

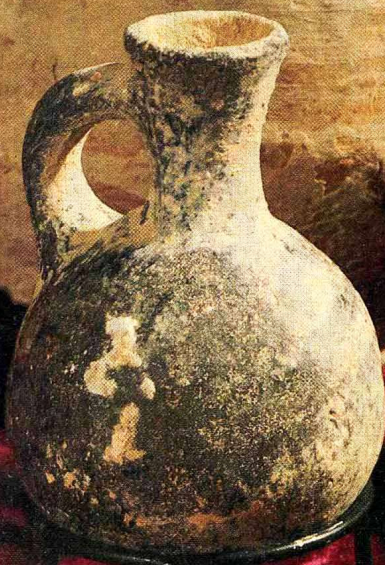
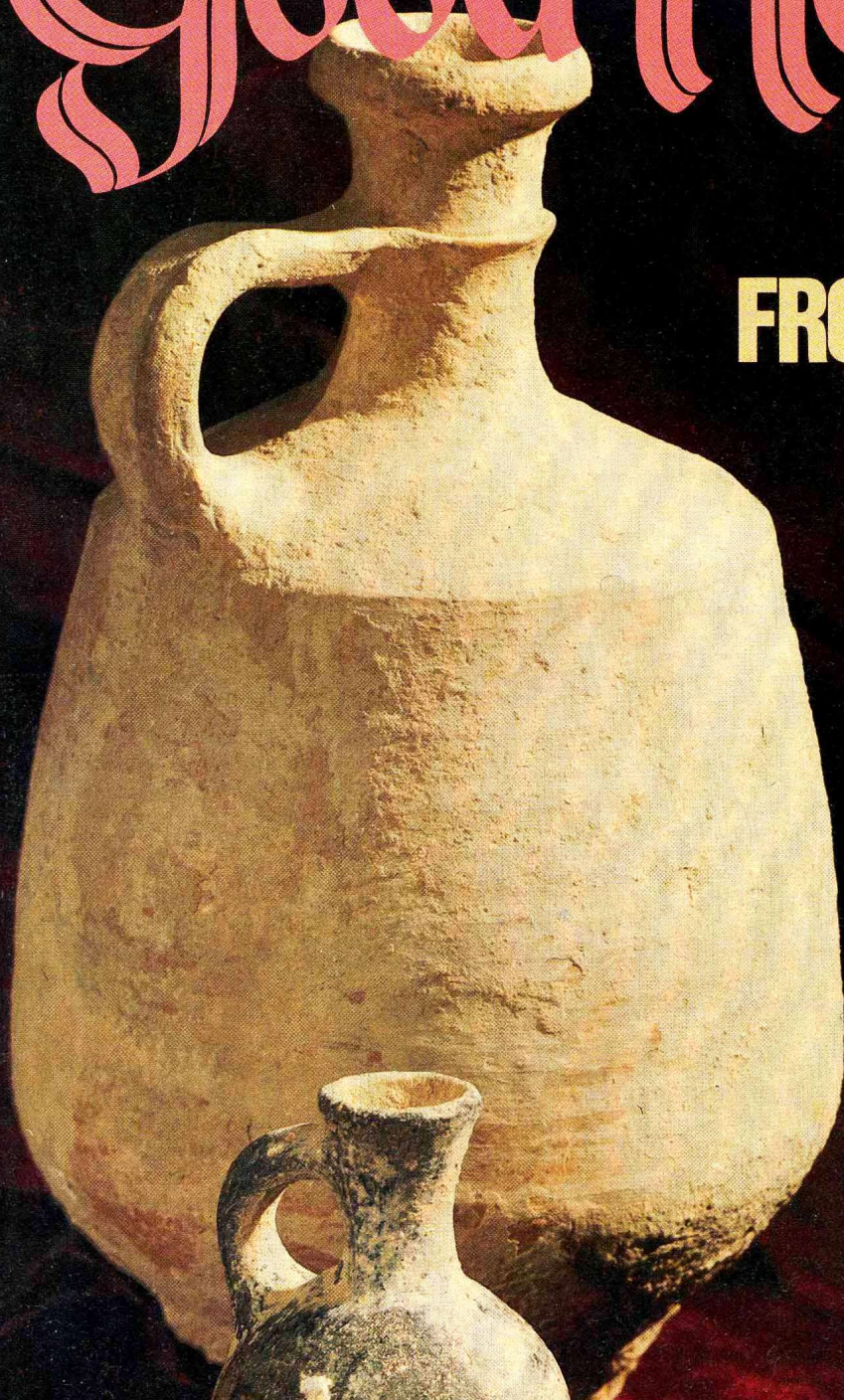
The

APRIL 1979

# Good News

**FROM THE DUST  
OF TIME**

But by Prayer  
and Fasting  
Forgive Us  
Our Debts



A Legacy of Persecution

# PERSONAL

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

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*God commands that we in His Church "all speak the same thing." But WHY? HOW? Christ's apostle is accused of using "total thought control" over the Church. What is the TRUTH?*

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**T**HERE'S NO QUESTION about it — God commands emphatically that we in His Church do "all speak the same thing" (I Cor. 1:10).

For many years I have striven to bring all God's children into a unity of belief (Ps. 133:1).

Did you ever stop to think how many things we believe and proclaim to the world that are *contrary* to the doctrines and teachings of all other churches calling themselves "Christian"?

I am writing a book, titled *A VOICE CRIES OUT Amid RELIGIOUS CONFUSION*. This book will say that of all the religions and all the more than 250 denominations and sects in "Christianity," *NOT ONE*, except the Worldwide Church of God, knows WHO and WHAT God is! *NOT ONE* knows what, and why, MAN IS! *NOT ONE* knows the TRUTH about the nation Israel — WHY God chose them, yet gave none but their prophets His Holy Spirit — where they are today. *NOT ONE* knows what is the TRUE GOSPEL Christ proclaimed! *NOT ONE* knows what happens in the hereafter — the transcendent human potential. *NOT ONE* knows the real function of the Church and purpose of its being.

## **None but God's true Church**

NONE but God's one and only TRUE CHURCH has the full knowledge God has revealed to His own Church.

*NOT ONE* knows what salvation really is!

Doesn't it, then, become abundantly apparent that we must all know precisely what God has prepared for those who love Him — and that we speak these amazing TRUTHS *as they are* — all speaking the same thing?

Now *WHY* does God command that we all speak the same thing — believe the same doctrines and truths?

And *HOW* has Christ provided that we all come to know, believe and speak "the same thing"? By psychological mind control? *NEVER!*

But first, *WHY* is it important that we all believe and speak the same DOCTRINES? Continue in I Corinthians 1:10: "that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

## **Will God's Kingdom be divided?**

UNDERSTAND this! If we are led by the Spirit of God we shall enter into His Kingdom of God at the time of Christ's coming and the resurrection. *Will GOD'S Kingdom be divided?*

Again, we are, so to speak, in the process of being trained for entrance into the Kingdom of God, where WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS (I Cor. 6:3).

A kingdom or a house divided against itself cannot stand! Even two cannot walk together except they be agreed! (Amos 3:3).

A few years ago, when I had high hopes that my son, Garner Ted, might qualify in God's sight for very high office in God's Kingdom, I said

to him, "Ted, I often think of you and me as a father-and-son team, and how wonderful it would seem if we could be like the Father-and-Son divine Team that heads the entire universe! But to walk together as God and Christ do, we would have to remember that the Son agreed completely with the Father in all things. He said, 'I have not spoken of myself; the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment what I should say'" (John 12:49).

But as soon as I mentioned that the Divine Son was in total agreement with His Father, Ted would immediately change the subject.

HOW do we come to know WHO and WHAT God is, and the other truths mentioned above that are not known by any other church or religion? Jesus Christ revealed them to His apostle, who taught these precious truths to you! And how precious they are!

A corollary to I Corinthians 1:10 is Romans 16:17-18: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

"Avoid them" means just that. Walk away from them. Do not invite them into your home. "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 10).

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# AND NOW CHRIST SETS CHURCH BACK ON TRACK DOCTRINALLY

*God commands we all "speak the same thing." But what is Christ's means of giving us that "same thing"?*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**U**NTIL ABOUT 1969 we in God's Church *did* all "speak the same thing." By 1978 many of the ministers were speaking *different* things! God had withdrawn from us His blessing and power that for 35 YEARS caused the Work of His Church to grow at the approximate rate of 30 percent every year over the preceding year!

**WHAT CAUSED GOD TO WITHDRAW HIS BLESSING AND POWER?**

Precisely the same thing that choked the growth of the Church of God at Corinth from A.D. 56, 25 years after the Church was founded at Jerusalem. They were

following different leaders, speaking different things, watering down the sacred and precious truths of Christ!

Christ's apostle wrote to the Corinthian church, in A.D. 56, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10).

**A Church divided cannot stand**

They were starting to follow different leaders teaching different doctrines. The Church was becoming divided! And a church divided against itself cannot stand!

Once such division starts among ministers it is a difficult matter to correct. For most who have gone doc-

trinally afield will today — just as in Corinth in A.D. 56 — not be willing to change back from error and watered-down doctrines to God's TRUTH!

This same defection was occurring in the church at Rome. And God said through the apostle Paul, "Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark them* which cause divisions and offences *contrary* to the doctrine which ye have learned; *and avoid them*. For they . . . by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:17-18). Jesus Christ showed me that, much as it hurt, the No. 1 deceiver with watered-down doctrines, in authority, whom I had to mark and put out of God's Church, was my only living son whom I loved as only a father can. Other liberals have had to go since. **GOD'S CHURCH MUST BE CLEANED UP!** We must all **SPEAK**

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# God says we in His Church must all believe and speak the SAME THING . . . what is truth and right and good as opposed to what is evil and sin.

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THE SAME THING, as God commands!

But *HOW*? How does Jesus Christ put His doctrines into His Church? How did He in A.D. 31? How in A.D. 1933?

DID THE CHURCH OF GOD, of A.D. 31, believe and proclaim the TRUE doctrines? How did they come to believe as they believed? Did their doctrines come as a result of a vote of ministers on the ideas, opinions and convictions of the ministers in the Church?

*HOW* must the true Church of God *today* receive its doctrinal beliefs? Doesn't every human individual, by himself, KNOW right from wrong — what is TRUTH and what is error? Is not the ability to know right from wrong acknowledged by society as the test of sanity or insanity? Does not mankind automatically know what is truth — what is good and right, as contrasted from what is wrong, evil and sin?

Emphatically NO!

Yet God says we in His Church must all believe and speak the SAME THING — we must be AGREED on what is truth and right and good as opposed to what is evil and sin.

Brethren, WE HAVE NOT OBEYED THAT COMMAND OF JESUS CHRIST! We have not *all* believed the same thing! There *HAVE BEEN DIVISIONS* among us for that very reason!

We therefore have been GUILTY before God of DISOBEYING HIS EXPLICIT COMMAND! I said, "*have been.*" But God's time of trial and test is upon us! God says, through Daniel, that at "the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried" (Daniel 12:9-10).

God's sifting time is upon us! God is allowing those duped by Satan to bring upon us the GREATEST TIME OF TRIAL AND TESTING that His Church has undergone in our lifetime!

When I pray, as I do many times a day during this supreme trial of the forces of State government of America's most populous state and the forces of the public press lined up against us, falsely accusing us, picturing us to the public as if already tried and proved guilty — as CRIMI-

NALS — I not only petition God to deliver us, *but I also THANK GOD for this trial and test!* We are being STRENGTHENED by it! We are being brought closer to God and welded CLOSER TOGETHER than ever before! God, through this trial, is weeding out from our midst the liberals who did NOT believe or "speak the same thing." These I have LOVED SINCERELY, EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED MY OWN SON!

I WONDER, DO WE SOMETIMES LOVE even the sin *within us* that we hate to purge it out? At least I know how I have so sincerely loved those individuals whom Christ has been purging out — that we MAY all be united in speaking the SAME THING — speaking GOD'S TRUTH!

Now HOW may we obey Christ by all speaking the same thing, when we — especially a small portion of the ministers — have not all *believed* the same thing?

I can tell you how my son, when he was executive vice president, with a small group of liberals at headquarters, tried to bring us into harmony. Some of the ministers did not believe many of the doctrines Christ had put into His Church. A minority (yet perhaps close to a dozen field ministers) had liberal leanings — did not believe the SAME THINGS Christ had put into His Church. So, *behind my back* — unknown to me, while I was in another part of the world carrying Christ's Gospel into other nations — they produced what they called a Systematic Theology Project, *changing* and *watering down* — making more liberal — many doctrines Christ had put into God's Church.

WHY did they do this? The one who wrote most of it stated to me in writing, "My only goal in coordinating the project was to bring doctrinal consistency, stability and unity to the ministry and the Church."

This reminds me of a saying we used to have on the tennis courts. "The idea was fine, but the execution was rotten."

These deluded and misguided "scholars" were in fact IGNORANT of the central truism: that the "same

thing" we must all speak *must be what CHRIST speaks*; and for unity in what He speaks, the doctrines MUST BE PUT INTO THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST! Not by compromising, watering down Christ's teachings to satisfy rebellious liberals. JESUS CHRIST is the living HEAD of the Church. They overlooked that!

## God's unity — not confusion

So it has become necessary for CHRIST, the HEAD of the Church, to SET GOD'S CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK OF GOD'S UNITY — not confusion by trying to satisfy rebellious men by COMPROMISING GOD'S TRUTH!

Now *HOW* did God put His doctrines and teachings into His Church in A.D. 31? — before many in the Church turned to another gospel (Galatians 1:6-7)? And *HOW* did the living Christ put God's doctrines and teachings into His Church TODAY — before these "intellectual liberals" began trying to compromise and water down?

Only by His chosen apostles!

As I quoted in the beginning, in I Corinthians 1:10 Christ says we must all speak the same thing. *WHAT* "same thing"? That which comes from the MIND OF CHRIST — "Let *this* mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

## Rooting out spiritual CANCER

The Corinthian church was not in harmony. It was divided. *We* had gotten out of harmony. *We* were divided! Those who do have the mind of Christ and are surrendered to the Spirit of God, are being used by Jesus Christ in *rooting out* that spiritual CANCER from God's Church!

Ministers are being called in for conferences. The first thing we at headquarters are concerned about is *their attitude!* If the attitude is good, any doctrinal differences can be straightened out, and we may proceed in peace, harmony and UNITY in the faith — all speaking the same thing that CHRIST speaks! If the attitude is resentful, rebellious, bitter,

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# PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

Completely AVOIDING those excommunicated who hold and speak a different doctrine is IMPORTANT with God. To the Thessalonians *God made this a command*: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received from us [that is, from Christ's true apostles] . . . And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him" (II Thess. 3:6, 14).

This is SO IMPORTANT to GOD that He had the apostle John, in the 90s, A.D., write, as quoted above, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine" (as received through Christ's apostles), "receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 10).

My own son, whom I love, does NOT speak this same thing CHRIST put into GOD'S CHURCH.

**WHY DOES GOD COMMAND US TO ACTUALLY SHUN A DISFELLOW-SHIPED MEMBER? WHY DOES GOD WANT US — COMMAND US! —** to mark and avoid those who come with a different doctrine? Because they created DIVISION among God's people! "And" (Rom. 16:18) "by good words and fair speeches" they DECEIVE those who listen — they claim to serve God — but they DO NOT AGREE with God.

One of my son's "fair speeches" intended to deceive and draw away members tries to turn the very command of God, that we *must* all speak the same thing, into an accusation that I am using MIND CONTROL over our members.

So he sends out a "fair speech" in writing, attempting to associate God's Church with the Jim Jones Guyana cult. He says: "For too many years" (when he was *in* God's Church) "I tried with all my being to encourage our brethren to think for themselves." In other words, to QUESTION and doubt the validity of the doctrines CHRIST had put in the Church. He continues, "The demonic preacher Jim Jones used extreme forms of total dictatorial con-

trol over his followers." Then he spoke of "total thought control" — inferring that now, all of a sudden, I am another "Jim Jones" and exercising "total thought control" over *you* members.

He says that when I say, with I Corinthians 1:10, that we "all speak the same thing," I am using *mind control* over you, and he sends out letters and booklets EMPHASIZING that HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH OR PREACH THE SAME THING as his father. Thus he not only breaks God's Fifth Commandment by dishonoring his father, but he seeks to misrepresent and pull over a following for himself (Acts 20:30).

But, LET'S FACE IT!

God *does* command that we all "speak the same thing" (I Cor. 1:10). But now we need to ask *HOW* that can be done. *HOW*, without mind control, has God provided that we may all come to speak the same thing?

## TRUE doctrines were revealed

After God inspired Paul to command that we must all speak the same doctrines, HOW does Paul say we all come to that sameness of doctrine and belief?

First, he shows *WHY* all did not speak the same teachings. He said some looked to Peter, some to Cephas, some to Apollos, some to Paul. In other words, they were all looking to MEN — and not all to the same man.

Coming to chapter 2, Paul says he did not come to them with clever and enticing words. Then he said the TRUE DOCTRINES were REVEALED, and that the natural carnal mind *could not understand*. Paul had the truth because, 1) he had really repented when God struck him down temporarily blind and spoke to him. Then later, 2) he explained he had been with and had seen Christ. His teaching came directly *from* Jesus Christ. So had Peter's!

But Paul shows, I Corinthians 2:7-14, that NO ONE can come into the truth with a natural carnal mind. It requires the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God. As God said through Paul another time, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

No one will ever come to under-

stand the TRUTH except by receiving the Holy Spirit. But EVEN SO, all these Corinthians were supposed to have received the Holy Spirit — YET THEY BELIEVED DIFFERENT THINGS, because they followed *different men!*

God put His TRUE DOCTRINES into His Church through His apostles BY THEIR WRITINGS. Jesus is the Word of God in PERSON! The Bible is the Word of God IN PRINT!

Today, Christ has put the TRUE DOCTRINES into God's Church through the apostle *whom HE chose* — not elected by men!

## How doctrines are revealed

In our case, the 20th-century "time of the end," how did God put His doctrines, beliefs and teachings into the Church?

Answer: By His chosen apostle, just as all doctrines, teachings and practices were put into the Church in A.D. 31 by Christ and the apostles — who, with the prophets, form the FOUNDATION of the Church.

Jesus specially prepared me for this purpose, just as He specially prepared the apostles of the first century. He brought me to see that what I had been taught in a Protestant church was false — the opposite of the Bible. Jesus Christ is the Word of God IN PERSON. The Bible is the Word of God IN WRITING.

The living Christ brought me to two severe challenges, which forced me to see I had been wrong. He swept my mind clean of all previous beliefs and doctrines and taught me His doctrines and beliefs.

Still, as was Peter and Paul — and Moses, Elijah, David and Daniel — I am human and could make a mistake.

BUT, *if* you have proved that this is, indeed, God's true Church for this present time, then you *MUST BELIEVE* that if and when I make a mistake, the LIVING CHRIST will correct me! Indeed HE HAS DONE SO!

Now to the very CRUX of the question of HOW we must all come to believe and speak the SAME THING!

Christ put His doctrines in God's Church in A.D. 31 through the apostles HE had chosen and taught. In our time, now, the same living Christ called, prepared and chose me as His

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## Of all the religions and all the . . . denominations . . . in “Christianity,” NOT ONE, except the Worldwide Church of God, knows WHO and WHAT God is!

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servant to put His doctrines into God's Church today!

### Christ's responsibility to set Church right

If I make a mistake, it is *CHRIST'S* responsibility to set me straight! But DO YOU BELIEVE CHRIST IS STILL ALIVE AND WILL DO IT? Or, if you think our Church doctrines are wrong on some point, do you think it is *YOUR* responsibility to set the Church right?

Back in the earlier years of the present decade, some wanted a doctrinal committee to question all we believed — and in truth it gravitated into an effort to TRY by inductive reasoning and research to prove Christ's doctrines in the Church are in error!

Since that time, Christ has led me to see our doctrine and teaching on two subjects were indeed in error. Yet NONE of the arguments of the “intellectual liberals” were valid. God opened my eyes to see the error from an entirely different approach and viewpoint than the “scholars” had presented.

One of these was fixing the day of Pentecost. Every known translation of the Bible, in 1927 when I first studied and set the date, translated into English, said, count the 50 days FROM a specific Sunday. One day FROM Sunday is Monday, and 50 days FROM a Sunday is a Monday. For 40 years God's true Church observed this Festival one day late.

Finally I found, on evidence from Jewish Old Testament teachers and from two of the translators of the Revised Standard Version, that FROM was a mistranslation. It should have been translated ON or, count beginning on a Sunday. I had not made the original mistake — the translators had. But I IMMEDIATELY changed it upon PROOF.

The other major doctrinal change made is one that needs a deal of UP-DATING! It concerned “divorce and remarriage.” All the arguments of the “scholarly” liberals on this subject were false. Again I think it fair to say the real error was due to translating.

This caused me, and the many with whom I counsel on such questions, to pass over a verse in I Corinthians 7, without recognizing its real meaning.

Now suppose a member thinks he or she has found an error in our doctrines. How must you proceed? If you have found truth, we all want to know and embrace it! But how MUST you proceed? NEVER by trying to convince another member of your “finding,” lest you fall guilty of Romans 16:17-18.

WHAT, then?

Take it to your local minister or write to headquarters. What must a local pastor do? Send it to headquarters. If it is felt to be a valid truth, it will be brought to me personally, and the LIVING CHRIST will make it clear to my mind!

We have covered the question of how does the living Christ put His doctrines into the Church. But the Church is made up of many members. How does each member come to understand each doctrine?

### How Christ put His Church back on track

Now let us pull together all that has gone before.

1) We have to admit that at this time a year ago, those in God's Church were NOT all speaking the SAME THING. And we were DIVIDED!

2) The living Christ, Head of the Church, began to move swiftly to correct this evil in our midst. The spearhead of the liberal movement was my own son, Garner Ted, because he was wielding executive vice presidential AUTHORITY — AND MORE — for his whole attitude and approach was that of making himself chief top authority. However, he was under the influence of a small group of “intellectuals” who used him.

3) Christ has been moving swiftly to set the Church doctrines back on track, through articles in *The Worldwide News* and *The Good News*.

4) The ministry and pastoral direction is fast being put back on God's track. This of necessity means that I, personally, am going to suffer

abuse and persecution and false rumors from a few ex-ministers. But I must be concerned with PLEASING GOD, not man.

Now we have to ask, HOW did this division and doctrinal disagreement get its ugly head inside the Church, and HOW safeguard the Church from any further Trojan-horse invasions?

I have said through the years, over the air and in print and before audiences, “Don't believe me because I say it — look in your own Bible and believe what you find there!”

But I DO NOT — or, at least, SHOULD NOT HAVE ever said that to our own brethren! But my son writes: “I tried with all my being to encourage our brethren to think for themselves.” In other words don't believe our deep-rooted Church teachings — think out NEW, DIFFERENT beliefs for yourself!

But GOD'S WAY is THIS! This is the way the original first-century apostles preached. They spoke the TRUTH with POWER! To the unconverted Thessalonians, the Bereans were complimented for checking up on Paul's preaching (Acts 17:11). But none should be accepted IN THE CHURCH until that person either has come to KNOW and accept and believe Christ's true doctrine, OR has repented SO THOROUGHLY, CONQUERED BY GOD and with an attitude of a little child, so that the minister doing the baptising feels sure he or she will accept and believe fully Christ's true doctrines in His Church.

In other words, Christ commands that we all speak the same thing. THAT BECOMES A QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP!

Yet I must add one comment concerning the above paragraph. Paul shows in I Corinthians 2 that the carnal unconverted mind cannot comprehend and come to real understanding of spiritual knowledge. There is no PROMISE in the Bible that one will receive the Holy Spirit prior to baptism (though Cornelius and his house did).

In Matthew 28:19-20, in the great commission, Jesus mentioned "teaching them to observe . . . [commandments]," *after* mentioning baptism.

That is why I myself have baptized some prior to coming into full doctrinal teaching, but these were cases where I felt sure they were so completely surrendered to Christ that

they would — as in fact they *did* — accept doctrinal teaching.

I said at the ministers' conference that I feel we have been too lax in baptising people before they were completely REPENTANT and FULLY BELIEVED Christ and what He says in the Bible.

Once in the Church, WE *MUST*

ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING! I have covered earlier in this "Personal" how a member should proceed who thinks he has found where the Church is in error on a doctrine, or where he thinks he has discovered "new light" the Church does not yet have. It must be cleared finally by Christ's apostle. □

## WHY MY SON NO LONGER STANDS "BACK TO BACK" WITH ME

SIX YEARS AGO my son, Garner Ted, and I often said, "As long as we two stand *back to back* TOGETHER, no one can overthrow God's Church!" How many times we said that! And as for me, *I meant it!*

*HOW* was that close UNITY broken?

Several times I said to my son in private: "Ted, I have often thought of the position we are in, as father and son. It should, if we will let it, be a HEADQUARTERS TEAM, just like the Divine Headquarters Team governing the whole universe — the Divine FATHER-and-Son TEAM of God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. HOW WONDERFUL, if you and I could be TOGETHER *as they are*, that our HUMAN father-and-son team would be a HUMAN type of the Divine Father-and-Son Team.

"But," I would add, knowing that my son was not in full harmony with his father, "God the Father and Christ the Son are PERFECTLY TOGETHER on every point, *because Jesus said*, "I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49).

"It was not a matter of the Son telling the Father what to believe and speak, but the Father told the Son — and in our case the human father is the one through whom Christ has put HIS TEACHINGS into the Church. In our case, it is the human father

whom Christ has made His apostle."

But always — and this conversation took place more than once — at this point my son would change the subject.

For years, in our case, it was the father trying to stand *back to back* with the son, but the son drifting the other way.

1) He began to assume FULL control — forbidding any in the Work to take anything over his head. Many of those leading ministers who were loyal to Christ's apostle — and who held tightly to the DOCTRINES Christ had put into the Church through His apostle — were demoted in office or shanghaied away to another part of the world. Such men as Herman Hoeh, Raymond McNair, Roderick Meredith, Norman Smith, Dibar Apartian, Dennis Luker — just to name a few.

But COMPLETELY SHUTTING OFF all authority above him, he shut JESUS CHRIST off. And:

2) He began to water down, liberalize and secularize CHRIST'S TRUE DOCTRINES!

3) And by these methods, he was causing great DIVISION in God's Church.

4) Although Ted had said to me, "Dad, you have never had to work with anyone over you," and I answered, "Oh yes I have, and even now I have the living Christ over me," — and in other words, I learned that Ted had a somewhat normal attitude of resentment against his father — notwithstanding all this, Ted was falling under the influence of liberals, who moved in and surrounded him.

I do not believe that some 10 or 12 years ago Ted would have tried to liberalize doctrines and, in effect, put the living Christ out of God's Church and college. He has accused his father of senility and being easily influenced. That is not true. But I have noticed that nearly always he who ACCUSES is GUILTY of the very thing he accuses in another. It has not been *my* mind that was going senile!

Has he gone out and sought to proclaim the true Gospel to people we had never reached before? *THINK ON THAT!* His sole effort has been to DESTROY his father and GOD'S CHURCH, and draw tithe payers after him! The few radio stations he has gone on were in areas where Worldwide Church of God members were heaviest!

He stood over me right here in my office and said, angrily and with raised voice, "Dad, I could DESTROY you!" He has certainly been trying. Those who influenced Ted into liberalism and a conspiracy to "take over" are now out. I hope my son never falls under such an influence again.

I have been asked, "If he repents, would I receive him back in?" A REAL repentance, yes! But NOT back into the ministry. However, three times before I have brought him back on what I honestly felt was a repentance, only to learn it was a temporary remorse — not a real repentance. I do pray continually for his REAL conversion, prefaced by a REAL repentance, and an honest faith.

And I urge all you brethren to pray with me for that. □

# DOCTRINALLY

(Continued from page 3)

the one having it is "hooked" on a spiritual drug far worse than physical heroin. I have warned against this attitude for 49 years — ever since I began to preach in 1930.

It is only common sense to realize that if everyone teaches what he, personally, believes, or if we follow different leaders each speaking his own thing, WE HAVE ONLY CONFUSION!

Our teaching and doctrines MUST COME FROM GOD! Through CHRIST! And through His apostle!

But HOW? Must some speak what they don't believe? We must BELIEVE what Christ SAYS, to be saved!

Jesus Christ is the Word of God in PERSON. The Bible is the same Word of God IN PRINT! The very first man to be used in writing down the Word of God as CHRIST (in the Old Testament, Yahweh) inspired, was Moses, and he wrote more words of it than any other. Now did Moses seek this commission for himself? No, Moses had been reared a prince in the palace of Egypt's pharaoh, and he probably cared little or nothing about being a leader for God.

But God called to him in the incident of the burning bush (Exodus 3).

Immediately Moses protested. "I'm slow of speech," he objected, "I stutter." God was a bit angry at this. God said He had provided for that. He had appointed Moses' brother, Aaron, to be his spokesman. Moses accepted God's rebuke and became strong and faithful in the Lord.

*He believed what God said!*

## One-man leadership challenged

God has always, in dealing with humans, worked through ONE MAN at a time — one who believed God! Some in ancient Israel challenged this one-man leadership. Some, likewise, have challenged it today!

First, Moses' own brother and sister challenged his one-man leadership. Miriam and Aaron said, "Hath the Eternal indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?" (Numbers 12:2). And the Eternal heard it. . . . And the Eternal came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam:

and they both came forth. . . . My servant Moses is not so" (as the others), "who is faithful in all mine house. . . . Wherefore then were ye NOT AFRAID to speak against my servant Moses?" (verses 5-8).

"And the anger of the Eternal was kindled against them" (verse 9). And Miriam was afflicted with leprosy for a while.

Yet, though our members and ministers all know this, some are NOT AFRAID to speak contemptuously, in hostility or defamingly against Christ's apostle today! They need not fear ME! For I will not turn on them or strike them.

Why, then, do they not fear GOD? It must be one of two things. Either they do not really comprehend this teaching of the incident about Aaron and Miriam, or they do not believe that God has chosen me as His apostle and human leader today. Or, perhaps they think God is NOT the same yesterday, today and forever! In any event, this is a matter between them and Jesus Christ.

But there was an even *more* significant incident of opposition to Moses' leadership.

That is the case of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On. "And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes. . . famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses. . . . Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Eternal is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Eternal?" (Numbers 16:1-3).

They accused Moses of appointing himself — though there had been ample evidence by the fruits of Moses' leadership and even miracles God did through him, that they were without excuse, just as many are today.

What happened to them? "And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up. . . . They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation" (verses 32-33).

## God is the same today

GOD IS ON HIS THRONE! And He is the SAME GOD! He has not changed!

Once again, the same God is going, very soon now, to shake this whole world — to produce astounding miracles — and those who take His Word lightly and ought to know better are going to have to REALIZE that He is the SAME GOD TODAY!

We are in the trying and sifting time, right now, for God's Church! Notice it, in Daniel 12:9-10:

At "the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall UNDERSTAND" (Daniel 12:9-10).

My children in Christ, can we not see that we are IN THAT TIME, NOW? GOD IS TRYING us as never before. He is drawing those of us who both love and fear Him closer to Him and to each other! He is permitting trials and tests, such as we never experienced before, to come upon us, so that we will RELY ON HIM in unshaken faith! But the self-minded among us, even the few in the ministry, DO NOT UNDERSTAND! They do not believe God is the SAME TODAY AND WILL ACT THE SAME — IN HIS OWN TIME! They do not tremble at His Word (Isaiah 66:5). But THEY SHALL!

God has always worked through one man, primarily, at a time. God chose David and worked through him. Two of his sons, at different times, conspired to wrest his throne from him. But God protected David, and those sons were destroyed!

At this point I noticed beside my typewriter a letter I had not seen before from Queensland, Australia. I paused to read it. I quote a sentence from it that is apropos to what I have been writing. This member wrote: "Take courage, Mr. Armstrong. God took it personally when Miriam spoke against Moses, and when Israel spoke against Samuel." How SIGNIFICANT that this letter caught my eye at this stage of this article. The letter continues: "NO DOUBT but that God also takes it *personally* when they speak [and act] against you [and His Church]."

## Peter's preeminence

In founding God's Church, Jesus worked primarily through one man, Peter, even though He originally chose His 12 disciples. Few have ever noticed how Peter was the real lead-



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## If everyone teaches what he, personally, believes, or if we follow different leaders each speaking his own thing, WE HAVE ONLY CONFUSION!

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er. Jesus had told His disciples to go NOT to the gentiles, but to the "lost sheep of the House of Israel." The "House of Israel" *never* refers to the Jews — always to the kingdom that became known as "the lost ten tribes." They were in Western Europe and Britain when Jesus gave this instruction.

Undoubtedly it was *after* Peter and the original apostles had left the Middle East and traveled to Britain that we read only of Paul and those under him.

Notice now PETER's preeminence. Few have ever put all these scriptures together as I shall now do. This shows PETER was leader.

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called *PETER* and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea . . . And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-19). This is the first mention of calling His disciples. It is significant that PETER is named first.

Matthew 10:2: "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called *PETER* . . ." Notice PETER is called "*the first*."

Matthew 16:16-19: "Simon *PETER* answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee [*PETER*], That thou art *PETER*, and upon this rock I will build my church . . . And I will give unto thee [*PETER*] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou [*PETER*] shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou [*Peter*] shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

In Matthew 18 Jesus appears to be speaking to the 12 apostles as a group, and in verse 18 the binding and loosing is again mentioned. *The binding and loosing was given to apostles*, but PETER was unquestioned

leader of the original 12 apostles.

John 21:15-17: The commission, "Feed my sheep" is three times given to PETER.

Acts 2:14: On the Day of Pentecost, it was PETER who gave the first sermon, converting some 3,000. Verse 38, PETER gives the instructions for baptism.

Acts 3:4, 12: It was PETER who healed the cripple. And it was PETER who gave the sermon to the assembled crowd, and God added 2,000 more to the Church.

Acts 4:8: It was PETER who spoke boldly to the rulers, after imprisonment, and, verse 19, said, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."

Acts 5:3, 15: It was PETER who spoke to Ananias and Sapphira, causing them to drop dead. Verse 15, it was PETER's shadow as he walked by that healed the sick.

Acts 5:29: PETER said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Acts 8: PETER with John went to Samaria. Verses 18-23: It was PETER who rebuked the first pope, Simon the sorcerer.

Acts 9:32-34: PETER heals Aneas.

Acts 9:38-41: PETER raises Dorcas from death.

Acts 10:1,9: PETER used by Christ to be the first to open salvation to gentiles. Verses 19-24. Circumcision not required.

Acts 11:1-2, 18: Apostles hear from PETER how God had granted repentance to gentiles and salvation with eternal life.

Acts 15: Here is the crux chapter, not generally understood. Paul and Barnabas had come to the church at Antioch. Certain Pharisees had come down from Judea and taught that "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Paul and Barnabas had much dissension and disputation with them.

### How doctrinal disputes are settled in the Church

Now here was a classic EXAMPLE of HOW DOCTRINES were put into the

Church, and doctrinal disputes settled in the Church!

It was determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others go up to Jerusalem for apostolic settlement through the Holy Spirit.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter." Now notice, "*there had been much disputing*" between the apostles and elders. They were not of one mind!

*How was the matter settled?* By the Holy Spirit, but through WHOM? "*PETER* rose up and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago *God made choice among us*." Notice, PETER was specially chosen, "that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, who knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."

Notice, it was GOD leading Peter, as chief apostle. For these gentiles to be required to be circumcised would obligate them to become "a debtor to do the whole [ritual] law" (Galatians 5:3). Therefore Peter concluded, "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

PETER had spoken! God had made choice among them, choosing PETER to open salvation to the gentiles, and, now, to SETTLE this dispute over what God required of uncircumcised gentile converts. And that settled the matter!

Notice, once Peter had settled the dispute, "Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." Paul and Barnabas were NOT disputing Peter's decision. They were NOT giving their input to the disputed ques-

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## God COMMANDS that we all SPEAK THE SAME THING! It must be that which the mind of Christ speaks — and He speaks only as the Father commanded.

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tion — the question had been SETTLED — by PETER! Paul and Barnabas merely gave the ministers gathered there the NEWS of what God had wrought through their ministry.

Then James rose. James was pastor of the Jerusalem headquarters church. In today's language, we would call him chairman of the meeting. He did not make the decision. PETER had already made it. He merely said, "Simeon [PETER] hath declared . . ." — And James merely CONFIRMED Peter's decision, making it official. That ought to make clear this crucial 15th chapter of Acts — the one classic example of settling any disputed doctrine in the Church. And, though there were other apostles, *God worked primarily* through ONE man — PETER! Has God changed? Or is He the SAME still today?

Finally, notice Galatians 2:7: "But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto PETER."

The Jerusalem conference (Acts 15) showed that PETER was predominant over even Paul, although Paul was the ONE MAN God worked through *primarily* in the ministry to gentiles.

The CHURCH is GOD'S Church. The HEAD of the Church, under GOD, is Jesus Christ. Under Christ, on the human level, is His chosen apostle, through whom He has *raised up* and *built* this SPIRITUAL TEMPLE to which the reigning CHRIST shall soon come in glory (Ephesians 2:20-21).

### All must speak the same thing

Now in closing, back to the theme of this article. God COMMANDS that we all SPEAK THE SAME THING! It must be that thing which the mind of Christ speaks — and He speaks only as the Father commanded (John 12:49).

All doctrines in the Church as it began, A.D. 31, were put in *by the apostles*. All doctrines in the present Philadelphia era were put into the Church by Jesus Christ through His chosen apostle.

Now *WHY* does Christ use such caution in putting *HIS* doctrines into God's Church through His apostle?

LET ME MAKE THAT POINT CLEAR!

You have just read a case in point — Acts 15. This crucial crux chapter has been misinterpreted, twisted and distorted. I have tried to take space to MAKE IT CLEAR in this article. The other apostles and ministers were all in confusion, arguing and disputing. But CHRIST silenced them by speaking through His CHOSEN chief apostle, PETER!

Let us UNDERSTAND!

First of all, in human history, God spoke direct in person to Adam and Eve. They did not believe what He said!

But God *chose* Moses, and God chooses only a man who believes what God says. Moses wrote more words in the Bible than any person. The prophets were chosen by God — not by themselves — and they *believed* what God inspired and wrote it for us.

Christ came and preached to many THOUSANDS. Yet only 120 believed what He said! And even of the apostles, there was disputing until Christ spoke through PETER, whom He chose!

In our day, God brought about my conversion in a manner UNIQUE in our time. He CONQUERED me, first, by making me realize 1) that what I had previously believed was untrue, and 2) that I had to REPENT and BELIEVE — that is, turn *from* former ways and beliefs, to a different WAY OF LIFE — GOD'S WAY — and to BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS! — my mind SWEEPED CLEAN of all previous beliefs.

When Christ chose His apostle for this time, He chose one who 1) does *believe* what God says, and 2) *will not* compromise or water down truths and doctrines Christ has given, and 3) has an OPEN MIND to receive further truth from Christ, and to be willing to acknowledge error when PROVED and turn from it! I do TREMBLE at the Word of God! I LOVE it! And I FEAR to go contrary to it or to

mislead you, my brethren and my children in the Lord!

As long as this Church believed and spoke THE SAME THING Christ put in it through His apostle, HE BLESSED IT, and it GREW 30 percent a year for 35 years. But when my son Garner Ted came to take over more authority than had been delegated to him, surrounding himself with a group of liberals, who LED him, and misled him into watering down God's doctrines — under their false influence a Laodicean lukewarmness and indifference, losing the LOVE of God's TRUTH, found root in the Church. Christ BUILT this Church through His chosen apostle! We did, perhaps imperfectly, but certainly in general, SPEAK THE SAME THING! We GREW in Christ's KNOWLEDGE and truth as well as in size and scope of the Work.

Then my son fell under the influence of a group of liberals, with whom he surrounded himself. He began to DISAGREE with Church doctrines more and more! AND GOD WITHDREW HIS BLESSING!

For months now, the living CHRIST has been setting His Church BACK ON THE TRACK! Also His college. The liberal element MUST GO! Either the liberals must TURN FROM their liberalism (as defined in my recent article) [March GN], and put *IT* out of themselves and the Church, or they must go out with it! I hope the former.

God has allowed this terrible trial and test to come upon us, with the government of the state of California trying to take over and manage and operate God's Church! In defiance of the Constitution of the United States! They do not, now, and they SHALL NOT, operate, manage or destroy the Church and Work of the LIVING GOD! His authority is infinitely greater than theirs. Perhaps, like those who crucified Jesus, they know not what they do (Luke 23:34). But they are drawing God's Church closer to Him and to each other. PRAISE GOD for cleaning up His Church! □