

The Good News

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God Demands Teamwork!

by Herman L. Hoeb

IN HIS little-known prophetic message for the church today, Jesus promised that He would set before us an open DOOR for the spreading of the gospel.

Notice Jesus' own words for our church today: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open DOOR, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a *little strength*, and hast kept my word" (Rev. 3:8).

This DOOR—the opportunity of spreading the gospel (II Cor. 2:12)—is today the means of RADIO and the PRINTING PRESS! The true church of God today has little strength in this degenerate age. It has no great financial resources, yet through Jesus' miraculous guidance this great work is constantly expanding. It is not the work of one man, nor even of a dozen men. It is the work of every member of God's church—everyone of you!

The Church Is a TEAM!

One fundamental lesson we all need to learn in this world is the need for *teamwork*. Even in athletics, the best players can't achieve victory unless the entire team works together in perfect cooperation and coordination.

The apostle Paul taught the need of teamwork by saying that the church is *one body* although composed of many members. Every truly converted Christian has his specific function in the church just as each organ of a human body has its function. "But now hath God set the members every one of them

in the body, as it hath pleased him . . . And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (I Cor. 12:18-21).

The church is like a team or a body. Every member in the church of God is essential. Perhaps it appears that those who help only through prayers, tithes, offerings, and letters of encouragement are of little need compared to preaching. Yet the work of God cannot function without every necessary part any more than a human body can. "The World Tomorrow" program would not be where it is today if it were not for the constant prayers and faithful tithes and offerings of God's people. Paul said: "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary (I Cor. 12:22).

Satan Causes Division

The devil knows that one of the easiest methods of wrecking teamwork in the church of God is to cause contention and division. It is a natural human tendency to precipitate strife and controversy. That is the special reason why each of us must strive against our carnal human nature and be on guard constantly to preserve harmony and teamwork in the spirit of love.

Notice, for a moment, how easy it was for the devil to cause contentions and divisions in the apostolic church. At Corinth it was reported to Paul that there were cliques and dissensions de-

veloping. "Now this I say, that everyone of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas (Peter); and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" (I Cor. 1:12-13)

Those Corinthians were still carnally minded. They wanted to be followers of important men. Some preferred the eloquent style of Apollos' preaching (Acts 18:24), others liked Peter's. Without realizing it they were getting into confusion and contentions over Paul, Apollos and Cephas who were faithful ministers of Christ. Just as then, so today many do not realize the harm that can be caused by factions within the church. Wherever the spirit of strife, envy and dissension enters the church, it will embitter the brethren unless stamped out by God's ministers.

Among those Corinthians the Adversary cleverly induced many to criticize and find fault with the labors of Paul. They began to say among themselves: "I don't believe Paul is doing this right. I am going to support Apollos from now on." After leading the Corinthian converts into fault finding, the devil's next step was to secretly introduce *false* ministers who transformed "themselves into the apostles of Christ," and who professed to be "the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Because they sought to follow men instead of Jesus Christ, it was only natural that the Corinthians would be led astray by smooth-talking false preachers.

Knowing that human nature has not changed since then, Satan is trying this

very method today in order to thwart the work of God and overthrow numerous brethren. It is so easy to criticize those whom God places in authority and whom He is using. For years the devil has struggled to gender the spirit of contention and rivalry. Satan knows that if he can embitter the brethren against God's ministers, particularly Mr. Armstrong, he can devour them and wreck the teamwork that is so essential among God's people.

How to Prevent Division

Satan is going about, as always, seeking whom he may devour. He will try every imaginable scheme to overthrow you brethren. How shall we preserve the wonderful spirit of cooperation which still permeates the church today?

Let us notice the method Paul used in order to maintain teamwork and loving cooperation among the churches. In I Corinthians 3:10 he wrote: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."

Jesus Christ used the apostle Paul directly in carrying the gospel to the Gentile nations. After Paul had founded the Corinthian church, Apollos was one of several evangelists who continued to build on the foundation which Paul laid. Paul and Apollos *cooperated* in every way possible; but Paul, who was an apostle, *supervised the work of Apollos* and generally directed his labors just as he did the labors of the other evangelists, Timothy, Titus and Silas (Titus 3:13).

Undoubtedly one of the major reasons for the division at Corinth was the fact that Apollos, a more eloquent speaker than Paul, *had not been taught and trained personally* by the apostle. Apollos was doctrinally in error on several points, particularly the distinction between the baptism of John and Jesus (Acts 18:24 and 19:1-7). No such controversy is noted between Paul and the other evangelists whom he personally trained.

Paul realized that in order to preserve harmony and the spirit of cooperation, he had to direct Apollos and also train other young men who could serve him as evangelists. These young men who accompanied him on his journeys *were under him in authority*, in the same manner that Paul was under the authority of Christ. It was the government or rule of God. God the Father made his will known to Jesus who in turn made it known to Paul. The apostle then explained it to the evangelists who in turn taught it to the elders and the local congregations. Wherever Paul journeyed, the evangelists who built on

his foundation *were under his authority*.

But let us note another important principle found in Romans 15:20-22. Paul wrote: "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, *lest I should build upon another man's foundation*: but as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."

Building on Another's Foundation

Here Paul quotes Scripture from the Old Testament to prove that those of apostolic rank, being the direct representatives of Jesus Christ, should not build where others have preached the true gospel of the kingdom of God. This is important for us to remember *today*. In order that the "World Tomorrow" broadcast should not be hindered by duplication, God directs that no others of apostolic rank should build upon the foundation that Jesus Christ laid through the ministry of Mr. Armstrong. And all who do build on it *must be under his direction and authority*. The Bible itself plainly reveals that any other plan leads to confusion and trouble. Any individual or group not yet understanding this phase of the government of God is only going to cause confusion and dissension among God's people.

History of Our Church

Perhaps a little history is important at this juncture. Our Church is *not* a Church founded or built by Herbert W. Armstrong. It was founded in 31 A.D. by Jesus Christ. It is the *very* Church Jesus Christ *built!* HE is its governing Head. His Church has government, and that government is from the TOP down, through those whom Christ has set directly under Him in authority.

When Mr. Armstrong first started preaching, he was under the authority of the Oregon Conference of the Church of God, now clearly identified in the light of carefully documented historical research as the "Sardis" church described prophetically by Jesus in Revelation 3:1-6. That church was not properly organized according to the New Testament pattern of God. Nevertheless Mr. Armstrong was *under the authority* of those holding offices of authority in that Conference. He was ordained by that Church—God's Church for that period—in the year 1931. He received salary from them, was sent by them, first to engage in a tent meeting in Eugene, Oregon, then to St. Helens, Oregon, and then to Umapine, Oregon. When the meeting at St. Helens ended, he waited there while the minister he was assigned to work with drove down to the Willamette Valley to obtain *authority*

from the constituted Church Board to go on to Umapine and hold the meetings there.

In those days, under the period of the "Sardis" Church, Mr. Armstrong was wholly UNDER authority. No one can ever be put IN authority under Christ until he has demonstrated by experience that he can faithfully be UNDER authority, and can loyally and faithfully participate in the TEAMWORK which constitutes the very structure of God's true Church.

In early December, 1931, the Oregon Conference treasury was drained, and Mr. Armstrong was released from ministerial duties for the time being. He then re-entered the advertising and publishing field, becoming advertising manager and acting business manager of a daily newspaper. Those were the depression days. At the end of February, 1933, the president of the Oregon Conference came after Mr. Armstrong, and returned him and his family to Salem, Oregon. There, with another evangelist, he held a five months' evangelistic campaign under salary from and *under the authority* of the Oregon Conference, the Church of God—the "Sardis" Church of Rev. 3.

Mr. Armstrong UNDER Authority

After this campaign ended in July, 1933, Mr. Armstrong received a call from a family brought into the Church under his personal ministry in 1931, in Eugene, to open a campaign in a one-room country schoolhouse eight miles west of Eugene. But, *before daring to accept this call, Mr. Armstrong waited for the Church Board to act*, and decide whether he could go, or whether he was to be sent to some other place. The Church Board decided to send him to this country schoolhouse west of Eugene. Mr. Armstrong went there, started those meetings UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICIALS OVER HIM IN THE CHURCH.

Most of those in the Church today know nothing of this early history of the beginnings of what are described in Revelation 2 and 3 as the "Philadelphia" Church—which in fact is merely another time-era in the history of the CHURCH OF GOD, which Christ founded A.D. 31.

Another vital point our present members do not know: Mr. Armstrong *did not build what has developed into the "Philadelphia Church" ON ANY OTHER MAN'S FOUNDATION*. He did not go to a place where a number of people, converted through another man's ministry, lived. He went where one family, brought into the Church through his own work, lived, and started preaching to people *who never heard the Truth be-*
(Please continue on page 7)

Be a POSITIVE Christian

Having trouble with your neighbors? WHY? This will show you the REASON, and give you a POSITIVE PLAN to guide you in living the happy, abundant, and exemplary life that God intended.

by Roderick C. Meredith

ENRAGED at the evangelists, the furious bloodthirsty mob brought them to the city officials crying, "These that *have turned the world upside down* are come hither also" (Acts 17:6).

With these words, the angry Jews at Thessalonica accused the apostle Paul and his helpers of the very same thing of which many of you have been accused. Does true Christianity turn the world "upside down," or *right side up*? Is the Holy Spirit the Spirit of a peculiar mixture of *misguided religious zeal*, unreasoned *superstition*, and a *rebellious attitude* toward custom, society, and other people in general? Is this the attitude of a good Christian?

Let's face facts! Some of our brethren have been accused of such *wrong* attitudes and conduct. Sometimes the accusation is clearly false, *but sometimes it is based on fact!*

How *should* Christians live to gain the respect of unconverted neighbors and friends? In *spite* of persecutions, how can we live the joyous, fruitful kind of lives that we should?

Let's look into God's Word for the answers, and use *sound-minded wisdom* in applying the principles contained there.

Are You a "Light"?

Jesus told His disciples, "Ye are the *light* of the world." And later, "Let your *light* so shine before men, that they may see your *good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 5:14, 16). Jesus taught that we are not to put our light under a bushel, but on a candlestick where all can see. But *how* do we let our "light" shine before men?

Notice that Jesus said men would see our *good works* and glorify God (verse 16). He *didn't* say that they would *hear* our constant prating about the Bible. Our "good works," our *kindness* and *thoughtfulness* to others, our willingness to *sacrifice*, our *Christian example* in daily living, these things will cause even unconverted men to admire and respect us. Eventually, they will realize that it is *God* who is helping us live this way. Then they will glorify Him.

But *arguing, disputing*, and trying to "convince" people they are wrong is nowhere referred to as "good works." If a friend or relative isn't interested in God's truth, they will *in no way* be helped if you constantly plague them with what they regard as "*your religion*." It is certainly not the religion of Jesus Christ! That is *not* the kind of example that He set.

Remember that men will glorify God because of your "good works," not because of what you say. What type of *good works* should you demonstrate in this modern day?

Christian Works

In John 14:11, Jesus said, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very *works' sake*." He was referring to the miracles which He performed, and said in verse 12 that one who truly believed on him would perform even greater works.

Most of Jesus' miraculous works were acts of *kindness to others*—healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, casting out unclean spirits. Paul wrote the Corinthian brethren, "Now ye are the *BODY* of Christ, and members in particular" (I Cor. 12:27). Today, Jesus is not here to perform good works in person, but we of God's true church comprise His *body* through which He *can* and *does* perform miraculous works. Many times, unconverted friends of our brethren have been *forced* to glorify God and His power when they have witnessed a genuine, miraculous healing according to God's promise.

The Church of God is Christ's instrument to preach the true gospel as a witness to all the world, to feed the flock, to heal the sick, cast out demons, and exercise all the other gifts of God's Spirit. By each of us drawing closer to God in diligent Bible study, earnest prayer, and fasting, we shall receive the *POWER* to carry out our mission in a way that men cannot help but notice. In the days of the apostles, God, "confirmed the word with *signs* following" (Mark 16:20). If we draw as close to God as we should, if we "hunger and thirst after righteousness," He will grant us

the *power* to do the same miraculous works as the early apostles, and many others will learn to glorify God.

But aside from these miraculous works of the ministry, there are many, many things that we should all be doing to glorify God in our lives. What are these?

Be a Good Neighbor

One of the most beautiful parables of Jesus that we all learned as a child, but sometimes seem to forget as an adult Christian, is the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). It is the story of one man, a priest, who thought he was too holy or too important to be bothered with helping a poor fellow who had been set upon by thieves, and was lying wounded and suffering by the roadside. It also portrays the splendid, unselfish compassion of the Samaritan. He was not too "good" to help even a wretched fellow in trouble he had never seen before.

Notice Jesus' instruction: "*Go, and do thou likewise.*"

Just how good a neighbor are YOU?

This is a *vital* IMPORTANT factor in determining your ability to be a "light" to others and, incidentally, in determining *your own happiness*.

You should realize from the outset that carnal-minded friends and neighbors are *just naturally* going to have a bad opinion of you—a true Christian trying to keep all of God's commands—against which their carnal mind rebels. They are going to look upon you as "peculiar" or "fanatic" *unless you take positive action to counteract this attitude*.

To separate yourself from worldly fellowship and participation in politics and pagan customs, you may have to drop out of any lodges, clubs, religious or political organizations of which you may be a member. You may be regarded as a "quitter." You will be accused of not loving your fellow man—and many other charges will be laid at your doorstep.

The *SOLUTION* to this problem is to *prove by positive ACTION* that these things are not true. Go out of your way to be a really *wonderful* neighbor. Remember that Jesus said, "It is more

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Herbert W. Armstrong
Publisher and Editor
 Herman L. Hoeh
Executive Editor
 Roderick C. Meredith
Associate Editor

Address communications to the Editor,
 Box 111, Pasadena, California.

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blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The chief attributes of God's Holy Spirit are *love, joy, peace, long-suffering* (Gal. 5:22). Put the *love* of God to work in your life. Try to be understanding, patient, and always ready to be of service to others. Cultivate the attitude of *joy* and *peace* at all times. Try to make others feel *happy* in your presence.

God is more willing to give you of His Spirit—His *love, joy, and peace*—than you are to feed your own hungry children. ASK God to help you show more love—to give you *His love*—and to help you be a better neighbor in every way.

Then, with God's help, MAKE your neighbors like and respect you by your "good works"—your kindness, love, willingness to help in time of need. This will *never* be accomplished by your words, but by your ACTIONS.

Be Positive

One of the most striking mistakes of some new converts is their failure to show a *positive attitude* toward life. Because they have come to realize that much of this world is wrong, they assume a negative attitude toward life in general. They don't take a real interest in their family, their friends, or their community. Is this the way to be a "light"—the kind of example others will admire?

No. Instead of being *against everything*, strive to be *for something*. Have a *positive* program of developing your personality, your capabilities, your ability to help and influence other people for good.

James tells us, "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith?" (James 2:5). Many of us are poor, humble people when God calls us. Some have not had many educational opportunities, and are handicapped in their speech and writing, their knowledge of this world about us, and in many of the social graces.

Does God wish us to *remain* this way?

First of all, we have to confess that if we *had* all been highly successful in this world, we would have been too proud to accept God's truth and be converted. We would have had too much SELF confidence to recognize our need for God. But now that should all be changed. Now our confidence should rest in *God*, and *what He can do through us* if we yield to His Spirit. Now that our confidence about any abilities rests

in *God*—not *self*—wouldn't He want us to develop these?

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore *perfect*, even as your Father which is in heaven is *perfect*" (Mat. 5:48). We are to strive to become *like God in every way!* Through God's help, we will finally achieve this goal when we are finally *born of God* in the resurrection.

Jesus was God in the flesh—setting a *perfect example* for us to follow. Did Jesus use sloppy speech or dress? Did He appear "backwoodsie" or uncouth to others?

In Luke 4:22, we find that when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the *gracious words* which proceeded out of his mouth." They were *forced* to admire Jesus' ability in speech even though they later condemned what he said and tried to throw him off the brow of a hill! (verse 29).

In reading the gospels, it is easy to discern that Jesus was a natural *leader* of men. He was a person that people would naturally be forced to admire—even though the Jews hated what He *taught* so much that they crucified Him.

Are you developing the qualities of *personality, of leadership?* Are you able to deal with and influence people of all classes? The apostle Paul said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (Acts 9:22).

You should try to do your work the best way possible, to keep your home and yard looking as neat and clean as possible, to dress as well as possible within your means. You should *study* to use really good English, to broaden your interests and your general knowledge, to develop your *personality* and *abilities* in every way. God says to *develop your talents*—to be *like Him* in every way! By doing these things, your neighbors will notice the change for *good* in your life and will be forced to respect you more.

Show them a POSITIVE life of *overcoming selfishness, of growing in grace* and knowledge, of being an example of *love and service* to those about you.

With these new interests and abilities, with the *joy* that comes from *actively helping* others, your life should be more exciting, more full and abundant, than ever before. And you can go ahead in full FAITH that God has *promised* to help you grow more like Him by guiding you, blessing and protecting you, through His Spirit.

Show Common Sense

Many fail to realize that, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of POWER, and of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND" (II Timothy 1:7). Instead of (Please continue on page 7)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of THE WORLD TOMORROW!

TO ALL OF EUROPE:
 RADIO LUXEMBOURG—4:15 P.M.
 —Thursdays Luxembourg time.

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTINENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station, or keep on hand the log printed in November PLAIN TRUTH.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:
 XELO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 Mountain Standard time.)

XERF—1570 on dial (extreme top of dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Central Standard time.

XEG—1050 on dial, Sundays only, 8:30 P.M. Central Std. time.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST:
 XERB—50,000 watts—1090 on dial —7:00 P.M. every night.
 XEDM—1580 on dial—6:30 P.M. Sundays.

KGER—Los Angeles—1390 k.c.—12:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 12 noon Saturday, 2 P.M. Sun.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—7:30 A.M. daily, 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

KXL—Portland—10,000 watts. 750 on dial—2:30 P.M., Sundays.

KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M. daily.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. Sundays.

OTHER STATIONS

WAIT—Chicago—820 on dial—1:00 P.M. Sundays.

KMAC—San Antonio—630 on dial —7:00 P.M. Sundays.

How YOU Can Overcome

How can you overcome and master your human nature?—and keep ALL God's commandments?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I FEEL I must immediately have a real heart to heart talk with my family of readers and co-workers, sharing with you thoughts that came to my mind—while they are still fresh and vivid.

It concerns the *most important* thing in life and eternity for *you*. But at the moment, I was thinking about myself. Every person—yes, even you—is his own worst enemy. All my life I have been impelled to fight my worst enemy—that troublesome inner *self*, which by nature is desperately wicked. I was not born with a mild, submissive, weak-willed inner *self*. Had I been, I probably never could have been used as God's instrument in bearing His message to you. My mother, now well into her eighties, will tell you I was a very strong-willed boy; and while I was still young enough to be under parental discipline, I caused her and my father no end of trouble. Since growing into the age of self-discipline, this same evil, determined inner self has caused *me* no end of trouble. And I should add that since I gave that self over to God, it surely must have tried His patience!

That brings us to the point. The thought that came to my mind concerned this very troublesome inner self. HOW, came the question, can I myself ever become finally *saved*, and inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, with such a powerful, seemingly irresistible inner force of evil constantly pulling the other way? When God says "there shall in no wise enter into it (the Kingdom of God) anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie," (Rev. 21:27), it surely seemed impossible that I should be able to "overcome," and "endure unto the end."

But the same instant the answer flashed to mind—GOD will save me! I can't save myself. When I look at this troublesome, naturally evil self, so human and full of faults and weaknesses, so beset by temptations of pride and the flesh, with all its limitations and shortcomings; knowing that to be finally saved I must GROW in grace and God's knowledge—must develop in righteous holy character—must overcome this *self* and temptations and weaknesses—and must *endure* thru trial and test and op-

position and discouragement unto the end, —well when I look at it that way, it seems utterly HOPELESS to expect ever to be saved.

And I wondered, as this thought flashed thru my mind, how many of my readers and co-workers are tempted to look at it the same way—to feel a sense of futility and helplessness—perhaps to become discouraged and lose faith?

Ah, that's the key word—FAITH!

Our plight isn't hopeless at all!

Of course, of ourselves, it *is* impossible to be saved. But with GOD *it is certain*—if we yield to Him and TRUST Him. We shall be saved, *not* by our own power to overcome and develop perfect characters, but thru FAITH IN GOD'S POWER!

But right here is where 999 out of 1,000 become deceived by the fables of this time. And when the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch!

Because we *can't* save ourselves—we *can't* master the evil inner self—we *can't* always resist every temptation—we *can't* keep God's holy Law perfectly—and, of ourselves, we would fail to overcome, to grow in spiritual character, and to endure to the end; the false teaching is going out that JESUS DID THESE THINGS FOR US—that we don't need to do them. Millions today believe that God imputes Jesus' righteousness to us, counting us as righteous when we are *not*!

There couldn't be a more soul-damning delusion of the devil!

No, Jesus didn't live a good life for you, in your stead! You are not excused from keeping God's commandments, living a righteous holy life, overcoming, growing in spiritual character, and enduring in spite of all opposition, persecution, trial and test unto the end. YOU and I must actually *do* these things in order to be saved!

Here is the great mystery! Since we *must* do these things to be saved, yet are utterly *unable* to do them, it is natural to conclude either that God sent Jesus to do it for us and excuse us from accomplishing it, or else to become discouraged and be tempted to quit trying.

The true answer is the KEY to salvation!

We can't save ourselves. GOD will save us! But how?

Not by saving us *in* our sins—not by deceiving Himself into counting us righteous by imputing Jesus' righteousness to us while we remain *unrighteous*—BUT BY SAVING US FROM OUR SINS, by giving us His very own Spirit—His POWER to overcome these cantankerous selves, His LOVE to actually fulfill His law, His PEACE to avoid strife with enemies and resentment and bitterness at their injustices, His PATIENCE to endure!

We can't save ourselves—GOD must save us! But He does it by *changing* us, thru His indwelling divine supernatural power, from what we have been into the holy, righteous characters He wills to make of us! He does it by forgiving past sins not only, but *cleansing* us from sinning now and in the future!

God does not look upon our hopeless plight—our evil natures, our weaknesses and inabilities—and say, "Poor, helpless humans! Since they are unable to master and overcome their evil natures, to keep my Law, to endure trial and test and temptation, and to grow into holy characters; I'll be merciful and have my Son do it for them, and save them just as they are in all their sins."

Instead, God who knows our every weakness, and who Himself is *responsible* for this human nature in every one of us, sent His Son into the world to proclaim HIS MESSAGE to us that we must yield to GOD'S government over our lives—that we must REPENT and turn *from* our filth of the flesh and pride of mind and heart; He sent His Son into the world to be tempted in all points as we are—human as we are—to prove that a human *can*, with the help of the Spirit of God, live without sin—TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS and live also without sinning! He sent His Son into the world to die for us, —not living a good life in our stead, but paying the penalty of our past sins in our stead—that we might be reconciled to God, so that we might receive His Spirit, begetting us as His SONS, so that God thru the power of His Spirit may CHANGE us from mortal sin-

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Let's Look at Ourselves

Here is an intriguing insight into human nature and what YOU can do about it, by the Dean of Students at Ambassador College.

by Jack R. Elliott

CHILDREN seem such lovable creatures, but have you ever noticed the selfishness in their little hearts?

When a dessert dish is passed around the table, they usually take the most appetizing piece without giving a thought about what is left for the next fellow. Or when Johnnie arrives home from school and enters the pantry, he will take an abundance of fruit, not thinking whether there will be enough left for Dad, Mom, and Sis.

When you show him his selfishness, he will defend himself by saying, "Oh, I'm not selfish! I just didn't think."

I JUST DIDN'T THINK—that is the best definition of selfishness I know.

What he means to say is "I just didn't think of them. I was only concerned about MYSELF."

How Selfishness Acts

The carnal mind which is in everyone of us has a deep rooted concern for "self." Certain privileges and courtesies are extended to others, certainly; but there is no serious concern for their welfare.

Take the typical example of a man late for work—speeding at 45 mph in a 25 mph zone. Here are some of the thoughts that whirl through his mind: "If my wife were a little more efficient, and had prepared my breakfast earlier, I wouldn't have been late . . . Why can't wives be more efficient? . . . That old lady driving the car up ahead, she is just poking along. I wonder how she got a driver's license anyway. The community would be better off if she and her old rattle trap were not allowed on the road. (Blows horn loud and long) . . . Ah, at last! I made it around her . . . What time is it? Oh my! Fifteen minutes late already . . . Now look! A red light. Why in the world do these city officials put a red light out here in the middle of nowhere!"

Had a child run across the street and been hit by this driver, while he was speeding along with his mind fastened on HIMSELF, he would have declared sadly that it was an "unavoidable accident." He would have resented it if anyone would dare term it carelessness.

Yet that is what it would be—selfish carelessness, which is another way of saying lack of proper consideration for others brought on by over consideration for "self" and the things that concern "self."

Never would such a man look back over the morning's activities and see that by arising a little earlier and leaving home at a more appropriate hour he could have had enough time to look out for the other fellow *as well as* himself. Even though he was late for work, that was no excuse for him to be so inconsiderate of the others' welfare.

Love Means Consideration

Most of us have only a vague idea of what true love is. Love is not some sentimental feeling veiled in sanctimonious action.

True love is the deep down, mature, logical concern for those around us. It is lived actively by endeavoring to discipline ourselves so that our actions are guided by the desires and welfare of others *as well as* our own.

The human way, on the other hand, is not like God's love. People who "just don't think" often times don't realize how much suffering they cause others as a result of their selfishness. Aunt Jennie may have said nothing the day you sat with dirty clothes in her prize lounge chair, or the time you walked across her clean floor with mud on your shoes. Nevertheless it hurt her. Just because she said nothing does not mean that she will not long remember it. Your wife may pick up the clothes you left on the floor and say nothing.

Careless people do not evoke happiness in the lives of others. They evoke disgust and misery instead.

Natural Mind Doesn't Agree with God

Viewed through the natural human carnal eye, God is a conceited monarch who wants us to give up all happiness and a "carefree" life in order to perform acts that are not to our best interest just to appease His vanity. They view God as a God of hate, not love. They reason that if He were love, He would let

them have their own way and be selfish.

The only consolation they have is that God appears to be so weak and the devil is giving Him so much trouble that He seldom gets a chance to punish people when they fail to appease him! Yet, they believe that it does not pay to spite Him too much because He may single them out for a dose of His wrath. They believe He causes all of their accidents to befall them, but they accredit all their good fortunes to "Lady Luck."

God is a God of love. He loves you as He loves all men. He would have us all follow the loving instruction that would make our lives, and the lives of those around us, full, happy, abundant, and just bubbling over with joy.

God will never *force* anyone to live the right way, if one insists, as the world does, that his way is better.

Let us all begin to be concerned with the way we are living our lives. There is a way of living that will bring us, and those around us abundant joy, so isn't it worth at least a little of our time each day to seek it out and put it into practice?

If we find ourselves prone to say, "I did not think," or "I won't do this because I may get into trouble," or "other people annoy me," or "I saw someone else do it also," and similar expressions of self-love, then it is time we began to overcome and master the human nature within us. Let us begin to listen to God's loving instruction and let him turn our lives right side up.

You *can* make the little spot in which you live much brighter for everyone, yourself included. Of course there will be moments of sadness especially when you see loved ones, determined to live in their own way, unhappy and miserable.

There will be times also when your happiness is impaired by the sins of others. God could save you from this, but He does not because it is part of your spiritual training. He will let such things happen as often as is necessary to *keep* you conscious of the evils of sin, how sin robs not only ourselves but those around us of happiness. But despite all these little troubles, your life will still be filled with abundance.

POSITIVE Christian

(Continued from page 4)

demonstrating these qualities in their lives, they proceed in a hesitant, apologetic, or sometimes a belligerent attitude to try to "talk people into" some of their beliefs.

Humanly, we all tend to do these things, and it is hard to overcome them. But God has given us the spirit of POWER to do so!

From now on, instead of being "down on the world" in all of your talk and actions, try to show the world by *action* that you have found something *better*. Show your neighbors that your faith works for good by *doing good* to them.

Through God's Spirit within you, *live up* to what you believe and set a shining example before others. They may not agree with all your *doctrine*, but they will respect the *results* you achieve in your life.

Make an exciting game out of life—out of overcoming yourself and all the obstacles in the world. Accept yourself as a bundle of possibilities—the soft, pliable clay out of which God, the Supreme Potter—can fashion a character and personality worthy of *eternal life* in His kingdom.

Try *hard NOT* to give others the impression that you are "queer," or "peculiar." *Your job* is to show them the Spirit of a SOUND MIND in everything you do. If people *do* ask you questions concerning your belief—which they will if you are *living* it—be prepared by diligent study to give them the answer in a non-argumentative, clear, and *common-sense* way. Show them that God's way *makes sense*—and is based on a *law of love* which would *prevent war, murder* and most of humanity's troubles, if it were only taught and obeyed. But only tell people what *they ask you about*. Don't try to *force* too much new truth upon them all at once. Just show them by your *words* and *ACTIONS* that God's way is based on *common sense* and a *sound mind*.

Continually ask God for the love, faith, and wisdom to be a POSITIVE Christian. Put a smile on your face, pull back your shoulders, and hold your head high as you step forward to meet the world with God's LOVE in your heart toward everyone, with His FAITH and POWER to show others a positive example of the blessing that comes from a life of love and service, and with the Spirit of a SOUND MIND that you may demonstrate by your *actions* that God's way is best, and could bring happiness to everyone.

Even though you will still be persecuted by many, this *positive attitude*

in Christian living will gain you new respect in your community. You may then be a *positive* influence for good. More important, *this way* of living *faith* and *action* will give your own life more meaning, interest, and joy, and will prepare you to better serve as a King and Priest under Christ throughout life eternal. *Use it.*

Ambassador Students... *what are they like?*

by J. W. Robinson

When I arrived at Ambassador College, I was impressed by the friendliness of the older students. I had heard so much about the nature of the campus life that I expected friendliness to prevail; but still I was amazed by the genuine spirit of love in the welcome extended to each new arrival. The older students show in every way that they have made courtesy and kindness a part of their daily lives. Complaints and dissension are conspicuous by their rarity. These characteristics, which are developed only by constant application of God's laws in every-day living, are the rule rather than the exception.

Very soon after my arrival, I noticed the enthusiasm with which the students study, work, and play. Who would expect to see young and vigorous college students diligently study a Bible for hours at a time when there are so many theaters and other diversions downtown? Certainly it must seem strange to the unconverted, but not to one who understands the desire for right knowledge that brought the students here.

Although the older students are usually busily occupied in their own studies, they are never too busy to lend a helping hand to a freshman who needs assistance.

As I look around me and observe the character that has been developed in the older students at Ambassador, I am sure that I have come to the right college. Only the Spirit of God and proper training in His way of life could put such a feeling of love and consideration in every heart.

NOTICE!

We have had many more requests for God's Sacred Calendar than had been printed. Since this year's Holy Days are past, we are preparing a new Sacred Calendar for next year. All of you who receive the "Good News" will automatically receive next year's calendar.

So *please be patient*. Your Sacred Calendar will be sent in sufficient time for you to plan for God's festivals next spring.

God Demands Teamwork

(Continued from page 2)

fore. A goodly number were converted—brought INTO the Truth by his preaching in this six weeks' campaign—and a little Church of 19 members, the harvest of his own labors in the Lord, was organized.

It was about the time of the close of these meetings that the Church Board demanded that Mr. Armstrong preach and act unscripturally. Two human "wolves in sheep's clothing," seeking to devour the flock, had come in from the outside and managed to charm and deceive the layman board officials. So far as carrying out the divinely commissioned PURPOSE of the Church—to proclaim Christ's Gospel to the world—the Sardis Church died at that point. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong voluntarily relinquished the small salary, and solemnly placed themselves in GOD'S HANDS, relying solely and altogether upon GOD for guidance, for financial support and every need from that time on.

"Philadelphia" Church Emerges

After this, the DOOR WAS OPENED for the broadcast and publishing work. The broadcast began the first Sunday in 1934. The PLAIN TRUTH began February 1st, 1934. April 1st that year a campaign in downtown Eugene resulted in another small Church in Eugene, then late that fall and early winter another church of 15 members—all new converts—was raised up at Alvadore. These three were then combined into the one Church of God at Eugene, which has continued to this day.

And that was the actual beginning of another era—the "Philadelphia Church" era—in the true Church of God, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. Since that time Mr. Armstrong has been solely, wholly, altogether UNDER THE DIRECT AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST. What has been accomplished since then could never have been brought about by mere human power. The fruits abundantly reveal the mighty Hand and Power of ALMIGHTY GOD, who has ruled, governed, guided and directed—and *blessed*—this work ever since.

Gradually, from that day to the present, the work of GOD'S CHURCH grew and grew. The sick have been healed. The true Gospel has been preached to all North America, and now to all Europe, and soon to ALL THE WORLD! Thousands of lives have been *changed*—converted into begotten children of God. The same fruits have been borne as under the apostles in the first two 19-year

time-cycles of Christ's true Church. God Himself has revealed, by His blessings, miracles, and fruits borne, that He has chosen, and placed in apostolic power and authority in His Church, the minister whom He called and used through these years in the building and growth of the "Philadelphia" era of the true Church of God!

Why Ambassador College?

Knowing the imperative need for young men to assist him, Mr. Armstrong was led to found Ambassador College in order to provide adequately trained and qualified help for the work in North America and now in Europe. This is the same pattern that Jesus himself followed. The Savior collected disciples (which means *students* or *learners*) and trained them. Jesus could not use them all, for we read in John 6:66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

Jesus had to test those whom he chose. The disciples had to demonstrate that they were willing to yield to the government of God the Father.

In like manner today, Mr. Armstrong is extremely careful not to ordain any ministers or evangelists UNTIL they have first proved not only called of God, competent, and fully trained, but also that they are willing to submit unreservedly to the government of God, just as he, himself does, and has done from the start. This explains why none are ordained until they have completed at least four years of intensive training at Ambassador College.

All who have a part in the ministry *must learn to work together as a team.* There can be no subordination—the very sin of the devil who wanted to carry

out his own will instead of that of the Creator.

The work of spreading the gospel is so important, and its enemies are so numerous and deceptive, that it is vital for everyone of you brethren to realize the necessity of teamwork in God's church today. Only through constant prayer and Bible study can we maintain a spirit of love and cooperation so that no effort of the devil can interfere with the peace and harmony that *must* reign in the Church of God. Let us all do our part on God's team, whether it be small or great, each part is absolutely essential for the growth of the work.

How to Overcome

(Continued from page 5)

ners into immortal holy sons of God!

Some hotels and restaurants, catering to tourists who may be in old clothes and dirty from traveling, post a sign, "COME AS YOU ARE!"

The favorite "invitation" or "altar-call" hymn sung by the popular denominations in revival or evangelistic services is "JUST AS I AM."

But *be not deceived*—GOD WON'T RECEIVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE! You can't sit down at His immaculate holy table with your wrinkled, soiled clothes and dirty hands, which symbolically represent the human sinning condition. No, you must be first WASHED in the blood of the Lamb Jesus Christ—and before Jesus as your Saviour and Mediator with God can wash you of the filth of your sins, YOU MUST FIRST REPENT OF TRANSGRESSING GOD'S HOLY LAW, WHICH MEANS TO BE SO SORRY THAT YOU FORSAKE YOUR WAY AND THE WORLD'S WAY, AND TURN TO A LIFE

OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS AND WAYS!

Of course you'll have to come *as you are* to Christ for CLEANSING from the filth of your past life—but *confessing* your filthy, sinful condition, asking *Him* to cleanse you and wash you in His blood, because you can't cleanse yourself—so that He may present you chaste and pure and spiritually clean to His Father, that you may then receive the indwelling POWER of God *which will enable you to overcome*, and keep God's law, and live as His sons ought to live!

Jesus showed by his life that we *can*, if we rely upon God in faith for the power to do, live the way of God's will as expressed in His Spiritual Law! Of Himself, even Jesus said He could not do it—"the Father that dwelleth in me," He said, "HE doeth the works." And again: "The works that I do shall ye do also."

And so it was that, almost the same instant the temptation to doubt the final result came to my mind as I thought of my own weaknesses, faults, and limitations; the answer flashed strong and firm: "GOD WON'T LET ME FALL! He may punish me more yet to chasten and teach me and make me righteous, but He won't let me fail—He will impute His very own righteousness *by implanting it into my life* until, thru His power energizing me, I'm really living it—ETERNALLY!"

And that comforting and definite ASSURANCE of the final result, based on God's own unbreakable PROMISES, just warmed my heart and made me feel good clear thru—and so I had to come out here immediately to the typewriter to share this glorious assurance with all of YOU! Read Jude 24, and 2 Peter 1:10.

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