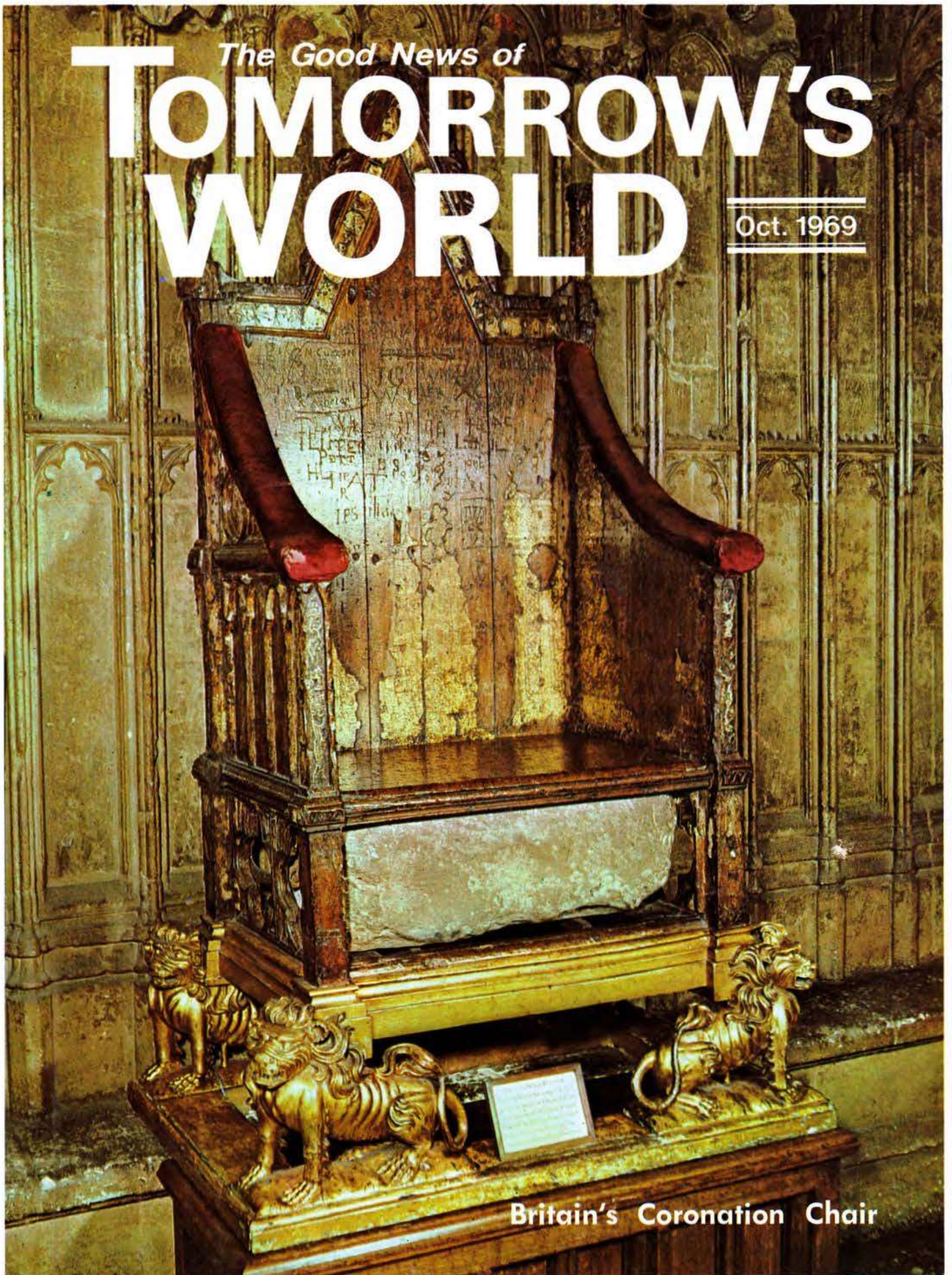


The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

Oct. 1969



Britain's Coronation Chair

Personal from the Editor

LAST MONTH I wrote about the ecumenical movement to unite the churches — by compromise of doctrines and practices. So now I would like to ask in retrospect — and answer: What about this whole church question — as it concerns *YOU*? WHERE is the original *true* Church which Jesus Christ founded — the one the *living* Jesus Christ STILL HEADS today? That is the question that haunted me, back in 1926 and early 1927.

I had been reared, like many of our readers, in one of the respected and older Protestant denominations. From infancy I was taken to Sunday school and church. I was told that I was “saved” because I had a “birthright membership” in the church. I didn’t know much about what my church believed — but I don’t remember worrying about that.

But by age 18 I lost interest, and seldom attended after that. On leaving school I entered the advertising profession. I was ambitious. I craved STATUS. So I worked hard, studied continually to improve my abilities, drove myself relentlessly toward that goal of STATUS!

Then, after nationwide occurrences totally beyond my control had twice taken businesses I had started, I was *angered* into an intensive study of the Bible for the first time in my life. So far as the Bible was concerned, I had always said, “I just can’t UNDERSTAND the Bible.”

Strange — I had always *craved* understanding — but about other things. The Bible seemed to me a dry, dull, dead Book that NOBODY could understand. I assumed, of course, that the churches had received all their beliefs, teachings and customs from the Bible — but then, I just had no interest in religion.

But finally, early fall of 1926, I was challenged! I was *doubly* challenged! My wife had taken up with “*religious fanaticism*” — that is, it seemed fanaticism to *me*! She claimed she found it IN THE BIBLE — but I knew good and well that was impossible, because it

was a belief and practice utterly CONTRARY to the churches.

“All these churches can’t be wrong,” I said. “They get their teaching from the Bible, and this fanaticism of yours is *contrary* to what they teach.”

“Well, maybe they teach *contrary* to the Bible, then,” my wife insisted, “because I got THIS out of the BIBLE!”

Argument was no use. She said if I’d show her where the Bible taught differently, she’d give it up, but not otherwise.

At the same time a sister-in-law challenged me in regard to the theory of evolution. I had never happened to study evolution in school or college. She said I was just plain IGNORANT if I didn’t believe in evolution! This stung my pride! Me IGNORANT? What an INSULT!

“All right,” I answered, “I’ll study into the evolutionary theory thoroughly, and if you’re wrong, as I know you are, I’ll PROVE IT to you, and make you *eat those words!*”

I had always believed in GOD — though I knew little about Him, and just was not concerned about “religion.” Of course I had never researched the question deeply and thoroughly, to PROVE whether God exists, or whether evolution is true. Few ever have. I just took God for granted, and *supposed* evolution was a false theory. Nearly all who believe either in God or evolution have *assumed* their belief WITHOUT PROOF!

But no longer for ME! Now I had to KNOW!

It became an almost night-and-day study of the Bible, and of in-depth research in books on evolution, geology, paleontology, biology, physics. I did research into radioactivity. That proved there had been no past eternity of matter, but CREATION! I studied the creation account in Genesis. It was a six months’ intensive research, often studying until 1 or 2 a.m. But in the end I PROVED the existence of GOD and the infallible inspiration of the Bible; I *disproved* the

evolutionary theory and *did* make the sister-in-law “eat those words!”

But in the argument with my wife, *I LOST!* She was right. I was wrong. It was by far the bitterest pill to swallow that had ever confronted me.

You see, it meant not only confessing I was wrong. That is hard enough for the carnal mind. But I had now learned *HOW* wrong I was, not only what I had believed through assumption, but what I had done and what I *was*. I had thought I was *pretty good!* Human nature always thinks that. I had learned it is just plain *BAD* and *EVIL*.

I thought immediately, “If I accept Bible teaching, and begin to *LIVE* by it — if I give in to accept Christ, become converted, live a Christian life, what will all my former business associates and friends say?”

In my mind, it meant *GIVING THEM ALL UP* — for good!

It meant conversion! And that is something I don't believe happens *really*, and *fully*, without an inner struggle. It certainly didn't in my case. It meant *GIVING UP!* It meant giving up everything my heart had been set on — my life goal. It meant forsaking my way of life — a total about-face! Actually it meant giving up my *IDOL*, though I didn't see it that way, then. It meant *UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER* to God. It meant giving up *MY LIFE*, actually, and *GIVING IT TO GOD!*

In the end, I did it!

But now I faced a *NEW CHALLENGE!* In this intensive study, I had found that “all these churches” *CAN BE* wrong! I found that, so far as I knew of what the church I was reared in believed, it was diametrically contrary to the Bible.

Now the question came, *WHERE* is the *TRUE* Church — the one Jesus Christ founded — the one He *HEADS* today — the one that carries out His *MISSION* — the one He said He would never leave or forsake?

I had been shockingly disillusioned! It had been virtually a traumatic six months.

When I read Romans 6:23, I stared at that verse in my Bible in shocked, incredulous disbelief! It said, “For the wages of sin is *DEATH*, but the *gift* of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” I had always believed the wages we earn for *SIN* was *just the opposite* of *DEATH*. I had been taught that what we get paid for *SIN* was *ETERNAL LIFE* — in hell fire!

This verse says eternal life is something we can only receive *AS A GIFT* from *GOD*.

But *NO!* Surely no! We already *have* eternal life — so I supposed — we are immortal souls! I learned that many theologians *INTERPRET* that verse — that is, they *PUT A DIFFERENT MEANING* INTO IT. They *change* the meaning of the words to make them conform to their belief instead of letting God's Word *change their belief* to conform with God's Truth. They manufacture a new definition of the word “*death*.” They define “*death*” to mean “*separation from God*.” I looked at this verse again. On the one hand, for sin, we get *DEATH*. On the other hand, the *opposite* of that penalty is *ETERNAL LIFE*. Now, it certainly was clear, if *ETERNAL LIFE* is the very *opposite* of *DEATH*, then *DEATH* cannot mean eternal life!

I was shocked to find that in many — if not most — teachings of Jesus and the New Testament, the churches now teach the very opposite, and follow opposite customs and practices!

I was confused! My head was swimming!

But there it was, in plain language. I read that *SOULS can die!* “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:4, 20). It was important enough to be stated twice. Then my startled eyes read, in Revelation 16:3: “and every living *soul* *DIED* in the sea.” That said *SOULS can DIE*. Then I saw where Jesus said souls can be *DESTROYED!* “. . . But rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna” (Matt. 10:28).

It began to look like the churches *were* wrong, after all! But did not Jesus Christ found His *CHURCH?* He surely did, and I found where He said the gates of the grave would never prevail against it — *IT COULD NOT BE DESTROYED!* I found where Jesus Christ said He would never leave nor forsake it — where He would always be “in the midst” of it. I found where He was the living *HEAD* of it! Jesus Christ was resurrected from the grave. *HE IS STILL ALIVE!*

So *WHERE* was the Church *He* was guiding, directing, and using?

I was perplexed. But I kept searching. I continued studying.

I found where Jesus Christ came to *DO THE WORK OF GOD*. He came to bring mankind the *GOSPEL*, from *GOD*. Yet He said that *of Himself* — as a human — by His own human power, He could do nothing — He was utterly *powerless*, of *Himself*, for this divine

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of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness *in part* is happened to Israel, *until* the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25).

God has a TIME SCHEDULE He is working out. He WILL finally give all those ancient Israelites — whose hearts were hardened, who DID NOT KNOW the way to salvation — their FIRST chance!

Notice it. "And so ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED"! (Rom. 11:26.)

He says further, "For God hath concluded them [shut them up — original] all in unbelief, *that He might have mercy upon all!*" (Rom. 11:32.)

"... God our Saviour; Who will have ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:3, 4).

Every human being WILL be given an opportunity to hear, and to *understand* the Word of God. He will then make up HIS OWN MIND — make HIS OWN decision about WHETHER he will obey!

What About Suicide?

And what if someone kills HIMSELF? Will he be resurrected?

Of course! Suicide is SELF-murder. God commands, "Thou shalt NOT KILL" and says the wages of *sin*, which is the breaking of God's Ten Commandments (I John 3:4), is *death* (Rom. 6:23).

In the case of suicide, the penalty is the *same* as for any *other* broken law. In the resurrection AFTER the millennium of PEACE on the earth (Rev. 20:5, the resurrection *to judgment*) any person having committed suicide will learn the enormity of his sin; will HEAR the Word of God, just like the millions of others who committed sins, and who died not having the knowledge of the truth.

Is There a Hellfire?

Believe it or not, the Bible shows there must be a THIRD and FINAL resur-

rection! This time, a resurrection to DEATH — *by fire* — for those who have deliberately and willfully sinned.

Remember, there are THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE with whom God is dealing. Those who *have* repented, and, whether living or dead, will rise to meet Christ in the air (I Thes. 4:15-18), coming down ON THAT DAY with Him to the mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4) to RULE with Him for 1,000 years (Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4). Then there are the millions of those who *have never* understood — the "REST" of the dead (Rev. 20:5).

And then there are those who WILL not choose to repent — who are finally to *lose out* on salvation.

Notice the Bible proof!

After the millennium of Christ's rule on earth, even AFTER the picture of the Great White Throne resurrection to JUDGMENT (Rev. 20:11-12), God says, "And death and hell [Greek word, *Hades* meaning THE GRAVE] were cast into the lake of fire. *This is the second death!*" (Rev. 20:14.)

A grave is only a grave when it contains a *body*. This scripture speaks of a resurrection to *physical* life, for the incorrigible evil, and a "GEHENNA" fire destroying them!

Read what God inspired the prophet Malachi to write: "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall *burn them up*... and ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet..." (Mal. 4:1-3).

The GEHENNA fire of your Bible is MUCH HOTTER than the pagan myth of an "ever-burning" fire. *This fire really burns* — it *destroys!*

Remember to write for the booklet about *Lazarus and the Rich Man*. It

explains how the rich man comes up in THIS final resurrection — only to see the advancing *wall of flame* before him. There is a mighty REAL FIRE revealed in the BIBLE — GEHENNA (Greek word) fire.

Peter said, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with *fervent heat*, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be *burned up!*" (II Peter 3:10.)

But *before* giving this awesome warning of impending DESTRUCTION of the wicked, Peter *again* shows the righteous MERCY of the LOVING God, who "... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance!" (II Peter 3:9.)

There is the real TRUTH about death — from your own Bible! Death is DEATH — without consciousness. A *resurrection* is the hope of the dead — not living for all eternity in some fanciful "limbo" or compartment of "heaven" or "hell."

The stories you've heard all your life about the boiling pots or the "pearly gates" are sheer MYTH! (Write for reprints on *Hell* and *Heaven* for a full explanation of these false doctrines.)

But the plain *truth* of your Bible is CLEAR!

What a *great blessing* it is to know the TRUTH about death! And how *especially comforting* is this knowledge when you must literally *see* death come to a loved one!

God's great and merciful PURPOSE in our lives is achieved because *Christ conquered death!* He will soon *release* those who are "waiting" for their change to come — and that day is MUCH nearer, now, than you may think!

Personal from the Editor

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spiritual MISSION. The Father that dwelt within Him — by the power of His Holy Spirit — did the work.

So it was really GOD doing it, by His Holy Spirit, using the individual human mind and body of Jesus as His instrument. GOD started HIS WORK of revealing HIS MESSAGE and building His Church through the individual human BODY of Jesus Christ.

I saw where God's true CHURCH is called "THE BODY OF CHRIST" (I Cor. 12:27, 13; Rom. 12:5). How could the CHURCH be the BODY OF CHRIST? I searched.

I studied. God's Word made the truth PLAIN. God started His Gospel WORK — proclaiming the Gospel (Good News) of His KINGDOM through the individual human BODY of Jesus. But after His resurrection, Jesus sent the same HOLY SPIRIT on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., and thereafter, to enter into the COLLECTIVE BODY of those constituting GOD'S CHURCH.

The CHURCH, then, is the COLLECTIVE BODY Christ uses as HIS INSTRUMENT, empowered by God's Spirit, to carry on GOD'S WORK. Jesus Christ heads and directs it from heaven!

How does one become a member of this ONE BODY? By receiving God's Holy Spirit. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized [immersed] into ONE BODY" (I Cor. 12:13). The word baptize means immerse — to plunge into. It is God's Holy Spirit which PUTS ONE INTO the only true Church!

But are there MANY CHURCHES? No, everywhere the New Testament speaks of the ONE Body — ONE CHURCH. "For the BODY is not one member, but many . . . But now they are many members, yet but ONE BODY" (I Cor. 12:14, 20).

Christ is NOT divided (I Cor. 1:13). There is ONE true Church. All in it "speak the same thing" (I Cor. 12:13). The word baptize means immerse —

But WHAT is the divine MISSION of that Church? What is its PURPOSE? The answer is to *do* the WORK OF GOD, which Jesus started, and now continues *through* His Church. And *what* did Jesus start DOING?

Mark tells us. "The *beginning* of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). Then, beginning verse 2, Mark records how John the Baptist prepared the way before Him. Coming, then, directly to the BEGINNING of the WORK Christ did, Mark says: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee . . ." — DOING WHAT? — ". . . 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" (Mark 1:14-15).

Two things Jesus commanded His hearers to do: 1) REPENT, and 2) BELIEVE. But believe WHAT? Believe His GOSPEL! You have to believe that Gospel — that Good News of the KINGDOM OF GOD, to be saved! JESUS SAID SO!

The KINGDOM OF GOD is the GOVERNMENT of God. It is also the divine FAMILY of God, into which we may be born. It is the UNIVERSE-RULING family! You *repent* of — WHAT? Your rebellion against that GOVERNMENT of God. God governs by

His LAW, summed up by the Ten Commandments. Some will say, we must repent of SIN! Yes, SURELY! For sin IS the transgression of THE LAW (I John 3:4). Repentance means unconditional SURRENDER to the GOVERNMENT of God — to yield to let God RULE your life, according to HIS laws — it means to live by EVERY WORD IN THE BIBLE (Matt. 4:4).

What is the divine MISSION of God's true CHURCH? It is to carry on THE WORK Jesus started. Jesus commissioned His Church: "Go ye into all the world, and PREACH THE GOSPEL to every creature." Not just *any* gospel. Not a gospel merely *about* the Person of Christ — but HIS Gospel of the Kingdom of God — the Gospel He said we have to BELIEVE in order to be converted and saved!

Again, Matthew records His Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in [*into*] the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: *teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have COMMANDED you*: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20). In proclaiming His GOSPEL, Jesus specifically said, "Teach them to OBEY God's COMMANDMENTS"!

Jesus gave a prophecy for our time — just before the END of this world. His disciples came to Him privately. They asked, "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3). Jesus warned against false ministers, saying that Jesus is Christ — yet DECEIVING THE MANY. And answering their question as to what sign would show *when* He is to come, He said: "And *this* Gospel of the KINGDOM [the same Gospel He taught the original Apostles] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; AND *THEN* shall the END come" (Matt. 24:14).

That Gospel was not preached after 70 A.D. to all the world. In every generation it has been preached — to a FEW, but *not* TO ALL THE WORLD — on ALL CONTINENTS!

Wherever God's true Church is — the ONE Church that is CHRIST'S — it will be preaching THAT GOSPEL to the whole world — over *all continents* — today. For we are *near* the END! That is the Gospel of the *living* Christ! It is the GOOD NEWS of the *coming* KINGDOM OF GOD to RULE THE WORLD! It is the Gospel of the divine GOVERNMENT. It teaches people to REPENT of rebellion against GOD'S government — transgression of GOD'S LAWS. It teaches

salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the remission of sins through Jesus' shed blood and reconciliation to God by Christ's DEATH; and salvation through His LIFE.

It has NO PART in this world's governments — its members are AMBASSADORS, as in a strange land, of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, soon to destroy and replace all human governments of the nations today. Jesus prayed for His Church: "...Holy Father, keep through *thine own name* those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them *in thy name*: ... And now come I to thee ... I have given them thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because *they are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. *They are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. Sanctify them through THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH" (John 17:11-17).

Jesus said His true Church was to be KEPT *in the name* of the Father — GOD. *Twelve times* in the New Testament, the NAME of this one true Church is The CHURCH OF GOD! It is GOD'S Church, and Jesus Christ is its guiding, sustaining, directing HEAD!

In this world, churches are named after MEN, or after the SYSTEM men have devised, or the kind of church government MEN have thought out, CONTRARY to God's Word, or after a significant doctrine they emphasize, or what men hope to make it — all-encompassing, universal or catholic. But wherever that ONE true Church is, it will be named The CHURCH OF GOD. But that is not all. Many have appropriated God's name, but are not proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD, as the GOVERNMENT of God, which we must OBEY — teaching obedience to God's Law (Ten Commandments) — teaching REPENTANCE of rebellion and transgressing God's Holy LAW — teaching that we may be now BEGOTTEN into the KINGDOM (Family) of God, and may, by the resurrection, be BORN into the GOD FAMILY! That true Church is preaching the imminency of the coming of CHRIST as KING of kings and LORD of lords, to RULE all nations for a thousand years on earth. Not up in heaven, but ON THIS EARTH (Rev. 5:10).

There is only ONE such Church!

It is doing THE WORK OF GOD. It is, as Jesus said it would be, a "little flock," persecuted, despised by the world. But it does have dedicated, consecrated,

converted, fully instructed and trained, ordained MINISTERS in all parts of the world — available to call on you, visit you in your home, answer your questions, explain the Bible to you — *IF YOU REQUEST IT!* But none of them will EVER call on you, unless YOU of your own free will request it! Paul had visited the elders (ministers) at Ephesus from house to house — BUT, regarding the general public, Jesus said, "GO NOT from house to house" (Luke 10:7).

Neither Jesus, nor Peter, nor Paul, nor any of the original true Apostles ever approached people and personally URGED conversion on them. God has made every human a FREE MORAL AGENT. God compels each to MAKE HIS OWN DECISION, and the true GOD will never force you to be converted.

But if you, of your own volition, want to know MORE about the very Church which Jesus Christ founded, and heads today — if you'd like to ask questions about it, why not write your request for a personal visit to the Editor? We may be able to have one of God's own ministers call on you quite soon. And let me suggest that you JOT DOWN on paper the QUESTIONS you are going to want to ask. I've learned, personally, by more than 42 years' experience, that you'll forget them unless you do.

Hundreds and hundreds — yes, thousands upon thousands — are being converted — their lives CHANGED — by this WORK OF GOD, through *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast worldwide, through *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, through this magazine, TOMORROW'S WORLD, and other vital free literature we send upon request. Some, not realizing one of God's own called and consecrated ministers could call and explain, and answer questions, have JOINED one of the churches of this world. You cannot JOIN the true Church of God — the Almighty GOD *puts you in*. But if you have questions about fellowship, doctrines or practice — or ANY questions about the Church or the Bible, or the Christian LIFE, write me. I cannot call and visit with you personally any more (as I used to do and wish I still could), but God has now given me many truly called and chosen men who CAN. DON'T go to the churches of this world, or join any, UNTIL you hear the full truth and weigh carefully the FACTS, according to your own BIBLE. *Then* make your decision and take what steps GOD shows you.