

# Are You Just WAITING IT OUT?

*This subject is so vital for us today that we are reprinting it from  
the September 1954 issue.*

*by Herbert W. Armstrong*

**R**ECENTLY I received a letter from a girl, 21 years of age, who has problems I believe to be common to many of you.

This girl found herself totally isolated—without friends or companions—because of the TRUTH of God. She was afraid of what people would think and say if they learned about her religion. They would think her “fanatical”—would ridicule her.

She had been taught as a child by her mother about the second coming of Christ, and the end of this world. She had been led to expect it immediately, but now, since listening to *The WORLD TOMORROW*, and reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, she realizes it may yet be a few years before Christ comes. Now, she faces the problem of “waiting it out,” until Jesus appears.

It just occurred to me that many of you face the same problems, and that the letter I sent her might help many of you, too. So here it is:

## An Open Letter

“Perhaps I can help you. Two or three points stick out in your letter. At first your letter sounded like that of an introvert, but as I proceeded I sensed that you are permitting FEAR to grip you and isolate you. I see indications of fear of people and their opinions, and fear of God—I mean a fear different from the normal true fear of The Eternal we ought to feel.

“You say, ‘I am completely alone in my faith’—which is normal enough and true of hundreds of God’s people—then, ‘I have confided in no one, for . . . they would merely think I had become indoctrinated with some fanatical theory.’ You indicate that the so-called better educated, intelligent people scorn the truth in ridicule, which I gather you fear. True, most so-called better educated people have been indoctrinated with the godless fable of the evolutionary concept, and inoculated with the assumption that all religion is superstition—but this is only ignorance and folklore in itself, and I have many highly educated people in my radio audience, tho the percentage may be small. Personally, I do not fear the opinions of these pseudo-educated, for I know they are

merely laymen, and ignorant of TRUTH.

“You continue, ‘I would be laughed at and ridiculed, but I do not believe any amount of brainwashing could make me lose my grip on what I now believe.’ Don’t be AFRAID of the truth you believe. Don’t be afraid of ridicule or of people. You say, ‘How can I alone observe’ what God commands. My dear girl, Mrs. Armstrong and I had to do this for years—hundreds are doing it now—and you can, IF you eradicate that FEAR, and replace it with FAITH, and HOPE and JOY in the truth! You ask, ‘Will I be condemned if I do not observe them to the letter, tho I do not reject them?’ First, don’t be in terror of God. He won’t condemn you—but you could condemn yourself. Remember God LOVES you. His way is RIGHT *for you*. And remember, too, ‘Not the hearers, but the DOERS of the law shall be justified.’ God commands His ways because they are BEST *for us*. To accept them mentally, but reject them in doing, is to reject THE WAY to happiness and eternal life. Try to find JOY in God’s better ways. Quit FEARING people and their opinions and ridicule, which will not come to the extent you imagine anyway.”

## Only One GOAL

“There’s only one GOAL in life that can be satisfying and result in ultimate success—to ATTAIN TO THE RESURRECTION IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. We are mere temporary mortals, now. You need to have patience and tolerance toward people—real love toward them, even the supposedly highly educated—not FEAR of them. Now, to attain the supreme GOAL, you have to GO TO WORK AT IT. You have to become a busy, enthusiastic DOER, not merely a hearer of God’s truth. You need to put your heart, your enthusiasm, your whole life into it. You indicate you have been just *waiting* for Christ’s coming—waiting it out. Meanwhile life is burdensome, full of weighty problems, upset by fears. ‘This isolation,’ you say, ‘is not pleasant.’

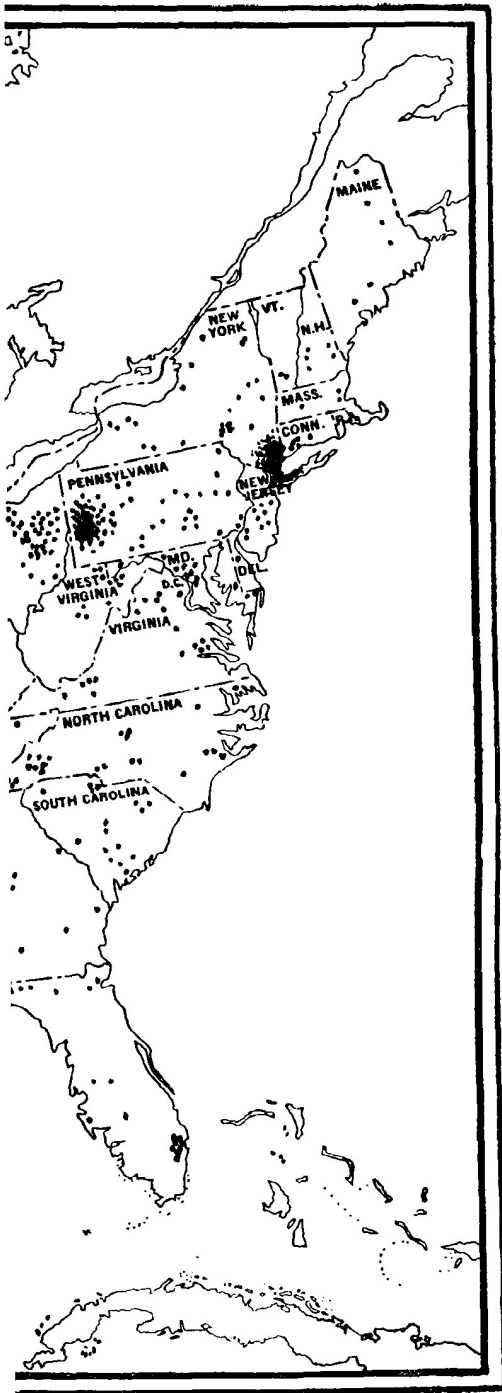
“I remember, when I was eight years old, being taken to church and just having to sit there for hours, with no program, no activity, nothing to do—just SIT, waiting the old century out, and the new century in—just waiting it out!

That was almost 55 years ago, and the unpleasant ordeal of it lingers still as a most unpleasant aftertaste. Just to wait out something is stark boredom. YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO, young lady—why not find it, and get so busy with it—so wrapped up in it—you have no time for all this dread, fear, and unhappy state you’ve permitted your mind to drift into?

“That job is dual—building a godlike CHARACTER, overcoming SELF, growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ, on the one hand, and contributing YOUR PART in the closing WORK OF GOD, the greatest, most wonderful, most important activity on earth, on the other. Perhaps your only part, for now, in God’s work is your constant prayers and your tithes and offerings. But even that is a most important part—far more, I realize, than our co-workers know! We are having our part in CHANGING the world. Tho I know the world pays little real heed to the Message from God right now, yet when God supernaturally moves to shake this earth, as people have heard me proclaim in advance, *then* they will turn, by the hundreds of thousands, to God and His ways! We are doing the job now of plowing up the ground, sowing the seed. God will cause the seed to sprout forth, and produce an abundant harvest, *after* our labors are over! It’s the greatest job on earth. We ought to be THRILLED with it, filled with JOY in being part of it—so INTENT on our happy job that the ridicule and scorn of the ignorant in this world, coming from those whom we really love and serve, and yet must endure and tolerate, never ruffles us at all. We love them enough to suffer their misconstructions, for their sakes.”

## Keep Mind Off SELF

“Next, your mind is too much on YOURSELF. Get your mind on your job in this world—our calling to carry on God’s mission PREPARING THE WAY for God’s great supernatural intervention and SAVING this world—and the realization that, while our labors, NOW, do not bring forth visible evidence of the changed and happy world to come, nevertheless this is OUR PART IN IT, *for* (Please continue on page 7)



necessary for a minister. Only God can give these gifts, make such a call, and set aside a person for the ministry. This is God's Church and Jesus Christ is the head. It is through the power of His Holy Spirit that He guides His ministers in appointing men to these various offices. Notice Acts 13:2. Here we find where the Holy Spirit instructed the ministry to separate and ordain Barnabas and Saul for the work to which they were called. And so it is today.

God does not call all of those who come to Ambassador College to be ministers. Only a percentage of them are

made ministers. There are many other positions of great need and importance in God's work beside the ministry. There are many office and teaching positions that must be filled. It is God who decides, and who separates, those who come to Ambassador College to the work of the ministry and for other posts of duty.

As we look at how great this work has grown, from one of extreme smallness, to one of world-wide importance, it is evident that "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few" (Mat. 9:37). It is this way according to God's will, and not contrary to His will! But we all can have a part in helping to alleviate, or correct this situation. The next verse tells us what we should do about it. It tells each one of us what to do. It does not leave the burden of this on Mr. Armstrong, the ministry, Ambassador College, or any other individual, but on each and every one in God's Church. Notice verse 38. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Are you praying diligently and effectually as you should that God will send out more laborers into His harvest? Maybe instead of God's ministry being at fault, you are at fault in not praying as you should that God will send forth laborers, and that churches will be raised up.

#### Our Fellowship with Christ

Some of you state that you do not have fellowship with others in the Church. What greater, more profitable, and more wonderful fellowship can you have than with Jesus Christ, the very *head* of this Church! When you read His Word, He talks to you. By prayer, you talk with Him. That fellowship can be wonderful beyond all words.

That is the fellowship you can have *every day*, and not just on the Sabbath.

In addition, you are able to attend the greatest fellowship, the largest Church meeting on earth each day in your own home. You can listen to The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, with *millions* of other people. You also have The Good News, the Correspondence Course, The PLAIN TRUTH, the Co-Worker bulletins. All of these things keep you in contact with God's Church. Many of you who have met other scattered brethren at the Feast correspond with them. In that way you also can have frequent fellowship with God's people.

Some of you who are not able to attend local churches have said that you are not able to keep up with all the literature that we send out from here. If you are not able to read, study, and digest this information, how would you have time to attend a local congregation?

Now just what should you do about this problem? If you are not able to at-

tend local services, you are not alone. Possibly three-fourths of God's people are not able to attend local church services regularly. And God has made it this way according to His will. By trying to change your situation, you may be taking yourself out of the very environment that God wants you to spiritually grow in—the environment that He wanted you to overcome.

You can be a light and an example wherever you are. Even though you are alone, remember that if you, as a "grain of salt" have lost your savor, how will those around you be salted?

You need to develop patience. We all do. This is one way in which you can be patient, in overcoming the problems that come to you. Don't feel sorry for yourself, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ wherever you are.

You need to pray fervently and effectually, with all diligence, that God will send forth more laborers into His harvest. Pray that God will raise up more churches in the places that *He chooses*.

Pray that God will guide His ministers in determining where to establish churches, when God provides the laborers.

Yes, you too can have a vital part in the establishing of new churches throughout the world. That part is to *pray diligently* that God will send forth more laborers into His ripened harvest.

## Waiting It Out?

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*now*, and later we shall rejoice to overflowing, when we behold THE WORLD TOMORROW, beaming and shining in happiness and joy and righteousness, and then look back and realize we actually had a part in PREPARING THE WAY for this HAPPY World Tomorrow, bursting into glad and glorious song and exultation!

"Finally, of course we cannot actually fellowship this world, socially, but must withdraw from it in that respect. Nevertheless, tho not OF this world we live in it, and must serve it in God's work, and can be all wrapped up in the joy of so doing, tho isolated in companionship and fellowship. Our fellowship is with CHRIST. Now this means you cannot date, nor marry, any outside God's truth, but only one who is converted, as a begotten son of God.

That should solve your fears of being married to an unbeliever. If you already were so married, before your conversion, then you should live with the unbelieving husband if possible—but a child of God is commanded NOT to be

unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14).

"Happiness is a state of mind—not a matter of other people, or their fellowship, their ridicule, or their praise. Happiness comes from the knowledge, the Spirit, and obedience of God—and from being SO BUSY in it—SO ENGROSSED in this glorious interest and activity, and in Bible study and prayer, that we have no time to become despondent, bored, unhappy."

#### How to Solve Your Problem

"I believe it would be best for you, for the coming year at least, to go ahead

and enroll in the Teachers' college near you. Also to enroll for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, and make Bible study an active, busy, happy occupation. We have been forced to curtail enrollment in Ambassador College for this year, and our quota is filled. If you were to come to Pasadena, you would be thrown with a growing family of young people who know and believe the truth. Frankly, strange tho it may seem, I do not believe that is best for you right now. You have a problem—to overcome this fear of the world, and the marking-time waiting-for-the-Lord attitude which has made you un-

happy. At Ambassador you would have no opportunity to overcome it or fight it off—the problem would be removed entirely. I think it's better for you, will strengthen you and develop you more, to fight out this battle and win the victory over it. A year at Teachers' college will be of great benefit, if you should later come to Ambassador, for we shall need teachers in the future. . . .

"Just forget SELF, give your life wholly to GOD for Him to USE, lose yourself in the activity of the DOING, trust God, ask Him for wisdom and guidance, rely on Him, and all your problems will be solved."

# God Demands Teamwork!

*With the rapidly increasing growth of God's work, we again need to read this vital article which appeared six years ago in the Good News*

By Herman L. Hoeb

IN HIS little-known prophetic message for the Church today, Jesus promised that He would set before us an open DOOR for the spreading of the gospel.

Notice Jesus' own words for our church today: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open DOOR, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a *little strength*, and hast kept my word" (Rev. 3:8).

This DOOR—the opportunity of spreading the gospel (II Cor. 2:12)—includes today the means of RADIO and the PRINTING PRESS! The true Church of God today has little strength in this degenerate age. It has no great financial resources, yet through Jesus' miraculous guidance this great work is constantly expanding around the world—now to Australia, and with radio time this month available to go to all Europe in the German language. It is not the work of one man, nor even of two dozen men. It is the work of every member of God's Church—everyone of you!

#### The Church Is a TEAM!

One fundamental lesson we all need to learn in this world is the need for *teamwork*. Even in athletics, the best players can't achieve victory unless the entire team works together in perfect cooperation and coordination.

The apostle Paul taught the need of teamwork by saying that the church is *one body* although composed of many members. Every truly converted Christian has his specific function in the Church just as each organ of a human body has its function. "But now hath

God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. . . . And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (I Cor. 12:18-21).

The Church is like a team or a body. Every member in the Church of God is essential. Perhaps it appears that those who help only through prayers, tithes, offerings, and letters of encouragement are of little need compared to preaching. Yet the work of God cannot function without every necessary part anymore than a human body can. "The WORLD TOMORROW" program would not be encircling the globe today if it were not for the constant prayers and faithful tithes and offerings of God's people. Paul said: "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary (I Cor. 12:22).

#### Satan Causes Division

The devil knows that one of the easiest methods of wrecking teamwork in the Church of God is to cause contention and division. It is a natural human tendency to precipitate strife and controversy. That is the special reason why each of us must strive against our carnal human nature and be on guard constantly to preserve harmony and teamwork in the spirit of love.

Notice, for a moment, how easy it was for the devil to cause contentions and divisions in the apostolic church. At Corinth it was reported to Paul that there were cliques and dissensions de-

veloping. "Now this I say, that everyone of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas (Peter); and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" (I Cor. 1:12-13)

Those Corinthians were still carnally minded. They wanted to be followers of important men. Some preferred the eloquent style of Apollos' preaching (Acts 18:24), others liked Peter's. Without realizing it they were getting into confusion and contentions over Paul, Apollos and Cephas who were faithful ministers of Christ. Just as then, so today many do not realize the harm that can be caused by factions within the Church. Wherever the spirit of strife, envy and dissension enters the church, it will embitter the brethren unless stamped out by God's ministers.

Among those Corinthians the Adversary cleverly induced many to criticize and find fault with the labors of Paul. They began to say among themselves: "I don't believe Paul is doing this right. I am going to support Apollos from now on." After leading the Corinthian converts into fault finding, the devil's next step was secretly to introduce *false* brethren who set themselves up as ministers and who transformed "themselves into the apostles of Christ," and who professed to be "the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Because they sought to follow men instead of Jesus Christ, it was only natural that the Corinthians would be led astray by smooth-talking false preachers.

Knowing that human nature has not  
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