

The Good News

**Obeying
God's Government**
by Herbert W. Armstrong See Page 2

AUGUST 1979

Living by Faith

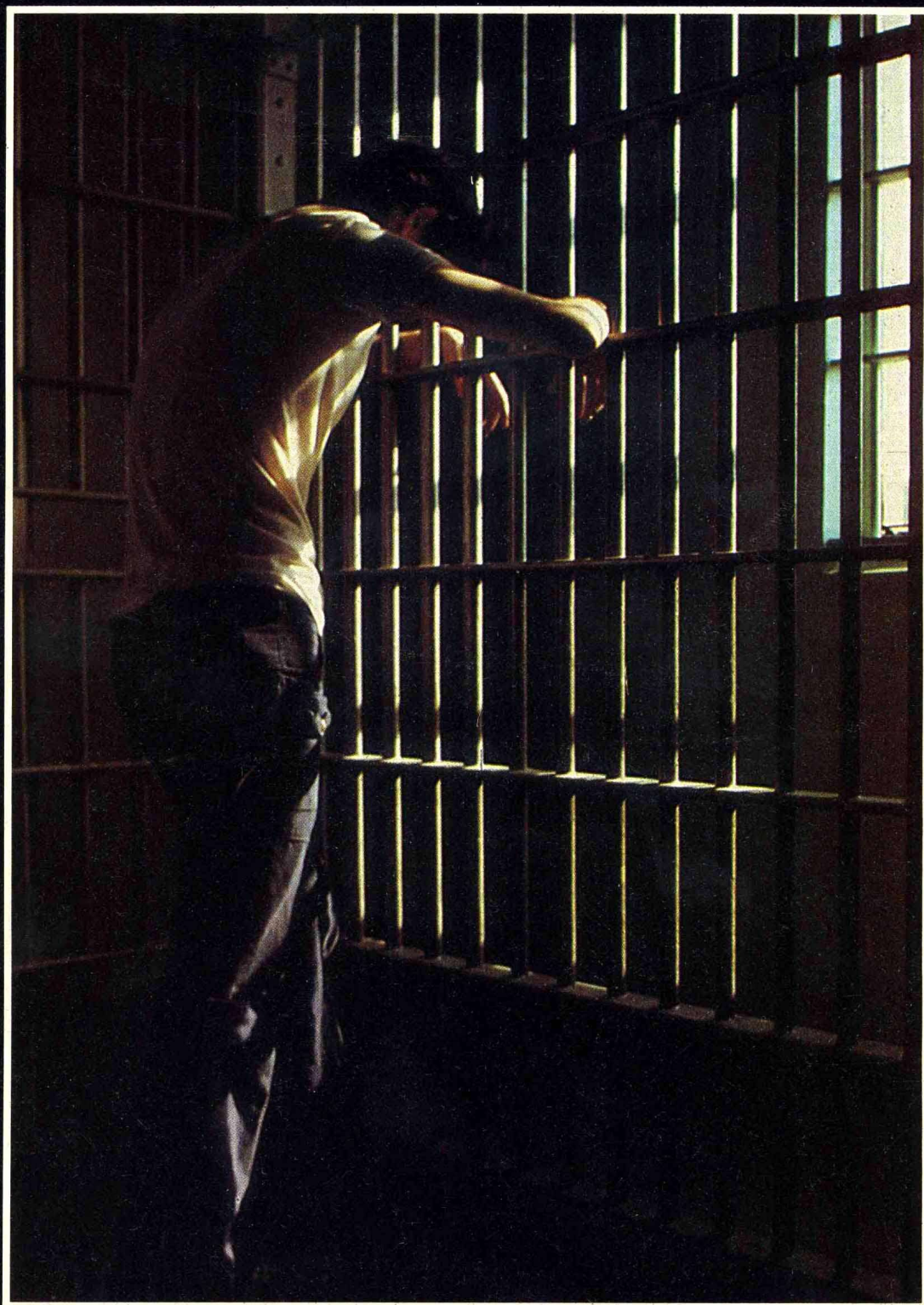
Spiritual
Vision

Who is My
Neighbor?

Christian
Meditation

When
the Light
Goes Out

**'I Was in
Prison
and You
Visited
Me'**



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COVER: In prison, loneliness can be your closest companion. Christ understands the pain of imprisonment and the power of someone who really cares to relieve that suffering. That's why He gave the parable in Matthew 25. See article beginning on page 8. Photo by Mike Hendrickson.

The Plain Truth About Stanley R. Rader

By Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY I keep Mr. Rader on as my assistant, in spite of the biggest character-assassination campaign in God's Church.

WHY, I ask, WHY has Stanley R. Rader been persecuted, with a bitter campaign of character assassination against him as no other man in or associated with the Church?

Those who have HATED Mr. Rader could not tell you *WHY*. I think it's time the Church membership and pastors come to grips with this question.

The fountain source that has spewed out this bitter hatred is my own son, Garner Ted Armstrong.

But if I ask this, that or the other minister or Church member, "*WHY?*" they *can't answer!*

Much of this character assassination has taken place in the faculty locker room in Pasadena, guzzling beer. Little personal snide remarks have built up a giant wall against Stanley Rader.

I look at the "fruits," and they are virtually all **VERY GOOD!**

There's an old saying to the effect that he who steals my purse steals trash, but he who besmears my character steals the most precious and valuable thing I have.

But, even though snide remarks, character-assassination statements have been freely spewed out, I still
(Continued on page 24)

WHAT GOD NEVER DID-NEVER WILL-ALLOW TO HAPPEN

This thought came to me as I was eating breakfast this morning: In all this world's history God has never started an important Work or special activity through a chosen human, and then, after that special accomplishment is well advanced, ALLOWED His chosen human leader to be overthrown by Satan — or in any way to turn false!

Yet those promoted high *within* that Work or special activity for God, *have* been allowed to turn false, against God's chosen leader.

The example of Moses

Start with Moses — specially called and chosen by God to lead the Israelite slaves out of Egypt and to the promised land. Moses was human. He had human faults and weaknesses — but he also had human strengths, and God gave him the extra strength needed.

Moses' brother, Aaron, had been elevated high as Moses' spokesman (since Moses had a speech impediment — he stuttered). Aaron, with his sister Miriam, did once turn false and say to Moses, in effect: "Who do you think you are? We are just as high — on a level with you." God punished.

Then there was Korah. He and others associated with him in a rebellion had been raised to high position in the nation Israel — a nation emigrating from Egypt with 2½ or more million people (600,000 men age 20 and above plus women and children).

There was real organization within that nomadic nation, but none equal to Moses in top authority under God — and no No. 2 men, in authority

over all except Moses. Yet Korah and his fellow dissidents were not satisfied with their already lofty positions — they wanted to GET — take to themselves MORE AUTHORITY, EQUAL TO MOSES.

God caused the earth to swallow them up.

But the man God had prepared in advance — the man God chose as His instrument in starting the tremendous project of moving some 2½ million people to the promised land — was never allowed by God to go wrong.

Yet Moses was abused, accused, criticized.

The same with Joshua, the man God chose to take over after Moses' job was completed, and pilot God's people across the Jordan River into the promised land. Joshua remained FAITHFUL!

Jesus Christ appointed Peter chief apostle to Israel, and Paul chief apostle to the gentiles. They were falsely accused, opposed, criticized — but neither was allowed by CHRIST to turn wrong — though some under them did turn wrong.

The Philadelphia era

In our time, God first prepared, then called me unmistakably, to raise up the Philadelphia era of God's Church — at this END TIME just before the end of this world — and to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the world tomorrow and the Kingdom of God. That was 46 years ago — though God called and chose me 52 years ago.

But what has happened in that 46 years? My elder son, Richard David, was taken in death, dying "in harness" on a baptizing tour — the most loved of the ministers in God's Church, because he exuded so much LOVE!

But then my second son came along, "prepared" in all the evils of

enlisted men in the U.S. Navy, and (this was MY mistake, not yet then realizing God has never used a No. 2 man in authority), I delegated a considerable authority to Ted.

But he went way beyond what I delegated and assumed TOTAL AUTHORITY, trying to cut me off completely — which meant also cutting off *all* above him (which meant cutting off Jesus Christ and God Almighty). There were others who were either POWER-hungry or money hungry (probably mostly the former).

I came to LOVE, to ENTRUST AUTHORITY to, to honor and respect, Albert Portune, David Antion, C. Wayne Cole, Raymond Cole, Ron Dart — all men once high in God's Work today, as Korah and his fellows were in Moses' day. And now WHERE ARE THEY? All are trying to DESTROY the very WORK OF GOD they once sought to support, as they climbed the ladder of success.

Today the living Christ, Head of the Church, is SETTING IT BACK ON GOD'S TRACK, yet these dissidents would have you think Christ's apostle and even the Church has gone sour — and, like vultures of the sky, they figuratively hover over it, waiting for this, that and the other member to DIE SPIRITUALLY, so they may gobble up the remains! They no longer seek to build — they seek to DESTROY!

Well, brethren, just where do we stand AT THE MOMENT? During the past year this Church of the living God has been at least 75 percent set back on God's track. We are getting frighteningly close to the END of this age.

This Church was drifting into a Laodicean condition. Incidentally, both the Sardis and the Laodicean eras of the Church were GOD'S CHURCHES — NOT SATAN'S!

Someone spread the false rumor that I have said these others were or
(Continued on page 27)

Which Shall We Obey? The Civil Government or God's?

Certain dissident voices have been raised, since Jan. 3, deceiving God's people about obeying the government of man!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

DO WE UNDERSTAND that the GOVERNMENT OF GOD once ruled the entire earth?

Do we understand that Satan's major thrust is to turn us *against* the GOVERNMENT OF GOD? That government is based on THE LAW OF GOD, and the LAW OF GOD is predominant in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation?

Do we REALLY understand that THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is at this moment being administered on the earth in ONE PLACE ONLY — in the

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD? Do we realize that GOD HIMSELF raised up this era of His Church, even though He used His chosen apostle — and that it is NOT, in any way, the government of MAN?

Do we realize that the one prime point Satan uses to keep YOU out of God's Kingdom is to attack THE LAW OF GOD, which is the foundation of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD?

Do you realize that the civil governments of man, masterminded by Satan, *have ALWAYS fought against the government of GOD?*

There comes a time when you have to decide WHERE ARE YOUR LOYALTIES. One such time was Jan. 3 and immediately following. Some very few ministers shouted out words to the effect that "WE MUST OBEY THE GOVERNMENT OF MAN, NOT the CHURCH OF GOD!"

In the history of mankind on earth we have come down to the FINAL QUESTION: *WHO* IS LORD? — CAESAR OR CHRIST?

You have to decide — even as the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the scribes had to decide between Barabbas and CHRIST! There is today just ONE CHURCH ONLY where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is being administered — and that is in the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD!

It's time we GET THIS STRAIGHT! Satan has been using some to teach you FALSELY!

What was Jesus' teaching? What was His EXAMPLE? Some have been putting a TWIST on that and causing division in God's Church.

Take time to UNDERSTAND your position in relation to the GOVERNMENT OF MAN and also your relationship to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

God's government on earth before Adam

The government of GOD did once rule the earth. This was before Adam was created! God placed a super archangel, the cherub LUCIFER, on the throne of the whole world, then inhabited by angels! How long GOD'S GOVERNMENT was administered we do not know. But this Lucifer, the highest, most powerful and mighty being God could create, next to Himself, was PERFECT in all his ways, UNTIL iniquity (LAW TRANSGRESSION) was found in him (Ezek.

28:15). Now he is SATAN the DEVIL! And he is deceiving some of God's simple and trusting people on this very matter of GOVERNMENT!

Many times recently I have mentioned that if you tune in your TV set on a movie that is two thirds over, not knowing what went before and led up to the point you tuned in, you do not really understand what you are seeing.

God's government rejected

So take time to get this exceedingly brief BACKGROUND. After Lucifer had become SATAN the archdeceiver, God created the first humans — Adam and Eve. They rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and God drove them out of Eden and barred them and all humans to be born from and after them from access to God (Gen. 3:22-24), except the VERY FEW God has specially called.

For some 6,000 years mankind has lived under GOVERNMENTS OF MAN influenced by SATAN and CUT OFF FROM GOD!

Yet, even so, man, in his personal life, is commanded to BE SUBJECT TO (not always to OBEY) the government of man. It is true that the New Testament tells us that, in the regular course of each person's life, he is to be SUBJECT TO the human civil laws and governmental powers over him. The Church of God has always taught that.

But being "subject to" does not of itself mean "OBEY." When it comes to killing in war, a drafted man may be "SUBJECT TO" man's law by submitting to the PENALTY of man's law! Thus he may "BE SUBJECT TO" the law of man, while OBEYING GOD rather than man.

Jesus Christ's example

Now look to the example set and the teaching of Jesus. He said (Matt. 22:21), "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which ARE Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

HUMAN GOVERNMENT has ALWAYS persecuted God and those who follow God's ways. In Jesus' day, Judea was part of the Roman Empire. Although the Roman government kept a small contingent of soldiers there and a Roman governor or local king, they delegated all the more mi-

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HOW SATAN INJECTS FALSE DOCTRINES

By Herbert W. Armstrong

In God's Church in our time I have seen how Satan cleverly and without their knowledge uses humans to destroy GOD'S TRUTH and inject false or counterfeit doctrines instead.

The record, in our time, has been written. And the record has been written of how it was done in the first three centuries of the Church.

The Church of God started out, A.D. 31, under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

Yet by about A.D. 58, the apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel . . . but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of [Jesus] Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

To the church at Corinth the same thing was happening. To them Paul wrote, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted" (II Cor. 11:3). Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectingly been led in any degree by Satan, he will rise up in furious indignation and angrily retort that Satan can't influence him! That is to say, "I am stronger and more firm and righteous than Satan — Satan never could deceive me!"

Satan CAN use you

But listen, dear brethren of God's Church, Satan is MORE POWERFUL, MORE CUNNING, MORE SUBTILE, than any human being on earth! Unless you and I are constantly on guard — close to God in constant heartrending

prayer — constantly close to God and His truth through Bible study — Satan CAN deceive you, blind your eyes to God's truth and USE YOU! Satan has used and led, without their knowing it, even some of our ministers in past years.

Paul continues in his letter to those at Corinth: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS" — mark you, it is speaking of those who unwittingly become SATAN'S MINISTERS! — "also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

In God's Church in our day, self-appointed "scholars" rose up in what they called a doctrinal committee, devoting themselves, NOT to discovering any NEW TRUTH — but trying to disprove the TRUE DOCTRINES Jesus Christ put into His Church through His apostle, and inject false doctrines into the Church of God.

This very thing happened in the days of the apostle Paul and the original apostles. And SATAN DID BLIND AND DECEIVE THOSE WHO, WITH HONEST HEARTS, HAD ACCEPTED GOD'S TRUTH!

It happened again in the next two centuries. After the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation in the 90s, A.D., Satan was using those at Rome to inject the pagan Easter instead of the Lord's PASSOVER!

A disciple of John — Polycarp — engaged in a heated controversy on this question with the Bishop of Rome. Later, Polycrates entered into an even more heated controversy with a later Roman bishop on the question — referred to as the Quartodecimani controversy.

About the same time, Satan was using ministers in the Church to

completely do away with the real work and function of the Holy Spirit, by calling the Holy Spirit a "Ghost" — a third Person in the godhead — calling God a TRINITY, "Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

Brethren, do we think we are so superior to those of the first, second and third centuries that Satan could not have tried to pervert God's TRUTH today?

God preserved His truth

But praise be to God — even though so much of GOD'S TRUTH was distorted, changed and replaced with false doctrines in the very first three centuries, and remained hidden from God's Church until our 20th century, God's original TRUTH was preserved IN HIS WORD!

And, beginning in the fall of A.D. 1927, God began an absolutely UNIQUE WORK on the one the living Christ had chosen to be His apostle. He put me through the wringer that squeezed out all former misconcepts and untrue beliefs, using me to put His TRUTH into His Church that is to rise and meet the glorified Christ in the clouds as He returns to establish the Kingdom of God!

The END TIME has come! God has restored original TRUTH! HOW PRECIOUS IS IT TO YOU? — or do you trample it underfoot as swine would trample into the mud the most precious diamonds, rubies and precious stones, and go for the slop?

Yes, Satan has tried to WATER DOWN true doctrine — to turn God's Church to false truths. Apparently it is unhappily true that some willingly fall by the wayside and shall not continue on to enter into the KINGDOM OF GOD! But I have not retired — I am still vigorously active. Jesus Christ is still on God's throne, as the dynamic living HEAD of God's Church! □

Stanley R. Rader

(Continued from inside front cover)
have to ask, *WHY* HAVE SO MANY IN GOD'S CHURCH BEEN WILLING TO BELIEVE THE WORST against Stan Rader? I want to answer that, and once and for all set the record straight.

I have to go back 50 years or more to explain, because there is a resemblance to this unfortunate situation in my early experience with the Sardis people in Oregon.

Jesus Christ called His people "sheep" who seriously need the leadership and protection of competent and honest shepherds.

Jesus said, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). Those of this world know better how to deal with others of this world than God's sheep.

In the autumn of 1926, when my life-changing challenge came, I was one of the "wise of this world." I had been in business. From age 18 to age 34 I had no interest in religion. I think I was upright and honest and sincere — yet very much a part of this world. I had not neglected education and did possess the equivalent of postgraduate degrees.

The brethren in Oregon began immediately to look to me for leadership, especially in giving the Gospel message to the world. The ministers worked against me every way they could. They were jealous. Wherever God used me in speaking, FRUIT WAS BORNE — THERE WERE CONVERSIONS, newly baptized members brought in.

Yet, of the Sardis ministers of that time there was not one single conversion brought about that I could find, and I specifically asked at least two

of their oldest and most loyal members if they knew of any conversions brought about by church ministers.

The brethren knew that I was newly converted out of the world. I KNEW THIS WORLD! I KNEW HOW TO APPROACH AND REACH THIS WORLD. The Sardis ministers did not. They appeared as just so much "ignoramus foolishness" to the world.

The Church NEEDED the leadership of one who had the know-how to reach the world.

When I was completely converted, spring of 1927, I did not try to change my personality. I, with my wife, ABHORRED any put-on mannerisms that could have made me APPEAR "religious."

I remember once when one or both of my sons brought to our house a neighbor boy. He later said to them, "Why, your dad does not seem like a preacher." I seemed just like any businessman.

I *did* change my attitude and basic interests and concerns with values — I did eradicate all slang words such as *darn*, but I did not PUT ON any new sanctimonious appearance. I was just NATURAL — myself — although Jesus Christ was CHANGING that self.

Just as, in order to get God's Work moving, in GOING TO THE WORLD, the Work then needed one who could effectively reach the world, so in the early 1960s, I came to realize God's Work needed the services of one who had expertise in finance, banking, borrowing and legal matters.

We had started using Mr. Rader in a limited extent, on a professional-fee basis, in certain legal matters and contacts with radio stations. He was distinctly the most brilliant of the men we had used in these areas. In due time, later, we discussed with Mr. Rader the matter of giving up his CPA

and legal clients and devoting full time to us. The Work needed him.

In 1972, when Garner Ted Armstrong was banished from the Church and college and living in Colorado, all top-ranking ministers had turned against Ted — but Stanley Rader stood loyally with me as TED'S ONLY FRIEND, in working to bring Ted back into the Work.

But once back, Ted started a campaign of persecution and character assassination against Mr. Rader such as I have never witnessed and have never found chronicled in biblical history.

WHY, I ask again, *WHY* do some ministers and even some brethren lay members, think EVIL of Stanley Rader?

Could it be because he *is* "worldly" wise and therefore able to give the Work a help none of us can give? Is it because he has not tried to PUT ON a religious or sanctimonious personality and appearance and appears more worldly than we? Even though I know for a fact some well-recognized members or ministers are, in fact — especially Garner Ted — more worldly in ATTITUDE and WAYS than Mr. Rader.

I do not want Mr. Rader to PUT ON a sanctimonious or religious-type bearing.

To sum up briefly, when I look at the RECORD — at the FRUITS — I find them mostly GOOD, the GOOD far outweighing the bad. This Work could not have come to the state of success in God's eyes that it has otherwise.

Mr. Rader is not perfect — nor am I — nor are YOU! But maybe now, all of you who have GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT will have a little more KINDLINESS in your attitude toward the one my son would paint as Satan incarnate. "Judge NOT that ye be not judged!" □

Which Shall We Obey?

(Continued from page 2)
nor administration of Roman government to the sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees. So the Pharisees actually *were* the government of MAN.

When they sought to take Jesus and put Him to death, *He escaped among the crowd* — because His time to be crucified had not yet

come. Jesus did not meekly turn the other cheek and say: "Here I am. Take me and destroy me." You read in Matthew 12:14, "Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, HOW THEY MIGHT DESTROY HIM!"

This is precisely what happened on Jan. 2 this year, 1979, in secret in the chambers of Judge Jerry Pacht in Los Angeles, Calif. It was a *secret council* on HOW HUMAN GOVERN-

MENT COULD DESTROY the very Church of the living God!

Jesus withdrew Himself

What did Jesus do? Did He "turn the other cheek"? Did He say, "I must under all circumstances OBEY the human government of MAN"? No! The next verse says, "But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence."

Another time these representatives

of the government of MAN sought to take Jesus, in a crowd, to DESTROY Him, but Jesus slipped out among the crowd and escaped from them. WHY? Did not Jesus finally submit to crucifixion? Surely! But He had planned this final crucifixion with God the Father, even before the world was. He escaped from them because His time was not yet come (John 7:6).

He only submitted to the government of MAN *when* the time had come that was planned between God and the future Christ even before the world was. Until then, HE RESISTED THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF MAN even as HIS CHURCH has done in our day!

How did Jesus speak to the representatives of the GOVERNMENT OF MAN?

He said to them, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" And again: "Woe unto you, ye blind guides... Ye fools and BLIND... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees... Ye blind guides... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like whited sepulchres... Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:14-33).

Some would teach you that Jesus was wrong — that He should have "turned the other cheek" and submitted.

Some asked Jesus regarding obeying MAN'S law or GOD'S law. Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto GOD the things that are GOD'S."

God's property

The headquarters buildings and property of the Worldwide Church of God are GOD'S — not Caesar's! The government of the state of California was trying to TAKE OVER and STEAL the campus and buildings that ARE GOD'S! They are deeded in GOD'S NAME! God's NAME is inlaid in prominent letters in the Auditorium, which is the HOUSE OF GOD!

Mark you this, and mark it WELL! At no time did God's Church or its Pasadena brethren VIOLATE ANY LAW! Had the government of California, under the action of the attorney general, come to arrest Mr. Stan-

ley Rader or me, on a charge of "pilfering" and "siphoning off millions of dollars to our own use," we would have submitted voluntarily, and then, in court, PROVED that the charge was FALSE! But they did not come with any warrant! We had violated no law! We DID NOT in any manner ATTACK the men representing the state of California.

WHAT, ACTUALLY, DID HAPPEN?

Officers from the attorney general's office and deputies came without any definite CHARGES, swooping down without even the legally required advance NOTICE, INVADING GOD'S PROPERTY AND FACILITIES!

They came on trumped-up baseless charges, on a fishing expedition, to seize books and records, HOPING that they might find some evidence, records or CAUSE to bring definite charges against us! At least that is what they were SUPPOSED to be unexpectedly invading GOD'S premises for!

NO evidence of wrongdoing

But they found no evidence against either Mr. Rader or myself, because there is no such evidence — no such things were ever done by us!

When we remember Jesus' statement, Render unto Caesar the things that ARE Caesar's and unto GOD the things that ARE God's — we were 100 percent in OBEDIENCE! We had to protect properties BELONGING TO GOD in order to RENDER UNTO GOD THE GREAT COMMISSION TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US. We raised no gun, sword or weapon of any kind against the State.

WE BROKE NO LAW! — but THE STATE DID BREAK THE LAW, and the very Constitution, the basic law of our country, violating its FIRST AMENDMENT! We are NOT "law-breakers" — but the state of California through its attorney general's office IS!

The government of man

God said to Adam and Eve, in effect: "You have made the decision for all your posterity for the 6,000 years of the time I have allotted to MAN! You have REJECTED my GOVERNMENT; you have rejected me as the Source of basic knowledge. You have rejected me as your GOD and chosen SATAN, WHO NOW SHALL BE THE 'GOD OF THIS WORLD' (II Cor. 4:4).

"Therefore GO, and form your own governments, your own religions, create your own fund of KNOWLEDGE and devise your own way of disseminating that FALSE knowledge to your oncoming generations!"

So we have the GOVERNMENT OF MAN, swayed and formed under SATAN THE DEVIL! But remember this: In MAN'S GOVERNMENTS, formed under SATAN'S sway, even Satan knows that in HIS world, if it is to stand at all, there must be laws against breaking SOME of God's Ten Commandments, such as stealing and murder. Satan APPEARS as an "angel of light." He must APPEAR to be righteous before his deceived world!

So, MAN'S LAWS do protect the majority against evils against itself. Therefore God's teaching to us is this:

We, as GOD'S OWN PEOPLE, have *come out* of this world. We are not part of it. We do not vote or participate in its government in any way. We must live IN it, but we must NOT be OF it. Yet we are to stand loyally back of Christ's chosen apostles in carrying Jesus' Gospel MESSAGE of the KINGDOM of GOD to the world — not to convert the world, but to be a WITNESS FOR ALL NATIONS (Matt. 24:14).

Be subject to Christ

Meanwhile, though not OF this world, yet living IN it, we are to be SUBJECT, in our individual lives, to its government. Yet we are to be, first of all, SUBJECT TO CHRIST (Eph. 5:24). Where it is a matter of disobeying GOD if we obey man's government, we OBEY GOD, and if need be, suffer whatever PENALTY man's government imposes.

Should Christians ALWAYS obey MAN rather than God? Millions were put to death, honored in the Bible as the MARTYRS OF JESUS long ago. And, according to Revelation 6:9-11, there will soon be ANOTHER mass martyrdom of God's people.

But Revelation 12:14 and 3:10 show that *this* Church shall ESCAPE the soon-coming martyrdom of saints and be taken to a place of SAFETY during the coming GREAT TRIBULATION.

Let's be sure we obey Christ FIRST! □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

will be Satan's churches. The Sardis era in the main had become spiritually dead — had rejected too much of GOD'S TRUTH — was accomplishing virtually NOTHING in spreading the true Gospel to the world (indeed had no clear conception of what that Gospel is).

The Laodicean church will be characterized by spiritual lukewarmness — half of its membership (Matt. 25:1-13) will be shut out of the Kingdom of God.

But, the BAD NEWS, as it appears today, my dear brethren, is that we, undoubtedly of the Philadelphia era — my son's ridicule notwithstanding — are in serious danger of BECOMING also the Laodicean era. I am personally much concerned about that. If

YOU are NOT concerned, then indeed we are in mortal DANGER.

Attempts to destroy Church

Satan is pulling out ALL STOPS now to DESTROY THIS CHURCH OF GOD! No matter how angrily and vehemently they deny it, SATAN is USING these former leaders, and they are yielding completely to Satan's will! I no longer hesitate to call a spade a spade!

But what Jesus Christ raised up is the CHURCH OF GOD. Today it encompasses the earth, so we call it the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! Garner Ted bragged to me that HE built this Church. It was BUILT when he was 3 years old!

Much much later, my son was allowed to have microphones before him that went out on hundreds of stations.

But what CHRIST BUILT through

his father placed those microphones before him. He STARTED nothing! He pioneered NOTHING!

But a letter from one woman member illustrates what happened. She first heard of us through one of my son's TV programs and wrote for literature. She read booklets that I wrote, on what is salvation?, what is the Kingdom of God?, what do you mean, "BORN AGAIN?" etc. And THESE BOOKLETS led to her conversion. There have been many like that.

Let me close with one thought. It is now a little late in life for me to turn to Satan's way, as so many others in high places have done.

God never yet has let one through whom He STARTED a great project turn wrong — and He has never yet let such an appointed leader of His die *until his job was FINISHED!* □

In Prison

(Continued from page 9)

that this is the very reason for our existence:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10, Revised Standard Version).

The Church is doing many great works in nations around the earth. The Work — as it is called — has grown from a small West Coast operation in the United States to a worldwide concern expending millions of dollars a year to do God's Work. Today, as prophesied, we're doing an even greater work than Christ Himself did.

Each month the Work mails millions of magazines and other pieces of literature, and multimillions of watts of radio and television power are used in fulfilling our commission.

But what about you as an individual Christian and your own responsibility in doing good works? Is just being a part of an organization enough? God says it isn't!

It is all too easy for individuals involved in a mass effort to hide behind the skirt of corporate religion, neglecting their own spiritual duties.

But God says at the judgment, He will render to every man according to his deeds, not according to the deeds of the Church he belongs to (Rom. 2:6).

We cannot depend on the Church's record for our own salvation. Too many of us, resting on the laurels of the organization, feel justified by the dollars we send in and the prayers we send up. Instead of being active Christians, we are acting Christians, and the latter will be spewed out of God's mouth at the judgment.

Jesus hates hypocrisy. To him religion is not an exercise in intellectual vanity or self-righteous satisfaction. It is actively living and doing the commandments of God. He continually attacked the scribes and Pharisees for pretending to be something they were not.

These religious leaders of Jesus' time were the antithesis of true religion. They were continually wrapped up in numerous talmudic dos and don'ts while neglecting the more serious considerations of outgoing love and concern for their brothers.

Faith through works

Brethren, it is up to Christ to satisfy the needs of a world that is dying from spiritual malnutrition. As Jesus said in John 6, "I am the bread of

life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

But as disciples of Christ and heirs of His Kingdom it is up to each of us, individually, to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the royal law of Christ. We are hypocrites if we say we have faith in the commandments and do not show that faith through works.

"What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be you warmed and filled; notwithstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit?"

"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:15-17, paraphrased).

Thousands, like George Jackson, are alone in this world. Millions more are hungry and naked. And they all are made in the image of God.

If you've been lax in showing real concern for others, especially your own brethren, start immediately to practice the love and concern that God's Church has preached for years. In so doing you will be establishing your place in the Kingdom of God. □