

FEBRUARY 1985

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



What Is the
True Gospel?

A Temple
in Jerusalem?

Shocking Origin
of Valentine's Day

Who Says Johnny
Can't Read?
See Page 14

PERSONAL FROM



Conversion Is a Process!

How many times have you heard non-Christians, judging one who professes Christ, say in disgust, "Well, if that's Christianity, I don't want any part of it"?

How many judge GOD by the way they see professing Christians live? How many assume that one must live a perfect life before he can become a Christian?

How many say, "If I could only give up smoking, I'd become a Christian"?

How many think a Christian is supposed to be perfect, never doing anything wrong? Suppose you do see or hear about a Christian doing something **WRONG**. Does that mean he is a hypocrite — that he is *not* really a Christian, after all?

Is it possible for one to actually sin while he is a Christian, and *still remain* a truly converted Christian?

I suppose nearly everyone would reply in the negative. But here is a vital point *you need to UNDERSTAND!*

It's hard to believe — but **TRUE!** Few know just what *is* a Christian. Few know how one is converted — whether suddenly, all at once, or gradually. Does conversion happen *immediately*, or is it a process?

IT'S HIGH TIME THAT ALL OF US UNDERSTAND!

The **TRUTH** is that there is a sense in which true conversion does take place *at a definite time* — all at once. But it is also true

that in another sense conversion is *worked out gradually* — it is actually a process of development and growth.

NOW NOTICE CAREFULLY!

When does one really become a Christian? It is when he receives God's Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9, we read that *unless* we have the Holy Spirit of God, we are not Jesus Christ's — we are not true Christians.

There is a definite **TIME** when God's Spirit enters into one. At the *very moment* he receives the Holy Spirit, he is, in this first sense, converted. Yes, *all at once!* If he has Jesus Christ's Spirit, he is Jesus Christ's — he is a Christian! He has been begotten as a child of God.

But does that mean his salvation is complete? Is he now fully and finally saved? Is that all there is to it? Is he now, suddenly, *perfect*? Is it now impossible for him to do wrong?

NO! Far from it! But **WHY?** What's the answer? Why do so many misunderstand?

Here is the **GOOD NEWS** you need to know.

First, there are two conditions to becoming a Christian: **REPENTANCE** and **FAITH**. These two we, ourselves, must perform. Yet no one can, of himself, say: "O, now I see — I must repent. All right, I hereby repent." One does not just decide casually, as a matter of routine, to repent.

WHY?

Jesus Christ said that none can come to Him, except the Spirit of the Father draw him. God *grants* repentance. God calls one, and convicts the mind and conscience

by His Spirit, working on the mind externally.

Usually a real struggle goes on within. The person has been shaken to know he has done wrong — he has sinned. He is not only sorry — he abhors himself! He is brought to real **REPENTANCE**, not only for what he has done, but for what he now sees that he is.

Yet he, himself, must make the decision. If he does repent, surrender to God and in faith accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, then, upon performance of these **TWO** conditions, God promises to put within him the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit. This is the very *life* of God — **SPIRIT** life. It imparts to him the very divine nature!

Then *what*, at that stage, has happened?

This new convert has only been *begotten* of God — not yet **BORN**. He has not received the full measure of God's Spirit Jesus Christ had — he is only a *spiritual babe* in Jesus Christ — he must now **GROW** spiritually, just as a newly conceived fetus in its mother's womb must grow physically large enough to be born as a human.

This new convert has now repented, in his mind, from the depths of his heart. **HE MEANS IT, too!**

In all sincerity, in his mind and heart he has *turned around to go the other way* — to live a different life. He is now a **CHRISTIAN** — he has received God's Holy Spirit. He really wants to do what is right — to obey God — to live **GOD'S WAY**.

Yet he finds he does not *do* this perfectly! Many, at this stage, become discouraged. Some

give up even trying to live a Christian life. And WHY?

Because of the false notion that a Christian is one who becomes PERFECT at one fell swoop — or, that one cannot become a Christian until he has broken all wrong habits, and *made himself* righteous.

It's vital to UNDERSTAND how true Christianity really works!

The newly begotten Christian must grow up, spiritually. What would you think of a human baby who became 6 feet tall all at once, without growing up? The growing-up process requires TIME. There is an instant when a person receives the impregnating Holy Spirit of God — when he first becomes a Christian. But he is only a spiritual infant. He must grow up spiritually.

The newly converted person, *in his mind and heart*, sincerely has about-faced! He has actually gained contact with GOD, and received God's Holy Spirit. God's own divine NATURE has now been conceived within him.

BUT THAT'S ALL — it is *merely conceived* — not yet full grown! And his human nature is still there — it has not been killed or removed!

Understand this!

We were all born HUMAN. We all have HUMAN NATURE. Few seem to know exactly what human nature is.

Human nature is a strong PULL — a tendency — and, like gravity, it is a *downward* pull. Like a strong magnet, it draws us in the way of SATAN — that is, a pull toward self-gratification and jealousy, envy and resentment and hatred toward others. It is the spirit of rebellion against authority, hostility toward God and the law of God.

That is human nature. It is within you. But how did human nature become that way? Adam and Eve were not created with that nature.

Originally God created the beautiful archangel Lucifer. He sealed up the sum of wisdom, knowledge and beauty. But one thing he lacked — the righteous CHARACTER to choose the right

way and resist the wrong — to discipline the *self* in the way he ought to go, instead of the way of self-desire.

So Lucifer became Satan. He allowed pride and vanity, selfishness and greed, a lack of outgoing concern for others — the spirit of competition, opposition, strife, effort to acquire and to exalt the self — to enter his mind. He became perverted.

Satan, ever since the Garden of Eden, has beamed his now perverted thinking into the minds of unwitting human beings. So humanity has accepted Satan's nature and allowed it to become infused with human nature.

God's purpose in having created humanity — in having caused *YOU* to be born — is to reproduce Himself. And GOD, above all things, *is* PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! God is able to create character within us — but it must be done as a result of our independent free choice. We, as individual separate entities, have our own part in the process.

What *is* perfect character? It is the ability, in a separate entity, to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the right from the wrong — the true from the false — and to CHOOSE the right, and possess the WILL to enforce self-discipline to do the right and resist the wrong.

Like muscle, character is developed, and grows by exercise. My name is Armstrong. I suppose I could make my arm stronger, and develop the muscle, by constantly bending it back and forth at the elbow. But if I pull, or push, against some heavy weight or resistance, the muscle will develop much faster.

Therefore God allows us to have this NATURE that exerts a heavy pull *against* that perfect, righteous character — to give us something to *strive against*, for THE VERY PURPOSE AND GOAL OF STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING RIGHT CHARACTER!

God's CHARACTER travels in the direction of His law — the way of LOVE. It is an outgoing CONCERN for others.

God has that character! He has

an outgoing concern for you and for me. He GAVE His only begotten Son to reconcile us to Him, and make the JOYS of His character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us HIS DIVINE NATURE — *when* we repent and turn *from* the wrong way of this world, begin to resist it and turn to Him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior!

God's divine nature is the nature of love — of giving, serving, sharing, helping — of outgoing concern. It is the nature of humility.

Now when one is converted — has repented, and *turned from* Satan's and this world's false way — has at once received God's Holy Spirit — his HUMAN nature, as I said before, does not flee. It, too, remains. It *still* exerts a pull. We still live in THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, and *it* exerts a pull. God still allows Satan to be around — and HE exerts a pull.

So we now have three pulls to resist — to overcome! We must now *overcome* these three — Satan, this world and our own selves. We have to battle against these three, in order to develop and strengthen RIGHT CHARACTER within us. God says plainly it is THE OVERCOMERS who shall be saved — who shall reign with Jesus Christ!

No human being is strong enough to do this BY HIMSELF! He must seek, and IN FAITH receive, the help and power of God. Even with God's power he will not overcome such forces easily, or all at once.

IT IS NOT EASY!

Jesus Christ plainly said the way to ultimate salvation is hard, difficult. It's a constant BATTLE — a struggle against self, the world and the devil. The creation of CHARACTER comes through EXPERIENCE — it takes time!

This development is a process. It is a matter of GROWTH — DEVELOPMENT. It requires, to become perfect, full and right knowledge of the very Word of

(Continued on page 22)

What Is the True Gospel?

What is the true Gospel that Jesus preached? Did Paul preach a different gospel to the gentiles? Here, at last, is made plain the truth about the Kingdom of God.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Why should there be such perplexity — such *confusion* — in every phase of life today?

It should be the function of religion to point the way. Yet here, too, we find only confusion of tongues — hundreds of different religious denominations and sects, in a Babylon of disagreement.

Even in the professing Christian religion of the Western world, we find different sects and denominations preaching a variety of different GOSPELS!

Some designate their gospel as “The Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Others call *their* gospel “The Gospel of Salvation.” Still others profess to teach “The Gospel of Grace,” some “The Gospel of the Kingdom.”

WHY HAVE THEY LOST THE ONLY TRUE GOSPEL THAT GOD SENT BY JESUS CHRIST?

WHY?

How many Gospels are there?

Does it make any difference which gospel we believe?

Listen to the answer of the eternal God, as inspired in Paul’s letter to the Galatians — the first chapter, the eighth verse:

“But even if we, or an angel

from heaven, preach any *other* gospel to you than what we have preached to you, *let him be accursed.*”

And it is made a *double* curse! For the next verse says, “So now I say *again*, if anyone preaches any *other* gospel to you than what you have received, *let him be accursed.*”

WHY, then, has the world lost sight of *that* Gospel? WHY do people believe *different* gospels today?

This is an astounding, incredible situation! It ought to shake you out of passive indifference. YOUR eternity is at stake! This is not an inconsequential, unimportant matter!

Jesus Christ said it is absolutely necessary to BELIEVE THE GOSPEL to be saved! Yet the *many* — the hundreds of millions — today do not even know what *that Gospel is!*

Again, His parting commission to His apostles, being sent out as His ministers to build His Church, was this: “Go into all the world and preach *the gospel*” (Mark 16:15). They were to preach THE GOSPEL.

Jesus then said, “He who BELIEVES and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (verse 16).

Notice! Jesus said, “He who

BELIEVES.” Believes *what*? Why, BELIEVES that which they PREACHED, of course — THE GOSPEL! Not *a* gospel. Not *any* gospel. THE Gospel!

On the authority of Jesus Christ, it is necessary to believe THAT PRECISE, IDENTICAL GOSPEL in order to be saved! And to BELIEVE the true Gospel, we must first come to KNOW exactly what it is!

Now with whom, and from where, and to whom, did the true Gospel originate? With Christ? No, not with Jesus Christ!

The message sent from heaven

God the Father had promised to send a messenger into this world from heaven, bearing a message from HIM — God the FATHER!

God had promised that in Malachi 3:1: “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me [and *that* messenger, as explained in Mark 1:2, was John the Baptist, preparing the way before Jesus Christ’s first coming]. And the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, EVEN THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, in whom you delight.”

The very first sermon by which God had the Gospel preached to gentiles, when Peter was sent to

the house of the gentile Cornelius, recorded in the 10th chapter of the book of Acts, gives us very explicit directions for locating the one and only TRUE GOSPEL — the Gospel we must believe in order to be saved.

Open your own Bible! I want you to *read* this with your own eyes!

This is what the inspired Peter said, as recorded in Acts 10:36-37: "The word which GOD *sent* to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ — He is Lord of all — that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached."

Which Gospel did Jesus preach?

Notice carefully these points:

1) WITH WHOM did this message — this Gospel — originate? Peter said: "The word which GOD *sent*."

2) TO WHOM did God send it? Peter said "to the children of Israel."

Although now, 10 years later, this same Gospel was being opened up to gentiles of ALL nations, originally it was sent to the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, and it was sent by GOD the FATHER. It did not originate with Jesus Christ, nor with Peter, nor with the apostle Paul. It *was sent* by God the Father of Jesus Christ!

3) THROUGH WHOM was it sent? Who was the divine Messenger who brought and preached the message? Peter said "through Jesus Christ."

Jesus Christ was the divine MESSENGER. Malachi called Him the Messenger of the COVENANT. That message, then, is the NEW Covenant message, for Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, and Jesus Christ of the NEW, as affirmed by many scriptures. This message, then, is the NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL.

Now, 4) WHERE was it first preached? To what geographical location shall we look for its beginning? Peter said it "began from Galilee." Yes, GALILEE, then, is the place where it was

first preached. Not Jerusalem! Galilee!

When did Jesus begin to preach this particular Gospel in Galilee? Peter said "after the baptism which John preached." The true GOSPEL of the NEW Covenant, then, did not begin with John the Baptist. It began after John had completed his baptismal ministry.

Now these very *definite* directions lead us directly to the first chapter of Mark. The first verse tells us this is the record of the BEGINNING of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then it relates the baptizing ministry of John, preaching, NOT the Gospel, but "a baptism of repentance," which prepares the way for the GOSPEL that the living God sent by Jesus Christ (verse 4).

And then we come to verses 14 and 15 (Authorized Version): "Now after that John was put in prison" — there is the exact TIME for the beginning of the preaching of the TRUE GOSPEL — "JESUS" — there is the divine Messenger THROUGH whom God sent it — "came into GALILEE" — THERE IS THE PRECISE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.

So we now have the TIME, the Israelites residing there TO WHOM God sent the message, the PLACE and the MESSENGER — so whatever we find Jesus Christ preaching here IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOSPEL.

And what do we read? "Jesus came into Galilee, PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the KINGDOM OF GOD is at hand: REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

Notice, Jesus said, "Believe *THE GOSPEL!*"

WHAT Gospel? The one He was proclaiming — "the gospel of the kingdom of God."

But, one may ask, don't we need to believe on Jesus? Of course. Other scriptures teach that. But at *this* particular time Jesus said we must believe *Him* — believe what He said — believe the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

Some believed *on* Jesus, but

did not *believe Jesus* — did not believe *what He* SAID (John 7:31, 8:30-31, 46).

What about the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

But if the one and only TRUE Gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, what about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is that a false gospel?

Not at all. Let's understand.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel He brought as God's Messenger — the Gospel He proclaimed is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is NOT man's gospel ABOUT the PERSON of Jesus Christ. It is JESUS CHRIST'S Gospel — the Gospel JESUS PREACHED — the Gospel GOD SENT by Him, and therefore it is also called, in Scripture, the Gospel of God. The Gospel of God is *God's* Gospel — His message — His good news that He sent by Jesus.

Also the Gospel of Jesus Christ is Jesus Christ's Gospel — the Gospel Jesus Christ brought from God — the Gospel He announced and proclaimed.

We hear a great deal today of the gospel of MEN about the PERSON of Jesus Christ — confining the message solely to the things ABOUT Jesus. As a result, *millions* believe *on* Christ *who do not BELIEVE CHRIST!*

But Jesus' Christ's *Gospel* IS HIS MESSAGE!

And *yet* it was not only His, but His FATHER's who sent Him, as He Himself said. In John 12:49-50, Jesus said: "I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who *sent Me* gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, *so* I speak."

Yes, the Father SENT Jesus bearing a message, which is the good news of THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus is God's Spokesman — the WORD that was made flesh and lived, and taught, on this earth! In John 14:24 Jesus said, "The word which you hear is NOT

MINE *but the Father's who sent Me.*"

And, descriptive of the religion of the Old Testament and the GOSPEL of the NEW, it is written in Luke 16:16, "The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN. *Since* that time the KINGDOM OF GOD has been preached."

What is the Kingdom of God?

And yet there are some in *this* modern day of religious confusion who believe the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD is not for this age — this New Testament time of grace.

They reject and therefore do not BELIEVE the true Gospel as Jesus commanded and thereby reject the very conditions to SALVATION, saying the Gospel of the KINGDOM is a gospel for some future age yet to come.

But as the apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians, I would not have you to be IGNORANT of the very Gospel that alone can bring us eternal life!

There was a definite TIME for the beginning of the Gospel — *since* John. The law and the prophets were UNTIL John. *Since* John's special preparatory ministry, the KINGDOM OF GOD is preached.

There was a definite TIME for this true New Testament Gospel to begin. And after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, saying, "The TIME is fulfilled," and preaching the Gospel.

And so now, exactly WHAT is that Gospel?

The English word *gospel* comes from the word *godspel*, and means GOOD NEWS. Daily, we read the NEWS of world happenings — mostly BAD news! We live in a troubled, chaotic world. And the very BEST news you can hear in this day, or any other, is the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD.

But what *is* a KINGDOM? Primarily, it is a GOVERNMENT — a NATION and the GOVERNMENT that rules it. And especially in this biblical sense, there is the DUAL sense of the NATION, including all its subjects or citizens, and the GOVERNMENT by

which it is ruled. Again — in BIBLE usage, a kingdom is often a family from a single parent grown into a NATION.

Four things are necessary to constitute a KINGDOM: 1) the TERRITORY, with its specific geographic location and definite boundary lines, with 2) a KING or supreme ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) SUBJECTS or citizens *within* that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) LAWS and a form of GOVERNMENT.

If we leave out any one of these vital requisites, we do not have, and cannot BELIEVE, the true GOSPEL for this time.

We must know whether the Kingdom of God is here NOW, or coming later; whether its territory is THE EARTH, or up in heaven; whether it is a literal kingdom of human mortals, or a kingdom of immortals; whether it is literal or figurative, real or unreal.

And on many of these things, a great many people are ALL MIXED UP!

But now what about the Gospel of GRACE — the Gospel concerning SALVATION?

Born into the Kingdom

Notice, when Nicodemus came to Jesus secretly, as recorded in John the third chapter, Jesus said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the KINGDOM OF GOD" (verse 3).

Jesus was proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD — explaining a most important phase of it.

As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in I Corinthians 15:50, flesh and blood — that is, a mortal human — cannot enter INTO the Kingdom of God.

The Church, then, cannot be the Kingdom of God, for it is composed of flesh-and-blood mortals. It is *not*, either, an ethereal something "set up in the hearts of men."

Jesus went on to show Nicodemus that we who are born of the flesh ARE flesh — just mortal flesh and blood. We were BORN that way — HUMAN — MORTAL.

But it is possible for us to be BORN AGAIN — next time, *not* as

a mortal flesh-and-blood baby, but born of the SPIRIT. Then we shall *be* spirit — composed of spirit!

Now in the fourth chapter of John we read that GOD is a SPIRIT (verse 24). The Kingdom of GOD is composed of those BORN of GOD. And as I have explained previously, GOD is not a single person, but the Hebrew word for God, *Elohim*, portrays God as a FAMILY of persons — a *single* family, or *kingdom*, but composed of MORE than one person.

We have the mineral *kingdom*, the plant *kingdom*, the animal *kingdom*. The Bible reveals an angel *kingdom*, created by God and composed of spirit, not made of matter.

And then, high above all, is the very CREATING Kingdom — the GOD Kingdom or, in other words, THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF! God created man in GOD'S IMAGE, so that man may become impregnated, BEGOTTEN and, by a resurrection, be BORN as an immortal, SPIRIT-COMPOSED person in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

The apostle Paul made very plain to the Corinthians that while mortal flesh and blood cannot inherit, or enter into, the Kingdom of God, that through the resurrection of those BEGOTTEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD during this mortal life, this MORTAL then *puts on* IMMORTALITY, and we, like the very God Himself, become IMMORTAL, INCORRUPTIBLE, actually, literally, BORN of God's Spirit INTO the very GOD FAMILY.

Conditions of entering

Now, HOW may we enter into that glorious KINGDOM?

Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying "REPENT" and "BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

JUST TWO things we do — REPENT and BELIEVE. We must BELIEVE the Gospel, and that means also believing on JESUS CHRIST, the KING of the Kingdom of God and coming KING of kings over all the families and
(Continued on page 23)

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

God — because Jesus taught that we must *live by EVERY WORD OF GOD.*

The natural, unconverted mind cannot fully and rightly UNDERSTAND the Scriptures of God. The acquisition of this KNOWLEDGE, in itself, is a procedure requiring TIME. It is the DOERS of this Word, not hearers only, who shall be saved.

But can any man DO, immediately and all at once, this new way he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all habits he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a fight against acquired former habits.

He still has this PULL of human nature to overcome. This nature is a law working within him. The apostle Paul calls it the law of sin and death.

Paul was *converted*. Paul was a real Christian. He had repented, accepted Jesus Christ and received the Holy Spirit. With his MIND, he wanted with all his heart, and in real, intense sincerity, to DO God's WAY! But did Paul do it perfectly? Let him tell. LISTEN!

"For we know that the law is spiritual," he wrote, "but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. . . now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me" (Romans 7:14-17).

He is speaking of human nature within him. He continues: "For to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. . . O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (verses 18-24).

Then he thanks God — that GOD WILL — through Jesus Christ, and by the power of His HOLY SPIRIT. BUT *IT TAKES TIME!*

The truly converted Christian

will find that he often stumbles, *under temptation*, and falls down — even as a physical child learning to walk often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET COMPLETELY PERFECT!

GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART — the inner MOTIVE — the real *intent!* If he is trying — if he gets up whenever he falls

The truly converted Christian stumbles, under temptation, and falls down. But he does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness and sets out to do his very best NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN — and to persevere with renewed effort and energy and determination to OVERCOME — God is rich in mercy toward that person in his striving to overcome.

Speaking to CONVERTED CHRISTIANS, the apostle John writes: "These things I write to you, that you may not sin. And *if anyone sins* [even though he ought not], we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for OUR sins" (I John 2:1-2).

Yes, for the sins of converted Christians. Such people often are under heavier temptation than before conversion. They are STRIVING against sin — STRIVING to overcome. But they are not yet perfect. Sometimes they are caught off guard. They may actually sin.

Then they WAKE UP, as it were, and realize what they have done. They REPENT. They are filled with remorse — *truly sorry* for what they have done — disgusted with themselves and their actions. They go to God in humility and repentance and CRY OUT FOR HELP — for more

power and strength from God to OVERCOME!

This is the WAY of the true Christian!

It is the way of a constant BATTLE — a striving against SIN — a seeking God in earnest, heart-rending prayer for help and spiritual POWER to overcome.

They are constantly GAINING GROUND. They are constantly GROWING in God's KNOWLEDGE, from the Bible. They are constantly rooting out wrong habits,

driving themselves into RIGHT habits. They are constantly growing closer to God through Bible study and prayer. They are constantly growing in CHARACTER, *toward* perfection, even though not yet perfect.

Along with the apostle Paul, they say: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on. . . Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but *one thing I do*, FORGETTING those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS" (Philippians 3:12-14).

But, someone may ask, what if one's life is cut off, and he dies *before* he has attained this perfection? Is he saved, or lost? The answer is that we shall never obtain absolute perfection in *this* life.

I said, earlier, that a person who is converted does receive the Holy Spirit at a *definite time* — *all at once!* Not the full measure Jesus Christ had — he is not at once full grown spiritually — only a spiritual babe in Jesus Christ. Yet he is then a changed, converted person — changed in mind, in attitude, in the *direction*

he has set himself to strive to travel.

Even though he has not yet reached perfection — even though he may have stumbled under temptation, and taken a spiritual fall — as long as, in his mind and heart, he is earnestly striving to travel GOD'S WAY, to overcome and grow spiritually — as long as God's Spirit is in him — as long as he is being led by the Spirit of God, he is a begotten CHILD OF GOD. If, anywhere along this life's journey, that life is cut short, ended, such a person will be resurrected.

It is only the one who deliberately QUILTS and GIVES UP — who REJECTS God and God's way, and rejects Jesus Christ as his Savior — who turns FROM this direction of GOD'S WAY, *in his mind and heart* — in his inner INTENT — who deliberately and intentionally in his mind TURNS FROM Jesus Christ, who is lost.

If, once having been converted, having received God's Spirit and TASTED of the joys of GOD'S WAY, one deliberately rejects that way, makes the DECISION, not under stress of temptation, but deliberately and finally, NOT to go God's way, then God says it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew such a one to repentance. He would have to REPENT of that decision. But if he WILLFULLY made it, not in a time of temptation, but calmly, deliberately, willfully, then he just WILL NOT ever repent of it.

But anyone who FEARS he may have committed the "unpardonable sin" — is perhaps worried about it, and HOPES he *has not* committed it, and still WANTS to have God's salvation — no such has committed it — such a one MAY repent, and go right on to salvation IF HE WANTS TO!

If you have stumbled and fallen down, **DON'T BE DISCOURAGED!** Get up and press on ahead!

If you see a Christian do something wrong, **DON'T SIT IN JUDGMENT AND CONDEMN** — that's God's business to judge, not yours! Let's have compassion and mercy — we don't know the inner hearts of others — only GOD does! □

True Gospel

(Continued from page 5)

peoples of the earth. It means believing in Him as personal SAVIOR, as High Priest now and as coming KING.

But to repent is to completely CHANGE THE MIND in respect to SIN, and "sin is the transgression of the LAW" (I John 3:4, AV) — the law of GOD by which God RULES the Kingdom.

It means a total, complete CHANGE OF MIND AND OF LIFE. It means we REPENT of transgressing the rule, the will, the laws, of GOD. What did Jesus say to the young man who asked Him HOW to inherit eternal life? He said, "If you want to enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matthew 19:17).

He went on to show that He referred to the TEN COMMANDMENTS, God's great SPIRITUAL LAW, summing up, in principle, the WHOLE duty and way of righteous living.

It is a WAY OF LIFE, and a way *contrary* to human nature and to the ways and customs of this world!

It is the basic spiritual law and way of life of the KINGDOM OF GOD — the WAY to peace of mind, to world peace, to happiness, prosperity and JOY — the WAY to eternal life.

Kingdom of God to be preached TODAY

Yes, JESUS proclaimed and taught the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. But did He command His ministers, in BUILDING His CHURCH, to preach this same Gospel? Quickly let us notice the Scriptures.

Luke 9:1-2: "Then He called His twelve disciples together and . . . He sent them to PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

Luke 10:1-2, 9: "After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them. ' . . . heal the sick who are there, and say to them,

"The KINGDOM OF GOD has come near to you." " " "

In Jesus' prayer, so commonly called the "Lord's Prayer," He prayed, "YOUR KINGDOM COME" — then it wasn't here yet, and it isn't here yet, today — but He taught us to pray for it to COME, for His KINGDOM and that ALONE shall bring PEACE and HAPPINESS to this sin-sick, war-weary earth! "Your kingdom COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE *on earth* as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). The FATHER'S WILL.

What Gospel did the early evangelists preach, in first sending out the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED? How did the early Church carry out the commission?

Notice PHILIP preaching at Samaria! Acts 8:12: "But when they BELIEVED Philip as he preached the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized." Philip preached the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Paul? Acts 20:25, 21: "I have gone preaching THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . . testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

And notice the Gospel Paul preached to GENTILES, *after* he had turned completely away from the Jews. Acts 28:30-31: "Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching THE KINGDOM OF GOD and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ."

And, lastly, WHAT GOSPEL did Jesus say should be preached TODAY?

Matthew 24:14, speaking of the PRESENT: "And this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM will be preached in ALL THE WORLD *as a witness*" — *as a WITNESS* — "to ALL THE NATIONS, *and then the END will come*" — the end of this AGE.

That is the true Gospel proclaimed in *The Good News of the World Tomorrow* — proclaimed on the *World Tomorrow* broadcast on the air worldwide — "IN ALL THE WORLD." □