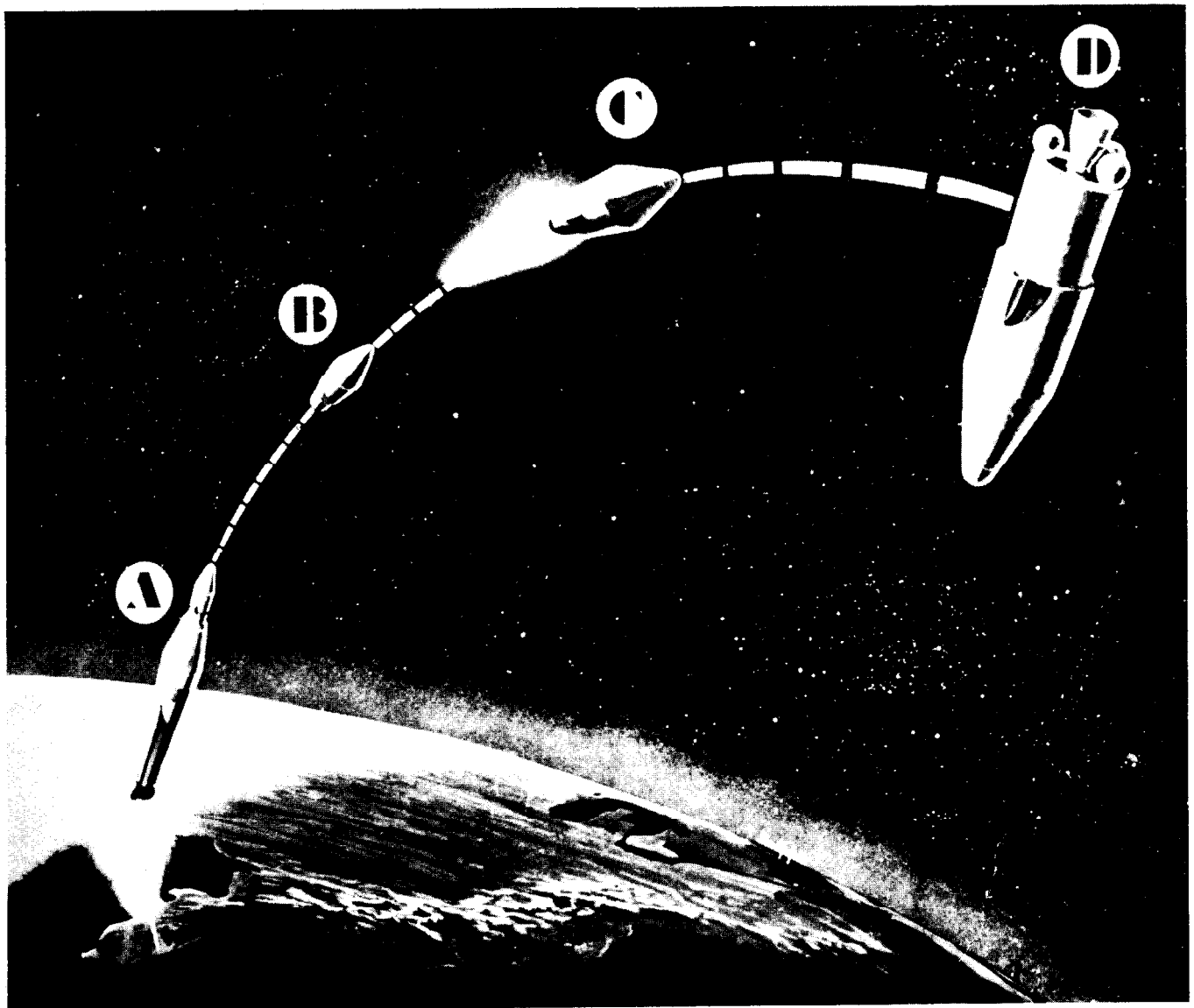


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1960



Wide World Photo
HOW AMERICAN SPY SATELLITE ORBITED—The Lockheed Missiles and Space division says this artist's drawing shows the steps which orbited the Agena satellite fired at Cape Canaveral. A: Missile fired, using Atlas ICBM as booster. B: Coasting phase of the Agena satellite during which it positioned itself horizontally to the earth. C and D: Satellite's integral engine fired to power Agena to necessary 18,000 miles per hour and attitude change. The Agena is then stabilized in a nose-down position and goes into orbit.

HOW TO BE Saved!

Millions have been led to think they are saved, who are only deceived, and don't know it!—Here is a frank, daring article, making the truth PLAIN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Reprinted from the October 1955 issue in response to thousands of requests.

IT'S DIFFICULT to believe, but it's true—in today's religious confusion millions have supposed they had salvation spiritually—they have believed on Jesus Christ—and are not saved!

Would you suppose one could actually worship Christ—and all in vain?

Can One Worship Christ—IN VAIN?

Do you know *what* Jesus Himself said of these people who want to worship Him without *obedience* to God's Commandments?

Listen to His words: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For, laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well do ye reject the Commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:6-9).

Back to the Faith Once Delivered

But what does GOD tell you in His Word?

Thru Jude, God says: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the *common salvation*, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . ungodly men, turning the GRACE of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church to corrupt it—turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS.

And what is "lasciviousness"? It means "license"—unrestrained liberty,—abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do that which seems *right* in

human eyes—according to human *conscience*—tho it *disobeys* God's LAW! And that is exactly what those ungodly men, even in the first century, did—turned GRACE into unrestrained privilege to disobey God's law! turned to *human conscience* as a guide! And once introduced, the practice has persisted and spread over the whole world until today!

This is one of the FABLES the Apostle Paul warned us men would turn to. Paul said: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, *deceiving*, and *being deceived*. . . For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts (lasciviousness—*human* reasoning—) shall they . . . turn away their ears from the *truth*, and shall be turned unto FABLES" (II Tim. 3:13; 4:4).

But, one will argue, Jude said these men would *deny* the Lord Jesus Christ. Do *not* the men who teach a "no works" doctrine *believe in Christ*? Do they deny Him?

Yes, they DENY Him! God says: "They *profess* that they *know* God; but IN WORKS they *deny* Him, being abominable, and *disobedient*, and *unto every GOOD work reprobate*" (Titus 1:16). The way of human reason—that *seems* RIGHT—is often DISOBEDIENCE to God!

What the Saviour Himself Taught

These deceived teachers have just one favorite text. They quote Acts 16:31: "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Now that text from the inspired pen of Paul means what it says. But there are *two kinds* of BELIEVING—the *living* faith that brings salvation, and a *dead* "no works" faith that produces only DEATH!

But WHY do they, in their tracts and their sermons, never quote *what the Saviour Himself said* in answer to the question? WHY?

Jesus was asked: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18). Some might try to tell you that the SAVIOUR Himself did not know, or teach, the way of SALVATION—He was teaching Old Testament religion. Well, He was asked HOW to gain ETERNAL LIFE. Is that salvation? It certainly is! Old Testament religion teaching lasted *until* John—not until the cross—not until "Pentecost." Just UNTIL JOHN (Luke 16:16). Jesus preached the SAME Gospel He commanded His disciples to teach ALL nations—Gentiles included—the same Gospel Paul preached to Gentiles. He preached *only* the NEW Testament Gospel. He revealed THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Here is His answer—that of the SAVIOUR HIMSELF on HOW TO BE SAVED:

"IF thou wilt enter into LIFE, *keep the Commandments*." And He enumerated enough of the Ten Commandments to show it was this particular law that must be obeyed AS A CONDITION to receiving eternal life as God's GIFT. Jesus said "IF"—(there was a CONDITION)—"IF" we are to be saved, by God's grace, WE MUST KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS! God lays down His own terms and conditions. His FREE GIFT is conditional—you get it ONLY if you "keep the Commandments."

You can't EARN it. God GIVES it—but only to those who "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." God will not GIVE you eternal life *in sin*. And what is sin? "SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (I John 3:4).

Some who pervert God's truth insist Jesus did not name ALL of the Ten

Commandments in the above Scripture. Sin is the transgression of THE LAW. It is a COMPLETE LAW. He named enough of its points to designate WHICH LAW He was talking about. And James says that law has "POINTS"—and, if we break any ONE of the ten points of the Ten Commandments, we BREAK THE LAW, and are sinners! (James 2:8-11).

The very same day the Holy Spirit came—the very day the NEW Testament Church commenced—thousands, hearing the inspired Peter's sermon which struck straight to their heart, asked: "What shall we do?"—yes, WHAT SHALL WE DO TO BE SAVED?

The *inspired* answer was:

"REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said, "REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL." We must BELIEVE not only in Jesus as Saviour, but we must believe also THE GOSPEL He brought and preached—the gospel of the Kingdom of God—the AUTHORITY of God and the WORD of God *over our lives!*—*a message not preached today by most organized churches.*

After His resurrection, in His parting instructions to His disciples for preaching the way of salvation, Jesus said "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48). This is the Gospel for ALL NATIONS!

But *what* must we repent of? WHAT IS SIN? Do you realize that VERY FEW people know? Very few know the BIBLE definition of SIN.

God's inspired definition of sin is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Paul would not have known what was sin, except by the law. But *what* law? The very law which says: "Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7). That law is the Ten Commandments.

This law is summed up in the one word—LOVE! It is further defined in the two Great Commandments, LOVE to God, and LOVE to neighbor. But the

same law is further defined, and divided into ten points, by The Ten Commandments—the first four of which tell us how to love God, the last six of which tell us how to love neighbor.

James Inspired Answer

And thus it is explained in James: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well" (James 2:8). Here is the Royal Law—the whole Law—as a general principle.

The law is LOVE—and LOVE is the fulfilling of the law. Jesus fulfilled it, setting us an example that we, too, should fulfill the law. We fulfill it *with* LOVE—not any natural, carnal love in human nature, but "the love of GOD is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). The Holy Spirit in us is merely GOD'S LAW IN ACTION IN OUR LIVES! And so, if we fulfill this Royal Law, we do well—but if not, we commit sin (James 2:9). Now read verse 10. If we keep the WHOLE LAW—the general principle of LOVE to neighbor—yet offend *in one point*, we are guilty—we have broken the law—and the penalty is DEATH, not eternal life.

Notice, please, the law is divided into points! And it is divided into TEN POINTS—the Ten Commandments. These are merely the ten points, or subdivisions, of the General Royal Law, LOVE to God and to neighbor. "For He that said (or, that law which said), Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery"—if you do not break that specific point—"yet if thou kill—you just break that one point—"thou art become a transgressor of the law" (Jas. 2:11). So you see the TEN COMMANDMENTS is the very law it is sin to transgress.

It is a SPIRITUAL law (Rom. 7:14). It is fulfilled by the SPIRITUAL LOVE which is God's precious gift to us—His love placed within us. "Wherefore the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD" (Rom. 7:12).

TO REPENT of sin means to turn from sin. It means to QUIT SINNING! And that means to stop transgressing God's holy law. And the way to stop breaking it is to begin KEEPING God's Commandments—ALL OF THEM, for if

you break only one, you bring on yourself the penalty—ETERNAL DEATH, and you *lose salvation.*

Now Jesus "magnified the law, and made it honorable" (Isa. 42:21). When we put a spiritual "magnifying glass," so to speak, on the Ten Commandments, it is enlarged in spirit and principle into many more points. And in a larger aspect the ENTIRE BIBLE is a magnification of God's law. The Law is the basis of all Scripture. It defines THE WAY of life—THE WAY to success—THE WAY to peace—THE WAY to happiness, joy, eternal life!

Notice how *like God* it is! The Law is GOOD (Rom. 7:12). God is good.

The Law is HOLY (Rom. 7:12). GOD is holy!

The Law is JUST (Rom. 7:12). GOD is just!

The Law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). GOD is spiritual!

The Law is PERFECT (Psalm 19:7). GOD is perfect!

The Law—including all His Commandments—is immutable, ETERNAL, stands fast FOREVER AND EVER (Psalm 111:7-8). And GOD is eternal!

Of course—for the Law is the very character, the very nature, of God! It is the WILL of God.

Conscience Not Your Guide

But in the modern-day Babylon—confusion of conflicting teachings—you may have been taught, falsely, that YOUR CONSCIENCE tells you what is sin. But your conscience only troubles you when you do what YOU THINK is *wrong!* And what you think is wrong, *another* may think is *right!* Your CONSCIENCE IS NO GUIDE!

Sin is not the doing of what you think is wrong. Not the transgression of conscience—"sin is the transgression of God's LAW" (I John 3:4). Sin is thinking and doing what GOD SAYS is wrong—and He says it in His Law! Some think it perfectly all right to divorce and remarry. Others think it is a sin. To do it would trouble the conscience of the latter, but not of the former.

One who does what he thinks is right may be committing a great deal of sin!

God says: "There is a way that seemeth *right* unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH"! (Pro. 14:12

and 16:25.) Again, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 12:15). And: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2). The world has been going the WAY that

seems right to man for some 6000 years. But this WAY has brought only unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, sickness and disease and finally, CHAOS and DESPAIR all over the world! It has

produced NOTHING GOOD!

God says: "SEEK YE the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake HIS WAY and the unrighteous man HIS

RADIO LOG

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THOUGHTS; and let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, saith the Eternal" (Isaiah 55:6-8).

And *there* is THE WAY of Salvation! There is THE WAY to find GOD! SEEK HIM, by forsaking—WHAT? Forsaking YOUR WAY—your thoughts! The way you have THOUGHT to be right.

The WAY of SALVATION

The first step toward salvation is to REPENT—and that means forsake your way—the customs and traditions you have been following—the ways of man—the ways you have been living. FORSAKE YOUR OWN WAY. Turn to God's way—the way of HIS LAW! The way of HIS WILL! Yes, the WAY of peace, happiness, and joy—the WAY of success, achievement, doing good, of prosperity—the WAY of the full and ABUNDANT life—the WAY of ETERNAL LIFE!

Since the entire Bible contains the magnified explanation of GOD'S LAW, the Bible becomes OUR GUIDE FOR RIGHTEOUS AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING! That is why Jesus said man shall live by *every Word of God!*

True repentance means you give your SELF to God. And the only kind of repentance that is prerequisite to the gift of eternal life is COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO GOD—to His will, which means to HIS LAW. You become HIS, literally, and wholly, with no reservations! Repentance is a COMPLETE CHANGE in your life—in your *attitude TOWARD life*—your *purpose* in life—your THOUGHTS and your ACTIONS.

It means forsaking some of your old friends and companions—if they are living the worldly life that seems *right* to MAN. It means turning from and forsaking worldly social and religious customs, interests, pleasures that are contrary to GOD'S WAYS.

It means THE BIBLE becomes the SUPREME AUTHORITY over your life—your *guide* to *living*—yes, to happy, abundant, gracious living, and SUCCESSFUL and righteous living, henceforth and forever—to live your life from now on with GOD'S HELP, and BY HIS POW-

ER, according to the spirit and principle, as well as the letter and precept of His Commandments. You henceforth STUDY THE BIBLE—not just carelessly read, but STUDY, to learn GOD'S WAYS, and to LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

Now ask yourself, candidly: HOW MANY people who profess salvation—who have "accepted Christ"—do you believe have REALLY COME TO THIS KIND OF REAL REPENTANCE? "Except ye REPENT," warned Jesus, "ye shall all likewise PERISH." And again, "He that SAITH, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His Commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). Yes, MILLIONS ARE DECEIVED!

But if millions are deceived about the prior CONDITION of repentance, just as many millions are deceived today as to the KIND OF FAITH that really SAVES!

The FAITH That SAVES

Now *think* a moment! Use your REASON! We are taught, and rightly, that we cannot EARN our salvation—it is the GIFT of God. It is by GRACE—and "grace" means *undeserved pardon* and *free gift*. Yet, notice how inconsistent people are! They argue there must be NO WORKS—no OBEDIENCE of the Commandments, or doing GOOD—no recognizing of God's AUTHORITY over your daily living—because salvation comes by GRACE—God's free GIFT. And yet they seem to believe that somehow WE must supply the FAITH that brings salvation! If WE work up, or if WE supply this FAITH by which we are saved, *would not that*, in fact, amount to our producing *our own salvation* by the very WORKS of supplying this FAITH?

So notice, briefly! Notice more CLOSELY than you did before! "For BY GRACE are ye saved through FAITH; and that (that FAITH) not of yourselves; it (this saving FAITH) is *the gift of God!*" (Eph. 2:8.) The faith that really saves is GIVEN TO US by GOD—it is a GIFT from HIM! YOU don't supply it, or work it up.

Did you ever notice that before?

Well what, then? In Gal. 2:16 Paul explains a man is justified only "by THE FAITH of *Jesus Christ.*" Notice, he does not say, by the man's faith IN Jesus Christ—he says by "the faith of Jesus Christ"—which means CHRIST'S FAITH

—the faith HE has and uses—the same faith with which He performed all His miracles—the same faith by which He lived—His faith, placed by a miracle, as a gift direct from God, into the man!

So, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! Salvation is GOD'S GIFT. You do not, cannot, earn it. God GIVES it. But—and here is where people become mixed up, and stumble—God will GIVE it only on condition! Yes, there are terms and conditions! God has set these terms, and you can't alter them, and He won't change them!

I want to make this perfectly PLAIN. It is not *your* faith in Christ—a faith YOU supply in BELIEVING in Him as Saviour—that saves you—it is CHRIST'S faith, which *He* supplies and places in you by His Holy Spirit, which actually IMPARTS ETERNAL LIFE. But WHAT, then? Is it not necessary for YOU to believe, with YOUR OWN faith, in Christ?

Now let me make this PLAIN! Salvation is GOD'S FREE GIFT—it is by GRACE ALONE. Yet the very purpose of God demands TWO prior CONDITIONS on YOUR part. First, you must REPENT! Second, you must BELIEVE in Christ as Saviour. But you cannot believe in Christ unless you also believe His message—the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16). But NEITHER your repentance, your obedience, NOR YOUR faith earns any salvation! They are merely prior CONDITIONS. But when you supply these two ingredients, then God STANDS BOUND BY HIS PROMISE to impart to you by His Holy Spirit, HIS *righteousness*, and CHRIST'S *faith*—and THESE, *supplied by GOD* are the ingredients that SAVE and impart ETERNAL LIFE!

Paul explains "even we have *believed* in Jesus Christ, *that we might be justified* BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST" (Gal. 2:16). You must repent and believe in Christ, as a condition, a prerequisite, IN ORDER THAT you may receive, and be saved by the faith OF Christ—by HIS faith placed within you!

Cut Off from GOD

You see, my friends, ALL have sinned. All have gone the way that seems right in human eyes. And our sins have cut us off from God "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, (Please continue on page 24)

HOW TO BE SAVED!

(Continued from page 8)

and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2).

Now salvation—eternal life—comes from GOD. But your sins have cut you off from GOD. The connection is SEVERED. YOU severed it! God will not GIVE you His gift of eternal life until you are reconciled to Him!

But He SO LOVED you, that He GAVE His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to DIE FOR YOU so that you need not perish—but, thru Jesus Christ, be brought into contact with Him so He can GIVE you eternal life!

The PENALTY of transgressing His law is DEATH! Jesus paid that penalty in your stead. If, and when, you TRULY REPENT, as I have explained at length, and BELIEVE on Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour from sin and from sinning, then by and thru HIM you gain access to GOD THE FATHER.

The two conditions of turning FROM sin, and accepting Christ (including baptism), YOU *must* DO YOURSELF! That's what YOU must do! That is NOT *what saves you!* It merely *reconciles* you to GOD—brings you into CONTACT *with God*, so that *God will then GIVE YOU His HOLY SPIRIT*—and HIS SPIRIT is the *gift of the FAITH that saves*—and it is also the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, of *knowledge, of the LOVE that FULFILLS the Law*, and imparts GOD'S *righteousness!*

So my friends, that is it! Millions have been *deceived*, and believed *falsely* that they *have* a salvation which they do NOT yet have at all! GOD HELP US, then, to UNDERSTAND.

What You Should Do

Now, finally, just HOW shall you go about it?

Must you go down the aisle in a church? Must you go to a public altar, and shed tears in front of others, and pray aloud before others?

Being converted is not an initiation into a lodge or secret society! It is not a rite or ceremony! It is a matter of turning FROM the old life that was false, yet may have seemed right to you—of

turning TO a new and TRUE way of life in Christ Jesus, living by every Word of God, in and by the power of God's Holy Spirit! When you UNDERSTAND the real MEANING and the PURPOSE, you'll see that it is something that takes place down deep in your HEART and not a matter of THE PLACE or THE SURROUNDINGS, or the presence of other people. What Jesus said about confessing, or denying Him before men did not refer to a rite, or ceremonial form of being converted. Being converted is the receiving of the Holy Spirit—the *very life*—of God.

You CAN, of course, make this full surrender and consecration to God in front of others, at an altar. You *can*, also, make it just as sincerely and fully, in a private room at home, all ALONE with God! You can pray in church before others and do it sincerely from the heart. Yet Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet (any small room), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Well, WHEN you come to this *parting*

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of the ways from the old life—when you come to the place of making this COMPLETE CHANGE—this total unconditional surrender to God—this complete consecration, GIVING your SELF to Him, accepting Christ as your personal Saviour—turning FROM your sins, and TO God's way of life as you'll find it in the Bible, you'll want to PRAY! Yes, you'll want to throw yourself completely on God's mercy, and ask Him thru Jesus Christ to FORGIVE YOU all your past sins and transgressions against Him.

It is not perhaps of great consequence *where* you do it—whether in a church meeting, or ALONE WITH GOD AT HOME! But the IMPORTANT thing is to DO IT—and to DO IT NOW!—not to delay or put it off, and let the temptation to keep on putting it off finally rob you of your salvation altogether. The longer you put it off the harder it will become. WHY it should be difficult to just go and throw yourself on God's mercy, and ask His forgiveness, and give your SELF to Him, is hard to understand—yet something in the lower nature within you will keep tempting you to PUT IT OFF. That temptation is not of God, you may be sure.

If you are sick and tired of the empty, fruitless, materialistic life you have been living—IF in your heart you DO want to turn from it to the FULL and JOYFUL life filled with God's SPIRIT, then WHY DELAY? Why delay another minute, even? Wherever you are now, go where you can do it—into the privacy of your own room if you are at home, YES, RIGHT NOW!—get down on your knees, make your full surrender to God, give yourself without any reservations to Him—ask Him to forgive—no matter how terrible, or how many have been your sins—He will forgive them all—and acknowledge Jesus Christ as your living Saviour! God will accept you as HIS! Just UNLOAD that burden of your sins on HIM—go and do it NOW! This is *just the start* of the real Christian life. Don't look for a certain feeling, but repent and believe. God laid down the terms. Conform to them, NOW!

Then write and tell me, if you care to, what you have done, and ask me about being baptized as tours are being sent out this summer. A free booklet on baptism will be mailed on your request.

other form of the old Babylonian worship of Nimrod (Num. 25:3). Again in Numbers 31:16, God rebukes Israel for worshipping PEOR, which is the abbreviated name of BAAL-peor.

A Dead "Savior"

Recall that the *true* Messiah is often pictured still hanging *dead* on a cross—whereas he is *actually* LIVING today.

God admonishes in Psalm 106:28 that Israel "joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the *dead*"—the *dead* human Nimrod. (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, p. 69). These people were eating sacrifices offered to Nimrod. God was telling them a *dead* god could do them no good. The *true* God is a *living* God (John 6:57).

BAAL-ZEBUB, the god of Ekron (II

Kings 1:3-4), the pagan god of medicine, was none other than Nimrod (*Hislop*, p. 279). Here we see Israel partaking of the Mysteries of Semiramis and worshipping Nimrod in this form also, by depending on healing from him *through doctors and drugs*. Luke 11:15 shows the real power behind Baal-zebub—it was the "chief of the demons"—Satan.

These are the pagan customs which have passed into the churches as Christian customs. They are labeled with *the name of Jesus*—but they originated among the pagans as a means to help them worship the FALSE MESSIAH!

Peter warns you today that there is no other way to be saved than through the NAME AND PERSON OF THE TRUE MESSIAH! (Acts 4:12).

them, lying on their backs on the cold cement tennis courts, to go through certain arm and leg exercises in which they must kick up their legs. For this their legs must be covered. The girls' early-morning warm-up suits are made to keep them warm, with hoods that can be drawn over their heads.

It happened that on the day this cover picture was being taken, this particular girl's regular tennis uniform was apparently in the laundry, and she was on her way from her room to the tennis court for a scheduled lesson with the trouser part of her morning warm-up suit. Here, again, this girl appeared so small in the picture that, even after these criticisms had been received, I personally did not know which girl it was.

I mentioned these condemning letters in open forum before the entire student body, sharply reprimanding the girls about even giving the "appearance of evil" as a stumbling block to others. I mentioned that I wanted to see the girl in the picture personally after the assembly. The girl who came crying afterward was not the girl I thought I had identified in the picture. The girl appeared so small in the picture that even I myself was unable to identify which girl it was. She was very sorry, indeed, that she had caused some to criticize the work and the ministers of God. Yet actually she had done no wrong.

Sometimes I wonder if many professing Christians, who are so righteous in their own eyes, always willing to see evil in others and hurl the first stone, ought not to turn the looking glass right around and look down good and deep into their *own* suspicious hearts, and see the dirt that may be lurking *there!*

Perhaps some should read again the words of Jesus:

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, and perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Let us be careful to avoid "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel," or being like the Pharisees—watching outward appearances only. God looks on the heart; and one thing I should like to assure our friends, co-workers and readers: the inward intent and motive,

(Please continue on page 31)

GIRLS WERE NOT IN MEN'S CLOTHES

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have received several letters from readers of *The Plain Truth* who mistakenly thought they saw pictures in the May issue of Ambassador College girl students wearing male attire.

Here are the facts:

The two girls supposed to be wearing "shorts" were returning from the tennis courts on our athletic field, and were wearing the girls' standard tennis uniform. This is a standardized female uniform worn by female tennis players the world around. These uniforms are not "shorts," and have skirts, although the skirts are short enough to permit the action and agility required in playing tennis.

Actually, these two girls were so far away from the camera that the photographer did not notice them. They appeared so small in the picture that neither the editor nor managing editor noticed them, in selecting this picture for publication. It appears that those who did notice them, and wrote criticising letters, must either have used a magnifying glass to spy out supposed "evil" or else have very sharp eyes to see that which they may condemn in others. The pic-

ture shows two of our girls' student residences, and these girls were merely returning to their rooms from the tennis courts.

Girls are not allowed to wear these uniforms on the Ambassador campus, except when going immediately to and from the tennis courts.

Not Men's Pants

The one girl seen in the picture on the front cover, who was supposed, according to some who were quick to see supposed evil in others, to be wearing men's pants, was not wearing "that which pertaineth to the man," as some accused.

At Ambassador College all men students are required to be on the athletic field at 6:00 a.m. every school-day morning for physical culture exercises. Through the winter season it is quite chilly at this hour in Pasadena, and we provide special warm-up suits for all students—one kind for men, and another kind made especially for girls. After the men have left the field, at 6:30, the girls are required to appear for morning exercises.

Some of these exercises require

The Man Who Couldn't Afford to TITHE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT WAS late in 1933—the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well driller by profession, but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services I was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services, and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated.

"Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible and pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

Thousands Like Him

There are thousands who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

I heard about the above conversation, and preached a sermon on the question of whether the *unconverted* should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed has reasoned, these things were only for Christians. I pointed out that God's law was put in motion for *man's good*,—it is THE WAY of life that brings peace, happiness, prosperity, the full, abundant, interesting life; success, joy, *here and now*, as well as eternal life thru Christ for the saved.

I showed that it PAYS, and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation—and that, even

if one is finally lost, he who sins little shall be punished with *few* stripes, but he who sins much with *many* stripes. I pointed out God's promises to *prosper* the tithe-payer, and that this is a definite LAW God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service—we were holding services at this little school house three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time—Mrs. Smith smilingly handed me a one dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to me with another happy smile.

"Here's a five dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to *pay!* But only *beginning!* By the next service, as I remember it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. Before he finished that job, another was contracted. Soon he had three or four jobs coming in at once, and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of *many* I have known who learned *by experience* that one cannot afford *not* to pay God the tithe that BELONGS to God! I remember Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later, and his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in real repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to me, ac-

ording to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died several years ago, but I'm happy to remember these incidents in his life in the hope they may start many others on the right and *profitable*, as well as the Christian, way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really *needs* your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His work. But to have done so would have robbed *us* of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. I do not mean *wealthy*—but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. "Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit *that may abound to YOUR account*" (Phil. 4:17).

God promises His children shall always have something to give (Deut. 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate the tithe and offerings that He fails to prosper them. For thru John He tells us "I wish above all things that thou mayest *prosper* and be in health" (III John 2).

"Honor the Eternal with thy substance, and with the *first* fruits of all thine increase: *so shall thy barns be filled with plenty*, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Prov. 3:9, 10). Try it! "*Prove me now herewith*," challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for *our* day (Mal. 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it"—financial blessings! Are you behind

financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings *may be the reason!*

Concrete Experiences

John D. Rockefeller, it is said, accepted at eight years of age God's challenge to prosper the individual who pays God His tenth. Did he prosper?

Mr. Colgate, the great soap manufacturer, left home when a very small boy. He soon met a prosperous old sea captain. He asked the boy what he could do, and the boy replied he knew only how to make soap and candles.

"Yield yourself to God," advised the old sea captain, "and pay Him a tenth of your income. Some day there is going to be a man at the head of the great soap industries in New York, and there is no reason why you should not be the man." The boy took the advice, got a job, earned a dollar and paid a dime.

Very soon he earned two dollars and paid twenty cents. Soon he got a job in a soap factory and he continued to pay a tenth and to prosper. He rose from common laborer to foreman. Later to manager, and then to president of the company, and finally he owned the entire establishment. As he continued to prosper, Colgate paid two tenths. He prospered still more and paid three tenths. Still he prospered, and he paid four. His prosperity kept increasing and he decided to give HALF of all his income.

And still he prospered!

I know a man who started a small grocery business in a small city in the state of Oregon. This was during the great depression. He had practically no capital, had the poorest location in town, and refused to sell tobacco. Others said he could never succeed. Thus handicapped, starting in the beginning of the worst depression the world ever knew, not many would have dared pay a whole tenth.

This man decided he would be a faithful steward, take God into partnership, and trust the Lord with his business. He prospered from the start and was the only grocer in his town who weathered the storm of depression successfully.

When God receives HIS portion of all your income, God becomes your

partner, sharing in your profits. He causes HIS partners to prosper, and if you are in debt, take God into partnership *first*, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes FIRST.

Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it *is* right, and the other way is WRONG. "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." God's Word tells us what is RIGHT, and God tells us to pay to His work the *firstfruits* of all our income. Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God

says "Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mat. 6:33.)

The tithe is the debt that you owe God. This debt is FIRST in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your PARTNER in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to HIM, not to you. (Deut. 10:14). You are in the position of steward handling that which *belongs to another*. He is your silent partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

My employer has told me he will have to fire me if I do not begin working on the Sabbath. Jobs are very hard to find in this locality. Should I keep the Sabbath regardless, and trust God for another job?

The immediate question that always comes into mind when faced with the decision to obey God and keep holy the day He made holy is: "How am I going to support my family?" The answer is that we must not look to the physical circumstances involved, but trust God in BELIEVING FAITH. Have you ever read II Cor. 4:18, 5:7 and Jas. 2:18?

Some of God's people who thought they would lose their jobs have been surprised to learn that their employers changed their minds about firing them. Others, who *have* lost their jobs for refusing to break God's Sabbath Day have soon had equal or better jobs!

We are told in Matthew 6:31-33, "... take no thought [anxious thought or worry], saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your

heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" The person who accepts God at His Word, and is willing to STEP OUT on faith, *exercising* it, and trusting Him to supply every need, is a person upon whom God will look with favor and to whom God will see that work is supplied.

This takes real courage and faith in God; but we know we have His *sure promise* that He will provide for our needs. God may allow you to be temporarily jobless to test your faith, but as long as you obey Him and follow Christ, your perfect example—and *keep looking for a job*—you will find work. God will not forsake you (Deut. 4:30-31). But there is one thing to remember, you must be a hard and trusted worker. God will not intervene for one who is lazy!

Pray for God's guidance and intervention on your behalf, so that you will have His help in finding the right job should you be fired. The chances are that you will keep your job, or find a better one if you do lose your present job.

He gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself HIS share, *you are stealing*, and ROBBING GOD (Mal. 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, *we call it embezzlement!*

The only *sure way* to know you have God as Partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey Him in tithing. Think what recently happened in Chile. People who did not have God as their Partner had no divine protection when terrible earthquakes struck.

Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe."

God has blessed you according as you have *yielded* to Him according to the light He has revealed to you, from His Word! While you have the light, WALK

in it, *lest darkness come upon you!* (John 12:35, 36). GROW in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord" (II Pet. 3:18). See also Rom. 11:22.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, the work of the Eternal would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be ADDED. Try it! Take God at His Word! PROVE HIM! (Mal. 3:10). *See how you begin to prosper!* Be a faithful steward; make God your PARTNER! Receive His BLESSING! God's work is waiting upon YOU!

And if you haven't read our astonishing, helpful booklet "*Ending Your FINANCIAL WORRIES*," write immediately for it. It is free. It will tell you how you can get on your financial feet!

Wide World Photo

ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE—Soldier stands guard near rubble strewn around an electrical shop which was shattered by earthquake in Concepcion, Chile. This could happen to your property if you are without divine protection.

Women Not in Men's Clothes

(Continued from page 28)

here at Ambassador College, is right.

While we assuredly do not want to teach our girls in Ambassador College prudery or narrow-mindedness; and we do not wish to be harsh and stern and strict and unkind and unloving, yet we do in our college rules adhere strictly to the ways of God, as revealed in the Bible. Girls are not allowed to wear shorts or jeans or slacks on our campus. They are allowed to wear their athletic uniforms, *made especially for girls*, ONLY on the tennis courts and the athletic field, and while directly en route from their rooms to the athletic field and tennis courts.

I must say frankly and in all candor that I hope our critics are as sincere of heart in yielding fully and completely to the way and the will of God as I know these wrongly accused Ambassador College girl students to be. I do thank God for them, and what I know is in their hearts.

