

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1963



West Germany's New Chancellor Ludwig Erhard

Wide World Photo

What our READERS SAY

On The Race Question

"I really enjoyed reading about 'The Real Cause of the Race Crisis.' I never did like what the people are doing to bring on integration. Somehow I never did believe that God meant for all races to be integrated but after reading your article, I know I was right. I think my people are wrong in what they are doing. If they would pray and put their trust in God He would help them. We need more God-sent men like you to preach the truth. I am a Negro."

Man from Alabama

"About the race problem, I must inform you how very wrong you are. You stated that integration will result in intermarriages. If it does, so what? You white men have been getting babies by black women for over 400 years! So what is good for the goose is good for the gander."

Man from Chicago, Illinois

• You're wrong. White men have been "getting babies" by black women since well before the flood—and vice-versa. But sin plus sin does not equal righteousness. Neither does poison plus poison equal no poison. Two wrongs do not make a right—and in such a gigantic and frightfully serious and far-reaching issue as the race problem of today, a purely emotional and distorted human opinion is hardly the solution!

"I read the article where you say you are not taking sides in the race issue. How generous of you. At least you have come out in the open. I know you have been on the Negroes' side ever since I first heard your broadcast several years ago. In fact, I consider you a Negro idolator of the worst kind."

Man from San Leandro, California

• We are NOT—as plainly stated in huge capital letters last issue, taking sides! We are on GOD's side in this and all other issues. And just what, exactly is a "Negro Idolator?"

It's Free!

"I heard you over the radio and was shocked at the things you said concerning our present-day world situation. Did I hear right? Do you send literature free? I must be hearing things. If you really meant what you said then please start sending me the magazine PLAIN TRUTH."

Mrs. L. S., South Carolina

• You're now holding it in your hands.

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"Evening before last, while driving home, I turned to a Nashville, Tennessee radio station and heard the last portion of your program. Actually, Garner Ted was doing the show, but since I first heard *The WORLD TOMORROW*, several years ago, I associate the show with your name. My mother and father listen to your program regularly. Several years ago while I was home on leave from the Army, they invited me to sit down and listen with them. I did and enjoyed it very much. Since that first program I have listened to you in the jungles of Laos, in Europe and in many parts of the Eastern United States. You might be interested to know that a radio station in Thailand broadcasts your programs, and it was that station I heard while I was in Laos last year."

Mr. Larry N. P., Fayetteville, N.C.

• The WORLD TOMORROW is truly world-wide! But we didn't know we were being heard in Laos.

"It sure was good to hear your voice again last Sunday night. I always listen. I know you are teaching the truth for I know it is in the Bible. I check up on you."

Mrs. Rena Q., Statesboro, Georgia

• Good! We want everyone to check up—with an open mind, and an open Bible!

(Please continue on page 46)

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXVIII

NO. 12

Circulation: 450,000

Published monthly at Pasadena, California; London, England; and Melbourne, Australia, by Ambassador College. German edition published monthly at Pasadena, California. © 1963, by Ambassador College.

EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

Herman L. Hoeh

SENIOR EDITOR

Roderick C. Meredith

Associate Editors

Albert J. Portune

David Jon Hill

Contributing Editors

C. Paul Meredith

Basil Wolverton

Lynn E. Torrance

Charles V. Dorothy

Jack R. Elliott

Robert C. Boraker

Ernest L. Martin

Gerhard O. Marx

L. Leroy Neff

Clint C. Zimmerman

News Bureau Director

Gene H. Hogberg

Research Staff

Donald D. Schroeder

Ronald D. McNeil

Editorial and Production Assistants

James W. Robinson

Paul Kroll

Donald G. McDonald

Regional Editors Abroad

United Kingdom: Raymond F. McNair

Australia: C. Wayne Cole

South America: Benjamin L. Rea

Business Manager

Albert J. Portune

Circulation Managers

United States: Hugh Mauck

United Kingdom: Charles F. Hunting

Australia: Gene R. Hughes

South America: Leon Walker

Canada: Dean Wilson

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION has been paid by others. Bulk copies for distribution not given or sold. ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian readers should address Post Office Box 44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B.C., Canada.

Our readers in United Kingdom, Europe, and Africa should address the Editor, Ambassador College, Bricker Wood, St. Albans, Herts, England. Readers in Australia, China and southeastern Asia should address the Editor, Box 345, North Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Readers in the Philippines should address the Editor, Post Office Box 2603, Manila, Philippines.

Readers of the German edition should address Post Office Box 1030, Pasadena, California 91109, or Die Reine Wahrheit, (4) Düsseldorf 1, Postfach 1324, Deutsche Bundesrepublik.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE paid at Pasadena, California.

BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY of any change in your address. Please inclose both old and new address. IMPORTANT!

Personal from the Editor

HERE'S a sample of "clever" but faulty human reasoning! Where God or the Truth are concerned, it seems natural to reason suspiciously, and with a skeptical or hostile approach.

Would you be deceived by this type of reasoning?

Recently a man, who knew little or nothing about the Truth which the living God is proclaiming to the world through us, asked: "How can you know that *you* are any nearer right than anybody else? You say the whole world is deceived. You say the churches are wrong on many points of doctrine, but that you have the TRUTH. You say they are human, and have been deceived. It's human to err. But are *you* not also human? Are you not also fallible? How can you be sure you are any nearer right than any of the others?"

I want to give our readers the clear, plain, understandable answer to that question! I want to EXPLAIN, so plainly you can really comprehend it, HOW and WHY we know we have the TRUTH! I want to make clear how YOU may know what is the TRUTH, while this whole world is deceived and in utter darkness. I want to tell you HOW *you may be SURE!*

First, are we not also human? Yes, indeed! We can make mistakes, too! We, too, could be in error on this, or that, or the other point. But *we do not need to be!*

A man may say: "Who does this Herbert W. Armstrong think he is? Is he any smarter than all these great theologians—these noted preachers and heads of great religious denominations?" The answer is NO—it is not a matter of intellectual capacity.

We are *all* human. We are *all* fallible. I have been wrong. I have made mistakes. The same is true of Garner Ted Armstrong—of Roderick C. Meredith, of Herman L. Hoeh—of all those God is using in HIS WORK.

That is the very first thing that *we do* recognize. That is the *starting point* in

the search for Truth. That is one reason why we *do* have the Truth, in the midst of a very deceived world. I wish every religious leader would adopt this approach.

God says: "PROVE all things." That means *you* are fallible. That means all the "great" men are fallible! ALL are human. ALL can be *wrong*—and nearly all are. The *whole world* is DECEIVED (Rev. 12:9). That means its religious leaders and churches are deceived!

The very recognition of that fact is the *beginning* of right knowledge. We *do* recognize it—and that we ourselves could be wrong. That is the *first step* toward coming out of the fog of error and deception, starting toward Truth.

It is not a matter of who has the greater intellect. A man may have the highest I.Q. in the world, and in his intellectual VANITY refuse to admit he could be wrong—reject all correction—and thus embrace error and deception.

The second step, if you would know TRUTH, is to be *willing* to admit being deceived, or in error, and to reject it and accept Truth. Ask yourself: "Am I really *willing* to confess error—to admit I'm wrong—*when proved*—and reject it? Am I *willing* to accept truth new to me—*when proved*—even though unpopular—even though it cuts me off from my family, friends, associates, club or church members—even though everything in my selfish and vain nature rebels against it? Am I willing to *act on it*—OBEY the Truth—no matter what the cost?"

Ah, yes! Perhaps *now* you are beginning to see why "all these great theologians—these noted preachers—these heads of great religious denominations" could be in error. Did you ever know a person of great intellectual powers who did not have the kind of VANITY that shrinks from confessing he has been WRONG—and has misled others? To find and live the TRUTH requires a HUMBLED mind.

These are the first TWO points in

In This Issue:

What Our Readers Say.....	Inside Front Cover
Personal from the Editor	1
The New Germany—Friend . . . or Frankenstein Monster?	3
Ten Reasons Why Christ Must Return	7
Is Christmas Christian?.....	11
Short Questions from our Readers..	14
Geology Reveals Proof of the Flood	15
Radio Log	20
Church Unity	25
The Bible Story.....	33



OUR COVER

West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard was strongly opposed by Adenauer. Here's why. Erhard, trained in economics and political science, has been strongly influenced by Prof. Franz Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer, a Jew, taught at the Frankfurt Economics Institute until he was forced to flee upon Hitler's rise to power. Oppenheimer gave Erhard his doctorate in 1926. Near the close of World War II Erhard drew up plans for Germany's economic future. He sent a copy to the mayor of Leipzig, a leading anti-Nazi. Erhard escaped detection in the abortive July 1944 plot. After the war the Americans recognized him as one of few "clean" Germans in high office. Erhard's "Wirtschaftswunder" made him the German choice for Chancellor. But many German nationalists oppose him, hope to replace him by 1969 after a re-election.

which one who has come to the TRUTH differs from those still steeped in deception and error.

Can we be SURE that we have the TRUTH, when we, too, as the critic argued, are fallible, with minds that are not perfect? Yes, *you can be SURE!*

The greatest, ablest intellect in the world is still HUMAN—still fallible—still imperfect. Those who are deceived and steeped in error have simply not stopped to realize their own imperfections—their proneness to error. They assume, in their egotism, that whatever they believe is TRUE. And they are UNWILLING to humble themselves and confess their wrongs.

I can tell you how I started, thirty-seven years ago, out of the darkness and into the light. And it is the basically sound and SURE way for you, or any other, to start.

First, I had to know whether there is a real BASIS for Truth. Is there an INFALLIBLE AUTHORITY? In other words, does GOD exist? Is the all-wise—all-knowing—all-perfect GOD a *reality*? And if so, has He communicated basic TRUTH to mankind?

A world-famous Protestant leader writes (or has written for him and in his name) a syndicated newspaper column. It gives HIS answers to Bible questions. I wonder if you have noticed a question and answer column in *The PLAIN TRUTH*? Have you noticed that we completely *reverse* the caption? We do not give you OUR answers to Bible questions—we give you the BIBLE answers to *your* questions!

A question recently published in this syndicated newspaper column asked whether the Bible gives any PROOF of the existence of God. The *man's* answer may be summed up in one word: *NO*. He answered that we must *assume* God's existence—and then have FAITH. That is, have faith in this human assumption!

But the Bible commands: "PROVE ALL THINGS." That includes the existence of God! In the Bible, God says: "PROVE me now, herewith." The Bible says the scoffers "are without excuse," because the PROOF of God's reality is clearly seen, even in nature. God Himself, in the Bible, offers the PROOF of fulfilled prophecies. He offers, though few experience this proof, the PROOF

of answered prayer. (Write for our free booklets: *Does GOD Exist, and PROOF of the Bible.*)

I found irrefutable PROOF of God's existence in the *facts* of science, the FACTS of matter, in reason, and in the Bible. And second, I sought PROOF of whether or not the Bible is the authoritative REVELATION from God to mankind—and I found it positively PROVED by many irrefutable proofs.

So I had a firm BASIS for faith. I had an infallible AUTHORITY!

Still, this was not alone sufficient. I had the SOURCE of Truth. But, up to that time, I had never been able to UNDERSTAND the Bible. Neither do most scientists, educators, or theologians understand it. A great mind and a superior intellect, alone, is incapable of UNDERSTANDING this spiritual revelation from Almighty God!

This is explained in the second chapter of I Corinthians. These Truths of God are a MYSTERY—a hidden SECRET—which none of the leaders, rulers, or great men of the world know (I Cor. 2:7-8). But God has *revealed* these spiritual Truths to converted Spirit-begotten Christians *by His Spirit* (verse 10). For (verse 11), what man can know the things of a man—that is, physical and material knowledge—but the *spirit* of man, which is *in* him?

Can you understand that? Pure physical BRAIN, composed of matter, cannot comprehend the things of this material universe known by scholars, scientists, educators. The dumb animals have physical BRAIN. But they do not comprehend HUMAN knowledge—the physical knowledge known to human MINDS. But, as Job wrote (32:8), there is a spirit *IN* man. This spirit is not the MAN—man is DUST or matter (Gen. 3:19)—NOT spirit. But this human spirit, united with physical BRAIN, forms human MIND. Yet this human MIND is carnal. It can know the things of a MAN—that is, mortal or PHYSICAL things.

What man, then, could *know* or possess this material KNOWLEDGE, except by the *spirit* of MAN that is *IN* the man—united to and functioning with material BRAIN? The addition of this HUMAN spirit turns animal brain into human MIND.

Now go further, in the same verse (I Cor. 2:11): "even so, the things of GOD knoweth no man, BUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD." It is only by the receiving of God's HOLY SPIRIT, to unite with the human mind, that a man may comprehend SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE. Only by the receiving and indwelling of the Holy Spirit are the real TRUTHS of the BIBLE comprehended by the human mind.

The great MINDS of this world cannot comprehend Biblical and spiritual TRUTHS without God's Holy Spirit, any more than a dog, horse, ape, or elephant can comprehend physical, scientific knowledge without the spirit that is *in* MAN—and is NOT in the dumb brutes!

That is precisely WHY, up until thirty-seven years ago, I could not understand the Bible. That is why nearly all of the truly GREAT minds of world leaders cannot understand this TRUTH! It is not a matter of degree of intellect.

So, in order to really *perceive* the deceptions that have BLINDED this world, once we have *recognized* our own fallibility and proneness to error—once we have become WILLING to admit it when proved wrong, and to accept TRUTH—the next step is to receive God's gift of His Holy Spirit. And the CONDITIONS to this are: 1) REPENTANCE; and 2) FAITH in Christ as personal Saviour.

Repentance is toward GOD. Sin is against GOD. We may harm or injure people—but we SIN against GOD. Sin is the transgression of GOD'S LAW. Sin is rebellion against GOD. It has cut us off from God. To repent means to be so HUMBLED, so broken up about the *colossal* crime of rebelling against the HOLY GOD—So abhorrent of our own rebellious, deceitful, vain selfish SELVES—that in real contrition we turn to God for mercy and CHANGE of mind and attitude, now desiring to CHANGE OUR WAYS—to be obedient to GOD'S LAW.

Very few know what repentance really is. Then, through FAITH in Christ as Saviour, we may be reconciled to God, and His PROMISE is that we shall then receive HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

The SELF has to die! It means unconditional surrender to God and HIS RE-

(Please continue on page 41)

enough manly leadership, God would allow a woman to destroy General Sisera.

Barak secretly organized the necessary troops. Most of them came from the northern tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun, though many men from other tribes swelled the number. The army succeeded in getting to the flat area of Mt. Tabor, and there encamped. (Verses 8-10.)

When Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, learned about the Israelites being on Mt. Tabor, he gathered his men to go there. Included in his mighty fighting force were nine hundred chariots, and thousands of trained warriors so feared by Israel. (Verses 12-13.)

(To be continued next issue)

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

VEALED WAY! I know that with me, it was a painful process. The SELF does not want to give up in surrender. I knew it meant ridicule and persecution from relatives, friends, former business associates. It meant a CHANGED LIFE. It meant a start toward a NEW AND DIFFERENT GOAL.

But God had humbled me. He brought me to repentance and faith. And He opened my mind to HIS TRUTH by the gift of His Holy Spirit.

But I had to be willing, continuously, to confess being wrong, and to embrace truths constantly NEW to me.

That process has been going on, now, for thirty-seven years. As I studied a portion of the Bible, I could now understand it. But I had to *walk in the "light"* as God opened my mind to see. Regardless of the cost in the esteem of men, or in countering opposition and persecution, I had constantly to BE WILLING to follow GOD and not man.

It is a matter of WILLINGNESS—not of superior and lofty minds. It is a matter of being LED by GOD'S SPIRIT into *His* ways that are so CONTRARY to this world's established customs, not of personal human powers.

WHAT CHURCH do you know that has ever publicly confessed that its teaching and practise has been WRONG, and has CORRECTED IT, to conform to the Bible? What great, lauded, and mighty churchman or religious leader has ever made such a public confession, turned from his non-Biblical ways, and, despite persecution and ridicule, PROCLAIMED THE TRUTH?

These lauded, lofty "greats" of this world *could* become undeceived and have their eyes opened to God's Truth—*IF THEY WOULD BE HUMBLLED, REPENT, AND SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND HIS LAW!*

But if you would know what GOD says of these "great and eminent" religious leaders of the great denominations, read God's PROPHECIES describing these very leaders of OUR OWN 20TH CENTURY, in Jeremiah 23; Ezekiel 34; Ezekiel 22, especially verses 21-31, referring to British Commonwealth and United States peoples and their religious leaders *NOW*, at the time leading directly to "God's WRATH"—the time of the last PLAGUES, just prior to, and at, the second coming of Christ!

Yes, we *CAN KNOW*, if willing to know, whether we are right or wrong. It is not a matter of superior intellect, but of SUBMISSION TO GOD.

But the conclusion of the whole question is this: I did not start this work of my own accord at all. It is the very

last thing I would have wanted, in my days of carnality, to do. IT IS GOD'S DOING!

By circumstances, God forced me to submission. The living CHRIST so manipulated events and the force of circumstance that He literally PLUNGED me into His Work. It is not my work—it is THE VERY WORK OF GOD.

And *THIS* can be easily proved, to those willing to know the TRUTH!

HOW YOUR PLAIN TRUTH SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID

So many ask: "HOW does it happen that I find my subscription price for The PLAIN TRUTH has already *been paid*? How can you publish such a high class magazine without advertising revenue?"

The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. It does have to be *paid for*! This is Christ's work. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached (and published—Mark 13:10) in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Mat. 24:14) *at this time*, just before the end of this age. A PRICE *must be paid* for the magazine, the broadcast, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to *sell* it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, "freely GIVE!" "It is *more blessed*," He said, "to GIVE than to receive."

God's WAY is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*. God expects every child of His to *give free-will* offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to others. We, therefore, simply trust our Lord Jesus Christ to lay it on the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of others. Yet it must go *only* to those who *ask for it for themselves*! Each must, for himself, *subscribe*—and his subscription has thus already *been paid*.

Thus the living dynamic Christ Himself enables us to broadcast, world-wide, without ever asking for contributions over the air; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course with full tuition cost *already paid*; to send your PLAIN TRUTH on an *already paid* basis. God's way is GOOD!