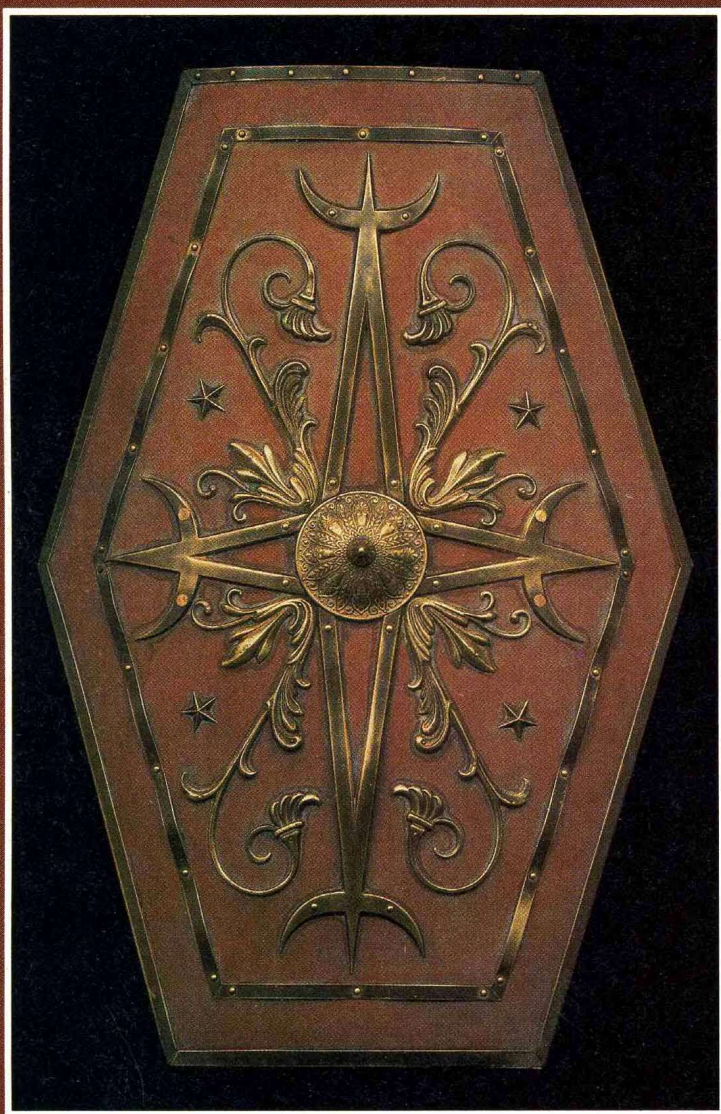


The

# Good News

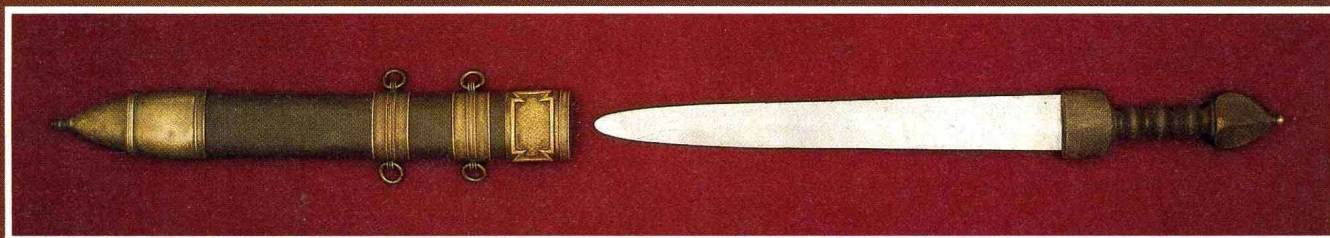
**CHRIST  
READYING CHURCH**  
by Herbert W. Armstrong See Page 3

June / July 1979



## THE CHRISTIAN'S DEFENSE:

'Take on the  
Armour of God'



# Gospel to Japanese Leaders

By Herbert W. Armstrong

*Mr. Armstrong continues proclaiming the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD in nations around the world.*

For some 20 months, due to total heart failure in August, 1977, I was prevented from proclaiming Christ's Gospel in person in the far-flung nations around the world.

But God has been with me. There has been NO diminishing of the vital faculties, especially of mind. And while I was having for the time to defer the ORDEAL of physically demanding worldwide travel, I have been able to WRITE almost faster than you brethren can read and to continue FULL LEADERSHIP of God's Work here on earth.

I want to mention a point we were discussing here in the hotel suite yesterday afternoon. I have not realized it before. Probably *you* have not realized

it. But the United States is the ONLY nation on earth that retires people at age 60 or 65. In the United States most have come to suppose that people naturally begin to lose their mental faculties even as early as 55.

WHY?

This general national assumption is NOT TRUE! Many large corporations have adopted a RETIREMENT POLICY that all employees, and even executives, *must* retire at age 65 — and some at age 60. The same is true of schoolteachers.

I even retired one man at age 55 on his urgent request, although in a manner that did not increase the Work's expenses, even though we had to hire another to take his place. But he had worked for us 25 years. I remember he wanted to travel — not to other parts of the world — but to see other parts of the United States, as he phrased it, "before I have to



meet my Maker." In other words, even at age 55 this man was THINKING, in his mind, that he was approaching "the age of death."

## The age of wisdom

WHY do Americans think that way? Here in Japan a man of 65 is just coming into the age of the BEGINNING of wisdom! A man in his 80s is not regarded as old or senile, but as more mature — of higher stature — of having a BETTER mind, of attaining to the "age of wisdom."

But I remember one of my grandmothers at age 55. In those days, when I was probably 5 or 6 years old, all women wore hats outdoors. Young women had rather decorative hats, with artificial roses, or objects of bright colors and with a sophisticated STYLE. Hats were not intended to cover or keep warm the head — but to be an added DECORATION. But by 55 or maybe younger, all women wore "old ladies" bonnets. They were shaped like an old covered wagon and always black, as were their clothes. They dressed in the style that all "old women" dressed. By their dress as

Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira greets Herbert W. Armstrong on his return to Japan, left, in the presence of Congressman Kasio Shionoya and Stanley Rader. Above: Senior Congressman Ide shares the banquet table with Mr. Armstrong during a dinner in his honor April 25.





well as their manner, they proclaimed loudly, I am OLD. I expect to die right away. My days of usefulness are over.

But times did change. Although I remember that both my grandmothers wore old-ladies bonnets and dressed like old women, my mother did not. My mother was 95½ when she died, and right up to the day of her death, in her 90s, she dressed like a younger woman, or at least like a middle-aged woman. Many of our readers will remember her. And at age 95 she was still happy, jolly and had a good sense of humor.

Somehow, between the generation of her mother and her own generation, women had at least begun to dispose of the custom of wearing old-ladies bonnets and somber and unattractive clothes.

### 12 Japanese sons

But back to what I started. There must have been 250 or 300 or more at the banquet last night. It was held in a large banquet room at this hotel (the Imperial), and this is a large

hotel with several private dining rooms. Many of the elite congressmen (members of the Diet — the Japanese congress or parliament) who call themselves my “Japanese sons” were there. The speakers’ table seated at least a dozen, some of whom spoke briefly, all of whom stood one at a time to be introduced. All others, including wives, were seated at many round tables — 10 or 12 seated at each table.

All who spoke were saying complimentary things about me. During the evening a few other members of the Japanese Diet said they each wanted to be counted as one of my Japanese sons, all of whom are important Diet members — the number of my Japanese sons in the Diet is now 12.

All speeches were translated. If a Japanese official spoke briefly, he spoke, of course, in Japanese, but after every sentence the interpreter translated the sentence into English. And vice versa. Of course the whole thing was in my honor, so I was the chief speaker. Both Stanley Rader and Osamo Gotoh spoke briefly.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are welcomed by Dr. Makato Fujita, a Waseda University official, and Senator Toshio Yamaguchi at the April 25 dinner in the Imperial Hotel.

I had said earlier that I was not going to plan ahead what to say, or speak from any notes. I knew the living Christ would put into my mind what I should say — and He did!

There were at least a half dozen ambassadors representing other nations present (with their wives). So, I knew that a number of different religions were represented.

Suppose you were to be asked to stand up and speak to some 300 highly distinguished people, some believing the Buddhist, Shintoist, Islamic or Taoist religions, not knowing anything about the true GOD, and you knew that Jesus Christ wanted you to

*(Continued on page 23)*

# Now Christ Moves Swiftly to Make Church Ready!

*It IS later than we think! And this Church is not yet ready! Christ calls us to HEED, NOW!*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**A**T THE TIME of Christ's return to earth in supreme power and glory, God's Word says to us, "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready*" (Rev. 19:7).

The very much alive Jesus Christ is coming to marry His Church. But, brethren, WE ARE NOT READY, and it's high time we WAKE UP and begin to realize that fact! I know that God has now awakened *me* to realize it, and has laid on me the URGENCY of sounding the warning with all the power He gives me!

## A chosen generation

Brethren, we are DIFFERENT from other people! *You* are *different* from your next-door neighbor! God says we are a *different* people.

"But," He says through Peter, "ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a *peculiar* people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath *called you* out of darkness into his marvelous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

There is a WHOLE DYNAMIC MIND-JARRING SERMON IN THAT ONE VERSE!

LISTEN! HEED! Jesus said, "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him*" (John 6:44). Probably your next-door neighbor has not been called by God. If so, he simply cannot UNDERSTAND what you can — what Christ has opened your mind to see.

When God drove Adam and Eve

out of the Garden of Eden, He CLOSED the entrance so NONE but the *precious FEW specially called* could have access to God's Holy Spirit, symbolized by the "tree of life."

God has called NO ONE JUST to receive salvation (eternal life). Everyone God has called has been called for a special purpose preparatory for His KINGDOM.

I wonder how many — if ANY — of our brethren understand that GOD WAS NOT TRYING TO "SAVE" THE WORLD in the years between Adam and Noah! Instead of SAVING the world in Noah's day, GOD CAUSED ALL TO BE DROWNED EXCEPT THE EIGHT IN NOAH'S ARK! Of course they will be brought back to mortal physical life in the Great White Throne Judgment. Then they may be saved and given eternal life if they repent, turn to GOD'S WAY OF LOVE, PEACE AND ETERNAL LIFE.

Jesus Christ did not come to save the world over 1,900 years ago. He did not plead with ANY, as Billy Graham does, to "make their decision for Christ," or to "give their hearts to Him." The living Christ has NOT been trying to save the world since. He is NOT trying to save it today, Billy Graham and hundreds of other evangelists to the contrary notwithstanding!

## Called for a special purpose

But God has called a VERY FEW for a SPECIAL PURPOSE! And everyone He did call — Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc., was called for a SPECIAL MISSION preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD! *YOU* were called for a very SPECIAL PURPOSE — not JUST for salvation and eternal life, but for a part in backing Christ's apostle preparing for the KINGDOM.

What about the next-door neighbor who has not been called? He simply is not being judged *as you are*. He will be called when he has no Satan to resist and overcome, *but* he probably will not be called to reign or rule with Christ, either.

Look again at the passage in I Peter 2:9, "Ye are a CHOSEN generation." God has specially called and chosen *you!* And WHY? To stand loyally behind Christ's apostle and HELP in whatever way He opens to you in spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom of God! Yes, you were specially called for a JOB to do! Not JUST to "get saved" — to receive eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

I sometimes wonder how many of you really comprehend what I have so many times said! God is NOT calling everybody to salvation — *YET!* Have not all, without realizing it, simply accepted the one MOST GENERALLY BELIEVED *FALSE TEACHING* — that God is now desperately trying to get everybody "saved"? That this is the ONLY "day of salvation" — that after Christ returns IT WILL BE TOO LATE?

I think all Protestant churches — Methodist (if not modernist), Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Congregationalists, Church of Christ — all of them, believe *now* is the *only* day of salvation.

But if Jesus told the truth when He said, "NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44), then most — those uncalled by God — simply CAN'T come to Christ *now*, and there is no other way to salvation and eternal life, *EXCEPT through Jesus Christ!*

Let me dwell a bit on that wonder-  
(Continued on page 24)

# A CORRECTION

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**I**n a recent issue of *The Good News* I mentioned that often I have said to the public, on the air or in *The Plain Truth*, "Don't believe what I say because I say it, but look into your own Bible and believe what you see there."

But then I said in this article that I do not say that to our own members. I think some may have gotten the idea I said members should not read the Bible or even read over what I have said to better understand by seeing it all in context for themselves.

Apparently some got the idea I said nonmembers must believe only what THEY SEE FOR THEMSELVES in the Bible, but that members must NOT read the Bible or believe it, but believe ONLY WHAT I say or write. Of course I did not mean that.

What I did mean is that members should have checked up in the Bible and assured themselves what God's Church teaches is true *BEFORE* being baptized and coming into the Church. What I meant was that members should not *disbelieve* everything we teach and read the Bible *for the purpose* of trying to prove that we teach falsely.

I suppose the reason that came to mind is that we did have, a few years ago, a group of self-professed "intellectuals" who started a "doctrinal committee," when their sole *PURPOSE* was to *HARM* God's Church by trying to *MISUSE* the Bible and *MISinterpret* it to try to convince others that the Church taught falsely — when in fact, this is the *ONLY* church on earth that *DOES* have the *TRUTH*!

## **Bible study encouraged**

Let me make it crystal *CLEAR*! I encourage nonmembers to *SEE* the truth for themselves in their own Bibles. But, after one becomes a *MEMBER*, he is supposed to *know* we have the truth. He has checked up — he has seen it in his own Bible. There-

fore I do *NOT* encourage members to *QUESTION* all over again what we preach.

I most certainly have always encouraged all members to read and *study* the Bible continually — to increase their own knowledge and understanding — but *NOT* to deliberately try to *DISAGREE* with the Church and study *for the PURPOSE* of disagreeing and causing dissension and division in the Church.

But, in continuous Bible study to *ADD* to one's store of biblical knowledge, if one comes across a knowledge of something new to the Church — something not proclaimed or preached in the Church, he may go to his local pastor with it, or he may contact headquarters at Pasadena or he may bring it personally to me.

If it is either contrary to Church doctrine or something in *ADDITION* to Church doctrine, he *MAY NOT* spread it to other lay members. *IF* his new understanding is correct and biblical, it will be brought to me personally, even though he takes it first to his local minister or one in Pastoral Administration at Pasadena. And God has always seen to it that my mind is open and able to see *NEW TRUTH*, or to admit *ERROR* if *PROVED* and then correct it.

I know many will say Herbert Armstrong is human and subject to being prejudiced or closed-minded. I am human all right, but the living *CHRIST* has chosen me and *MADE ME HIS APOSTLE*. He is the *DIVINE* Head of this Church. Do you not think *HE*, the *ALMIGHTY* Christ, has power to see that my mind will be opened to either new truth or to correct error? Otherwise *YOU QUESTION JESUS CHRIST*!

## **Church is a spiritual organism**

*REMEMBER*, this Church may be made up of mortal humans, of which *YOU* are one and *I* am one. But this Church of God is a *SPIRITUAL ORGANISM* — *not* a humanly organized and purely humanly led and influenced

operation of *MAN*, started *BY* man, *run* by man!

I'm afraid that is the point many of us have not realized. I shall write a separate article on that subject.

Those of us *IN* God's Church are *HUMAN*. But God has called each one of us or else we should never have been accepted into this holy fellowship. Our call has come from *GOD*! The *HOLY SPIRIT* of *God* has actually entered into each of us, or else we do not belong in this Church. It is a *SPIRITUAL ORGANISM*, not a human organization, though it is well *ORGANIZED ON GOD'S PATTERN* and not as other purely human organizations.

Now, do you not, then, understand that the living *CHRIST* has *PUT HIS POWER*, by the Holy Spirit, into His own chosen apostle, so that He is able to open His apostle's mind to either new truth — as He has done repeatedly for 52 years — *OR* to recognize and purge out *ERROR*? Does *CHRIST* have that power — or do you question *His* power? It is not my human goodness — for that is nothing to brag about. I am talking about the *LIVING JESUS'* power and ability!

## **You must study the Bible**

*SO UNDERSTAND*. I certainly did not mean to say those in the Church must not study the Bible. Indeed everyone *MUST*! What I did mean is, if ever you think you see in your Bible that what I, or the Church, teach is in error — or if you see a biblical *TRUTH* the Church does *NOT* preach, then *YOU MUST NOT MENTION THAT TO ANY OTHER MEMBER, OR TO ANYONE EXCEPT YOUR LOCAL PASTOR, OR WRITE TO THE PASADENA OFFICE OR DIRECT TO ME*.

Jesus Christ, through His *POWER* of the Holy Spirit, is guiding and ruling and heading this Church. It is *ENERGIZED* by a *POWER* that is *MILLIONS OF TIMES GREATER THAN A HYDROGEN BOMB* — yet this supreme *POWER* of God's Holy Spirit is *NOT SEEN* — therefore the world knows *NOTHING OF IT!* □

# Gospel to Japanese

(Continued from page 2)

proclaim to them the good news of the KINGDOM OF GOD. And you had to get this Gospel message over to these important people.

JUST HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT IT? If you had two or three days beforehand to think and plan what to say, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

## How the living Christ guides

I think all you brethren ought to KNOW a little about how Jesus Christ leads His chosen apostle to do it.

I KNEW the living Christ *would* guide me. Like you I am only human, but I TRUSTED the living Jesus. He did put in my mind what to say.

Many of you may hear a tape recording of what I did say. But as I now remember it, I mentioned that I do have private meetings with many heads of nations — that I talk with them about their problems and world problems. That their problems are greater than any of them have power to solve. I then said I had read an editorial in one of the world's leading news magazines that said our "WORLD PROBLEMS AND EVILS are now so great it would seem that the world's ONLY HOPE lies in the intervention of a GREAT HAND FROM SOMEPLACE." In this manner I brought to the attention of these many government officials of different religions the supreme GOD — and I then explained that this great "Unseen Hand" was the UNSEEN CREATOR WHO MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL OF THE NATIONS REPRESENTED AT THIS BANQUET.

I did not know until I stood up before the loudspeaker microphone that I would say that. But you see, Jesus Christ put words in my mouth that showed them I was speaking of the SUPREME CREATOR, regardless of their religion. Jesus gave me the words to show GOD'S POWER without offense to any because of his religious belief.

## Ambassador of the great God

I then said many consider me an ambassador without portfolio (that is, no official political authority). But in fact, I told them, I was an official ambassador of the GREAT GOD who

created us all. And I brought them from Him GOOD NEWS — news of the world's *only hope* — that we are now in the very LAST DAYS of this present man-made civilization, with more problems and evils than mankind CAN SOLVE — and that SOON NOW — in OUR GENERATION — God will *intervene*, and set up the WORLD RULING KINGDOM OF GOD — that we shall then have world peace, happiness, JOY — and economic ABUNDANCE for ALL in ALL NATIONS.

I said: "I don't ask you to BELIEVE what I say. We humans won't bring this about — it will be DONE TO US — and IN SPITE OF US — whether we believe it or not — whether we want it or not. But I have just ANNOUNCED IT TO YOU, and it DEFINITELY SHALL HAPPEN!"

Thus, in few words, and even waiting at every sentence for the interpreter to repeat it in the Japanese language, Jesus Christ through me DELIVERED THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM to some 300 of the leaders of Japan and several other nations.

And I might mention THIS is what the attorney general's office in California is trying to call "siphoning off millions of dollars every year for my own use." In the past two years we have not spent one tenth of \$1 million on this important Work of carrying the GOSPEL into nations worldwide.

For the past 10 years, this part of the Work has cost less than \$1 million a year — whereas our budget calls for SEVERAL million dollars per year for SALARIES to ministers and the staff at headquarters — several million for radio, for TV, for printing.

I must break off now and hurry into a business suit — for I am to have a meeting in less than two hours with Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. I have met and visited with every Japanese prime minister in the past 10 years — Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister Takeo Miki, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and now Prime Minister Ohira. I have been highly honored in Japan.

There's the saying that a prophet is not honored in his own country. That's where the PERSECUTION comes from. But here, I am honored above *any* unofficial non-Japanese. *And* though the persecution comes in

many forms *at home*, I am DEEPLY GRATEFUL that you brethren of God's Church have deep LOVE for me, and you have certainly proved that. I love and pray for you continually.

## Official visit to China planned

LATER: In flight back home, April 29.

I have now had private personal meetings with the last FIVE prime ministers of Japan.

Perhaps the most important news of all that I can give you of this trip is that definite plans are under way for me to make an official visit to COMMUNIST CHINA — officially the People's Republic of China, in company with two or three of the highest members of the Japanese Diet. Two of the high-ranking members of Japan's lawmaking Diet are definitely working on arrangements. The trip will be made in our own G-II jet, and probably in August. Private meetings are being set up with the Communist Party Chairman and Prime Minister Huo Guofeng and the deputy prime minister, Deng Xiaoping.

As you know, I have been waiting a long time for the HEAD of our Church Jesus Christ to open doors — IF He wanted His apostle to go to the LEADERS of China and the Soviet Union. Of course, I can't know yet what Christ may have in mind, but He is able to open doors wherever He wants me to go as His ambassador and apostle.

Plans are now being made for a visit with the government heads and many other leaders in a country I have never yet visited — Tunisia, on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, west of Egypt. And, of course, I already have had a personal meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Before leaving Japan on this present trip, I had further meetings with a few other Japanese leaders.

This has certainly been a very successful trip. We are now on the descent for a refueling at Cold Bay, Alaska, the farthestmost western tip of Alaska, where the Aleutian Islands virtually join up with Alaska at its farthest western tip.

I close asking you to continue your earnest and fervent prayers for me and the Work. □

# Make Church Ready!

(Continued from page 3)

ful verse, "But ye" (who are called and in God's Church) are "a *CHOSEN* GENERATION, a royal priesthood." Why "ROYAL"? We have been SPECIALLY chosen by God to have opportunity to qualify to SIT WITH CHRIST IN HIS THRONE (Rev. 3:21). We, called now, have to battle and overcome Satan, but, in so doing, we qualify to be a KING or a priest (Rev. 5:10). On the other hand, those called AFTER Christ comes to reign will not have to overcome Satan — yet there is no promise of becoming "royalty" by those called after the beginning of the Kingdom on through eternity!

Next, in I Peter 2:9, "an HOLY NATION, a PECULIAR PEOPLE."

We are to become DIFFERENT! What makes us different? We are ENERGIZED by the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD.

Are we, today, a HOLY Church? I don't want to accuse or judge. But surely not the deeply HOLY people we must be if we the Church shall have made ourselves ready. And we must be DIFFERENT!

## How are humans different?

Let me dwell on that a bit. Are HUMANS *different* from dogs, cats, horses, cows? Not only in form and shape, but the BIGGEST DIFFERENCE is MENTAL. We have MINDS that can THINK, REASON, MEDITATE, MAKE CHOICES AND DECISIONS!

Horses and cows have BRAINS almost exactly in design, form, shape, like ours! Elephants, dolphins, whales, have LARGER brains, and if not entirely as perfect physically, at least 95 percent as good quality as the human brain. But they do not have one thousandth of 1 percent as much thinking, reasoning, knowing, designing power, as we humans.

WHY are we so much better than they, mentally? Our BRAIN is no better — to speak of. The DIFFERENCE is that God put a SPIRIT (in form of essence like air or water — *not* a "ghost" or spirit person) *in* every human.

*BUT* — and this word "BUT" is a very big three-letter word sometimes! BUT God made us to NEED *ANOTHER SPIRIT* — the *Holy Spirit* of

GOD, that comes from the very PERSON of God, as a PART of Him.

In other words, God did not make Adam COMPLETE. I have said before that God is CREATOR — yet He creates in DUAL STAGES! What God created, as described in the first chapter of Genesis, was the PHYSICAL man and woman. But God was not THROUGH creating humans. The PHYSICAL person is merely the physical MATERIAL with which God may BEGIN the SPIRITUAL creation — that is, fully developed SPIRITUAL, HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS *CHARACTER!*

## Only the few called now

Now Adam and Eve REJECTED God's HOLY SPIRIT, and deliberately decided to remain INCOMPLETE — that is, PHYSICAL *ONLY*.

God drove them OUT from the Garden of Eden and barred the entrance so NO MAN, unless specially CALLED by God, could have access to God or His Holy Spirit.

God has called ONLY A COMPARATIVE VERY FEW — of which I hope YOU who are reading this are one! Apparently God called "righteous Abel" — second son of Adam and Eve. Enoch walked with God. God called Noah, Abraham, Moses and, in a sense, the WHOLE ANCIENT CHILDREN OF ISRAEL — but God did NOT make His Holy Spirit accessible to Israelites, EXCEPT THEIR PROPHETS.

Now I assume, and surely fervently HOPE, that God has called YOU who are reading this!

If so, and you have received and are being led by His Holy Spirit, you are NO LONGER *LIKE* others around you, possibly your next-door neighbors.

Does that make you BETTER than they? Of your own self, *NO!* Yet YOU ARE *DIFFERENT* — for you have now that second needed Spirit — the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, which Adam and Eve rejected.

And (assuming you have and are being really LED BY the HOLY SPIRIT) that makes you as DIFFERENT from others around you as THEY are different from cows, elephants and dogs.

They are different from animals because they have that ONE HUMAN SPIRIT. But THEY are confined to knowing and thinking *ONLY* about *physical* things.

If YOU have received the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, that opens up your

mind to comprehend SPIRITUAL things, to have SPIRITUAL knowledge, to have a mind that THINKS about both physical and spiritual things and values.

So that makes you one of a PECULIAR people — DIFFERENT from others. But remember that before you received God's Holy Spirit, you were just another human like your next-door neighbors, and you certainly should not feel any BETTER than they today — but you should be THANKFUL to the GOD OF GLORY that He has called you — made you PART of this CHOSEN GENERATION, and put within you HIS GIFT!

And even after you received God's Holy Spirit, He expected you to "GROW IN GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!"

## Church to be without blemish

But now let us look a little further to be sure whether we, individually, as part of a complete SPIRITUAL ORGANISM — GOD'S CHURCH — are READY for His coming when we shall rise to meet Him in the clouds of the air.

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it . . . That he might present it to himself a GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH" (Eph. 5:25-27).

Brethren, each look at your own self. Are *you* without a single spiritual blemish?

When we REPENT, BELIEVE and receive God's GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT, we must confess we are NOT holy, without spiritual spot or wrinkle, or a single spiritual blemish. But we must "GROW in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

Brethren, WE ARE SIMPLY NOT YET READY for that divine wedding, as a part of God's Church, with a HOLY and PERFECT CHRIST!

But DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED! No one is that perfect when first converted. The Christian life is a life of *constant GROWTH!*

## PREPARING for God's Kingdom

Let me mention as briefly as I can three of Jesus' parables about the Christian life, PREPARING for God's Kingdom.

First, take the parable of the sower and the seed. In the first three categories, the seed (the preaching of God's Word) either took no root at all, or those hearing it had no depth of mind and purpose and quickly fell away, or became offended, dissident, bitter at persecution or even at GOD'S TRUTH. None of these went on to finally make it into God's Kingdom.

But the fourth group were on fertile ground — the seed of God's Word took root and brought forth a harvest of spiritual righteousness — the spots, wrinkles and spiritual blemishes were gradually overcome and removed. Even so, some grew spiritually more than others — some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold and some a hundredfold.

UNDERSTAND THIS! Those who produced spiritually only thirtyfold will be given eternal life in the Kingdom. We are NOT SAVED BY OUR WORKS — but we ARE rewarded according to our works. The parables of the pounds and of the talents show that.

Jesus pictured Himself (Luke 19) as a man going to God's throne in heaven to be crowned and officially given God's Kingdom. He gave each of 10 servants (symbolic of the 10 tribes of the house of Israel) a pound each. This represented giving each one at conversion one unit of the HOLY SPIRIT.

On His return, crowned and with supreme divine AUTHORITY to rule God's Kingdom over the whole earth, He called each to accounting. One had increased the one unit of God's Holy Spirit, in standing solidly back of God's apostle in proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and helping, praying fervently and remaining loyal — in Bible study, increasing his own spiritual knowledge, 10 times what he started out with.

Earth's King Christ rewarded him by making him ruler over 10 cities. Another had increased his one unit of God's Spirit five times. He didn't get as great a reward — he was given rule over five cities — but he was only REWARDED according to his works — he was "saved" by grace — he didn't earn his salvation.

A third one had not grown in grace and in Christ's knowledge — nor had he contributed to GOD'S WORK by tithes, fervent praying or loyalty. He HAD THE ONE UNIT OF THE HOLY

SPIRIT ORIGINALLY GIVEN AS GOD'S GIFT TAKEN AWAY. HE DID NOT GET HIS SALVATION OR ETERNAL LIFE —

So, as I said, DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED! True, time is now short. But certain prophesied events still must occur before Christ comes — though He might come any second to any one of us — if we were taken by sudden death.

But to conclude, GOD'S CHURCH IS NOT YET READY! But God brought me back from death in August of 1977, and has since been using me in VOLUMINOUS WRITING, and in taking over DIRECT PERSONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH, THE COLLEGE AND THE WORK — and through me Christ our LIVING HEAD has been turning God's Church around, PUTTING IT BACK ON GOD'S TRACK!

### Church is making rapid progress

The Church as a whole IS MAKING RAPID AND VITALLY IMPORTANT PROGRESS! Christ NOW is moving to put His Church back on God's track SPIRITUALLY!

He has allowed the terrible persecution from the HUMAN government of the state of California to come upon us to TRY US, to WAKE US UP — to cause us to START ANEW AND AFRESH in His Work.

The few (six) members and expelled members (now *all* out) thought that, when they and their attorney managed to persuade a deputy attorney general, and then, with him, in an unlawful SECRET meeting with Judge [Jerry] Pacht in his chambers (his private office), won official assurance of the power of the largest state in population in the Union, that they could DESTROY this Church the judge called "a bowl of spiders."

It was a MASSIVE strike. Without warning, and with a number of ARMED LAW ENFORCEMENT MEN, they descended on the headquarters of GOD'S CHURCH!

But, brethren, the entire state of California is a tiny speck compared to GOD and the supernatural power of God.

Do you suppose that, when news was telephoned to me that I panicked, in FEAR?

No! NEVER! I always remember that those with us are more and

mightier than those (the whole LAW ENFORCEMENT — even the military National Guard) of America's largest state!

Brethren, I KNOW the supreme almighty divine POWER Jesus Christ has set behind His chosen apostle! They arrested the apostle Peter more than once — threw him in jail — even bound him with CHAINS. But Christ sent an ANGEL to break the chains, and the prison locks and lead Peter and John out of the prison — to carry on with the mission God gave them.

Brethren, we must be the same kind of staunch, fearless, STRONG soldiers and ambassadors for Christ that Peter, John and Paul were.

God ALLOWED the State of California to go as far as they did. And the TRUTH is, the judges, lawyers and state officials now are looking for some way to GET OUT OF THIS without losing too much face!

But I don't think the all-powerful Jesus Christ whom I serve is going to let them off so easily!

Actually, what they have done — and the CBS most-listened-to program *60 Minutes* have only CATASTROPHED God's WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD into the public limelight a thousand times more than we were before!

I am preparing a series of full-page ads in leading newspapers — Los Angeles, Calif., *Times*, New York *Times*, Washington *Post*, Chicago, Ill., *Tribune* and dozens of others. People will read them, because now EVERYBODY has heard of the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. One ad will have as a headline: Just What IS the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD?

The ad will tell them briefly the shameful, unconstitutional thing the State of California did, and also that this Church is the ONLY VOICE ON EARTH PROCLAIMING TO THIS DYING WORLD ITS ONLY HOPE! No one for over 1,900 years has proclaimed the message brought from God by JESUS CHRIST!

People are going to hear the GOSPEL now as NEVER BEFORE.

But all this will take MONEY — more money than our membership can give. Beside giving all we can, we must PRAY MORE FERVENTLY, MORE IN EARNEST — MORE PASSIONATELY THAN EVER BEFORE! □