

# The Good News

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*ministering to its members  
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## Heart-to-Heart Talk with the Editor

**I**F you have really been put into GOD'S Church by God—if you have really been *converted*—which means *changed*—by receiving His Holy Spirit, then you no longer see things as you did before.

If this *change* has really happened to you, you now see this world for what it is. And the more you see of it—the more you deal with people of the world—the more disgusted you probably are becoming.

And *therein*, Brethren, lies *one of your greatest dangers!*

Only yesterday, while we were riding in the car, my wife, seeing all the Christmas decorations, having just heard some of the insincere flattery expressed by a woman in business, made comment on what a rotten, perverted world this is. I thought I detected a trace of disgust, and even contempt in her expression, and cautioned her about it. But this is a perfectly *natural* reaction that will come to any of us who can now really *see* the rottenness, the deceit, hypocrisy, pretense, vanity, greed, lying that is constantly expressed in worldly lives.

*Natural*, did I say? Yes—and also I want you to realize that all this flattery, this deceit, lying, pretending, we see in people of the world is *natural*. The carnal mind is the *natural* mind. The people of the world do what is *natural* for

them to do. That is, according to human nature. That which is natural is of NATURE—physical—material. The spiritual things of God's Spirit are not natural—not of *nature*, or physical—but spiritual.

It is perfectly *natural* for one who is converted, and now sees things through spiritual eyes, to become really *disgusted* with the world. It is perfectly *natural*, which actually means according to that SAME EVIL NATURE which still resides in us for the rest of this life, for this disgust to increase into *impatience, bitterness, hatred*.

I want you to see just what this is, working in us. With our new spiritual perception, we plainly SEE the evil that the world does not see. So far, so good. But right here is where the *carnal* nature begins to assert itself. The *carnal* nature is a *competitive* nature. It is always taking sides—and *against* the other side. This spirit of rivalry begins to take over, if we are off guard, do not recognize it, and then yield to it.

We get into the attitude that *we* are now on GOD'S side. The evil WORLD becomes the rival—the ENEMY. So, yielding to human nature, we resent the enemy, and soon we allow feelings of HATING the enemy to seize us.

This attitude becomes more than just that. We begin to feel that we are *better* than the world—we work into a "holier-than-thou" attitude. Thus our carnal *natures* within us, with the unrealized invisible sway of Satan and demons, use the very presence of God's Holy Spirit within us to incite us to VANITY, rivalry, hatred, which is the spirit of murder!

Of all sins, I think probably that the greatest and most harmful is SELF-righteousness, for this, even unrealized, puts the self ahead of God, breaking the first commandment. Further, the self-righteous is the hardest person to bring to repentance and salvation. He is so deceived he thinks he HAS salvation already. He thinks he has nothing to repent of—he is already perfect. He is a blinded fool.

Suppose you have really repented, and through faith in Christ been *changed* by God's Spirit entering you. You *do* see things differently now—and you do see how wicked and rotten this world really is. Does that make YOU better than these worldly people?

NOT AT ALL! It is not YOU that is better, for, as Paul said, in *you* is no good thing—*except* God's Spirit. As Jesus said, there is NONE good, except God. All that is really GOOD about you, even now, is GOD'S SPIRIT in you.

Now let's see what is the *real difference* between you and these "rotten" worldly people. Some of these worldly people may think they are atheists—some may be agnostics—some may give little or no heed to religion—some may be members of worldly churches, and right now (this is being written in December, 1961) indulging in pagan Christmas shopping, decorating, and all that goes with it. But when you get right down to it, the *real difference* is that, somehow, GOD did something. GOD opened your eyes to see what they don't see.

Is it necessarily their fault that they can't see the truth? Was it your fault, before you saw it? Remember, you used to see things like they do now!

What good and holy thing did *you* do that made God open your eyes, and draw you to Him? How much can you brag? No, it was not anything better about you than these worldly people you now condemn. It was GOD'S goodness that opened your eyes. It was not because you were better than they. If you are honest, you can't see any reason why God should have called YOU, and opened your eyes and drawn you to Him, instead of one of them! It is not what YOU did—it was GOD'S goodness. The only difference between you and these "rotten people" in the world is what GOD did. He put His Spirit in you. And that is all that's better in you—and that is not really—YOU—but GOD!

Now how should we look at the world?

We should look at it exactly as Jesus did. We should not be blind to its evils—Jesus was not. No, through God's Spirit, we shall really SEE how evil the world is. Jesus did. He *abhorred* the EVIL. But not the poor blinded people! He LOVED them. He had compassion for them. He didn't approve or condone the evil—he abhorred and condemned that. But HE SAW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIN AND THE SINNER!

God HATES sin—but God *so LOVED* sinners that He gave His only begotten Son for them!

Jesus, with a heart nearly bursting with compassion and love, yet HATING the evil, looked on the sinning WORLD that was Jerusalem, and said movingly, feelingly: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

(Please continue on page 6)

a holiday during which he serves the fleshly desires in the same selfish manner that this world keeps Sunday. Ephesians 4:17-19 commands: "Henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their minds, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with

greediness."

GOD KNOWS AND TEACHES THE WAY OF HAPPINESS. The instructions on "How to Live" are recorded in every page of your Bible.

If you are diligent to study them and obey *Him*, you can enjoy this happiness for all eternity.

Don't let your human nature, led by the "Sunday Spirit," rob you of it and lead you to SELF-CENTEREDNESS again.

## Letters to the Editor

### These Things Are Real

"We have been reading in our own Salina, Kansas newspaper of the coming water shortage to Kansas, in a few years. After reading in The PLAIN TRUTH we always find something in the newspaper backing up every word."

Woman from Tescott, Kansas

### Dial Twiddler Stopped

"Whilst engaged in a little dial-twiddling your voice came through loud and clear from radio station 7AD. I listened because of your challenging and dogmatic tones. And although not in agreement with your view, I would like to have the booklet you mentioned."

Tasmania

### Minister Pays Call

"The minister from a church near us paid a call. I brought up the subject of world conditions and what he thought of them. I asked him, 'What do you think of the Common Market in Europe?' His answer was, 'What is that?'"

Woman from Poland, Ohio

### Receives Promotion

"Tuesday my supervisor said, 'You have received a promotion of \$795.00 per year.' I said, 'Well, what did I do to deserve that?' He replied, 'That's what I would like to know.' Here it is our third-tithe year and we get a blessing even before we could give anything. I started getting it on the Last Great Day of the Feast."

Man from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*Editor's comment:* This supervisor's reply may have been innocent in intention. The true answer is that this member is obeying one of God's working laws—tithing. Obedience to God's laws has brought this man a tangible, physical blessing.

### Answer to Unemployment

"I sent my tithes the first day of this month and immediately things improved. I worked that very morning. Then six days later I got a job in a gro-

cery, and have been working there for the last two weeks earning considerably more than at the other job I had."

Man from Clarksville, Tennessee

### Healed of T.B.

"I want to thank you for your prayers for my healing (T.B. of left lung). Also for literature and the prayer cloth I received. On my recent X ray there showed just a little disturbance left on my lung which I feel sure will be all cleared away before the next X ray. I thank the Lord for healing me."

Woman from Tucson, Arizona  
(Please continue on page 12)

### Heart-to-Heart Talk with the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

They were free moral agents. The decision was theirs. Christ would do nothing to *force* them to accept His love and free salvation.

But notice his recognition of their SIN! Notice He would not compromise one iota—He would not gather them, or save them, against their will, or IN their sins. Yet notice the LOVE, the overwhelming compassion, and deep heart-felt REGRET that *thy would not!*

He didn't show resentment. God does, on occasion, blaze with righteous indignation—but never with resentment which is a form of, and leads to HATRED.

It would have been *natural* for Jesus, on the cross, to have become resentful, bitter, and to have called out to God, saying, "O God, look at the unjust, murderous, damnable thing these rotten, filthy murderers have done to me. STRIKE THEM DOWN! Torture them, O God! I want them to SUFFER! Pay them back DOUBLE! Take VENGEANCE on them, O God!"

That would have been perfectly natural—just as natural as for you to work yourself up into resentment and bitterness against the world when you see its

rotteness and its evil.

But Jesus was not LED BY human nature, though He had it IN Him. He was *led* by the SPIRIT OF GOD. And it is only those—even among *us*—who are led by God's Spirit who are the begotten SONS of God (Rom. 8:14).

And the Spirit of God in Jesus cried out: "Father, *forgive* them! for they know not what they do!" Even here He did not condone—He acknowledged their guilt—yet pled for their forgiveness! HE KNEW THEIR EYES WERE BLINDED—they did not fully realize how terribly they were sinning!

The church people you know, now participating in Christmas customs, are not doing it because they know it is wrong—that it is an ABOMINATION in the eyes of God. They are deceived. They think it is right. "*They know not what they do!*" As PEOPLE, they may be just as good—perhaps *better* than we. Judgment of them is not ours—not now! The only difference is what GOD did for us. Let us not get *self-righteous!*

Let us not think more of ourselves than we ought, or become resentful at the world.

It is human nature to go to extremes. Let us avoid becoming embittered at the world, on the one extreme. But BEWARE of the other extreme of condoning sin. Because we do not condemn the people of the world—because we have compassion and LOVE for them, and act kindly toward them, with full respect and courtesy—let us not go to the other extreme of *approving* of worldly ways and sins.

The right balance is to be able to *see*, and *abhor* the SINS, and wrong WAYS, beliefs, and doings of the world—to really HATE these wrongs that are so contrary to God's Law—yet to have UNDERSTANDING, with LOVE toward the misguided and deceived people who participate in these evils.

Let us SHUN their beliefs, customs, and ways—we cannot participate with them in these things—but let us not get resentful, or in any way unkind. We must LOVE even our enemies. We must treat people outside God's Church—and this includes our own families or relatives who persecute us—with full courtesy, politeness, and consideration, not esteeming *ourselves* better than they.

And even though we know God's WAY is better than theirs—right, while theirs is wrong—let us never mention that to them or reprove them, or argue with them. PRAY for them (not against them) but do not try to talk them into God's Truth—it just can't be done!