

The SEVEN KEYS to understanding the Bible

**Because of the requests of so many of our readers,
we are again publishing this eye-opening article**

by Herbert W. Armstrong

DO YOU realize God has purposely closed much of the Holy Bible from human understanding, *until now?*

Look at the pitiful spectacle!—hundreds of different sects and denominations, all confused and mixed up, each with its *own* different ideas, beliefs and practices—all disagreeing as to what the Bible says—none understanding its full true Message!

WHY?

Because none of them possesses the *keys* needed to open the doors to understanding, and therefore this spiritual Treasurehouse is closed to them.

Locked Up Until Now!

Even the prophets inspired in writing the Word of God did not understand much of what they wrote. Daniel records, in his last chapter:

"I heard this, but I did not understand it." When he asked the meaning of what he was inspired to write, he was told: "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are *closed up and sealed* till the time of the end"—or, as Moffatt translates it, "*till the crisis at the close*" (Daniel 12:8-9).

The whole world is now in chaos—we have now entered the world-*crisis*, at the CLOSE of this age! But even now, Daniel was told, "the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (verse 10).

Since this very Word of God reveals that "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), those who encourage the breaking of God's law, teaching that it is done away—as nearly all sects and denominations do—are, in Bible terminology, "the wicked." And who are "the wise," who shall now understand?

"The fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do His Commandments*" (Psalm 111:10).

Again God's angel caused Daniel to record: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to

and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Yes, much of the Word of God especially the prophecies, were shut up and sealed until now. Today people *run* to and fro, all over the world, in automobiles, trains, and planes. Today knowledge has been increased. We have reached the world-CRISIS AT THE CLOSE of this Age! The wise—those who fear God and keep His Commandments, can now UNDERSTAND!

Even forty years ago this true understanding *was still closed and sealed!* None of the established church denominations has been willing, in these forty years, to admit error, correct false teachings or accept new light now suddenly revealed! No wonder they all disagree! They are in "BABYLON"—CONFUSION!

In the first place, none can understand by himself. The carnal mind cannot "see" spiritual things. These Truths are *revealed* thru the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—and God gives His Spirit *only* to them that OBEY Him and keep His commandments! Only the truly converted can even *begin* to understand.

But even having that beginning, there are SEVEN KEYS needed to unlock these closed doors of Truth! And just as one key alone will not unlock your safety deposit box at the bank, so no one, no two, or even six of these keys will open the scriptural doors to full UNDERSTANDING. It requires ALL SEVEN KEYS.

Church Leaders Threw Away KEYS

Christ gave His apostles *the keys* of true UNDERSTANDING, which unlock the Door to the KINGDOM OF GOD.

To Peter and the others, He said: "And I will give unto thee *the keys* of the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mat. 16:19).

But He prophesied apostasy. "Many false prophets shall rise," He said, "and shall deceive many." Paul foretold the great "falling away" from God's Truth and Christ's Gospel, turning unto FABLES (II Thes. 2:1-9; II Tim. 4:1-4). It had even begun in Paul's day (II Thes. 2:7). Church leaders only used *the keys* to lock up the Door of

the Kingdom, and then threw the keys away, even as the Pharisees and rulers did before them:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" said Jesus to them, "for ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Mat. 23:13).

The Seven Vital Keys

And so naturally, today no organized denomination, sect, or church possesses these seven KEYS!

Here they are: How many of these necessary "keys" do *you* have?

1) The True Gospel

Almost no one has this first Key, believe it or not! The Gospel of Christ is the Gospel Christ preached—a particular Message sent from God by Jesus Christ as Messenger. The Gospel of Christ is CHRIST'S OWN GOSPEL—not a story *about* His Person!

Today people are led to believe that the Gospel is telling the story *about* Jesus—telling people *about* a Saviour; or, they believe it is "the Gospel of salvation," not understanding the true *way* of salvation themselves! No wonder there is NO POWER in what is falsely preached as "the Gospel" today! The Gospel OF Christ "is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation." Today most popular denominations do away with all that is vital in Christ's Gospel, saying He was preaching only to Jews under the Old Covenant! WHAT IGNORANCE!

What *is* Christ's Gospel? What is the Message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ? It is the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD! "Kingdom" means GOVERNMENT! It is the Message of *Divine Government* — government by GOD'S LAWS!

It is the prophetic proclamation of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT to rule all nations and bring today's confused, chaotic, war-weary earth PEACE, and JOY! It is the vital, dynamic, powerful living Message of GOD'S GOVERNMENT, first in individual hearts now in this world, later over all nations internation-

ally in The WORLD TOMORROW!

Of course that power-filled Message includes the knowledge about the Saviour, High Priest and coming King! Of course it includes the true way of salvation, which the churches seem to have lost! And it includes also knowledge of the location of the TERRITORY to be ruled over by the King of the coming Kingdom—the fact it is *this earth*, and not heaven!

But there can be no GOVERNMENT without LAWS, and so the TRUE GOSPEL also must proclaim the LAW of God, which alone can bring peace to the world and success, happiness and joy to the individual!

The TRUE GOSPEL has to do with the nations of today's world, world conditions today, and Christ's reign over all nations in The WORLD TOMORROW! It is a full, complete, dynamic and POWERFUL Gospel which has been kept by the powers of darkness from the world for 1800 years! *This knowledge is the first KEY!*

2) Salvation IS Creation

The idea preached in this dark, confused world is that salvation is God's Plan for *repairing the damage* caused by Satan in "the fall of man" in the Garden of Eden.

God, so the world has been taught by church leaders, had *completed* His work of creation—man was a *finished* creation, spiritual, immortal, perfect in character. Then along came Satan, and by cunning he wrecked God's handiwork, thwarted God's purpose, caused man to fall to the low plane of sinful human nature, ruined God's perfect creation! Then God is supposed to have looked down upon this colossal smash-up, and to have thereupon thought out THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION as a means of *repairing the damage*.

Salvation, then, is presented merely as God's effort to *restore* man to a condition *as good as* Adam was in the first place. The picture is that God has been doing His very best for 6,000 long years, but Satan has resisted Him! God has found Himself unable to avoid a CONTEST with Satan—a "GREAT CONTROVERSY" as one writer phrased it—in which God has done His best, but Satan has continued to outsmart Him and now today, with TIME ABOUT UP, the vast majority of people on earth are still unsaved—still on Satan's side! The contest is almost over, and the best God can now do is take revenge, and soon to send Christ to DESTROY ALL THE WICKED whom Satan has kept on his side!

Can you see that *that* picture could only have come from the deceiving false GOD OF THIS WORLD, Satan himself?

It presents Satan at every turn as more powerful than God—as succeeding in his rivalry! This entire concept is a damnable LIE!

The TRUTH is the second important KEY—and it explains GOD'S PURPOSE in placing humanity on this earth!

Salvation is *not* a "repairing of the damage" done by Satan in the Garden of Eden. Satan never did alter or change God's Purpose or Plan. The devil has never thwarted God's will. All has gone always, and always will, exactly according to GOD'S PURPOSE!

Salvation is merely the COMPLETING OF CREATION! Creation was *not* completed 6,000 years ago, at the time described in Genesis 1! That was merely the *first*, or *material phase* of a Creation *now still going on!* What God then created was *physical—material*. The spiritual creation is a process, continuing, according to God's Plan, today!

Man was created PHYSICAL, not spiritual—MORTAL, not immortal—of the dust of the ground—the "clay model" which God the Master Potter is now fashioning and shaping, *spiritually*, into the FINAL image! Man was created purposely, with the same human nature he now has! He was first made in the mere PHYSICAL image of God, a free moral agent, with possibility revealed to him of *receiving* as God's gift the very spiritual nature of God, so that he may by God's power be made into a perfect, righteous, spiritual character, then given immortality as God's gift! *There is no contest!* Satan does nothing except what God *permits!* And God permits it FOR A PURPOSE.

Character is created by experience, and experience requires time, and therefore it is a process! As Christ our example learned by suffering, so do we! The fact that SALVATION IS THE COMPLETING OF CREATION—the *spiritual* phase of Creation—that GOD'S PURPOSE is to create in us, as free moral agents who make our own decisions, the supreme Masterpiece of all His Creative acts—holy, righteous, spiritual, immortal CHARACTERS—resisting the downpull of self-desire, building character by LIVING GOD'S LAWS—that knowledge of GOD'S PURPOSE is *the second vital KEY!*

3) God's Dual Method

A duality runs thru every phase of God's Plan. First, the *material* creation of Genesis 1, completed; second, the *spiritual* creation still in process pictured finally complete in the *prophecy* of Revelation 21 and 22. There was the *first* Adam, material—of the earth; and there is the *second* Adam, Christ Jesus, spiritual, from Heaven. There was the *first* Covenant with Israel, material and national, devoid of salvation, based

upon the Birthright promise; and there is the NEW Covenant, spiritual and individual, with a spiritually begotten Israel, based upon the Sceptre promise. God made man mortal, of the dust, in order to convert him into immortality, composed of Spirit.

In this very salvation process is the DUAL METHOD—the very word "salvation" means, first, rescuing from the penalty of eternal death, and second, the act of preserving, or imparting eternal life as God's gift. And so, in being saved, we first are now *begotten* of God by the indwelling of His Spirit in our mortal bodies as the temple, or house of the Spirit—and are now merely the *heirs* of salvation; and second, we shall finally be fully *born* of God at the Resurrection of the just, when we shall *inherit* the Kingdom.

This same DUAL PRINCIPLE runs all thru prophecy! First, a former, or preliminary fulfillment which is merely the type or forerunner of a second, the final climactic fulfillment occurring, usually, during this CRISIS AT THE CLOSE we already have entered! And positively *none* can understand the Bible prophecies unless this DUALITY of fulfillment is understood. It is a vital key!

4) God's Holydays

These were given to God's people to picture, and to keep them in the understanding of, God's PLAN for bringing about His purpose—His reign over all the earth whose people shall have been converted to righteous immortality!

Every sect, organization or denomination which has lost God's holydays and fastened its eyes upon the pagan Romish holidays instead, has lost the knowledge of GOD'S PLAN!

God's holydays picture:

1st, Passover, the crucifixion of Christ;
2nd, Feast of Unleavened Bread, putting sin out of our lives, or, keeping God's Commandments—and during this festival was the "wave-sheaf" picturing the Resurrected Christ accepted of God as our High Priest;

3rd, Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost, picturing the coming of the Holy Spirit and the completing of this, the merely *first* and preliminary harvest of souls;

4th, Feast of Trumpets on first day of seventh month, picturing the Second Coming of Christ at the beginning of the seventh millennium, at the *last Trump*;

5th, Day of Atonement, picturing justice done by laying Satan's guilt in our sins upon his own head, removing him and chaining him in the symbolic "bottomless pit," making us finally AT ONE with God. Atonement means at-one-ment.

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NO!

I Never Was a "Jehovah Witness," or a Seventh Day Adventist!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

LETTERS continue to ask, "Were you ever a 'Jehovah Witness'? Members of that sect have told me you were."

Although I have stated positively and definitely on the radio program a number of times that I never belonged to the sect known as "Jehovah Witnesses," or the Seventh Day Adventist denomination, it seems that many, especially of the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect, continue spreading the false claim that I once belonged to them.

Let me now make the truth PLAIN.

I have never been a member of these so-called "Jehovah Witnesses," nor of the Seventh Day Adventists. I have never in any manner, shape, nor form, had any remote connection with them, or associated with either sect or denomination. I have never had any fellowship with them.

I have never attended a regular meeting or church service of either, altho I have attended a very few week-night evangelistic campaign services conducted by Seventh Day Adventist evangelists. I have never, however, attended *any* meeting of the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect of any kind. I have never had any kind of fellowship with any of their members.

I have never belonged to, attended any meeting of, or had any remote semblance of fellowship with the "Jehovah Witnesses" predecessor, the "Pastor Russell" people.

I did not learn any of God's TRUTH from the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect. I have, of course, read some of their writings and their books, and I have been glad to find that they have certain truths, as all sects and denominations have (though mixed with dangerous errors), but God had already revealed these truths to me long before I read of them in their literature. I LEARNED NOTHING THAT I BELIEVE AND TEACH FROM THIS SECT. If they boast of having taught me anything, they misrepresent.

I learned God's TRUTH direct from GOD'S WORD—the Holy Bible. I did not learn it from *any* sect or denomination.

But I say unto you, as the Apostle Paul said:

"I certify you, brethren, that the GOSPEL which is preached of me is not after man. For *I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it*, BUT BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST . . . But when it pleased God, who . . . called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him to" THE WORLD; "immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"—neither went I to any sect or denomination or organized "church," but I went directly to the WORD OF GOD, and on my knees asked God thru His Spirit to open my understanding—to correct me, reprove and rebuke, and instruct in His Truth and His righteousness; . . . then after three years I went to some of the humble of God's people in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, and preached to them. (Please compare with Galatians 1:11-18).

My ambition and zeal was *not* persecuting God's true Church, as was Paul's, but climbing the ladder of business success and making money. God struck me down three times successively, by taking out from under my feet the businesses I had started, wiping me out, financially. Then God brought me to the study of His Word by causing me to try to refute the truth of God's Sabbath which He had revealed to my wife, and which I at first bitterly opposed.

During that six-months' study of more than fourteen hours per day, I read very little literature favorable to the Sabbath, but I read everything I could find which opposed it and upheld Sunday worship—but mostly I studied—just the BIBLE! After six months' intensive study I was forced, in honesty before my God, to swallow the most bitter pill of my life. It literally "killed" me—and I died—surrendered wholly to God, gave my life henceforth to Him to use "if He could."

I had been brought up from birth in the Friends Church (Quakers), though I had never been converted or begotten as a child of God, and at age 18 I strayed almost wholly away from all

church interest or attendance, and devoted my whole energies to business. I had just passed age 30 when God forced me into this study of His Word, and total surrender to Him and His rule over my life.

From then on, I studied the Bible ON MY KNEES. Time after time it corrected me. Repeatedly I had to suffer reproof, and acknowledge I had been wrong in my beliefs and desires. God chastened and corrected me repeatedly, not only thru revealing His Truth in this way, but by continual circumstances. I had been conceited, proud. But now by bitter experience, by suffering, by circumstance, and by God's Word, I was brought low and humbled. But also I began to experience the unmatched joy of learning truth NEW to me, as God little by little, yet more and more, revealed TRUTHS so wonderful they produced spiritual ecstasy. For the first time in my life I found what HAPPINESS really is!

God launched me in His work, and after my first evangelistic effort in a church in Harrisburg, Oregon, I experienced the greatest thrill of my life so far, upon realizing a few precious lives had been brought to repentance, to surrender to God, to FAITH in Jesus Christ—CONVERTED—CHANGED! *Truly* it is more blessed to give than to receive!

That process of being corrected, of GROWING in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, has continued, now, lo these 27 years—more than a quarter century. *And it is still continuing!* God grant it shall forever!

No, MEN did not teach me what I preach to you. I was not taught of men, but of GOD! I do not speak to you by authority of men, or any politically organized church of men—but in the name, and by the AUTHORITY of JESUS CHRIST, the living HEAD of the true CHURCH OF GOD!

These words of Christ, which He received from the Father—the very words and Gospel of CHRIST which I speak and write to you—they are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE!

in England's Westminster, or Scotland's Scone or in the halls of Tara in Ireland. It must have been worn during the wilderness wanderings.

As this stone is used in the coronation ceremonies to this day, let's turn to a scripture which proves that this pillar stone was used in the family of David in the days of ancient Israel.

Open your Bible to II Kings 11:14. The event mentioned here occurred at the time when Josiah was proclaimed king in the temple and when wicked Athaliah, who had usurped the throne, was about to meet her doom. Notice what it says: "And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the Lord. And when she looked, behold"—what? "the king stood by a *pillar*, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets."

So it was the manner or custom even in that day to have the pillar of stone—Jacob's pillar stone—used in the coronation ceremonies!

But how did that stone finally reach London, England, where it may be seen today?

God Makes King David a Promise

The World today in its ignorance looks upon any government or throne as deriving its power from human authority, little realizing that it is God who sets up rulers and who breaks down thrones. Almost 3000 years ago God made an amazing promise whereby David's dynasty would continue ruling through *all generations* and that he should *never lack an individual* to reign upon his throne. "I have sworn unto my servant David, Thy seed will I establish *forever*, and build up thy throne to *all generations*" (Psalm 89:3-4).

"David shall *never* want (lack) a man to sit upon the throne of the *house of Israel*" (Jer. 33:17). Notice it reads "the house of Israel," not the "house of Judah." Remember that after the days of Solomon, the children of Israel were divided into two houses, the House of Judah and the House of Israel. The throne of David ruled in the House of Judah until the days of Zedekiah. When the throne of David apparently was at an end, God caused the prophet Jeremiah to take king Zedekiah's daughters (Jer. 43:5-7) and Jacob's pillar stone with him to transplant the throne of David from Judah to the House of Israel where Jacob prophesied the stone of destiny would be found in our day!

Where Is the House of Israel?

Jacob said that the stone which he anointed would be a pillar—a witness

proving which is the house, the nation, the royal family that God has chosen. That stone is found today in *England*—in London's Westminster Abbey. *And wonder of wonders, during the coronation of Elizabeth II millions in the English-speaking world heard her called the "QUEEN OF ISRAEL"!* In a prayer it was petitioned that Elizabeth II might govern well "thy people Israel"—the British people!

Yes, Elizabeth II is "Queen of thy people Israel."

The world may scoff and sneer at the truth, the world may deny the *facts of history*, but Queen Elizabeth is ruling over part of Israel—the tribe of Ephraim. She sits upon the throne of David!—the very throne that Jesus Christ shall take when he returns to rule the world. "And the Lord God shall give unto him (Jesus) the THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32-33).

Yes, on the throne of England reigns a daughter of David, a descendant of King Zedekiah's daughter whom Jeremiah the prophet took to Ireland together with the stone of destiny. From the marriage of that young princess has descended a dynasty that has ruled Ireland, Scotland and England for over 2500 years! And all of them have been crowned over the stone of destiny, Jacob's pillow stone.

How startling the truth becomes when we know the *inside story* of the coronation!

The SEVEN KEYS

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6th, Feast of Tabernacles, for seven days, picturing the KINGDOM OF GOD during the seventh millennium, the "great fall harvest" of souls.

And 7th, the Last Great Day, immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the final Great White Throne Judgment which almost nobody today understands—and the final COMPLETING of God's Plan!

5) The Truth About Israel

The fact that the nation Israel became divided into two nations, the Ten Tribed Kingdom, called The Kingdom of Israel, possessing the Birthright promises, and The Kingdom of Judah, composed of Judah and Benjamin and a large portion of Levi, possessing the Sceptre; and, secondly, the fact revealed during this "Time of the End" that the Jewish people today are merely a portion of the descendants of the Kingdom of Judah; and the Americans, British, and Democracies of Northwestern Europe are the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes" or descend-

ed from the House of ISRAEL—and that Britain is Ephraim, and the United States is Mannasseh co-holders of the Birthright, which is the true explanation of our sudden rise, beginning 1800 A.D. to the greatest national power and wealth ever possessed by any nation.

Prophecies cannot be understood without this vital key.

6) Bible Interpretation of Symbols

God has concealed until now His prophecies of these colossal end-time world events now occurring by means of SYMBOLS used to describe these events—as well as by the fact of His dual principle, and that our Israelitish identity has been hidden from men.

Symbols, like parables, were used, *not* to make meaning clearer, but to *hide* and *conceal* God's true meaning until the time came for *Him* to reveal the interpretation of the symbols. Just as Jesus' parables were not understood until Jesus Himself explained them in plain language, so with symbols. For generations men have been putting human interpretations upon God's symbols. An important KEY, therefore, is that these symbols are interpreted in plain language in the Bible itself, if not in the context, then elsewhere, and we must search for *God's own interpretation*, never apply our own.

7) God's Sabbath

Since this is the *test* commandment—the one most professing Christians refuse to obey—the one which causes the greatest *test of faith* and reliance upon God to be able to keep it, it stands as the final completing *basic key* for "A GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do* His Commandments!"

Also it is the basic key to the *identity* of the true God—the CREATOR OF ALL (Ex. 31:12-17) and the key to the *identity* of ISRAEL. The House of Israel threw away this key to their identity—and thereby became the "lost Ten Tribes!" The great majority of the House of Judah likewise threw it away, and lost their identity—not known even today! The Jews who returned to Palestine under Ezra and Nehemiah became strict Sabbatharians, and have remained so to this day—and therefore the world looks upon them as ISRAEL (because they carry Israel's *identifying SIGN*) although they are *not* Israel, but only a small portion of JUDAH!

This completes the KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING—the KEYS to the KINGDOM OF GOD!

The churches have lost these KEYS! No wonder they are all mixed up, in confusion, each claiming the Bible says something *different*, none understanding ITS TRUE MESSAGE!

TABERNACLE PROGRESSING

Largest building in county astonishes local people. Here are facts you ought to know about WHY it is being erected.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY, IN the first place, do we need to build a large tabernacle? WHY, in the second place, is it being located in Northeast Texas?

WHY, in the third place, is the largest building in Upshur county being erected in a secluded, wooded spot out in the country, away from town or city? This building already has attracted great attention throughout Upshur county, Texas. The county-seat newspaper gave it prominent space, with a large picture, across three columns at the top of page one. Hundreds of people have driven into the grounds to see it.

They come to see—and WONDER!

WHY build a tabernacle of this size out *away* from town or city—back off the highway, completely secluded from public sight by thickly wooded areas?

Turned Upside Down

That is the question most often asked. To understand the reason, we need to realize that this world has turned God's Word—His Truth—His instruction, upside down. The world has most things about as near the reverse of God's way as possible. In this world the custom is to build churches on prominent streets or corners in towns and cities—as centrally located for the public as possible. Signs say to the world: "Public Invited", or, "Public Worship, 11 A.M. Sundays." That is, to *the world* they say: "Come and worship with us. We want to have fellowship with you."

Ask one hundred church members who profess to be "Christians" whether they see anything wrong with that. Surely 99, and probably the entire hundred, will say, "Certainly not. Why *shouldn't* we cordially invite the world to come and fellowship with us in worship?" They wouldn't think it "Christian" to do otherwise! That is *the way* that seems RIGHT to a man!

But God says: "There is *a way* that seemeth RIGHT to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH." That is, the ways of SIN—contrary to God's law.

What God Commands

Now see what GOD commands. Does God say that we should snub the world, or withhold the Gospel from those in the world? Of course not! But does He say we shall invite the world into our

place of meeting to fellowship with us? NO!

Jesus gave His Church the divine commission:

"GO YE into all the world, and preach the Gospel." He did not command the church to invite the world into its fellowship. He commanded the CHURCH to *go into the world* and PREACH the Gospel! Precisely the *opposite* from the practice of churches today. Instead of inviting the world to come into the Church, He commanded the Church to GO into the world, and preach to it!

That's exactly what we do in this true work of God. By radio and the printing press we go right INTO the homes of the world—of all North America, and all of Europe and the British Isles—and preach the *very* Gospel JESUS preached!

But what about those who have repented, been baptized in testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord and Master, received the Holy Spirit and thus been baptized into the begotten family of God which is the Body of Christ, the true Church of God? To us, God says: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for WHAT FELLOWSHIP hath righteousness (obedience to God) with unrighteousness? . . . wherefore, *come out from among them*, and be ye SEPARATE (from the world), saith the Lord." (II Cor. 6:14,17)

And again, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house." (II John 9). What about having fellowship with the world, by inviting the public which doesn't even KNOW God into church services for worship *with* God's children? "Know ye not that the FRIENDSHIP of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the ENEMY OF GOD!" (James 4:4).

So there is our answer! There is GOD'S WAY—God's command to us!

First, God has commissioned us to GO TO the world, preaching His Gospel which He sent by Jesus Christ. But, to those converted as His children—HIS CHURCH—He commands us NOT to forsake assembling OURSELVES together (Heb. 10:25), but He also commands us to SEPARATE ourselves from the PUBLIC, and forbids us to have any fel-

lowship with the unconverted of the world. For the assembling of OURSELVES for mutual edification, that the flock may be fed as God has ordained (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 20:28), we need, as the Bible shows God's people always had, a PLACE OF MEETING, which is APART FROM, and *secluded* from the world!

That is why God's Tabernacle, according to the divine directions of the very Word of God, is being built out AWAY from towns and centers of population, easy of access for God's own people, yet off the highway and secluded from the world!

The PURPOSE of this Tabernacle is *not* to draw the attendance of the public—*not* to provide a place for public evangelism to try to convert the world. God has graciously OPENED THE SUPER-POWER DOOR of radio and the press to carry God's GOSPEL into the world.

WHY the Tabernacle?

But, even though the *first* and great commission to us as God's children is to GO INTO the world and proclaim Christ's Gospel as a witness unto all nations, that is not the only commission Christ gave us!

To Peter He said, "FEED my sheep!" To the elders the Apostle Paul under divine inspiration commanded, "FEED the Church of God." To the Church God commands: "NOT forsaking the assembling of OURSELVES together."

God also COMMANDS His Church to ASSEMBLE three times in the year for His appointed festivals, ordained to be observed FOREVER!

In order to OBEY God in this, *we must have a place of meeting separated and away from the world!* For seven years we rented annually the use of the facilities of Belknap Hot Springs, in Oregon, until we outgrew it. Then last fall we rented the facilities of Seigler Hot Springs in California, a larger place. Yet we had outgrown it even as we met there the first time!

But both of these places were built and maintained, *not* for God's holy and sacred use, but for worldly pleasure! In both places, while geographically secluded from the world, yet pleasure-seekers of the world, by force of habit, continued to drive into the grounds

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Then you may begin to develop the *character* of God and be born of the Spirit as His son in the resurrection. You *need* to come to know the *true God* as your Father.

Talk to God

Once you come to really know the true God—the God revealed by Jesus Christ—you will want to talk to Him. You may do this in prayer. This is the *third way* you may come to really “know” the true God.

As you come to know God in this way, you will soon realize that here, too, you have to OBEY God if you expect an answer. But you will find that God is LOVE—and that He will gladly grant any request that is good for *you* under the circumstances. You will also discover that He has POWER to *heal* you when you are sick, to *deliver* you in miraculous ways from trouble, and to *bless* you in a manner beyond human comprehension.

So *get to know God* by talking to Him often.

And remember—the combined testimonies of *nature*, of the *Bible*, and of *answered prayer* all reveal the same *true God*. He is the All-Wise, All-Powerful, Law-Giving RULER of the universe.

Are you willing to *acknowledge* His government, *obey* His laws, and inherit eternal life as His child?

Tabernacle Progressing

(Continued from page 11)

during our festivals. We have sorely *needed* a place of our own, dedicated *only* to God's use.

Now what is the BIBLE EXAMPLE? Back when God first commanded His people to assemble for His festivals, as they journeyed through the wilderness on leaving Egypt, did they rent a place of meeting from the world of pleasure-seekers?

Now read this carefully, for one or two co-workers, not knowing THE INSTRUCTION OF GOD, have criticized me for doing what God has plainly shown HE wants done, in raising funds and building this Tabernacle!

Turn to Exodus 25, and read!

“And THE ETERNAL spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an OFFERING: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering . . . gold, and silver, and brass . . . And let them make me a sanctuary” (that is, a temple, or tabernacle) “that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the TABERNACLE, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.”

That was God's tabernacle in the wilderness, in Moses' day!

God's Own Tabernacle

Come down to the time of Israel in Palestine. On first entering the Holy Land, we read: “And the whole congregation of the children of Israel ASSEMBLED together at Shiloh, and set up the TABERNACLE of the congregation there.” (Josh. 18:1). Notice, it was *exclusively for the congregation*. Unbelievers never came.

Yes, ALWAYS God has had His people BUILD TABERNACLES IN WHICH TO ASSEMBLE. Is this WRONG? Is God wrong? Are those whom GOD has chosen, and is using in the direction of HIS WORK today, wrong in following GOD'S PATTERN? Will you sit on the sidelines and criticize—or will you join us in OBEYING GOD, and give your repeated offerings “willingly with your HEART?”

The Temple in Jerusalem, known as Solomon's Temple, was built by God's express permission and approval, and was so elaborate and fabulous and costly that it was the wonder of the whole world. When God caused many Jews to return to Palestine from the captivity in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, God Himself had them rebuild the Temple—larger, even though not so fine or costly as Solomon's. Jesus Himself assembled and worshipped in the Temple which Herod had built, as God caused him to do. The Jews had synagogues everywhere, and Jesus approved these by entering into them every Sabbath AS HIS CUSTOM WAS!

And so GOD HIMSELF led His ministers through whom HE carries on His work today to build for God this Tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas. THIS IS GOD'S OWN tabernacle! This entire property, with its 43 acres of lovely rolling wooded grounds, is actually DEEDED in GOD'S NAME since it is in the name of God's Church—Radio Church of GOD—which means the Church belongs to GOD!

But it is OUR VERY OWN Tabernacle, too, since we are God's begotten children! HIS earthly home is OUR home!

WHY This Location?

Lastly, WHY are we building this Tabernacle in Northeastern Texas?

The answer is simple. Because this location is the geographical CENTER of the thickest density of our radio listening audience, and therefore of those whom God is converting and adding to His Church.

In other words, it is the very location which is CLOSEST to the *largest number of people* whom God has put into His Church. God's annual Festivals are CONVOKED—which means God *commands* His people to attend. Therefore

God has led HIS CHURCH to build His Tabernacle in the location of easiest access to the largest number.

URGENT Need of Funds

We have now paid up the building costs to date, which includes considerable materials and supplies on hand but not yet built into the building. Work once again is beginning to proceed, but at the present time VERY SLOWLY, due to the small trickle of funds being received for this purpose. Each letter sent to Co-Workers brings in a nice little spurt of special offerings for the Tabernacle, but after a week or ten days it seems to die down again.

But when God commanded His people Israel way back in Moses' day to send in special offerings for that Tabernacle, “whosoever is of a willing heart” (Ex. 35:5), “all the congregation of the children of Israel came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Eternal's offering to the work . . . as many as were willing hearted . . .” until it was reported to Moses, “the people bring much MORE than enough,” and Moses was forced to issue another proclamation RESTRAINING the people from sending more! (Ex. 35:5, 20-22, and 36:5-6).

CAN WE AROUSE OURSELVES LIKE THAT TODAY? Will you let God make YOU willing, and your heart stir you up, to meet this urgent emergency today? Have God's people lost their zeal? Even small special offerings of only one, two, or five dollars will help immensely, IF ONLY THERE ARE ENOUGH OF THEM. Of course, the work of God's Tabernacle also needs the really generous offerings of one or several hundred and one or several thousand dollars, too. God's way is for EVERYBODY to give according to ability—according as God has prospered and made possible. If everybody would do that, the funds would be ample.

We are completing this Tabernacle *only* with SPECIAL offerings sent in for this special purpose. It would not be wrong to use a portion of God's tithes, or the regular offerings sent in for the work, for God's Tabernacle—but due to the fact the work needs it at this time, and it cannot be spared from the regular Gospel work, we MUST finish this Tabernacle only with the special Tabernacle building FUND.

Only about one-third of the floor-space had been laid up until now. As I write the workers are due to be pouring the concrete floor on the two sidewings of the main auditorium.

LET US PRAY, and SPUR ourselves to greater effort, so that this Tabernacle may be ready for God's great annual Feast of Tabernacles in September.