bible and notebook into his briefcase.

Susan grabbed their youngest, ran to the bedroom for the diaper bag and hustled the others out the door. Jim was already in the car—the motor was running. He quickly glanced at his watch as he backed down the driveway. The family was off to keep the Feast of Trumpets.

As they neared the hall the traffic got thicker and finally slowed to a snail's pace in the downtown section. Suddenly Jim slammed an open palm against his forehead and gasped in dismay. “Oh, no, we forgot all about the Holy Day offering! What are we going to do? Susan, how much money do you have in your purse?”

“About \$2.50... I planned to pay the paper boy tomorrow.”

“He'll just have to wait. I think I've got about \$8.00 in my wallet. Between the two of us we can probably scrape up about \$10. I'm afraid that's the best we can do,” Jim said sheepishly.

By this time they'd reached the hall where services were to be held. As Jim locked the doors of their station wagon, Susan handed him the two one-dollar bills and her change.

Not An Isolated Example

Does the above sound familiar??

Chances are you've experienced the very same thing in times past—maybe even the last Holy Day. For many, many of our brethren, God's commanded Holy Day offerings are an afterthought. Despite repeated admoni-

tion to *plan ahead*, many of us are still caught short these seven times a year.

Generally the same individuals are the offenders year in and year out. Brethren of relatively substantial means are often able to only give the most meager, paltry gifts to their Creator.

The reason?

They simply *do not PLAN AHEAD!*

In this article we will show you tried and proven ways to prepare for the Holy Day offerings. But before we analyze how to go about saving, let's see how to avoid the first serious pitfall.

Be a Cheerful Giver

Anyone of you, given the means, could consistently give huge Holy Day offerings, *never be blessed* and not even make it into God's Kingdom.

HOW??

Through a wrong attitude.

God looks on your *heart*. He's not nearly as interested in a dollars-and-cents figure as He is in what your *attitude* was as you were saving and as you gave your offering.

Notice what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 9:6-7, “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man *according as he purposeth* in his heart, so let him give; not GRUDGINGLY, or of NECESSITY: for God loveth a *CHEERFUL* giver.”

He makes it pretty clear, doesn't he? We're not to be generous with our money out of a feeling of necessity, or to impress someone else or any other impure motive. Instead, our *freewill* offerings should be from the bottom of the heart, with a stark *realization* of the crying needs of God's Work.

Now let's take a closer look at another phrase in the scripture we just quoted: “. . . according AS HE PURPOSETH in his heart.” What does that mean? Have you ever thought about it?

Most read right over these *vital, key* words. Paul is saying you should give as you “purposed” — as you *PLANNED AHEAD!* Holy Day offerings aren't to be a hit-or-miss proposition. They're to be planned for, and here's Biblical proof.

Now is a perfect time to do something about your lack of planning. The Feast of Tabernacles is now over and there are several months until the next Holy Days. That means we have ample time to *go to work on the problem*.

They Are Commanded

The world has a perverted idea of God's approach to offerings. To the average, devout Sunday Church-goer, an offering is tossing your loose change into the basket. It is a totally meaningless act.

God on the other hand, looks on offerings as a commanded privilege for all *true* Christians. He shows clearly in Deuteronomy 16:16-17 that we are to *have* Holy Day offerings. In Malachi 3:8-9, He labels those without offerings as robbers. In other words, if you *ONLY* tithe, you are as guilty of breaking the eighth commandment as if you took a .45 automatic, donned a mask and held up a gas station.

Brethren, do you realize *WHY* God is so dogmatic about your having an offering? Is it to *burden you down* or to *abuse* you? No! It's so He can *pour you out wonderful and fantastic blessings!!*

It is a literal *LAW* that the more you

give to God, the more He BLESSES you. You're robbing *yourself* of thrilling rewards — physical and *spiritual* — if you're lax with offerings.

What To Do

Here's how to solve the problem. First — *decide to CHANGE*. You need to *commit* yourself to a course of action. Make up your mind *right now* that you are going to improve over last year — that you're going to DO BETTER.

Unless you decide to act on this article NOW, you will lose weeks, possibly months or even YEARS of valuable, precious time to change. All the while you will be missing out on *unredeemable* blessings and needed character building. Decree in your mind that lethargy of the past is just that — *of the past*.

How to Go About It

Now that you've decided to begin acting, *what do you do?*

There are various ways to go about saving for offerings. There are no iron-clad, one-two-three rules governing offerings, but there are certain principles which do apply to all. Obviously a farmer cannot set aside money for offerings with the same frequency that a man who draws a weekly paycheck can — but both should still set aside money during the year.

The first method applies primarily to those with a *regular* income — this includes most of you. It is a method many of our ministers use. You set aside a certain amount every paycheck and place it in a savings account as you deposit your check. Virtually no extra time is required since almost any bank offers a savings account service which is rarely more than a few feet from the deposit window.

We certainly encourage you to use a savings account, since it is much safer from theft — you have to *think* before you steal (“borrow”) from it! You can even use the same savings account where you have your second tithe — just keep records to indicate the difference.

How Much to Save?

The amount you set aside is totally up to you. God nowhere in the Bible says anything about an amount or per-

centage for offerings — only “*as he is able*.” Most of us don't think we're “able” to do much. Yet, brethren, we in the United States, Britain and Australia are the most able, the richest people on earth. Let us illustrate.

Take the world's population of over 3 billion and reduce it to a small town of 1,000 people. In this imaginary town — the world reduced in exact proportion — there would be roughly 60 Americans. The remainder of the world would be represented by 940 persons. The 60 Americans would receive *ONE HALF the income* of the *ENTIRE* town. The remaining 940 would divide the *other* half.

Shocking, isn't it, brethren.

Consider honestly your individual blessings as you decide upon the amount you intend to save. You should however, determine a *minimum* amount to save, making sure you always save that. Some pay periods you might be able to save more — but never drop below your predetermined minimum.

One word of caution: don't budget an unrealistic amount. Analyze your budget, refer back to Mr. Portune's article on finances in the February, 1968 GOOD NEWS if need be, before you set the amount (reprints are available). But once you've set the amount — stick to it. You will literally be amazed how quickly the amount grows.

If a family were able to faithfully put away five dollars per week from the Feast of Tabernacles until Passover, they would accumulate over \$110.00! Can you imagine the *thrill* it would give you to be able to give an offering of that amount. It can be done — *WITH A LITTLE PLANNING*.

Get the Whole Family Into the Act

Make planning ahead for offerings a *family affair*. You're never too young to be taught God's way. Get the children a ceramic “piggy” (pardon the expression) bank or a simple glass jar would do. Then really encourage and inspire them to put extra pennies, nickels and dimes in *their* “savings account.” Again you'll be surprised how rapidly small change will add up to dollars. And children also take great delight in giv-

ing their offering to God on the Holy Days.

Some of our widows and elderly members with very small incomes might also want to adopt this method of saving. Simply place your loose change, say, left over from buying the week's groceries, in a cookie jar or a bank. You might want to save only one denomination of change. For example, perhaps you decide to save dimes. Every time you get a dime in your purse, simply toss it into your offering savings.

Obviously we cannot mention all of the countless variations of how to save. The big thing however, is to be *planning ahead*. Certain ones who are contractors or farmers receive their income in more lump sums. If this is your case, you will probably want to set aside *larger amounts* — perhaps predetermining a percentage, 1 to 3 or more — when you're able. These are merely guidelines and helps — we cannot *legislate* how *you* should save.

Every Little Bit Helps

Keep in mind this is a “team effort.”

Well over 50,000 people kept the Feast this past October. If each person there were able to give *ONE extra dollar* at each of the seven Holy Days, that would be a \$350,000 boost in income from these offerings alone. Can you imagine how much that would accomplish in God's Work? And yet that's less than 2 cents a day!

But let's raise our sights a little. What if, through diligent, thorough planning, God were to bless us with an additional \$5 per person each Holy Day. That would amount to a mind-staggering *ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!!* — You can still throw in the \$8.00 in your wallet at the time and the \$2.50 your wife has!

Unbelievable isn't it??

Again, let us reiterate that we're not setting figures or minimums. God doesn't — *nor do we*. But certainly you can begin to see the possibilities that planning ahead has.

Let's set our goals to give more in the freewill offerings than we did last

(Continued on page 23)

Are YOU Holding Back?

*Some of God's people are not as yielded as they should be.
Some want to hold back from a total commitment. Are you in
this category? Read this article and find out!*

by Frank Brown

EVERYONE in God's Church who has repented, been baptized and has God's Holy Spirit is required to *tithe* as a point of obedience. God *demand*s this of His children. From every pay check you receive, one tenth of the gross is deducted and sent to God's Work as *your* part in fulfilling this great commission. Another tenth is put away as *second tithe* for use at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Also, seven times during the year, on the Holy Days, God's people are required to make further financial offerings. Again, this is dutifully done—usually quite generously. God's people *are*, in the main, generous and liberal with their tithes and offerings.

Apart from these regular tithes and Holy Day offerings, God also requires us to give regular *love offerings* over and above those specifically commanded. This helps us to use wisdom in budgeting our money, allows us to have a greater part in the Work and to receive a blessing.

Then, of course, there is the *Property Fund* (or Building Fund) which helps to build better facilities on the three college campuses in training young men and women for God's Work. Many take great joy in helping in this way. Also, apart from all these, there is usually a *local emergency fund* which is used to help those who suddenly find themselves in a financial reversal. Again, many support this generously, in a spirit of love and service.

Finally, every third and sixth year in a seven-year cycle comes the *third tithe* year! One more tenth to be given to God's Church for the benefit of the needy, the widow, the orphan and the Levite.

The Natural Tendency

Once all these obligations are fulfilled, the natural tendency is to sit back and say, "Well, now I'm *really* doing *my* part in God's Work!" Then one morning you receive a letter from Mr. Armstrong. He is asking for *more help* — over and above everything else you may have given — because overall income is *down* and the Work *needs* more money for the spreading of the Gospel!

Sometimes, brethren, and unfortunately, this is the *turning point* for many of God's people! Some complain, others totally *ignore* the pressing *need* claiming they are doing enough already, and yet others *rebel* and begin to criticize the organization behind God's Church!

But wait a minute!!

Supposing that that letter from Mr. Armstrong, God's Apostle and physical head of His Church, asked you to give your *whole month's income* to the Work? *Supposing* it asked you to sell your *automobile*, your *house* and some of your treasured *personal possessions*, and send the money to him, how would you feel then? What if God, through Mr. Armstrong, *demand*ed that you **GIVE EVERYTHING YOU OWN** to His Work? Would you? Would you do it cheerfully and unreservedly? Would you have the attitude of one who realizes that God has a PERFECT RIGHT to *demand everything* from us? Would Haggai 2:8 in which God says: "All the gold and all the silver is mine . . ." flash to your mind? Would you recall Christ's words in Matthew 19:29 when He said that everyone who *forsook* someone or something for

His sake would be rewarded one hundredfold *and* should inherit eternal life?

Many Holding Back

Yet it is a fact, brethren, that many of God's people are *holding back!* Too many are receiving these requests in a *wrong attitude!* Far too many are not *yielding* completely! This lack of yieldedness doesn't apply just to financial matters but also to many other aspects of Christian living. In child rearing, family relations, diet, personal growth, overcoming, and in many, many other areas, some are just *holding back* and not giving *one hundred percent* of their *time* and *effort* to improvement and *change!*

We know it is wrong, for example, to eat pork, so we abstain from it; but instead, some load up on white bread, mashed potatoes and greasy gravy! "After all, these things aren't *directly forbidden* by the Bible like pork is," it is rationalized, forgetting the Godly *principles* underlying a good healthy diet.

In the area of child rearing it is easy to neglect *positive* child training because *your* child doesn't get on *your* nerves and *seems* to be *fairly* well behaved at Sabbath Services! So the child then *suffers* from the lack of proper love and guidance and the parents ultimately will suffer from having produced a juvenile delinquent!

If you have *given yourself* completely and totally to God in every way, then that yielded attitude will show itself in every facet of your life. When correction is given it will be taken *one hundred percent*. When friendship and love are offered, they will be *accepted*

wholeheartedly! What God wants to be done, will be done — *all the way*, with no half-way measures! It means total obedience to your Creator!

Christ's Attitude

Notice the attitude of Jesus Christ as Paul was inspired to write: "Let *this* mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be *equal with God*, but *made Himself of no reputation*, and took upon Him the form of a *servant* and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, *He humbled Himself*, and became *obedient unto death*, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8).

Notice also this unchanging attitude manifested just before His crucifixion. "Jesus *knowing* that the Father had given ALL *things* into His hands, and that He was come *from* God and went *to* God: He rose from supper, and laid aside His garments: and took a towel and girded Himself . . . *and began to wash the disciples' feet*" (John 13:3-5). In spite of the fact that He knew He was to inherit ALL THINGS, Christ was still humble and yielded to the will of His Father in Heaven! He was never "too big" to go "all the way"!

Could anyone say that Christ never *gave* Himself? He held *nothing* back! He yielded Himself *totally* and God says *we* should walk in His footsteps! (I Peter 2:21.)

Jesus Christ put Himself in the *right perspective* in relationship to God the Father and His overall Plan. He didn't try to hang on to any worldly *physical* attractions or allow Himself to be sidetracked by them. He *knew* He was temporarily an instrument in fulfilling a certain phase of God's Plan and acted accordingly. "The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the Works," (John 14:10). He was completely in subjection to God's will, to the extent that it cost Him His life in an agonizing, lingering, pain-wracked death on the stake.

Paul's Example

The apostle Paul, also, is an example of a person who gave his *all* for the

privilege of serving God. "I know both how to be abased and how to abound: *everywhere* and in *all things* I am instructed both to be *full* and to be *hungry* . . ." (Phil. 4:12). Paul, before his conversion, was a man of great worldly stature and prestige, but he finished his life *owning nothing* and giving his *whole self* unreservedly to God! He came into the world naked and left it naked! Read the harrowing account of his experiences as a *servant* of God in II Corinthians 11, verses 21-33.

Paul was *totally committed*, he held nothing back, and as a result, he is to receive "a crown of righteousness" which Christ will give him at His return (II Tim. 4:8). In the light of this, don't some of our own personal gripes and complaints suddenly shrivel up and blow away? All at once our personal wants and desires are reduced to their proper size, when compared to the experiences of these dedicated individuals.

Mr. Armstrong's Experiences

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has described in his autobiography how that *everything* he owned was stripped from him. That he had to tramp the dusty roads of Oregon in a threadbare suit and with holes in his shoes, to preach the gospel. He was once a man, who, like Paul had prestige and status in the eyes of the world. He was on the way up to the highest rungs on the ladder of success.

But God reduced Mr. Armstrong (and his wife and family) to *absolute poverty* for 28 years in preparing him for this Work. As he has described them, they were long, lean years, but today, this message is the biggest thing in radio on the face of the earth, because of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's *yielded attitude*. They allowed God to work through them! They gave everything they possessed — *and more!* — in order to serve their Creator!

Brethren, we have no time left to sit around rationalizing and justifying ourselves! If we want God to work through us *NOW* so that *we* can be

used in His Kingdom in the World Tomorrow, then we must *YIELD* and *NOT* hold back from *absolute obedience* to Him and His government!

We must *ACT* and *act NOW!*

Examples of the Early Church

Do you recall the attitude of the first members of God's Church on and around the Day of Pentecost, 31 A.D.? They *believed* Christ was coming back! They *saw* great signs of the giving of God's Holy Spirit! They *witnessed* the climactic changes in Christ's Apostles. They *heard* the powerful, inspired preaching of Peter, James and the others! They were *filled* with the expectant urgency of the setting up of God's Kingdom! And they *wanted* to do their part!

Notice the historical account in Acts. "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of *land* or *houses* *SOLD THEM*, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, *and laid them down at the apostles' feet*: and distribution was made to every man according as he had need" (Acts 4:34-35). This wasn't communism as some misguided people have accusingly claimed! This was a wonderful example of a group of yielded people — *God's people* — who had given up *EVERYTHING* they owned to help others benefit from the glorious gospel *they* heartily believed and had faith in.

We today are called upon to help and serve in a *much mightier* and greater *WORLDWIDE* work, reaching untold millions! The end of an age is fast approaching! There are still many millions yet unreached! We *MUST* develop that *same* attitude if we are to do an effective worthwhile job before Christ returns!

Be Responsive!

Bearing in mind the urgency of the times in which we live, here are three simple, practical points to follow in developing a more *yielded* attitude of mind towards God, His Work, and His servants. *Use* them in examining *your* attitude! And *apply* them to work a change in your life!

First of all, *BE RESPONSIVE* to

GOD'S GOVERNMENT and learn to take advice SERIOUSLY! When you hear a point in a sermon, or read something in the Bible or an article, which applies to you, *take it to heart!* Take it *personally* and adopt it into your *life*—make it part and parcel of your *thinking* and *doing!*

If somebody has taken the time to *think* about you and your problems enough to write them down or at least state them, then it must mean the problem is a *real* one!

Of course, you must make sure that the person giving the advice or correction is properly qualified to do so! God is qualified and so are His ministers and those He uses as His direct instruments! Don't fall into the common trap of thinking YOU know better or of taking the attitude that "*He doesn't understand my particular problem.*" The chances are he *does*, and probably better than you do!

"My son, *despise not* the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of His correction" (Prov. 3:11). "Don't take it lightly," said Solomon, "*learn to appreciate* God's correction and apply it!" And later on in Proverbs he wrote, "Give *instruction* to a *wise* man and he will be yet *wiser* . . ." (Prov. 9:9). *Taking* advice and instruction from God is the very *essence* of wisdom! Many other Proverbs attest to the same teaching. Learn to be *responsive* to advice and instruction and the less you will need to be hit across the head with the "two-by-four" of strong, painful, and ear-tingling correction!

Don't Compare Yourself!

The second point in this three-point plan is: Never adopt the attitude that "*He is just as weak and human as I am!*" It may be true, and the carnal mind will use this as an excuse if it is! Avoid *diligently* any self-comparison!

Don't look to the *person* who gives the advice, counsel or correction; he *is* only a weak, human being. LOOK TO CHRIST, as the living, active, dynamic Head of His Church! "Set your affection [margin: mind] on *things above*,

and not on *things on the earth*" (Col. 3:2). Realize that Christ WANTS you in His Kingdom—and so do His servants—but personal correction is a necessary and vital part towards entering that Kingdom!

It is so easy to downgrade a person, especially when he is younger, less experienced in the world, newly married, or has what *you* may consider to be a glaring array of faults! But brethren we are not to be *bondslaves* to a *person!* We should be committed to Christ! Our lives and allegiance belong to Him! *He* is the Head of this Church! (Col. 1:18.) Human beings can neither *prevent* nor *get you into* God's Kingdom! That is *your* choice and responsibility! God's ministers are simply *teachers* proclaiming the Word of God. *Whether* you OBEY or not is entirely up to you; but your decision does make a difference in your obtaining that "crown of righteousness" we are all fervently seeking.

Not a Personal Insult!

Unhappily, so many take advice or correction as an insult or a *personal affront* and don't receive it in the spirit in which it is given! Some feel that the minister "has it in" for them—whatever that means. One young man claimed that God's ministers were "picking on him," and left the Church, bitter and resentful.

That attitude is carnal and shows a lack of spiritual understanding. God's ministers DARE NOT express personal feelings this way! It is *literally* more than their life is worth!

Learn to yield to the correction or advice given as though it were given *personally* by Jesus Christ and not by a human being! Don't *seek* hidden or "political" intrigue, and, above all, don't compare *yourself* with the *person* giving advice. The Bible says that people who do such things are not wise! (II Cor. 10:12.)

Act Swiftly!

The final point to remember is to *strike* while the iron is hot! Learn to ACT straight away on advice! Don't

wait around until you find all sorts of reasons for self-justification! Don't indulge in the carnal luxury of self-pity or rationalization!

If you don't *see* it right away go ahead on *faith* in Christ's counsel! When you do that, the responsibility becomes His and He will see no harm comes to *you!* "No chastening for the present seems to be *joyous*, but *grievous* [it hurts!]; nevertheless *afterward* it yields the *peaceable* fruits of righteousness *unto them which are exercised thereby*" (Heb. 12:11).

Instead of allowing the *pain* of correction to drive you to the depths of self-pity, which is *negative*, let it spur you to CHANGE for the better, which is *positive!*

Only the people who *act* on counsel, correction or advice can *expect* to benefit from it! Of course it hurts—it *should*—but it will stop just as soon as you YIELD to it! Be *pliable*, be malleable! Be easy to correct, don't fight it the whole time! We have a Father in Heaven who loves us and only gives correction when *absolutely necessary!* Let's not make it so necessary!

Once you have taken the lesson to heart and *acted* on it, you will really experience a feeling of joy and relief, knowing that God loves you and cares for you! You really will manifest "the peaceable fruits of righteousness."

Make the Decision Now!

Now, with these three points in mind, let's ask the original question again. Are you truly *yielded* to God? Are you *totally* committed to Him? Would you *really* lay down your life for Him and His Work? The way you yield in your own life *now* will give you the answer! The attitude you had when you received the last Member letter will give you a clue!

Time is *extremely* short, brethren. Many will have to make *great* personal sacrifices before Christ returns. That decision to do so if called upon MUST be made *now*, not when you find yourself in trouble!

Don't hold back! Be prepared, just as Christ was, to *give your all!*

The Pull of the World

(Continued from page 6)

showing them how to live rightly, when we haven't first proven our total submission to the perfect rule of our Creator?

Jesus Christ said the true believers are to be "*the LIGHT of the world*" (Matt. 5:14) and the "*SALT of the earth*" (verse 13).

We are to let the light of our example shine out for this darkened world — so they can see the true way of God and glorify Him (Matt. 5:16). We are to be the **PACESETTERS**—the **TRAILBLAZERS** — for the whole world! We must, by our Godly examples, show this world *how to live*.

Regrettably, however, some members of Christ's Body do not set a very good example — do not really let their light shine for the world to see. They are letting the world influence and lead them — letting the world corrupt them by its devious ways.

God commands us: "**BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD:** but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

What will happen to those who become *careless* towards this world? What will be the lot of those who *return to the ways of this present evil world* — to those who become corrupted by it?

It would have been better never to have been born — better never to have seen the light of day, better never to have understood the precious truth of God — than to turn from His way, after being once enlightened (II Pet. 2:21, 22).

God repeatedly warns us to beware of the world — to beware of its sinister, corrupting influence. The lustful glamour of this world is an ever-present, glittering pull, and continually exerts a most powerful tug upon our human nature.

The natural lust of the flesh and of the eyes is continually nourished by a greedy, money-mad world — a world

which well knows how to play upon this lust-prone weakness of human nature. Advertisers fully understand the weakness of the *lust of the flesh* and the *lust of the eyes*.

Never before in the history of man has he been so barraged with a continual stream of pictures, ideas, ads which are deliberately calculated to arouse *lust* in the human heart.

And . . . to some in the very Church of God, the lustful pull of this world proves too great for them to resist — just as it was in the days of the apostle Paul.

Paul tearfully wrote: "For Demas hath forsaken me, having *loved this present world*, and is departed unto Thessalonica" (II Tim. 4:10).

He told the young evangelist, Timothy, that those in Asia had turned away from him and from the truth of God: "This thou knowest, that *all they which are in Asia be turned away from me:* of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes" (II Tim. 1:15).

Lust for Riches

Jesus also warned that some will let the "cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches" cause them to become spiritually unproductive (Matt. 13:22).

These Christians become "choked with *cares* and *riches* and *pleasures of this life*, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14).

Satan knows that he *can* overthrow a certain percentage of God's people if he can only get them to set their hearts on material things.

Never before in the history of the world have there been so many material, physical blessings of every type and description. God Almighty even promised this great wealth to the people of Israel, but He also forewarned that this wealth could become a snare — if it weren't appreciated and rightly used (Deut. 28:47, 48).

That is why Jesus Christ continually warned His followers of the danger

of being drowned in their *lust* for material, physical possessions: "Take heed, and *beware of covetousness:* for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

The apostle Paul also admonished: "And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many *foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men* in destruction and perdition" (I Tim. 6:8, 9).

Paul said that some of the believers, even in his day, had been corrupted by setting their hearts on material things: "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which *while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith*, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things (verses 10, 11).

Certainly riches and wealth of themselves are not evil. God desires that we prosper (III John 2; Mal. 3:10-12). Material wealth can be used to God's honour and glory (I Tim. 6:17-19). But all too often people become snared in the lustful pursuit of *fleeting physical possessions*.

Covetousness is Idolatry!

Believe it or not, some in the very Church of God have become lax in paying their tithes and in giving of their offerings to God and to His Work. They have thereby hurt the very Work of God, and they have also cut themselves off from God!

Remember, "*covetousness . . . is idolatry*" (Col. 3:5).

The moment you covet anything, you instantly cut yourself off from the real *source* of all blessings. Until an erring member repents of his idolatrous lusts, God will not hear him. His prayer will not ascend above the ceiling if his heart is filled with covetousness!

And . . . brethren, you need to realize that it is as easy and as natural to covet as it is to breathe. Remember, the whole world has been corrupted

through *lust* (II Peter 1:4). We were part and parcel of this evil world — before our conversion.

After we repented, a lot of this world and of its wrong ideas and ways still lingered in us. The pull of the world will often tug more violently at us once we repent than it did before we were enlightened by God's Spirit.

Here is one way that many in the Church of God are being snared into sin. They are having *too close a fellowship with the world!* This is very dangerous.

This does not mean that we should look down upon the world, or act cold, distant, superior to those still held in the world's grip.

We should be warm and friendly to those in the world; and we should want to see them brought to the knowledge of the truth, to real repentance and become the sons of God. Furthermore, we should have pity on the deceived billions of this world.

"Come Out . . . Be Separate"

But, we need to be sure that we don't become too friendly with the world — though we should love the people *in* the world — even our enemies (Matt. 5:44). Jesus commonly ate with the "publicans and sinners," but He didn't let them lead Him astray. Rather, He set them the proper example!

God says we are not to be a friend of the world. We are commanded to "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (II Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4).

Furthermore, God shows that "the ways of the wicked *seduce* them [the righteous]" (Prov. 12:26). If we are too close to those in the world they will pull us down — will corrupt us.

Like a good apple in a basket of rotten apples, so we will become just as rotten and corrupt as the world — if we have too close an association with it. We can't be bosom companions of those in the world without being seduced and corrupted by their wrong example. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (I Cor. 5:6).

This is why God Almighty commands us: "Be ye not *unequally* yoked together with unbelievers" (II Cor. 6:14). This principle applies in *business* as well as in the *marriage* relationship. Any member of God's Church who marries an *unbeliever* is courting disaster, and will be led into sin and untold suffering.

Any member who ties himself closely in business with an unbeliever will have many difficulties, and will often be led into sin.

The following example reveals how dangerous it is for us to fraternize too closely with the world.

Jacob's daughter, Dinah, foolishly decided to go out and visit the Canaanitish daughters of the land. She also "dated" the Canaanitish prince, Shechem, and thereby brought untold sorrow, suffering and misery upon Jacob's household.

"And Dinah the daughter of Leah . . . went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and *defiled* her" (Gen. 34:1, 2). (Gentiles have often been rather permissive in their outlook toward fornication.)

This was written for us as an object lesson so we can avoid the pitfalls into which others fell. "Now these things were our *examples* to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (I Cor. 10:6).

Unlawful Marriages

God forbade the people of Israel to marry the Canaanites — for a very good reason. God told Israel: "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son" (Deut. 7:3).

But . . . why did God forbid Israel to marry the Gentiles?

"For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly" (v. 4).

Yes, God knew that the Israelites should not become yoked to the Gentiles

in *marriage* — for that would cause the people of Israel to serve and worship the pagan gods of the heathen — and would bring frightening curses upon them.

This same principle applies to the people of God's Church — to "spiritual Israel." If members of the Church of God date and marry the unconverted "spiritual Gentiles" of this world, then they are going to be turned away from serving the true God, will begin to serve false gods, and will thereby bring terrible curses, including — if they aren't very careful — the second death upon themselves!

In the past, all too many in the Church have carelessly dated "outsiders" and have often got into trouble. This is wrong! This is a sin! And it should not be done by the begotten sons of God!

One young man, a 24-year-old member of God's Church, recently became ensnared into seriously dating a non-member woman who is almost twice his age.

His association with her began rather innocently — purely on a business level. After the untimely death of her husband, she began to cry on his shoulder, and the next thing you know, they were contemplating marriage!

How can you make sure you do not become corrupted by the world?

Realize that, though we have to be *in* the world, we must not be *of* it! *Don't conform* to this world! Don't become *unequally yoked* with unbelievers. Don't let yourself be spoiled by wrongly associating yourself too closely with those in this world!

Weeping at Christ's Coming

At Christ's second coming, what will be His attitude toward those who have become careless in their associations with those of this world?

"But and if that *evil servant* shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth His coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to *eat and drink with the drunken*; The Lord . . . shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall

be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matt. 24:48-51).

How many in the very Church of God have been careless in this respect? How many have actually, literally, begun to eat and drink with the drunken? If you have, then beware! Watch out! For you are getting careless, and are standing on very dangerous ground.

How can we make sure that we don't let the pulls of this lustful world draw us back into its vortex of certain destruction?

Beware of *lust* — of coveting after those things which you shouldn't have.

Remember, too, that God tells us it is easy to "neglect so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3). "Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (verse 1).

We are commanded to *examine ourselves* to see if we are really in the faith (II Cor. 13:5). And we are admonished! "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philip. 2:12).

Brethren, all too many of you have let down. Many have become ensnared in *fleshly lusts* — including fornication, adultery and other sins of the flesh. The Bible shows that no such person will inherit the Kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9-11).

We must "lay aside every weight, and the *sin* which doth so easily beset us" (Heb. 12:1).

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God... Lest there be any *fornicator*, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright" (Heb. 12:15, 16).

Are you willing to sell your "spiritual birthright" — your one and only chance for eternal life — for a few fleeting pleasures — for a few lustful, fleshly titillations?

Remember, once Esau had sold his birthright, "he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with *tears*" (verse 17).

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth — in the very near future — some members of God's Church are going to be surprised, shocked, ashamed,

saddened, *rejected* — "there will be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matt. 25:5-12, 30)!

"Confidence . . . at His Coming!"

Here's how we can make sure we aren't drowned in the lusts of this present evil world.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above . . . set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth . . ." (Col. 3:1, 2).

If we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33), if we set our affection on heavenly things, and if we are very *careful* not to become

enmeshed in this world and its *lusts* — then we will stand confidently before Jesus Christ at His second coming!

"And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have *confidence*, and not be *ashamed* before Him at His coming" (I John 2:28).

Brethren, it is high time that careless members of God's Church repent of this sin of fraternizing too closely with the world! It is time we were more careful in our associations with Satan's world. Love the people of the world, but don't fraternize too closely with them!

BIBLE CRITICISM

(Continued from page 10)

liable history! You can prove conclusively the Bible is inspired! You can prove Bible history is AUTHENTIC!

Unfair Critics

Critics of the Bible don't generally like to admit it, but since the first excavation in the Middle East in 1842 at Nineveh, a huge mass of texts and materials from archaeology has been gathered confirming the history of the Bible!

Excavations have uncovered the ancient capital of the Hittites and confirmed their business practices as alluded to in the Bible (Gen. 23:17). Ten thousand texts from the Hurrian city of Nuzu in Mesopotamia have confirmed the Bible description of the period of the patriarchs. Similar customs were evidenced.

For instance, in Nuzu a childless couple could adopt a servant who would then inherit their goods. If a child was later born, the adopted heir would be set aside. Reminds you of the case of Abraham and his servant Eliezer (Gen. 15:2-4). Further, barren wives in Nuzu were under the obligation to have a handmaid produce a son by their husbands. How similar to the case of Sarah and Hagar (Gen. 16:1-3). The firstborn at Nuzu were permitted to transfer their birthright, also, as in the case of Jacob and Esau (Gen. 25:29-34).

What about the time Joseph was

sold as a slave by his brothers into Egypt? An Egyptian papyrus dated during the time of Joseph (around 1740 B.C.) lists the names of almost a hundred slaves from one household — about half called "Asiatics" or Semites! Here is proof that what happened to Joseph was a fairly common occurrence in those days.

But will Biblical critics admit the proof? Will they accept the evidence?

In most cases — NO — THEY WILL NOT!

Most agree with Bertrand Russell who wrote in 1944, "The early history of the Israelites cannot be confirmed from any source outside the Old Testament, and it is impossible to know at what point it ceases to be purely legendary" (*Ancient Israel*, p. 6). Most still cling doggedly to the outdated, disproved "documentary hypothesis" which states that there were four different documents (represented by J, E, P, and D) which were later compiled into five books of Moses. The theory might be knocked around a bit, but critics generally are unwilling to completely depart from it.

Admittedly, ancient documents regarding the Flood, the days of Creation, genealogies and others were used by Moses when he wrote the Book of Genesis. That should be clear. But critics go too far when they claim four different schools, the Jahvists, Elohist,

Deuteronomists, and Priests, were responsible for editing and writing the first five books generally ascribed to Moses. Jewish tradition — and of all people, *they* ought to have known — has consistently stated that MOSES was the author of the Pentateuch!

A noted scholar, the late William F. Albright, declared that he defended the historicity of patriarchal tradition. Archaeological facts always support the Biblical record!

But, influenced by the evolutionary theory and the reasonings of previous scholars who had little but their own imaginations to support them, most modern scholars and Biblical critics have fallen into the same error.

Written Traditions

The Epic of Gilgamesh, as well as other Babylonian and Egyptian documents from early times PROVE that written records and traditions existed LONG BEFORE MOSES!

Contrary to the commonly accepted idea among Bible critics a few decades ago, that writing was unknown in the early days of Old Testament history, such records and documents prove writing was known *from the dawn of history*. Berosus, the Chaldean historian, related the tradition that Zisuthrus (the Babylonian Noah) buried the sacred writings *before the Flood*, on tablets of clay.

Both Arabs and Jews have a tradition that Enoch invented writing. An ancient king, historical documents show, said he loved to read the writings of the age before the Flood. An Assyrian king, Assurbanipal, who founded the great library at Nineveh, wrote of the "*inscriptions of the time before the Flood*" (*Halley's Bible Handbook*, p. 48).

Therefore, the main support of the documentary theory, that writing was unknown in the time of Moses, crumbles to dust before the searching light of archaeological knowledge!

The Double Standard

Sixty years ago, classical critics believed that even the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* of Homer were not written by him at all, but were later compiled from the original works of several different

minstrel poets. A hundred years ago a critic of Homer declared, "We may safely say that no scholar will again find himself able to embrace the unitarian hypothesis." It became heresy to believe Homer wrote Homer!

BUT — Heinrich Schliemann began excavating at Troy in 1870. Further excavations were undertaken between 1932-38. Archaeological finds and the archaeologists' picks and shovels PROVED that (what do you know about that!) Homer *did* write the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, after all! It was, after all, in agreement with historical facts. Archaeology uncovered even the bronze breastplates mentioned by Homer!

In the field of classical criticism, the critics have been willing to confess the errors of past generations. Homer has been vindicated. *But when it comes to vindicating the BIBLE*, hardly a voice can be heard among the critics! *Why?*

Why are they unwilling to confess they have been WRONG? Why are they unwilling to discard the ridiculous theory that Moses did *not* write the five books of Moses?

Is it because there is a DOUBLE STANDARD among professional critics of the Bible and classical literature? Seemingly, it is so!

Scholarly men will exonerate a pagan poet such as Homer. But they would be the last to confess the Old Testament is *historical*, and ACCURATE — as Jesus Himself testified — after all!

Amazing! But TRUTH, nonetheless!

The truth of the matter is, artificial criteria have been imposed upon the Bible which have NOT been imposed on classical literature such as the words of Homer. Very little research has been done in the literary evaluation and analysis of ancient Egyptian or Babylonian texts and records to help understand *more* about the language used in the early records of the Bible.

Biblical critics have approached the study of the Bible with a totally NEGATIVE ATTITUDE! No wonder, then, most of their conclusions have been negative as well, and they are today mired in a quagmire of confusion and *chaos!*

Scholars are now beginning to admit that if the criteria applied in the past to the Bible were applied to other classical literature, multiple authorships would have to be theorized for literature which is CLEARLY one man's work!

The truth should be plain. If scholars must not draw conclusions from dialectal mixtures in classical literature of the Greeks, *then they must not do so for the Bible!*

Negative Approach

Unfortunately, many scholars tend to reject a part of the Bible record for the sole reason that they have not found corroborative evidence in classical literature, history, or documents.

This is a tragic mistake. A leading archaeologist recently said that *only two percent* of the known sites in Palestine have been excavated. Most of the record is still buried in the ground. Scholars reveal unscholarly bias when they make negative pronouncements about Biblical history simply because classical history is *silent* on the subject! This fault has been all too common in the past, and still lingers in the attitudes of many archaeologists today!

Even when positive archaeological support is discovered from some excavation supporting the Biblical record, some critics shake their heads with mystification and maintain that they are still not convinced!

In other words, some critics demand only a scrap of circumstantial evidence when it comes to *denying* the Bible, but when it comes to finding archaeological corroborative evidence, they demand MOUNTAINS of proof!

By its very nature, archaeological evidence is hard to come by. Usually it is fragmentary, discovered by the fortuitous circumstance, and may have only a slight bearing on the matter.

Is that a fair attitude? Or is that a negative approach? Is the reasoning of some critics clouded by the evolutionary theory to the extent that their minds are virtually unwilling or unable to admit much archaeological evidence supports and PROVES the Biblical record to be true?

To give you an example, critics have pounced on the gospel of John, claiming it was not authentic. The gospel uses the word *didaskalos* for "teacher." Critics

claimed this was a second-century word not used in the time of Jesus.

Who was right? The author of John's Gospel, or the higher critics?

Answer: The Hebrew scholar Dr. E. L. Skenik made a careful study of ossuaries (burial urns) dating *before* the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He found the word *didaskalos* inscribed on one of the burial urns he unearthed!

The critics were in error!

But other critics claimed the proper names used in the Gospel of John were not names currently used during the time of Jesus. But, again, burial urns uncovered by archaeologists dated to the time of Christ refuted the skeptics. Names such as Miriam, Martha, Elizabeth, Salome, Johanna, etc., have been found on such ossuaries!

Again the evidence of archaeology proves the Bible true, and confounds the claims of skeptics and critics!

Are You Convinced?

It is time YOU were able to disprove and refute the claims of Bible critics. If someone comes to you and says Biblical history is nothing but legend, are you able to give him an answer for the faith within you? Are you able to CONFUTE the critics, and convict gainsayers?

The apostle Paul tells us the servant of God should be able "by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince [Greek — CONVICT] the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers . . . whose mouths must be stopped . . ." (Titus 1:9-11).

If someone approaches you, and asks you about the Bible, are you able to GIVE AN ANSWER for the hope which is within you (I Peter 3:15)?

The truth is, it requires FAR GREATER FAITH to swallow the claims of skeptics than it takes to believe the simple, honest, truthful Word of God which is corroborated and *proved true* by the spade of archaeology!

Biblical history stands PROVED! You can bank on it! God's people have no need whatsoever to stand in awe of the ideas of Bible critics. The fact that critics have resorted to a *double standard* when it comes to the Bible should be obvious to all. The fact that some, out of their

own mouths have confessed, "only those facts which FIT THE HYPOTHESIS are taken up and others ignored" should be apparent for the absurdity that it is.

Whom will you believe? How sure are YOU that the Bible is the proved, tested, and tried WORD OF GOD?

Brethren, there is no reason for any to

remain in doubt. You should *KNOW* with positive confidence that the Bible is TRUE and Biblical history is accurate!

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:3-4).

TEEN-AGERS

(Continued from page 8)

gasping out their last bloody, wheezing pitiful cry, "Help me, help me," before death!!!

Wise Teen-agers Are a Joy —a Blessing!

What a tremendous joy to see a teen-ager who reflects the life of a prince, the mind of righteous living — God's way! What a pleasant experience to see a teen-ager with peace of mind, smiling, enjoying life *right now* in this miserable, darkened, demented world that's soon to end!

I've worked with a few teen-agers in my time. I've seen quite a few learn their lesson — both the hard, *not-so-much character way*, and the easier painless way — "I believe you, *now*, God! I'd rather read or hear and learn the lesson than have to experience it!"

It takes a lot of work on Dad's and Mom's part before any teen-ager "arrives." It takes a lot of patience. A lot of tears are normally shed to bring a young son or daughter to maturity. When it comes, and God promises it will when you follow His methods (Prov. 22:6), it's worth all the sweat, the toil, the sleepless hours, the prayers, the planning projected and needed to build the lives of your own flesh and blood son or daughter into young, respectful, soon-to-be adults, who know where they are going.

It doesn't just happen, does it, Dad?

Rear them right, Dad — Mom — *work* with them. A child must be taught wisdom, and what a joy when it comes. "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that

begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him" (Prov. 23:24).

It's quite a reward for those parents who are willing to plan their lives to include their greatest responsibility — their own children.

Parents, Give Them Special Training

It is you parents who must be sure that your princes and princesses, your children, receive the special training necessary in order to qualify for rulership in the World Tomorrow. The beyond-imagination, unbelievable, earth-shattering, physical World Tomorrow! Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip have not only taught Prince Charles that he is different, that he is born to rule, they have for twenty years taught, trained and prepared him for rulership.

Prince Charles just turned 20 this past November. Presently the Prince is completing his formal education. During the summer of 1969 he must spend several months at the University of Wales. It will be a difficult summer. The Prince, the Royal Family, are not fully respected in Wales. Welsh nationalists have already threatened Prince Charles and the Royal Family. Yet Prince Charles has determined that he will go even in the face of danger, even assassination. It's all part of his training to rule.

He is doing it for a corruptible earthly crown. Are you willing to go through as much for the incorruptible crown, teen-agers?

Prince Charles is scheduled to finish his formal schooling at Cambridge by

1970. But his life has been planned beyond 1970. His father, Prince Philip, has tentative plans for a short period of military service to help round out his son's education. "I think this is a valuable experience and it would be very useful to him in later life," said his father.

Dad — Mom, are you planning the life of *your* princes? Are you making available the practical education of a summer away from home at the Summer Education Program in Orr? Are you taking your Prince and Princess on field trips, the museum, the state capitol, our national capitol, if possible? Are you *taking time* to show them what happens to a criminal, what the nearest penitentiary is like or what happens to people who go insane? I mean in a POSITIVE WAY, when they are old enough to be taught, and *in balance* with other events.

Are you pointing out, as you stand atop the Empire State Building or the highest building in your nearest major city, what it will be like up there when God shakes the earth? Are you showing them the world today and what it will be like in The World Tomorrow, the way *it will be* ruled by parents and children who qualify?

Are you building a desire to rule in the minds of your children? Or are you leaving it all up to the school and the Church?

Perhaps it's not out of the realm of possibility for some of you to show your children what life is like in other nations. Mexico isn't so far away. In this Jet Age a trip to Europe is not out of the question for some. If it is impossible to visit these areas personally, then review a geography book, news magazine or occasionally a good educational movie with your children. Point out to them the benefits of being Israelites.

Learning doesn't, can't, and shouldn't all come from the local school, the Church, or the printed articles, 1975 *in Prophecy*, *The GOOD NEWS* and *The PLAIN TRUTH*. They are important, but they alone are not enough! Education is more than school and church, more than "Johnnie, do this and don't do that!"

Special for Dad and Mom

A friend of mine pointed out a couple of teen-agers that know where they are going. Their dad and mom were never quite sure, but they kept plugging away, bending their knees, working to set an example of righteous living to their children. "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes *observe* my ways"! (Prov. 23:26.) They believed this scripture!

Their children lived in a home that reflected God's character. It was a home filled with joy and love. It was a bright, cheerful home, a place where the children wanted to hurry home at day's end.

These particular teen-agers have never heard dad and mom fight or quarrel in over seven years — not since a year or two after *conversion*! Their parents have listened, they have heard and most of all they have *changed* to LIVE God's way, *setting the example*! Theirs is a living faith; they are "*doers* of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

They have a dad and mom who are willing to sacrifice a little of their own pleasures, their personal lives for the children. Their parents were willing to plan their work time and their leisure time for the benefit of the family, considering the end — the teen-agers' future!

Their dad figured out many an outing when he was tired and it would have been a lot easier to kick off his shoes, find that comfortable easy chair and relax for the evening. Instead, he planned a trip to the mountains for a few hours in the evening, right after work, and — what do you know — he enjoyed it too! That cool, refreshing air, just out of the smog belt; that mountain stream, just before it became a sewer ten miles downstream; the wood fire, the hamburgers; the enjoyment of a family outing in God's great out-of-doors is an art all parents should capture.

Their parents' conversation wasn't always limited to "no." However, when "no" was the answer, the children knew it was the right answer and that it was final. They respected which-

ever answer came. They knew dad and mom had their best interest at heart, because dad and mom had told them un-faithfully how much they loved them and how much they wanted them to succeed. They didn't *overcorrect*, but they did correct!

They weren't always nagging at the children, always haranguing until the children just knew they never did anything right. Correction was balanced, administered in love with wisdom; the children were told just as often how well they had accomplished a feat, *however small* or *insignificant*. They really believed dad and mom loved them, because they took the time to prove their love.

Every one had his part in planning an event, in planning the home, keeping it clean, building and improving little things to make it a more joyous place to live.

God Gives Blessings and So Should Parents

There were blessings for obedience. The day that dad bought them a real, live, full-sized pool table, you should have seen their eyes sparkle. This was home, a place they were really going to miss when they went to college, when they grew up!

There were weekend hunting trips, after the Sabbath, basketball games, baseball games, trips to the Feast, those little extra unexpected events that dad has a way of making into exciting events. It sure was great to have a dad and mom who cared enough to *take time* to live, to share their lives with their children. It made it a lot easier, in a seemingly impossible world, to choose the right way when the right way felt so good!

Life God's way really was the good way, the happy way — Dad's and Mom's life *proved* it!

How Are You Doing, Dad and Mom?

How are you doing, Dad, Mom? Are you praying, studying, setting the right example for your teen-agers? Are you showing them how to live as a Prince? Are you giving them a happy life, a

clear unmistakable choice? Or have you taken away their life of the past, Christmas, Easter, the Friday night football games and substituted a life of do's and don'ts? Have you, without thinking, become so involved in your own new Christian life that you have unwittingly bequeathed to your children a drab, dreary life of don'ts — of "sit here, keep the Sabbath, the Holy Days, reverence God or you're going to Hell!?"

If you have gotten so busy in the Work of God that you have forgotten your children — then you have failed your greatest charge — your greatest responsibility! Unknowingly, carelessly, you have thrown your children into a void, robbing them of past pleasures and happiness, imposing a harsh regimented life of obedience, one of *no blessings* in its place. If you have, you have said to your children, "I'm too busy now learning how to live God's Way; I'm too busy to be bothered with you now, Johnny."

Better take another look, Dad. It may not be too late yet. Perhaps there is a need in your life to have the complete mind of Christ and His love for your children. Maybe you need to re-evaluate your responsibility as a parent and take time now to really work, play and personally direct your children's lives. It could pay off in big dividends tomorrow!

Now, Back to the Teen-agers

But then this was to be a short note to the teen-agers to give them that something, that special experience that might help them in choosing and living the right way. Something to help even if Dad and Mom aren't converted or interested in setting the example, in living God's Way.

We, as parents, teen-agers and children need to have patience with each other. Children need to submit to authority, right or wrong, for their own benefit, "That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." "Correction is grievous [only] unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that

hateth reproof shall die." (Ex. 20:12; Prov. 15:10.)

In spite of the fact that God didn't call very many "mighty," very many "noble" parents, teen-agers, He did a surprisingly good job of selecting parents who are right more often than wrong in directing, molding and shaping your lives. God didn't call many parents having the great wisdom of this world; and aren't you glad, children? It's no fun having a Mom who has her new husband sign the guest book!

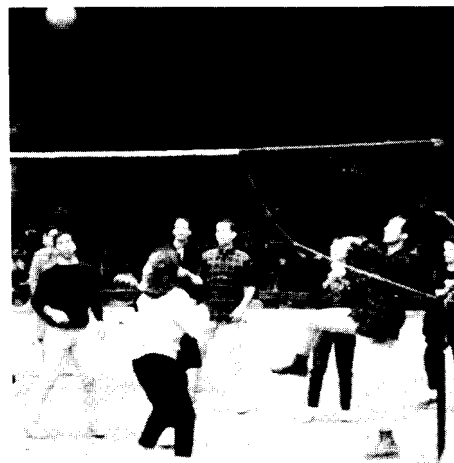
On the average, God selected parents who are willing to be *corrected themselves*, parents who are willing to learn to grow in knowledge, of learning administration of government in the home. Most of you have parents whose greatest desire is to become perfect!

Jack in his letter asked for another teen-age article. You've just received it, teen-agers. We hope and pray that you all benefit by it — that you will be

encouraged to resist evil and live the *good life!* That you, God's princesses and princes will have the character, the determination and the fortitude to make it through these last few years amidst the morass of swill, pornography, degenerate music, obscene literature, perverted sex, dope, rebellion, filth and the whole jungle of Satanic temptations designed to trap the weak, "I'll live *now*" teen-ager. Teen-agers, ask God to help you — He will!

It's a *demanding age*. God has taken this into consideration and made the rewards equal to challenge and *then some!* The future God's way is breathtaking — utterly fantastic! Tomorrow is just around the corner. A bright, radiant, truly unprecedented, joyous tomorrow, an almost incomprehensible world awaits you, the teen-agers of today.

It's your future, teen-agers! Do you have what it takes to meet the challenge?



Kilburn — Ambassador College Photo

Scenes from a mountain outing — a good way to enjoy the good life, and no hangovers afterward.

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

chance for us to have children of our own. We're so glad to be able to have a part in God's Work.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. D.,
Many, Louisiana.

• *You have a very unusual blessing (see Matt. 10:36) and we rejoice with you in it.*

SEVEN TIMES

(Continued from page 12)

year. We know from personal experience and from dealing with others that you can't *out-give* God. Those in the Church receiving the greatest blessing are those who have their hearts in the Work — spiritually, physically as well as *financially*.

Were you able to give more this past Feast than the Feast in 1967? What about the 1966 Feast? Think back, check up on your *involvement* in the Work. If you're really growing, then God is blessing you yearly, thus enabling you to give more each year than you gave the year before.

Brethren, we don't call these matters to your attention just to try to bolster the income of God's Work. It's for *your* good that we mention them. Many are simply *missing out* on blessings through drifting along and not looking ahead.

Strive to do better. Really work at it and recall God's penetrating words in Malachi 3:8-10, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and *OFFERINGS*. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes [*and offerings*] into the storehouse, that there may be meat [food] in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, and POUR YOU OUT A *BLESSING*, that there shall not be ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT."

Habit Pays Feast Expense

"Two and a half years ago, with the help of the Eternal, I quit smoking. Last year I was baptized into God's Church. This year I was able to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles with the brethren in England (more than 60 nations harmoniously represented). What does that have to do with smoking? Well, I calculated what my smoking habit *would* have cost me this past year had I continued at the same rate. Would you believe that it came to the same amount that the trip to the Feast (including transportation, food and lodging) cost. Truly God's ways are best. Take it from one who is smoking *none* now and enjoying it *more!*"

Stanley D.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

College Tour Highlight

"I want to thank those who made it possible for me to attend the Feast in Long Beach. I have always wanted to see the college since being baptized over eleven years ago. I am most thankful that I was given this opportunity. God has blessed me so much. I saw so many brethren from other areas that I have known for several years. The tour of the college was one of the highlights. I will never forget the beauty of the buildings nor of the grounds. I hope I can come

back in a couple of years to see its growth."

Mrs. Arlie G.,
Martinsville, Indiana.

Baptism Request

"I feel that I really need to be baptized as soon as possible. I want to be completely keeping the laws and commandments of God, but I need to be led by God's Holy Spirit to be sure that I am living by every word of God. Please, Sir, baptize me as soon as possible. Enclosed herewith is a five-centavo coin. It is one-tenth of what I earned from selling empty bottles. God requires me to tithe."

Mrs. Mila F. D.,
Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

Unique

"I must admit that as disturbing as your programme is, it is interesting. Though I am not a Christian, I always take the opportunity to tune in to Herbert W. Armstrong. What religion or organization is represented on his programmes? As yet, I have not come across any Christian organization as dynamic and positive in approach and outlook."

Mr. G. C. D.,
Picnic Point, New South Wales.

Church of God News — WORLDWIDE

(Continued from page 4)

were ordained for the first time and 23 were raised in rank. Here is the list so that all the brethren in God's Church can rejoice and give God thanks:

Those newly ordained to the rank of Local Elder: Mr. Barry Chase (Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown area); Mr. Richard Frankel (Richmond, Virginia); Mr. Bill Kaiser (Cape Girardeau, Evansville area); Mr. Richard Kilbury (Boise, Idaho); Mr. Judd Kirk (Houston, North & South, Texas); Mr. Randall Kobernat (Fayetteville, Greensboro area); Mr. Carl Koellner (Wheeling, Uniontown area); Mr. Bobby Leaque (Huntsville, Alabama); Mr. Enrique Ruiz (Mexico City Office

Manager); Mr. Leslie Schmedes (Chicago, South Side); Mr. Doug Taylor (Ann Arbor, Detroit area); Mr. Abner Washington (Los Angeles area); Mr. Lyle Welty (Columbus, Dayton area).

Those raised to the rank of Preaching Elder: Mr. Etienne Bourdin (Geneva Office); Mr. James Chapman (Los Angeles); Mr. Clarence T. Gould, Jr. (Bricket Wood, England); Mr. Stephen Martin (Reno, Nevada); Mr. Lester McColem (Kansas City, Missouri); Mr. Robert Morton (London, England); Mr. Wayne Phillips (Seattle, Washington); Mr. Daryl Reedy (Big Sandy, Texas); Mr. John Robinson (Big



Frank Brown, Pastor

Sandy, Texas); Mr. Larry Salyer (Abilene, Odessa area).

Those ministers raised to the rank of Pastor: Mr. Gary Antion (Toronto, Kitchener area); Mr. Gary Arvidson (Asheville, Columbia area); Mr. Hal Baird (Milwaukee, Richland Center area); Mr. Frank Brown (Santa Barbara; Assistant Comptroller, Ambassador College, Pasadena); Mr. Keith Crouch (Sydney, Australia); Mr. Al Dennis (Eugene, Salem area); Mr. Robert Fahey (Melbourne, Australia); Mr. Paul Flatt (Houston North & South, Lake Charles area); Mr. John Pruner (Flint, Midland area); Mr. Dennis Pyle (Findlay, Toledo area); Mr. Richard Rice (Huntsville, Birmingham area); Mr. William Winner (Perth, Australia).



Etienne Bourdin, Preaching Elder



Al Dennis, Pastor

The ordination of an Evangelist carries a special sense of excitement; and at this conference, Mr. Ronald Dart, beginning his new position as Deputy Director of the Foreign Work, was so blessed.

Congratulations to all of these men who now have additional opportunities to serve the Creator God in His majestic end-time Work.

The Year Behind and The Year Ahead

The January issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* featured a three-page spread outlining the catastrophic worldly events of "1968 — The Impossible Year." But for the Work of God, 1968 was a spectacular year, the greatest year in our history! 26 new Churches were started (21 in the United States and Canada, and 5 in foreign countries), 60 new ministers were ordained and 37 raised in rank. Furthermore, the attendance at many of the local congregations swelled toward the wall-bursting point. Literally dozens of new Churches await only the ministers to pastor them. Brethren, we must earnestly pray that God calls and trains dozens of desperately needed ministers!

1968 will be remembered as the year that God unveiled a most momentous opportunity for fulfilling the commission given to His Church. Major circulation magazine advertising (*Life*, *TV Guide*, *Reader's Digest*) opened up all

over the world. In addition, some of the most prestigious newspapers in England also opened their doors to God's Work. All put together, we have experienced the greatest surge of growth in a one-year period that we have ever had. *The PLAIN TRUTH* subscription list jumped from 1,150,000 to 1,530,000, and we began two new editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH* — the Spanish (now 26,000 and growing) and the Dutch (7,000 and growing)!

From every indication 1969 will bring enormous breakthroughs for God's Work, dwarfing into insignificance the events of 1968, and eclipsing and overshadowing even our bold estimates for 1969. God's message WILL reach this world in full power. This world will surely know that they have been warned by God's messengers. And God wants every member of His Church to be personally *involved in* and *committed to* God's Work. What doors will God open next? We don't know! But this we do know: when those doors are opened we MUST be fully prepared to walk through them! It is thrilling to await God's next move. But God's Church must be ready.



Enrique Ruiz, Local Elder

Will YOU be ready? ARE you ready? Or are YOU delaying the progress of God's Work? God will not move until His instruments, His Church, are spiritually prepared to move! Every individual member must do his or her part. We all must heed the basic COMMAND of this year's Conference:

PUT GOD'S WORK FIRST — ALWAYS:
BE LOYAL TO GOD'S WORK — FOREVER!!!