

The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

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Thousands Observe God's PASSOVER!

*The greatest Passover in modern times was recently observed!
Increasing POWER is manifest in God's Church around the world!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

ACROSS the nation, and around the world, God's people recently celebrated His Passover.

Now including observances in New York City and London, England, it was the greatest Passover in modern times! And we know that many of our brethren in Africa, Australia, the Philippines and elsewhere were also commemorating the death of our Lord and Master at this Passover season.

Joyous Festival at Gladewater

Amid the joyous greetings of Christian friends old and new, the preparations for the Passover at the big tabernacle at Gladewater got underway Tuesday afternoon, April 21. Mr. Roy Hammer and many of the other deacons had worked hard to make the organizational end of things a success, and it certainly was.

Twelve hundred people registered for the Days of Unleavened Bread at Gladewater! The ministers there were constantly busy throughout the entire eight days of the Festival of Unleavened Bread counseling with people about personal problems, anointing the sick, and baptizing many new brethren into Christ's body. A total of twenty-three new people were baptized during the festival at Gladewater, and began the real Christian life of overcoming self and living by every word of God!

Many powerful sermons were de-

livered by Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong, and Mr. Norman Smith. They were ably assisted by our other ministers in the area, and by Mr. Albert Portune, Mr. Tony Hammer, and Mr. Bill McDowell from Ambassador College.

Reports from those who attended indicate that the ministers and the newer men assisting them in the preaching all gave exceptionally powerful sermons—and this augurs more of the same for all of us when we meet together at the Feast of Tabernacles this fall!

Six hundred and forty-eight converted Christians partook of the Passover, plus the hundreds of others who attended many of the services during the eight-day festival at the tabernacle. Scores of new brethren were in attendance, and had the opportunity for the first time of fellowshiping with others of like faith and of learning together more of the true way of life sent to this earth through Jesus Christ.

Truly, our tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas, is one of the places where God has chosen to place His name, and His presence was felt there during this festival!

Passover in the California Churches

A total of six hundred and forty-two adults partook of the Passover at the headquarter's Church of God in Pasadena! Scores of others attended the

Feast and the preaching services.

In addition, several special Bible studies were held during the Days of Unleavened Bread and many questions were answered. Also, many special subjects were brought up during these studies and sermons were given on many unusual topics by Mr. Herman Hoeh, who presided during the festival.

Mr. Benjamin Rea presided at the Passover services in the San Diego Church, and a total of 72 adults partook with many others attending the Feast and Holy Day services.

Mr. George Meeker and Mr. Don Billingsley took charge of the services at the Fresno Church of God. One hundred and two adults partook of the Passover there, plus many more in attendance at the preaching services during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

The brethren from the smaller churches at Redlands and Sherman Oaks attended Pasadena, and helped to swell the attendance at the services there, and allow all of the brethren throughout the Los Angeles area to have fellowship together during the wonderful season of Unleavened Bread.

Passover in World's Largest City!

New York City—probably the largest metropolis in our Western world—had its first Passover service, so far as we know, in modern times this spring! It was a wonderful service, and it brought

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scattered abroad*

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to light the real spiritual *hunger* of the people in this area!

My wife and I, Mr. Carlton Smith, and Mr. Arlen Shelton all flew back to New York City in order to conduct this first Passover Service and to hold nightly meetings during the Days of Unleavened Bread plus special services on the Holy Days. It was a wonderful opportunity and a challenge! To see the confused system and the confused people in this concrete "jungle" is always an experience, but to conduct the first Passover service of God's Church in such an area was an experience indeed!

Everything God does through human beings starts out *small*. And so it was with this first New York Passover. And yet, in spite of the comparatively small number of people in attendance, there was a great deal of zeal manifested, a great many problems were solved, and God did seem to cause many things to run in cycles of *seven*—which seems to indicate His blessing, as it is the "perfect" or *complete* number in the Bible.

The night before the Passover, *seven* new people were baptized. At the Passover service, seventy-seven, or eleven times seven were in attendance! Then, during the Days of Unleavened Bread, there was another baptismal service at which time *seven* more were baptized.

Actually, the number in attendance during the nightly meetings continued to increase steadily. This was because many of our friends and Co-Workers who were not yet ready to partake of the Passover began attending these meetings, and some became so interested

they brought friends with them on succeeding nights! Thus, at the preaching service on the final Holy Day, there were one hundred forty adults — or twenty times seven—in attendance!

People Hungering for the Truth

Since every one in that area is relatively "new" in God's truth, the meetings were like a miniature evangelistic campaign. Because of the *very zealous attitude* of the brethren there, Mr. Smith and I were inspired to give more powerful sermons than we normally might have on such an occasion. One of our zealous junior students in Ambassador College, Arlen Shelton, was a great help to us in counseling with dozens of people before and after the meetings, helping to arrange for things for the Passover and Feast, and in playing the piano for the congregational singing.

I was especially struck by the great help my wife, Margie, was to me and everyone during this Passover season. So many dozens of the women had personal problems and questions that she was able to help with, and her natural love of people seemed to warm up and inspire all of the men and women alike.

I hope that this mention will cause many of you scattered brethren to learn to seek out the *minister's wives* at our annual festivals to get help and advice, and to counsel with about special problems when you are not able to get directly to the ministers. They will be able to help you more than you imagine!

The zeal and the great NEED of the people in this area have caused us to determine that, God willing, a new church shall be established in New York City sometime later this year. Because of his intimate knowledge of our brethren in that area, and his special desire to help them, Mr. Carlton Smith is currently slated to be the pastor of God's Church in New York City. Let us all PRAY that God may make the founding of this church possible, and that His blessing will be with Mr. Smith and with all of His people there as this new church begins!

Passover in the Northwest

The churches in Oregon came together at Portland for the Passover services. There was a grand total of 207 who partook of the Passover, and on the first Holy Day there were, including children, 360 present at services!

Regular preaching services were scheduled during the Days of Unleavened Bread with Mr. Raymond Cole as the Evangelist in charge. He was assisted in the preaching services by Mr. Burk McNair and Mr. Jimmy Friddle. Also, Mr. David Antion—this year's student body president of Ambassador College—

came up from Pasadena to help out in preaching and counseling with the people.

As usual for that area, it rained a few times during the Days of Unleavened Bread, but it is well reported that the spirits of the brethren there were not dampened in the least and it was a wonderful festival in every way. It was the first full Festival of Unleavened Bread to be held in the Northwest area and since that area is really GROWING, even larger festivals can be expected in succeeding years.

Before going down to assist in the preaching services at Portland, Mr. Friddle was in charge of the Passover and Feast in the Seattle-Tacoma area. There were 122 adults there who partook of the Passover and about 200 were present for the Feast the following evening. Mr. Friddle reports that in the three or four weeks preceding the Passover, he was able to baptize 31 people in that area! So God's Church is growing in every way in the Northwest, and we may give Him *thanks* and *praise* for these new members added to the body of Christ!

Passover at Denver

Mr. Bryce Clark and Mr. Charles Dorothy conducted a full eight days Festival of preaching and counseling during the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread at Denver, Colorado. They were assisted by Mr. Dale Hampton, an older, married Junior student from Ambassador College, who is already a very effective preacher and servant of Christ.

In that area, 151 adults partook of the Passover and over 300 attended services on the first Holy Day with well over 100 in attendance each day during the entire Festival of Unleavened Bread.

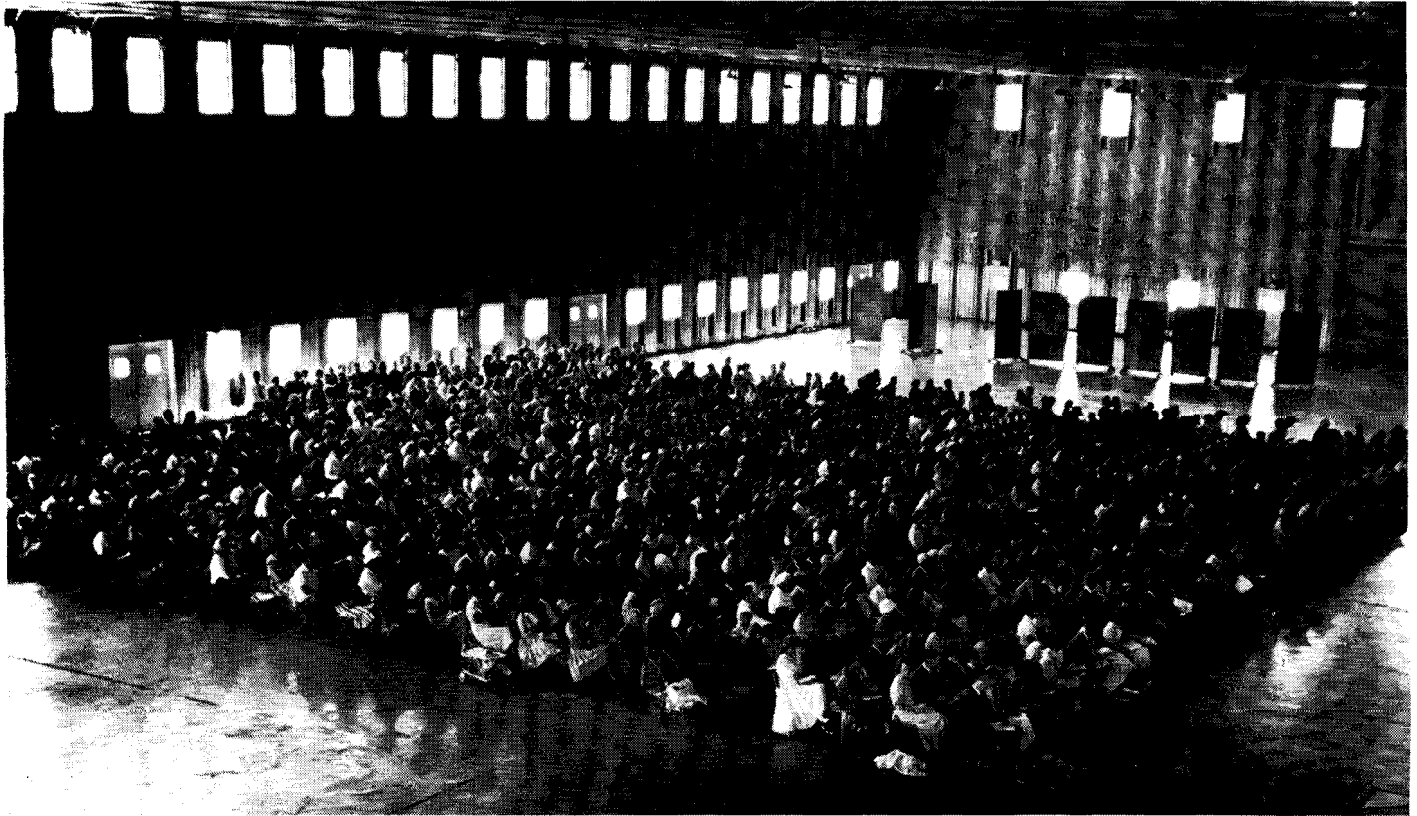
God blessed His people in that area in many ways. One of these blessings was that although the weatherman forecast a storm on the weekend during the Days of Unleavened Bread, they never saw it. It was around 70 degrees every day during the Feast!

God's Passover Celebrated in London and Bristol, England

A wonderful and worshipful Passover season was enjoyed by God's saints over in the British Isles. Brethren were in attendance at London from many areas in England and from Sweden and Germany as well.

Mr. Raymond McNair officiated at the Passover service in London with 46 adults in attendance, and many more attending the preaching services on the Holy Day.

Mr. Ernest Martin conducted Passover services for our newly formed Bible Study group in Bristol, England.



Courtesy Du Bry Photography

The congregation at the Tabernacle listen to Mr. Armstrong as he delivers one of his inspiring messages during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

There were nine adults in attendance, but it is reported that they had a wonderful service and much Christian fellowship—looking forward to an even larger festival next year as a full-fledged church is formed in that area.

An even more recent blessing in that area is that Mr. Raymond McNair and his wife, Leona, recently became the thankful parents of a bouncing baby boy! Young Master McNair's name is Bruce Andrew David, weighing in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces. Even though our churches in London and Bristol are rather small as yet and only in their formative stages, it has been jokingly remarked that Mr. McNair and Mr. Martin are doing their best to increase the population of God's Church in that area since their wives are both having children this year!

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Martin's baby has not yet arrived, but when it does we will try to inform you in this column!

And while we are mentioning new babies of the ministers, we should by all means tell you of the sweet and dainty little baby girl that recently came as a blessing to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Swisher, of the Gladewater, Texas church. Mr. Swisher is the pastor there, and had spent many a week waiting for the over-



Courtesy Du Bry Photography

Some of the younger generation enjoying themselves on the Tabernacle grounds during the Festival. Playing ball with the youngsters is Mr. Priebe of the Gladewater Church of God.

due little Miss. But she turned out very well, and was extremely worth waiting for! Her name? Regina Lorraine, after her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Battles, of the Pasadena church.

Passover Services at Pittsburgh

Mr. Wayne Cole officiated at the Passover services of our church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Brethren came from distant areas including Washington, D. C., New Jersey, Toronto, Ontario, and several from Ohio and West Virginia.

Ninety adults partook of the Passover and about 165 were present on the first Holy Day of the Feast.

Mr. Cole reports that the church there continues to grow rapidly, and that the average attendance at the weekly Sabbath Services at Pittsburgh is now approximately 130! Many more interested Co-workers in this area are yet to be contacted, so this church and area will become a large and important one in God's work in the future.

Passover in Other Churches

We have only summary reports about the Passover services held in our other local Church areas. But the brethren in these Churches—and hundreds of you scattered brethren in your own homes across the nation—observed God's Passover and had His presence with you in this commanded observance.

In our large Chicago church, 270 adults partook of the Passover and 450 people attended the Feast the following day and the preaching services. Mr. Dean Blackwell, the minister there, officiated and reported that 25 people were baptized during this joyous season.

At St. Louis, Mr. Ken Swisher—flying up from Gladewater—officiated at the Passover with 126 adults in attendance, and more coming on the following Feast day.

At our new church in Springfield, Missouri, 129 adults partook of the Passover and more attended the Holy Day services following. Mr. Gerald Waterhouse conducted the services and reported that it was a wonderful Festival in every way.

At Victoria, Texas, the San Antonio and Corpus Christi congregations met for the Passover. Mr. Allen Manteufel, the minister in that area, officiated with 98 adults partaking of the Passover and more in attendance on the Holy Days.

At Houston, Texas, Mr. Jon Hill officiated at the Passover services with 82 adults partaking, and a wonderful Festival held the following day.

We can also remember with thanksgiving that many *hundreds* of our brethren took the Passover in their own homes across the nation and Canada.



At the Headquarters Church in Pasadena, on the spacious grounds of the Ambassador College campus, nearly 1000 line up for dinner, above, and enjoy their meals on the beautifully contoured lawns, below.



And additional scores of brethren attended the Passover in the Philippines, Africa and other scattered areas.

So, in addition to the *nearly three thousand* brethren who were able to attend a Passover service in America, *hundreds* of others throughout the nation and the world also observed this sacred memorial of our Savior's tragic death.

Let us PRAY, brethren, that God will *bless* and *inspire* and *empower* His

ministers in the new areas where God's Church is developing! Pray for Mr. Cole in Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania area. Pray for Mr. McNair and Mr. Martin over in the British Isles. Pray for the New York area and the proposed church there.

Pray zealously for God's Church and His work EVERYWHERE. And let us give God *thanks* and *praise* for blessing us with this largest and most joyous Passover season in modern times!

Was the *New Testament Church* Founded on SUNDAY?

The Church Jesus built was founded on PENTECOST. What is the meaning of Pentecost? Why have the churches lost it?

by Herman L. Hoeb

OVER 400 sects and denominations are today competing for the NAME of Jesus Christ. They call themselves "Christian" churches. But are they?

Could all—or any—of these conflicting sects and denominations be the ONE TRUE CHURCH which Jesus founded?

Jesus promised that He would build His Church. But He did not begin to build it WHEN most people think He did! He also prayed that His Church would be *one*, not many divided and confused denominations.

An Apostasy Prophesied

Jesus warned that there were to arise "many" false teachers and ministers, deceiving the MANY, founding through the centuries different churches which would profess to be the churches of Christ.

John, one of the twelve apostles, saw this very thing begin to happen in his lifetime! He said, ". . . even now there are many antichrists. . . . They went out from us, but they were not of us" (I John 2:19). He continued in chapter 4, verse 5: "They are of the world . . . and the world heareth them."

And the world is still hearing them today!

In III John verses 9 and 10 the Apostle warned against false elders or bishops who were thrusting the true members of God's Church out of the local congregations.

Jesus Christ the Revelator made known to John that the true Church would be a scattered and persecuted Church that would have to flee for over a thousand years from the persecuting sword of a great false church claiming to be the true Church of Christ. Compare Revelation 12 and 17.

The Church that Jesus promised to build, *which is composed of those who are filled and led by the Spirit of God, is to be guided into truth through all ages* despite enemies from without and apostates from within who would profess to teach the truth. His Church is a commandment keeping Church, not a political organization. It faithfully retains the testimony of Jesus Christ—the gospel—recorded in inspired Scripture (Rev. 12:17). This Church recognizes

Christ as its Head and it is *subject* to His government.

WHICH CHURCH IS THIS TRUE CHURCH *that is to continue through all ages and exists today teaching and preaching the same truth that Christ and the apostles commanded? When was it founded?*

How You Can Know

The true Church must be *the Church that Jesus founded*. It must have been founded *when He founded it*. And it must have been founded *where He founded it*.

Now let's notice the plain facts.

All Protestant churches—as their own members admit—were founded *too late!* They were not founded by Jesus Christ but *by men at least 15 centuries after Jesus founded His Church*. Mr. Meredith's recent series in 'The PLAIN TRUTH makes this plain!

Of course, many of them claim to be *reformed* churches, that is, they claim to have restored the truth which was lost by some parent body. *Thus they must ultimately admit that they claim their origin FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH*. The common *assumption* is that the Catholic Church was the true church that went wrong and needed reforming and so these protestant bodies are its rightful successors!

Now the question is this: Was the Catholic Church founded *by Jesus Christ when He founded His Church?*

When Was the Church Founded?

The Scripture shows that the New Testament Church began *on the day of Pentecost!* It is described in the second chapter of Acts.

A large denomination, which practices baptism, claims their church began *before* this event—and that their church is therefore the one true church. Their contention is that Jesus founded His Church when He . . . and they quote I Cor. 12:28: "set some in the church, first apostles." If you would carefully read this scripture just quoted, you will notice it is not referring to *the time* when He chose the apostles, but to the fact that He set the apostles *first* IN AUTHORITY.

This denomination also believes that

only those who are already "saved" can *join* their local churches. By this reasoning Judas must have been converted and "saved" since he was one of the twelve which Jesus supposedly first placed in their Church.

What foolish reasoning!

No, Jesus founded *His New Testament Church* on the day of Pentecost—not before then!

It is *the Holy Spirit* that puts us into the one body or true Church. You do not join some denomination after being "saved" (I Cor. 12:13). Jesus even told the apostles to wait *in Jerusalem* till the Holy Spirit, which the Father promised to send, would come (Acts 1:4). That is when Jesus founded His Church—on the day of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem!

Was That Pentecost on SUNDAY?

Now let us see if those churches which claim to have been founded by Jesus at Jerusalem on Pentecost can actually prove their claims in the face of proven history and the inspired record of Scripture.

Was the true Church founded on a Sunday in A.D. 33 as the *Catholic and a few Protestant churches claim?* REMEMBER, if any church which claims apostolic authority has erred in the traditional date of its founding, *how can we* believe that its other traditions are true?

In the March issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, we published an article containing the *seven irrefutable proofs* from history that the year of the crucifixion—and hence the year of the founding of the true New Testament Church of God—*was 31 A.D.*, not 33 or 30 A.D. or any other date!

Any Church organization admitting that it was not founded when Jesus founded His Church in 31 A.D. could not be the Church that Jesus promised to build! It must be an imposter!

That same article in the March PLAIN TRUTH proved from the Scripture and the Calendar (reproduced on the next page) that the Passover—Nisan 14, upon which Jesus died—occurred Wednesday, April 25, in 31 A.D. Since we know this date, we can easily calculate the date of Pentecost—the very day upon

31 A.D. APRIL				31 A.D. MAY			31 A.D. 1TH MONTH						31 A.D.		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SABBATH	NISAN						FRI	SABBATH	
				12 ^{NEW MOON}	13	14							1 ^{NEW MOON}	2	3
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
22	23	24	25 ^{PASSOVER CRUCIFIXION}	26 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	27	28 ^{Resurrection}		11	12	13	14 ^{PASSOVER CRUCIFIXION}	15 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	16	17 ^{Resurrection}	
29 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	30 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	1 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	2	3	4	5		18 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	19 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	20 ^{DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD}	21	22	23	24	
6	7	8	9	10	11			25	26	27	28	29	30		

MAY				JUNE			2TH MONTH								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SABBATH	IYAR								
						12 ^{NEW MOON}									1 ^{NEW MOON}
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

JUNE				JULY			3TH MONTH								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SABBATH	SIVAN								
10 ^{NEW MOON}	11	12	13	14	15	16		1 ^{NEW MOON}	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17	18 ^{PENTECOST}	19	20	21	22	23		8	9 ^{PENTECOST}	10	11	12	13	14	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
8	9							29	30						

which the Church of God was founded.
Was that day Sunday?

New Testament Church Not Founded When Most People Think!

Does the day of Pentecost occur on Sunday?

Or, are the Jews right in permitting Pentecost to fall on almost any day of the week, but only on a fixed day of the third month, Sivan 6? Let's see.

First, the day of Pentecost is the ONLY annual Sabbath that *must* be "counted" year by year (Lev. 23:15). THEREFORE, THE JEWS ARE WRONG IN PLACING IT ON A FIXED DAY OF THE MONTH. The Jewish date for Pentecost is incorrect because it does NOT need to be counted each year. If the Jews were right, Moses would have said that Pentecost shall be observed a certain day of the third month.

The Jewish error developed when the

Pharisees used the day after an *annual* sabbath instead of "THE SABBATH"—the WEEKLY sabbath—as Moses said.

By counting from the morrow after the *weekly* sabbath which comes during the days of unleavened bread, the day of Pentecost will always fall on the same day of the week, *but the day of the month will have to be counted* each year because the weekly sabbath does not always fall on the same day of the month each succeeding year.

But on what day of the week does Pentecost always fall?

The Exact Date!

Now remember that the Passover upon which Jesus died occurred on Wednesday, April 25, A.D. 31. Therefore the weekly Sabbath would have been April 28 in that year. And the day upon which the wave sheaf was offered in 31 A.D. was the 29th of April.

Now begin to count one day from the 29th of April. The first of the fifty days which we count would then be Monday, April 30. The second day from April 29 would be Tuesday May 1. Add to this the remaining days of May (there are 31 days altogether in May) and 18 days of June and you have fifty days in all.

Pentecost in 31 A.D., the exact day upon which the true Church was founded by Jesus Christ, was June 18. This day was a MONDAY, which you can prove in your own home if you check in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary under "perpetual calendar."

God's true Church—the Church that Jesus built—is still observing the *true* day of Pentecost to this day. That is why it has not forgotten the right date on which it was founded.

All other churches have resulted from
(Please continue on page 10)

What Church Members should know about MASONRY

*This is the final installment in this intriguing, eye-opening series.
Here is what our Church members should do if they have been
Masons.*

by Jack R. Elliott

FREEMASONRY is living proof that no teaching of man, regardless of how innocent or righteous appearing, can be taken for granted—that no teaching can be assumed good, just because it looks good—that no teaching can be assumed righteous, no matter how solemnly it declares itself so—or judged honorable because its own cherished records suggest honor.

In many ways Masonry is the exact opposite of what it claims to be!

Masonic Claims

To its initiates the Masonic Lodge teaches:

"Masonry is useful to all men: to the learned, because it affords them the opportunity of exercising their talents upon subjects eminently worthy of their attention; to the illiterate, because it offers them important instruction; to the young, because it presents them with salutary precepts and good examples, and accustoms them to reflect on the proper mode of living; to the man of the world, whom it furnishes with noble and useful recreation; to the traveller, whom it enables to find friends and brothers in countries where else he would be isolated and solitary; to the worthy man in misfortune, to whom it gives assistance; to the afflicted, on whom it lavishes consolation; to the charitable man, whom it enables to do more good, by uniting with those who are charitable like himself; and to all who have souls capable of appreciating its importance, and of enjoying the charms of a friendship founded on the same principles of religion, morality, and philanthropy" (Morals and Dogma, p. 113).

Now let us compare this with their actual practice.

The Real Test

God has set before each one of us a choice—a proving ground—to see whether we will love and obey Him and be allowed to live in the Kingdom which will be set up—or whether we will refuse and go our own way, into

the lake of fire (Deut. 30:19-20).

Other plans of salvation which teach a different reward and a different way of getting eternal life are without God's authority. Those foolish who waste their lives in pursuing such "wind" are unfortunate indeed.

Freemasonry is just such a counterfeit. Its members waste untold hours acting out foolish rituals which accomplish nothing, and memorizing endless dialogue which helps no one. They ponder the moral philosophies of the ancients to discover wisdom, but they acquire only a hodgepodge of deceptive and foolish pagan reasonings.

God declares there is only one way to live happy, useful lives. And that is the way HE has appointed for us. Any other—such as Masonry—no matter how good it may look, is at best a counterfeit and serves only to dupe people into thinking that they have what they have not.

Man-made Codes

They set up their code of morals according to human understanding, not knowing that only God's laws shall stand. They revel in the idiocy of parading before relics of ancient sun worship in great solemnity, foolishly holding the sacred Word of God in no greater respect than they do any other ancient writing.

Their *work* in the community is not the proclamation or upholding of God's Kingdom; it is, instead, the upholding of the system around them. They do not promote God's rule, but ignore it and set themselves up as the wise leaders, pretending to build character and feigning benevolence by giving charity to the orphans and widows, while they privately endeavor to build their own prosperity.

The following example will serve to illustrate the enormity of their mistake of following what looks good to man instead of simply obeying their Creator.

Masonic Ten Commandments

You are all familiar with the Ten

Commandments recorded in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 of your Bibles. You would normally assume these to be recognized by Masons especially when they claim that their moral philosophy is based on the Bible. Again this is not the case. Masons have embraced another set of ten commandments which look better to their eyes than the ones God has given.

For brevity only the first two need to be discussed, though all ten are reproduced from *Morals and Dogma* in Figure 12 on the next page. Read them carefully before you continue with this article. They *appear* to be very wholesome and good, don't they?

When we remember that the adept in Masonry gain more knowledge from symbols than from the plain statements of their sacred writings we should be aware that certain key symbols are included which will unlock these depths of meaning.

Notice the little circle with the cross inside it at the beginning of the first commandment. Regardless of any beautiful phraseology Masons place on these symbols, their deeper meaning must invariably lead to ancient sun worship. The circle or disc symbolizes the sun and the cross symbolizes immortality. The three dots in the form of an equilateral triangle represent the first cause and trinity of the pagan godhead.

So if the Mason is truly adept he would see that he has borrowed from the ancient sun worshipers symbols and creeds which would read this way for the first commandment of Figure 12. "God [the god whose symbol is a circle and a cross and triangular dots—the sun god] is the Eternal, Omnipotent, Immutable WISDOM and Supreme INTELLIGENCE and Exhaustless LOVE. (Wisdom, Intelligence and Love are capitalized to remind Masons of their deeper meanings and that each in turn has been worshiped by their pagan ancestors.)

"Thou shalt adore, revere, and love Him!

"Thou shalt honor Him by practicing

the virtues [of the ancient pagans]' (see p. 21 *Morals and Dogma*).

What greater blasphemy could there be than this? How this must stink in the nostrils of the Living God! When they attribute the name and office of God to any other they break the first, second and third of God's Commandments.

The second of these *Masonic commandments*, as well as the remaining eight, are likewise contrary to the Commandments of God. By it the Mason is told to do "good" without defining what good is. Yet you can surely see that it is not referring to obedience to God because the next instructs him to seek out the wise MAN and obey his precepts. But Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Masons in their ignorance have pursued the way of death.

Prestige and Prosperity Their Real Goal

Few members of the Lodge could truthfully deny that their reason for belonging to the Lodge is the personal benefits which raise their community standing and financial prosperity.

Members of the Lodge may already be prosperous and active members of their community before joining the Lodge. In fact it is usually *after* they obtain a certain measure of prestige within the community that they are *allowed* to join a fraternity. It is there, among the more prominent citizens, that they hope to *further* their prosperity. Such an honor usually aids one's social position, and also gives a social outlet, but this does not exalt God; it exalts only the man. When a man embraces the Lodge, other prominent men of the community become his brothers. Together they practice this doctrine of "brotherly love" assisting and encouraging one another while reaping the general good fortune of having a close set of influential and like-minded friends. It is here that Masonry pays off. A member who has an acceptable plea for help or a favor need only mention his need to the proper brother and the requested "aid" comes forth as if by answered prayer. Masons have more faith in receiving this petition from other members than they do in receiving answers to prayers from God.

Short of the Glory of God

Even if the brothers understood and attempted to live up to Lodge teachings of moral conduct, and strove ever so hard to be considerate of their brethren, they still only attain a *human righteousness* which is far from the righteousness of God.

Masonry has its decalogue, which is a law to its Initiates. These are its Ten Commandments:

- I. ⊕. God is the Eternal, Omnipotent, Immutable WISDOM and Supreme INTELLIGENCE and Exhaustless LOVE.
Thou shalt adore, revere, and love Him!
Thou shalt honor Him by practising the virtues!
- II. ○. Thy religion shall be, to do good because it is a pleasure to thee, and not merely because it is a duty.
That thou mayest become the friend of the wise man, thou shalt obey his precepts!
Thy soul is immortal! Thou shalt do nothing to degrade it!
- III. ⊕. Thou shalt unceasingly war against vice!
Thou shalt not do unto others that which thou wouldst not wish them to do unto thee!
Thou shalt be submissive to thy fortunes, and keep burning the light of wisdom!
- IV. ○. Thou shalt honor thy parents!
Thou shalt pay respect and homage to the aged!
Thou shalt instruct the young!
Thou shalt protect and defend infancy and innocence!
- V. ⊕. Thou shalt cherish thy wife and thy children!
Thou shalt love thy country, and obey its laws!
- VI. ○. Thy friend shall be to thee a second self!
Misfortune shall not estrange thee from him!
Thou shalt do for his memory whatever thou wouldst do for him, if he were living!
- VII. ⊕. Thou shalt avoid and flee from insincere friendships!
Thou shalt in everything refrain from excess.
Thou shalt fear to be the cause of a stain on thy memory!
- VIII. ○. Thou shalt allow no passions to become thy master!
Thou shalt make the passions of others profitable lessons to thyself!
Thou shalt be indulgent to error!
- IX. ⊕. Thou shalt hear much: Thou shalt speak little: Thou shalt act well!
Thou shalt forget injuries!
Thou shalt render good for evil!
Thou shalt not misuse either thy strength or thy superiority!
- X. ○. Thou shalt study to know men; that thereby thou mayest learn to know thyself!
Thou shalt ever seek after virtue!
Thou shalt be just!
Thou shalt avoid idleness!

Figure 12

The Masonic Ten Commandments

In actual practice their human morals and ideals break down because human righteousness can extend only as

far as the human character can back it up. Many are able to help and encourage one another as long as doing so remains

profitable to themselves, but who among them can afford to help others at his own personal expense, especially over an extended period of time; and who among them has the character to withstand all the temptations of vanity, greed, and lust which life presents?

During their conventions, Shriners take over whole towns, influencing police and officials so that they are free to do whatever they please. Who among them is seeking law and order? Who even tries to put aside foolishness, drunkenness, and fornication?

These men would do well to ponder their actions, not in the light of the pagan doctrine of the "Brotherhood of Man," but in the true light of God's Word. The fourth and fifth chapters of Ephesians should convince any of the open-minded in their ranks that their way—Masonry—is wrong. In Chapter 5, verses 1 through 5, Paul instructs the brethren:

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But *fornication*, and *all uncleanness*, or *covetousness*, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor *foolish talking* nor *jesting* (*ribaldry*), which are not convenient (befitting): but rather, giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God."

Without the practice of some of these forbidden characteristics there would be no masonry!

Ignorance Understandable

With this exposé and explanation of Freemasonry, it is hoped that the function of the fraternity is not only clear, but that the ignorance of its members may be made understandable. The lodge rituals, as seen by the average initiate, appear harmless. He is not told what he will encounter in the Lodge before he is admitted—only that nothing will be required of him which is against the laws of God and his duty to his state or family. The fact that this is a *lie* is seldom discovered by him because nothing is revealed until he has been psychologically prepared to receive it. This is done by the use of solemn prayer before each undertaking, and scripture quotations are read which *seem* to give divine sanction. All is done in such a way that it seems right and good to the gullible candidate who is blinded by his desire to receive new and mysterious light and to be counted among the wise, honorable, and prosperous.

It is further hoped that this writing will provide church members with clear

and accurate answers to questions on Masonry, and that they might be able to help others who are truly seeking to obey God. Such men, *when their minds have been opened*, can surely be shown where membership in the Masonic Lodge, as much as membership in any of the denominations, is incompatible with obedience and service to God.

Avoiding Unnecessary Persecution

As was stated earlier, this series is not written for general publication, but for those members of the true Church who seek God's way of life. It would be a pointless waste of time and truth to try to convince others. They are satisfied with their status and would only turn again to rend you.

If the material contained herein were published in such a way as to threaten the popularity of the Lodge, retaliation such as was brought against the Apostle Paul at Ephesus (see Acts 19:24-41) would surely result. The craftsmen who built the pagan shrines to Diana, which were mentioned earlier, were angry with Paul because he persuaded many to turn away from heathenism. The reason for the craftsmen's anger is given in verse 27. These are the words of the silver-smith, Demetrius, who reasoned, ". . . not only our *Craft* is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth." (This temple to Diana was one of the so-called "seven wonders of the world.")

The fact that Masons proudly claim these ancient craftsmen such as Demetrius for their progenitors is recorded in the *General History, Cyclopaedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry*, an authentic, Masonic work. It says that the traveling Masons (ancient craftsmen), from whom they supposedly derive their origin, built this same temple to Diana for the Kings of Asia (p. 11).

If these early artificers persecuted the Church in Paul's time because they feared that their craft and religion would suffer, their modern counterpart will not hesitate to do so today. Therefore, each one of you must use wisdom in order that unnecessary persecution may be prevented.

If it becomes your duty to advise a Mason to quit the Fraternity, do NOT tell him to stir up trouble for himself by going to the Secretary of his Lodge (or any other member) and announcing his opposition. This action would probably cause him to receive needless persecution. Usually it is better to withdraw by simply *ceasing to pay dues* and ceasing to attend meetings. *The Lodge will drop him from its rolls quicker for nonpayment of dues than for any other*

reason. This, in itself, is a clue to the real motives behind the Craft!

This method might cause Masons to encourage his resumed participation, but it will not bring the persecution that Masons have sworn to bring against those who oppose them or their teachings.

The ex-Mason should realize, however, that withdrawing membership from the Lodge does not of itself release him from the many oaths he has taken. If he really believed, at the time, that he took the oaths to Almighty God, and unless these oaths prevent him from serving God and obeying His Laws, *he should consider himself bound by them* (Numbers 30:2).

Satan's Hapless Victims

One cannot pass from the subject of Freemasonry without reflecting on the futility of the struggle of its victims, and feeling sorry for the gullible ones who have been led into its inner chambers like sheep to the slaughter.

All they have for their efforts is certain material advancement which does not endure past the grave. As they laboriously ascended the "winding stairs," they were promised rich rewards for their labor. But instead of eternal truth, they were given fables. Instead of developing the righteous character of God, they grew in the unholy character of selfishness and greed through seeking extra privileges for themselves to the exclusion of others. Instead of growing in true knowledge, they tickled their vanity with mysterious phrases and symbols which meant *nothing*, but were empty and void, only to be told at the end of their wearisome journey that the Mason must ever be in search of *truth*, but will *never find it*.

This august secret, the object of all their labors, is indeed, a humiliating reward.

It is the reward of a cruel god (Satan) who deceives his worshipers into believing that divine truth can never be acquired in this life. Diabolically, his victims are taught by Masonic instruments that their ignorance must remain until they are raised from their graves and the knowledge of life is revealed.

They never suspect that the reason they will not know truth in this life is that they have chosen the wrong *way* and the wrong *god*!

THE END

If any of our readers are missing any of the previous installments of this series, write us immediately.

Correction: In the April issue, the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 1 should have read: "Was Jesus weaker than other men?"

Church Founded on SUNDAY?

(Continued from page 6)

apostacies and have accepted pagan doctrines. They have forgotten the right year and the right day for the founding of the true church. They are not the Church that Jesus promised to build and *which He promised to guide into all truth!* Only the *true* church which has kept the *true* day of Pentecost could remember when Jesus founded His Church.

How plain it is!

The TRUE Church which Jesus built is not an organized denomination which you *join*. The TRUE Church is composed of those *individuals* who submit themselves to the authority of God, who repent and believe in Jesus and the gospel of the kingdom which He preached. The TRUE Church is that body of individuals filled and led by the Holy Spirit—it is the body of Christ, a scattered Church which keeps ALL the commandments and believes the gospel of the kingdom (Rev. 12:17).

Now let us notice the special *reason* why God sent the Holy Spirit that Monday and also the special *meaning* of the day of Pentecost FOR US TODAY!

Why Mistakenly Reckoned As Sunday

The cause for placing Pentecost on Sunday is based on the error of counting "Saturdays" instead of *weeks*. Pentecost is not the feast of "Saturdays" but the "feast of weeks" (Exodus 34:22). Moses says to count seven full WEEKS (Deut. 16:9) and the day *after* that is Pentecost. This feast is not the end of the seventh week, but "after your weeks be out," the fiftieth day (Num. 28:26).

It was numbered from the DAY that Israel first began to reap the grain (Deut. 16:9). This day is specifically mentioned in Lev. 23:15. "Ye shall count unto you *from* the morrow *after* THE sabbath, *from* the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering." So God wants us to count *from a Sunday*, the day the sheaf of grain was cut.

Some have become confused because they have assumed that the day on which the wave sheaf was offered pictured the resurrection of Christ. *It does not!* Christ was resurrected at the close of the Sabbath, before the commencement of the first day of the week. He was in His grave three days and three nights from Wednesday evening. The cutting of the wave sheaf on Sunday did not picture the resurrection. The death of Christ is pictured by the sowing of a bare kernel of grain. The green plant that arises out of the soil into the sunlight pictures the resurrection. Notice Paul's analogy in I Cor. 15:36-39.

But the cutting of the wave sheaf

from the earth and the presentation of it before the Holy Place in the Temple pictured the ascension of Jesus and His acceptance by the Father in Heaven—which occurred sometime during the daylight hours of Sunday, April 29 in 31 A.D.

On that morning Jesus abruptly declared to Mary: "Touch Me not, For I am not yet ascended to My Father" (John 20:17). But later, that afternoon, Jesus met several women on their way to Galilee. And what happened? "And they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him" (Matthew 28:9). This little-known event is what is pictured by the waving of that sheaf of grain. Pentecost is 50 days after this Sunday! It is not 50 days after the day of the resurrection!

WHO Determines the Day of Pentecost?

Counting the date of Pentecost is a collective, not an individual, matter. The *Church* is responsible for reckoning it; the individuals who compose the Church are not responsible for it.

It is of *most* vital importance that all members understand this. You, as an individual member are *not* responsible for *counting* the fifty days. It is not for *you*, as an individual member, to SET the day on which the whole Church shall assemble. If it were, then *yours* would be the responsibility of computing and setting the date of the day which is HOLY—and also of deciding when all *other* Christians must assemble.

Only GOD can make future time HOLY! Only GOD can sanctify—set apart—a day as a Holy Convocation on which HE commands all His people to assemble.

God *RULES* His Church through His Government which He established in the Church. How does He govern? He "hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers . . ." (I Corinthians 12:28)—or, as in Ephesians 4:11-14, some are "apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers, *for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry . . . till we all come in the unity of the faith*"—that is, unity in doctrine or belief—"that we henceforth be *no more children, tossed to and fro*, and carried about with every wind of doctrine. . . ." God *rules* and *governs* in His Church *through* these whom HE has chosen as His ministers and His instruments for administering HIS AUTHORITY, for the *very purpose* of preventing false doctrine creeping in to divide and to destroy the flock—for

the very purpose of keeping UNITY in the Church.

Thus God, through His ministers, sets the day. HE sanctifies or sets it apart as HOLY TIME—time which *He* alone can make holy—time on which HIS WHOLE CHURCH IS TO ASSEMBLE! When *individual members* attempt to compute and to decide *which* day to make holy, they make themselves competitors and enemies of God's Church and of God's government in it. They stir up dissension, cause division, and thus put themselves out of the Church.

The individual must first determine for himself—must satisfy himself—as to *which* is the *one true* Church of God, and then he must be subject to *the government of God* in His Church. This he must voluntarily submit to. He ought, however to know HOW God's Church is led to set aside the Day of Pentecost. So, sec, now, how God leads His Church to count this day.

How to Count Pentecost

One day *from* today is not today, but tomorrow. One day from Sunday is Monday. Two days from Sunday is Tuesday. One week from Sunday is Sunday. Seven weeks or forty-nine days from Sunday is Sunday. But Pentecost is AFTER seven weeks or forty-nine days. It is FIFTY days from Sunday. Therefore it MUST ALWAYS FALL ON A MONDAY!

The mistake of counting "Saturdays" instead of *weeks* is based on an incorrect translation in the common versions of Leviticus 23:15,16. In the King James and some other translations, it incorrectly reads "seven sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days." The word here translated "sabbath" can also mean "rest" or "seven" or "WEEK." Therefore we need to let the Bible determine what is the proper meaning in this place.

The same Hebrew word that Moses used in Leviticus 23:15 and 16 was also used by the apostles and disciples in its Greek form to mean "week," as in Mark 16:9. Here it would be as foolish to render the word "week" by "sabbath" as it is to translate Leviticus 23:16 by "sabbath," because fifty days from Sunday is a Monday—the morrow after the seventh *week*.

Both JEWISH AND CATHOLIC VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE RENDER THIS WORD CORRECTLY AS "WEEK." The Douay or Catholic Version for Leviticus 23:15,16 reads: "You shall count therefore from the morrow after the sabbath, wherein you offered the sheaf of the first fruits, *seven full weeks*, even unto the morrow *after the seventh week* be expired, that is to say *fifty days*."

As absolute proof that this verse

should be translated "after the seventh week," turn to Deut. 16:9 and Num. 28:26 where the word *week* is translated from a *different* Hebrew word—*shabua*—which NEVER means *sabbath*, but always *week*. Since in these verses the Hebrew words used never mean *the sabbath*, and since seven weeks—forty-nine days—from a Sunday is a Sunday, the fiftieth day must be Monday. Hence, the real meaning of Lev. 23:16 is "the morrow after the seventh *week*." Any other translation would necessitate a contradiction of Scripture!

"From" Means "Away Out of"

Some also do not quite understand the meaning of counting *from* one day to another. A week from Sunday is the NEXT Sunday, and seven weeks from a Sunday is seven Sundays away. But we are to count *to* the fiftieth day, that is, *to the completion* of Monday so we have the *full* fifty days.

This is explained in Leviticus 23:27, 32 where one counts *from the end* of the evening *not* the beginning—of the ninth day *to the completion* of the evening of the tenth day, making one whole day. Thus we are to count fifty days *from the end* of Sunday, the day the wave sheaf was offered, to the end of a Monday—which is the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is the last or fiftieth day.

Yes, the Church that Jesus built was not founded on Sunday, but on Monday. Catholics and the Jews *know* that Pentecost is to be numbered fifty days or seven full weeks and a day from Sunday, the day the wave sheaf was offered. Yet NEITHER of them knows how to figure correctly!

What Pentecost Means in the Plan of God

To keep us in mind that this present age is only the preliminary or first harvest of human beings, God took the yearly *material* harvest of Palestine as the picture of the *spiritual* harvest. As you probably have already learned, there are *two* harvest seasons in the Promised Land. The first small harvest is produced by an early rain, the second great harvest by a later rain.

Pentecost was ordained *forever* (Lev. 23:21) at the end of the spring harvest season, so that we might remember year by year—and never forget—that this present church age is not the great day of salvation for all the world. It is the day of salvation for only the *few* who are *called* out of this present evil civilization and given the Spirit of God. In I Corinthians 1:26 we find that "not many" of the great in this world are called. Everywhere, the Christians are spoken of as called out from the world. *Not all are being called today.* It is the

"elect" or chosen in Israel who are called today; the rest are blinded so that God could IN THE FUTURE have mercy upon ALL (Romans 11:7,32).

The "harvesting" of human beings who are called in this church age to be heirs of the Kingdom of God is explained in Leviticus 23 beginning verse 9. Here the material harvest of grain was originally used as a type of the spiritual harvest.

The Israelites were not permitted to harvest their grain until the day the wave sheaf was offered. (Lev. 23:10,11; Deut. 16:9). This ritual, given to the *Levitical* priesthood to perform and therefore not practiced today, pictured the *resurrected* Christ being accepted by the Father as the very first human being to be born of God.

Why Pentecost on Monday?

The wave sheaf — remember — did NOT picture the *resurrection* of Christ, but the *resurrected* Christ being accepted of the Father on Sunday, the day after His resurrection the *first* of the week.

Consider! Since the resurrected Christ is the first of the firstfruits and was accepted by the Father on the Sunday after his resurrection—portrayed by the wave sheaf offered on the *first* day of the week—then we who are *second* in order to be reaped—"afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming"—are pictured by having the feast of firstfruits or Pentecost fall on the SECOND DAY OF THE WEEK or Monday.

But notice also, the wave sheaf was merely the *first part* of the *first* harvest. It was a sheaf of the *first fruits* of the harvest (Verse 10). Thus Christ is the "*firstfruits* of them that slept" (I Cor. 15:20). And Christians who are called in this age are also said to be the *firstfruits* (James 1:18; Romans 8:23). Christ is the *first of the firstfruits* of God's harvest of human beings. Pentecost pictures, then, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the ripening of the rest of the firstfruits for harvesting at the resurrection (I Cor. 15:23). This church age is merely the first harvest.

Pentecost in the New Testament Church

When originally given by God, the day of Pentecost was commanded to be observed *forever* (Lev. 23:21). Jesus never abolished Pentecost nor any of the other annual Holy Days. The day of Pentecost DID OCCUR *after Christ's death* that year as Luke records.

None of these annual festivals had burnt offerings or sacrifices on them when *originally* instituted (Jeremiah 7:22,23). The sacrifices were *added* to these days and to every day of the year (Exodus 29:38) as a part of the service of the Levitical priesthood.

When the sacrifices and offerings were consummated in the death of Christ once for all, these usual offerings ceased to be made *for the conscience* (Heb. 9:13,14) by those who were converted and who believed in Christ. But the command that Pentecost be observed *forever* as a Sabbath and convocation still remains (Lev. 23:21). That is why the apostles and disciples were gathered together with all the devout Jews on this occasion (Acts 2:1). *If the disciples had not gathered on this day which was sacred to God, they would not have been there to receive the gift of God, His Spirit.*

Not only did the Jewish Christians know this, but also Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, understood that this annual Sabbath was still commanded by God for His *spiritual* church. He "determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be [the original Greek word *ginomai* means "to observe"] at Jerusalem *the day of Pentecost.*" (Acts 20:16).

Paul, the teacher of the Gentiles, wanted to *observe* Pentecost thirty years after the death of Christ! He did not merely want *to be* at Jerusalem. He specifically wanted *to celebrate* at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost. (See the definition of the Greek word *ginomai* in the *Analytical Greek New Testament* published by Harpers and Bagsters.)

At another time Paul spent the day of Pentecost in Ephesus, a Gentile city (I Cor. 16:8). On two other occasions Paul is recorded to have attended services on Pentecost! Once at Antioch in Pisidia and again at Philippi (Acts 13:14 and 16:13). In each case the inspired Greek original, *incorrectly translated* "sabbath day," should have been rendered "day of weeks"—Pentecost. The same is true about Jesus in Luke 4:16. Yes, Pentecost was observed by all those of the true original Church which was under divine instruction from the apostles. Gentiles received the praise of Paul for following the churches of God in Judaea — the Jewish brethren (I Thess. 2:14) who observed this day.

Pentecost Centuries After A.D. 31

With the death of the apostles, a *great change occurred*, which most of you have never been told about. A terrible apostasy set in among the churches.

Paul warned the Ephesians with whom he observed Pentecost, as we have already seen, that "after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, *speaking perverse things*, to draw disciples after them" (Acts 20:29,30). "For the time will come when they will not endure

sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and *shall be turned unto fables*" (II Tim. 4:3).

Paul warned those Christians about the very fables that most of you have been taught since childhood by apostate churches who think Pentecost fell on a Sunday.

By the time Jude wrote his epistle, the fables of which Paul warned had already started. He exhorts: "You should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares" (Jude 3,4).

Remember, the Gentile Christians in the original inspired church observed Pentecost. We will now notice astounding PROOF IN LATER HISTORY that the false church changed it.

If the Gentiles NEVER kept this day before conversion or after, then we should NOT expect to find any record of Gentile churches *observing* a "Pentecost." But they did observe it! These are the facts!

How Pentecost Was Changed

The following extracts from histories obtainable at most libraries PROVE THAT THE EARLIEST GENTILE CHURCHES DID KEEP PENTECOST! These records speak of Catholics keeping Pentecost—a Pentecost that was *changed* in the immediate years that followed the death of the last apostles. This Pentecost, so-called, had soon become corrupted with SUN WORSHIP. It soon fell on Sunday, the same as the pagan Easter substituted for the Passover.

Here is a plain statement of Hasting's *Dictionary of the Bible*, article "Pentecost":

"In the Christian Church the importance of *Pentecost* was continued and its significance emphasized by the outpouring of the Spirit on that day (Acts 2). The day of the week on that occasion is TRADITIONALLY represented as Sunday . . . Wieseler (Chron. d. Apostl. Zeitalter, p. 20) plausibly suggests that the festival was fixed on Sunday by the later Western Church to correspond with Easter.

"Among the early Jewish Christians observance of the Hebrew feasts continued, doubtless with fresh significance derived from the new revelation."

Let's notice these statements. *Pentecost* was continued in the early true Christian Church. It is TRADITION, not Revelation, that later places Pentecost on Sunday according to Wieseler.

Now let us also take note of the *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

"Whitsunday, or Pentecost, a feast of the universal Church which commemorates the Descent of the Holy Ghost

upon the Apostles . . . Whitsunday, as a *Christian feast*, dates back to the first century, although there is no evidence that it was observed . . . the passage in *I Corinthians (16:8)* probably refers to the Jewish feast."

Here is one of the plainest admissions that the Pentecost observed by *Gentile converts*, as the Bible records in *I Corinthians 16:8*, was NOT THE SAME as the "Christian" feast which later developed in the Catholic church.

The FACT that there are records of a false day corroborates the Bible by indicating that *the Gentiles originally kept the true day*. But after the death of the apostles, it was perverted.

If no day had been observed originally, there would have been no Pentecost to alter!

Early Confusion Among Catholics About Pentecost

As usual, with the introduction of error wholesale, there is always a period of adjustment until the error is finally established. We notice just such a situation in early Catholic records before their Pentecost or Whitsunday was firmly established. Bingham's *Antiquities of the Christian Church*, pages 1157, 1158, says:

"The next great festival was that of Pentecost, which is taken in a *double* sense among the ancients. For sometimes it signifies the *whole space of fifty days* between Easter and Whitsuntide . . . In the former acceptation Tertullian speaks of it, when he tells the Christians . . . That Pentecost was a large space of time APPOINTED BY THE CHURCH for administering of baptism . . . And hence it became a standing rule over the whole church to read the Acts in these fifty days of Pentecost, as appears from many other places of Chrysostom, Austin, Cassian, and the fourth council of Toledo."

In his *On Fasting*, Chapter XIV, Tertullian says this: "Our solemnities too will be bound to be new: else, if the apostle has erased *all* devotion absolutely . . . why do we celebrate the passover by an annual rotation in the first month? Why in the *fifty* ensuing days do we spend our time in all exultation?" (From *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 4, pp. 111-112.) Obviously, Tertullian recognized that the Apostle Paul did NOT abolish all these days.

At other times, Pentecost was used to mean the *specific day* that ended the season of fifty days, during which "the newly-baptized wore their white and shining garments"—hence, Whitsunday. At one time the confusion over the day of Pentecost led the Council of Elvira, Spain, in 305 A.D., to condemn the tendency to celebrate it *forty* days after Easter.

It Was Prophesied to Happen!

"Why," it is often asked, "did the Bible not warn us that God's Holy Days would be transformed into pagan holidays—Pentecost into a day of sun-worship on which the heathen baptized their initiates who were clad in white gowns?"

The answer is that THE BIBLE DOES WARN US! It was prophesied in advance!

Turn to the book of Hosea. The prophet had a message for the future—for our day! Notice: "And I"—God is quoted by the prophet—"will punish her" — our people today — "for the FEAST DAYS OF THE BAALS!"

Sunday, Christmas, Easter, *Whitsunday* [falsely called Pentecost], Hallowe'en are feast days of Baal!

What could be plainer! Our people "forgot Me, says the Lord" — because they have rejected His holy days. "And in that day"—the very near future when Christ intervenes in world affairs—"I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more" (Hosea 2:13, 17, RSV).

How clear! Israel today—our people—have adopted the feast days of Baal. The church holiday called Whitsunday is named after a pagan rite. God forbids us to honor Him by celebrating these Babylonish customs. God warns: "Take heed . . . that thou inquire not . . . How used these nations to serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. THOU SHALT NOT DO SO UNTO THE LORD THY GOD. For every abomination which He hateth, have they done unto their gods" (Deut. 12:30-31).

How plain! The apostates of the Catholic Church were almost wholly Gentiles. These men gradually developed their own customs to *distinguish* themselves from the Jews, and yet to retain the Christian or Jewish names. Both the Passover and Pentecost were TRANSFERRED GRADUALLY TO SUNDAY. And the name Passover was at last dropped for Easter. Even Pentecost has been greatly obscured by the name Whitsunday. And along with the perversion of these two days, the apostate church LOST ALL REMAINING KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUE PLAN OF GOD which these days picture.

Let Us Obey God

The Reformation failed to restore the Holy Days of God. All the multiplicity of churches today either follow the *pagan* custom of observing Pentecost on Sunday or else NEGLECTING the day altogether.

The time has come for us to get back to the faith ONCE DELIVERED to the saints. Let's begin to *keep* holy, the days God *made* holy.