

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1961



MANOR DEL MAR—Men's student residence on the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena, California. Read in this issue the truth about higher education.

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VOL. XXVI

NO. 3

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News from Canada

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I was thrilled when I learned The WORLD TOMORROW is broadcast over a western Canada station—CFQC. God's work is definitely expanding. I have seen it with my own eyes."

Man, Shortdale, Manitoba, Canada

(*Editor's Note:* God has now made it possible for us to open an office in Canada. We know our Canadian co-workers will especially rejoice with us in the new doors God is opening there.)

"No!" Brings Results

"When I say 'no' to my year-old daughter she really knows what it means. She is very well behaved and is a very happy girl. I am proud of her wherever I am. Other children are sassy, have no respect for anyone, disobey, and don't seem to know what the

world 'no' means. Thanks to you I don't have this problem. I didn't know when to start to discipline my baby. Well, I read an article in The PLAIN TRUTH that said to start in their early months to say a sharp 'no' and then to follow it up with a slap on the bottom. This is exactly what I have done."

Woman from Kittery, Maine

I Woke Up in Time!

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Today as I look back over the years, and think of the many hundreds of times I have heard The WORLD TOMORROW, I wonder why it took as much suffering as it did to get me to awake to the way I was headed."

Man from Arkansas

Finds Truth

"I am finding the truth after years of searching but did not find it until I began to pray for God to show me the way."

Woman, Rogers, Arkansas

PLAIN TRUTH Makes the Rounds

"Keep your magazine coming to my address. My neighbors can hardly wait for me to read it—then start it on the rounds."

Woman from Texas

It Pays to Tithe

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I for one would like to recommend to everyone tithing to God, because it pays to pay God what is His, for He truly keeps His promise and blesses. People should take God Almighty at His word. . . . When I started tithing, my wages were \$1 per hour. Then they went up to \$1.75 per hour, and now I am on a job at a rate of \$3.75 per hour."

Man from California

"Seek and Ye Shall Find"

"I have gone through life trying to be a good Christian and not knowing how. I felt like a heathen because I didn't belong to a church or congregation like most people do. But I wanted something I could understand and be-

Notice! We regret that there was not enough room in this issue to include the next installments of the "Seven Laws of Success" and "How to Rear Children" Be sure to read them next issue!

lieve yet I couldn't find it. I know now I found what I've been looking for. The PLAIN TRUTH."

Woman, Las Vegas, Nevada

(*Editor's Comment:* Everyone who has not read it should write for our eye-opening articles, "How You Can Become a Christian," and "What Is a Real Christian?" Know what it really is to be a Christian.)

Teen-agers Do Listen!

"I don't know whether you get much mail from teen-agers or not, but I like your program very much and I believe it's very nice that a program can be enjoyable to both young people and adults. I like the way you preach because you don't beat around the bush like other preachers I've heard. You make everything sound so simple."

15-year-old girl, Monongahela, Pa.

(*Editor's Comment:* We receive hundreds of letters each week from teen-agers. The real truth is *simple* and *plain* for everyone.)

Plain Truth Scoops News Magazines

"I often marvel at how well you cover the world news before the big international correspondents. It is most interesting to find articles in our major national news magazine outlining events that I have already read in The PLAIN TRUTH."

Man from Houston, Texas

Bible Course Opens Bible

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Before, I was hungering and thirsting for Bible knowledge. I read and studied the Bible but was not satisfied. Now, after fifteen of your lessons, no matter where in the Bible I read and study, the words are shouting their meaning to me. I am so happy and thankful to you for sending to me the true meaning and use of the Holy Bible. My Bible is always open wide."

Woman, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

(*Editor's Comment:* If you haven't enrolled in this amazing, different, Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, be sure to send your request now!)

Prophecy Verified

"A letter from a friend working as

(Please continue on page 10)

THE SHOCKING TRUTH About Schools and Colleges

Here is the concluding installment revealing the diabolical
conspiracy operating in the schools and colleges to destroy
children, college students, your country!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

EVERY parent—every high school and college student—needs to know these astonishing *facts*!

This master plot has been operating in the educational system *secretly*, under cover. Even most educators do not realize what has happened!

How Schools and Colleges Came

Did it ever occur to you to look for the *facts* of how the system of schools and colleges actually started? Most people take this established educational system for granted.

In the first installment on this subject, it was stated that Plato, ancient Greek philosopher who lived 427 to 347 B.C., was the father of the academic system of education, so far as we have historic account. He was the first, of historic record, to organize a regular educational course extending over three or four years, in a fixed place called the Academy.

Plato was a student of Socrates. In the ancient Roman Empire there was a system of secular pagan schools. Beside reading, writing, arithmetic, they taught the pagan philosophies of life. Pagan customs, especially participation in full observance of pagan holidays, was part of school life.

When the Christian era came along, these pagan schools were the only sources available for education. Since the better educated became the leaders, those steeped in the pagan beliefs and philosophies naturally became the leaders in the Church. It was more through the system of schools and of disseminating EDUCATION than any other one method that paganism was injected into Christianity, until it gradually became less and less Christian and more and more pagan. Instead of the teachings and practices of Christ, the western world embraced the beliefs and customs

of paganism. But they continued to call Jesus the CHRIST. They continued to call their changed and perverted religion "Christianity."

When these pagan secular schools were wiped out, in the 6th century, by the barbaric invasions, the Church established schools in its cathedrals and its monasteries. But these were devoted primarily to the education of priests and monks. And even though they were church schools, the only text books available were the pagan texts. Printing had not yet been invented. Books were rare and precious—done by hand, one at a time. So paganism continued to be infused into educational processes.

The universities arose out of this system. The University of Paris set the standard for northern Europe, Britain and America. Oxford was an outgrowth of the University of Paris, and Cambridge was started by Oxford men. This was before the Reformation. These universities, originally, were Roman Catholic.

Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale were the outgrowth of Oxford and Cambridge.

But there were schools and systems of education long before Plato. There are Biblical accounts of schools in ancient Israel—except that the details of the systems are not recorded.

The Plot's Beginning

But what of the diabolical plot to destroy all humanity through education? How could any such objective be accomplished? WHO are the subtle, satanic forces working under cover to perpetrate it?

It has been manipulated so subtly and shrewdly that, even when it is exposed and laid bare most educators will be unable to recognize it. It's leaven has already been implanted within their

minds. It was injected from earliest youth, while their minds were still plastic, unsuspecting.

One of the insidious methods woven into the educational fabric has rendered this easy and simple. From a child, each one is taught to accept and believe whatever is taught him—or what is written in the textbook. He is not encouraged to question—to PROVE whether what is taught is true.

The educational process is essentially a routine of memorizing. A student is graded, not on ability to *prove* or to *disprove* textbook statements, but on how well he has memorized, and accepted without question, whatever has been injected into his naive mind.

It is like a teacher sticking a funnel into the top of each child's head, and pouring ready-made propaganda out of a pitcher into gullible little minds. People generally believe whatever they have been taught, what they have read, or what *their group*—whether religious, social, political or business, believes. And most people have come to sincerely believe a lot of things that are *not true*!

But how did it all *begin*? WHO is perpetrating this Master Plan of the ages?

Let's go back to the beginning, and view the pattern of education from the very start! They had schools as far back as ancient Israel. Let's look at the documented account of that.

But first, let's go still farther back—let's begin at the very *beginning*!

The very oldest historic record says "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." For reasons I will show clearly, this injection of educational poison has convinced many that this statement is not true—there is no God—there was no creation—matter has always been. Yet even the laws of science prove there has been no

past eternity of matter, that God *does exist*, and there *was a creation!* That proof, however, is not the purpose of this article. I have proved it. So can you. (Write for the free booklets: *Does God Exist?* and *The PROOF of the BIBLE.*)

When we buy a new mechanical or electrical gadget, or an automobile, the maker usually sends with it a book of instructions, explaining how to operate it. In like manner, the Maker of man has given man the necessary Instruction Book to regulate his activities for his good. That Instruction Book is the Bible.

The Creator put man on this earth for a PURPOSE. That purpose involves eternal life in happiness, peace, prosperity, well-being, the fullest abundance.

But it was necessary to the accomplishment of the divine Purpose that man be made a free moral agent.

The BIBLE says plainly that there is

a DEVIL. He was created, originally, as a super-archangel—a cherub—at the very TOP of the Creator's vast system of angelic GOVERNMENT by which He governs this entire UNIVERSE! *Before* the creation of man, the Bible reveals that this cherub, then named LUCIFER (*Helel*, in Hebrew)—meaning LIGHT BRINGER, or SHINING STAR OF THE DAWN—was placed here on this earth to ADMINISTER the Government of GOD over many millions of angels. But VANITY and GREED seized Lucifer. He set out to organize his angels into an ARMY to go up to God's heaven, as an INVADER—to CONQUER God, and rule the WHOLE UNIVERSE. He was not satisfied to rule this one planet alone. He rebelled against administering GOD's government. He became hostile to GOD'S LAWS, designed to produce PEACE, HAPPINESS, LOVE, and JOY.

He was cast back down to earth as a DEVIL—his name changed to SATAN, and his angels changed to DEMONS. He was DISQUALIFIED as ruler over the earth—but, until a SUCCESSOR should be both QUALIFIED and INDUCTED INTO OFFICE, Satan has not been removed. Adam FAILED to qualify. Then, 4,000 years later the SECOND Adam, Jesus Christ, DID qualify! He CONQUERED Satan by OBEDIENCE to the laws of GOD. But Christ has not YET taken over the office. Instead, He went to God's throne in heaven for a very great purpose. Jesus Christ is NOW, in OUR generation, going to RETURN to earth as the KING of kings and the LORD of lords, to displace Satan, and to set up a restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over the WHOLE EARTH—to bring us the HAPPY, and PEACEFUL WORLD TOMORROW!

Meantime, the BIBLE reveals Satan

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Qualified and thoroughly trained ministers and graduates of Ambassador College assist Mr. Armstrong in answering the thousands of letters needing personal attention.

as the GOD of this world—having DECEIVED *all nations*—actually SWAYING all mankind by subtle SUGGESTION and INFLUENCE into obeying HIM as a world ruler!

But Satan never *appears* as a red devil with horns, a tail and a pitch-fork! He APPEARS as an angel of LIGHT and TRUTH. His METHOD is DECEPTION. But HOW has he succeeded in DECEIVING *all nations*?

By introducing a system of FALSE EDUCATION!

This world has its RELIGIONS, its ECONOMIC systems, its GOVERNMENTS.

This world also has its EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS! Now, look at *them*!

How did Satan manage to sway this whole world into obeying and worshipping HIM? *HOW*—by what process—did he manage to *deceive* the whole

world about GOD, about God's PURPOSE, about God's TRUTH, God's government and laws, God's WAY—and God's PLAN? By what means did he elevate himself to become the GOD OF THIS WORLD? *How did he establish his civilization?*

BY FALSE EDUCATION! By injecting FALSE TEACHINGS into educational systems, he has *deceived the whole world*!

Yes, this world has its schools, colleges, universities. It has its EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. And it was Satan who injected into it the diabolical leaven of deception—of false values—of false philosophies—of false goals.

This leaven has permeated the educational systems. The world is intoxicated with it!

The world is SPIRITUALLY DRUNK—its spiritual eyes so bleary they are all out of focus! They see double, they fail to see sharply, clearly. They cannot

discern TRUTH!

God says: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood"—material people who can be *seen*, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against WICKED SPIRITS in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

HOW It Happened

Now let's look to the documented historic *facts*!

God set before Adam everything good and beautiful, and freely gave him all of that, including the opportunity to receive the gift of *immortality*, symbolized by the tree of life (Gen. 2:9). But also God set before Adam *the way* of curses, troubles, suffering and death, symbolized by the one tree of "knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:9).

Notice, this wrong way is called *knowledge—education*. But God warned



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the man against this *false* education, and *commanded* him not to partake of it! "For," said God, "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

This particular tree of false *knowledge* was intellectual *poison*—it meant the death of the man! The very fact that God said "in the day that thou eatest thereof" shows plainly that God allowed man to make this choice—that He made the man so that *he must choose for himself*. Otherwise righteous spiritual CHARACTER could not be developed

and created within the man—and the creation of that kind of *character*, with eternal life imparted, is the very PURPOSE for which God created man!

Satan had no power of physical compulsion. But he was cunning.

God had made the man head over his wife—to love her and to protect and provide for her. But Adam was a little careless in watching over and protecting his wife. While he was not looking, Satan got to Eve. She was deceived.

God had said: "You are mortal. If you take of this *false knowledge*, you

shall DIE! But if, instead, you reject that and take of MY SPIRIT, you shall have a *sound mind* (II Tim. 1:7), learning the TRUTH (John 16:13), and making you IMMORTAL (Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:50-54)."

Satan denied this. He swayed the woman into believing God had lied. She accepted Satan's lie, "You shall not surely die"—you are already immortal—you have an immortal soul!

She was tempted. The more she looked at that tree of *false knowledge*, the more attractive it appeared. It *did* appear to

be GOOD!

She began to covet that false knowledge. Of course this was *unlawful* desire—lust—for the tree was not hers—it belonged to God, and He had put up a verbal "NO TRESPASSING" sign.

This coveting conceived into action. So she *STOLE* what was not hers—she disobeyed her only Creator-parent, and she accepted Satan as the god to *obey*, thus breaking the first commandment. She disobeyed *four* literal and specific commandments.

Of course mother Eve was *deceived* into this transgression against God's authority and rule. But when she approached Adam with this temptation to lust and vanity, *he was not deceived*—for God had made the truth plain to him! Instead of obeying God, he allowed his wife to wear the pants! He wanted to please her, even if unlawfully!

Thus, by the disobedience of the progenitor of the human race, mankind had cut itself off from contact with God—from the GOVERNMENT of God—from the *blessings* of GOD.

For 6,000 years God was to *keep hands off*, except by such direct intervention as was necessary to carry out His Plan.

But the true *knowledge* of God was *still available*! Abel believed it and acted accordingly. Enoch walked *God's way*. Noah was a preacher of righteousness—which means obedience to God's Laws. But these three over the course of more than a thousand years are the sole record of voluntary obedience to God.

Civilization Started

After the flood, Nimrod became the world's first human ruler and despot. He was capable, but he used his mind and abilities in the direction *away* from the true values of GOD.

Thus, *human government* was established, and the rule of the invisible GOD rejected.

Then, as secular accounts verify, Nimrod's wife, Semiramis, initiated the religious system that has permeated this world ever since. Every organized religion on earth ever since, except that

which came to ancient Israel through Moses and the prophets, and to true Christians through Christ and the Apostles *and* the Prophets, has sprung, with various adaptations, out of the original Babylonian Mysteries instituted by Semiramis! Her religion banished obedience to *God's laws*, destroyed the KNOWLEDGE of God's PURPOSE, palmed off *counterfeit* salvation.

She was the original Easter—spelled in ancient Assyria "Ishtar" and in Chaldean "Astarte." She originated mother-and-child worship, with the mother overshadowing the child. She originated the holiday now called "Christmas" with the decorated tree and gift-trading. You'll still find hotels and institutions named after her in Cairo, Damascus, and other middle-eastern cities.

Thus started the PAGAN religions. To establish, train, and maintain a priesthood to hold the people under their religious sway, a system of SCHOOLS was established for the education of the priesthood.

By the time of the nation Israel, we find records of this system. We do not know all the details of how they were organized.

In I Chronicles 25:8 we read: "And they cast lots, ward against ward, as well the small as the great, *the teacher as the scholar.*"

Elijah established at least *two colleges* for training prophets. They are designated as "*the sons of the prophets*," one at Bethel (II Kings 2:3) and one at Jericho (verse 5). The Hebrew for "sons of the prophets" is "talmidey nebiyaiya" and means "disciples of the prophets." The word "disciple" means a student, or learner. These were training schools for the prophets of the Eternal.

There appear, also, to have been earlier seminaries for prophets in Israel, apparently established originally by Samuel. Music formed a prominent part of their curriculum and worship, according to I Samuel 10:5, 10. Here they were designated as "a company of prophets." In explanation of this passage, the *Critical and Experimental Commentary* has this: "a school of the prophets established at Geba. The com-

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(Please continue on page 9)

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RADIO LOG

(Continued)

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- 2AY—Albury, NSW—10:30 p.m.
Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m.
Sun.
- 2GF—Grafton, NSW—10:30 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 2GN—Goulburn, NSW—10:00 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 2HD—Newcastle, NSW—10:45 p.m.
Mon. thru Fri.; 10:30 p.m.
Sun.
- 2KA—Katoomba, NSW—10:00 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 2KM—Kempsey, NSW—10:30 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 3AW—Melbourne, Vic.—10:30 p.m.
Sun.
- 3BO—Bendigo, Vic.—10:30 p.m.
Mon.-Fri.; 4:15 p.m. Thurs.
- 3KZ—Melbourne, Vic.—10:45 p.m.
Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:15 p.m.
Fri.
- 4AK—Oakley, Qld.—10:15 p.m.
Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:30 p.m.
Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- 4BK—Brisbane, Qld.—10:15 p.m.
Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:30 p.m.
Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- 4CA—Cairns, Qld.—10:00 p.m. Sun.
thru Fri.
- 4TO—Townsville, Qld.—10:15 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 4KQ—Brisbane, Qld.—10:30 p.m.
Sun.
- 4WK—Warwick, Qld.—10:00 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 6GE—Geraldton, WA—10:00 p.m.
Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- 6KG—Kalgoorlie, WA—10:00 p.m.
Mon. thru Sat.
- 6PM—Perth, WA—10:15 p.m. Mon.
thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
- 6AM—Northam, WA—10:15 p.m.
Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.

TO LATIN AMERICA

In English—

- RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160
kc.—6:00 p.m., Sundays.
- RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—
1010 kc.—6:00 p.m. Saturdays.
- HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.—
7:00 p.m., Sundays.
- HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.—
7:00 p.m., Sundays.
- HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.—
7:00 p.m., Sundays.
- HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.—
7:00 p.m., Sundays.

In Spanish—

- RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160
kc.—9:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
- RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru
—1010 kc.—7:00-7:15 p.m.,
Sundays.
- RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion,
Paraguay—970 kc.—8:30-8:45
p.m. Thursdays.
- RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Monte-
video, Uruguay—11835 kc.—
4:00-4:15 p.m., Sundays.
- RADIO CARVE—CX16, 850 kc.,
and CXA13, 6156 kc.—
Montevideo, Uruguay—3:30
p.m., Saturdays.

Schools & Colleges

(Continued from page 7)

pany of prophets were, doubtless, the pupils at this seminary, which had probably been instituted by Samuel, and in which the chief branches of education taught were a knowledge of the law, and of psalmody, with instrumental music, which is called prophesying."

I wonder if it is a bit significant that, today, in this world-wide wilderness of pagan education, there are the TWO colleges for training AMBASSADORS of the Eternal—the one in Pasadena, California, and the other near London, England—and that here, too, the departments of MUSIC form a prominent part in the curriculum!

These two colleges of which Elijah was the head in Israel were only two in the midst of many PAGAN colleges, for the prophets of Baal and of Asherah.

In the time of Elijah all Israel, except for 7,000 in a nation of upward of six million, had adopted the pagan religions, and also pagan education. King Ahab maintained a religious establishment, with 450 prophets of Baal, or the Sun-god, worshipped as supreme lord and master of the world. But his wife, Jezebel, maintained a separate religion in Israel, with 400 prophets of Asherah, which is Astarte (spelled and pronounced "Easter" today—and still bowed down to in "Easter SUN-rise services").

—In that day Elijah, his prophets, two colleges, and 7,000 faithful followers of GOD were like an oasis in the desert—speaking like a voice in the wilderness—among the MILLIONS who followed the pagan religions, because they were educated in the PAGAN SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION!

They were TYPES!

It is significant that today, just before the coming of Jesus Christ as KING of kings and LORD of lords to establish the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and to rule all nations in the happy WORLD TOMORROW, that the *same God* of Elijah has established in the midst of pagan education and a paganized "Christianity" in modern Israel TWO colleges where the TRUE VALUES are

being recaptured?

And is it, after all, SIGNIFICANT that the last word in the Old Testament, "curse," is translated from a Hebrew word that means "utter destruction"—the TOTAL ANNIHILATION of human life; and that Jesus Christ said that no human flesh would be saved alive, except by DIVINE INTERVENTION for the sake of *the very elect*? Out of these colleges has grown the world-wide broadcasting and publishing work that has resulted in the conversion of somewhat more than SEVEN THOUSAND of the *very elect* who have NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL!

Few in number, they exist today! And for *their sake*, said Jesus Christ, the MILLIONS of this world's population SHALL BE SAVED ALIVE!

The Modern Trend

I mentioned, in the first installment, that prior to this latest modern *new trend*, education had undergone *three former major changes*.

One was the change, in ancient Israel, in the two colleges of Elijah from the existing PAGAN system. But that godly system did not last.

The second was the establishment of the curricular system, in the academy, by Plato. I have already covered the facts of that.

The third was the rise of the modern university, started by the University of Salerno in Italy, and established more firmly by the University of Paris in the 12th century.

The *modern trend* was initiated by Thomas Jefferson, when he established the first STATE university, the University of Virginia, divorcing RELIGION and any teaching about GOD and the BIBLE from education.

Following on the heels of this rapid growth of STATE UNIVERSITIES in America, education bequeathed to the world the AGE OF SCIENCE. This became the age of skepticism, of agnosticism, and even of atheism.

SCIENCE now replaced GOD in modern education. SCIENCE was set up as the world's false Messiah. SCIENCE became the sole infallible AUTHORITY. The idea of GOD, at least in the schools of higher learning, became a superstition. It became a mark of intellectual

distinction to disbelieve in God, and to accept SCIENCE as the new Messiah.

The SYSTEM, or METHOD of education *continued* to be that of implanting ready-made propaganda, materialistic errors and lies DISGUISED as truth, into the unsuspecting and naïve minds of youth. Education continued to be a process of MEMORY training. Students are graded, not on ability to detect the errors in the textbook, but on ability to memorize, and willingness to ACCEPT without question, the statements of the textbooks, whether true or false.

Of course we have the PRINTING PRESS, today. We have MILLIONS of textbooks. But the diabolical, subtle power BEHIND this conspiracy to poison all human minds, and to deceive ALL NATIONS—Satan the Devil—had so manipulated his plot that when printing was invented the only leaders in education who could WRITE the new textbooks had been inoculated from early childhood with the PAGANIZED EDUCATION!

The theory of evolution came along as the atheist's explanation of the presence of a CREATION *without a Creator!* This theory, admitted to be unproved and unprovable, yet taught dogmatically AS IF PROVEN FACT—and *accepted* by growing students AS fact—was interwoven through and through every possible course in education. It came to be the basic CONCEPT, from which all life, phenomena, origins and facts were viewed.

Today, this godless, materialistic, educational POISON is so woven and intertwined into modern education that it is DAMNING THE MINDS AND SOULS OF THE MILLIONS! Even when educators come to recognize the peril, they are HELPLESS to try to change it!

Let the Word of GOD explain what HAPPENED, and the RESULT:

Speaking of these Greek philosophers, who are the very fathers of the academic system of education, God's Word says:

"When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God" (Rom. 1:21). The ancient educators originally KNEW GOD. They were without excuse (verse 20). But they did not glorify Him as GOD, "but became VAIN in their imaginations"—that is, reasonings. The Mof-

fatt translation renders it "they have turned to futile speculations till their ignorant minds grew dark. They claimed to be wise, but they have become fools" (Verses 21-22).

They "changed the TRUTH of God into a lie" (verse 25).

Again, "they did not like to retain GOD in their *knowledge*."

How much of GOD is included in the KNOWLEDGE being taught in schools and colleges today? In nearly every case the answer is, "NONE!" Instead people are taught the lie of evolution—which is EVIL-ution! Their minds are filled with materialism. The TRUE VALUES have been lost.

Consequently human lives are empty, minds are discontent, and nothing satisfies or fills the inner spiritual *hunger!*

By controlling the system of education—by getting human MINDS poisoned with materialism and false values from very childhood—Satan has manipulated the most diabolical MASTER PLOT of the ages!

When education is pagan, materialistic, hostile to TRUTH, the more highly educated one is the *farther* he is from TRUE VALUES! When a mind is saturated with false knowledge and one is *set* in wrong and harmful HABITS, it is almost impossible to save that life! It is ten times harder to UN-learn than to start from scratch and to learn! And all this false education must be UN-learned, and wrong habits given up before one can find TRUTH, happiness, peace, and the full ABUNDANT LIFE!

Truly, in such a world, the two Ambassador Colleges stand out as an oasis in a desert! Prospective students need to write immediately for the free catalogue for the 1961-62 year. It is highly

illustrated, and supplies full information. Just address The Registrar, Ambassador College, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif. In Britain write for prospectus to The Registrar, Ambassador College, Brickett Wood, St. Albans, Herts.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

an employee of the Armed Forces in Weisbaden, Germany states: 'Germany is still booming and one cannot find any hired help. We have 25 vacant positions. Jobs go begging. All our employees have cars and they all live fairly well.'

From Massachusetts

(Editor's Comment: There is no unemployment in Germany today. But millions of Americans are out of work—and mostly because too many have not been willing to *create jobs for themselves*.)

Searching the Scriptures Pays Off

"About five years ago I began searching the scriptures and trying to forget most of the things I had learned from men—searching diligently, an average of about three hours a day, for nearly four years. What our God revealed to me was so different to what I had been taught that I was made to wonder whether or not there was any man who was preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. While meditating on this thought I turned on the radio last January and heard The WORLD TOMORROW. I think I have heard everything that has been said on the daily broadcasts since."

Man from Asheville, North Carolina

Serviceman Opens Bible

"I am a man 32 years of age with a wife and 5 children. I have been in the U.S. Navy since I was 17. I have never been a very religious person, but was reared to respect and believe in our Lord. Actually I never read the Bible until about four days ago. I started to read the New Testament. Then one of my fellow friends let me read your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, and I feel as though I must learn everything I can about the Bible."

Serviceman overseas

LE REPENTIR!

Voulez-vous recevoir cet opuscule *gratuit* qui vient de paraître, ainsi que la liste de TOUS nos ouvrages *en français*? Si oui, adressez-vous à:

LE MONDE A VENIR

Box 111

Pasadena, California

U.S.A.

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

Purchase of Mr. Armstrong's first car, and the slow, uphill climb of the broadcast, Plain Truth, and evangelistic campaigns, punctuated with a few sparkling incidents, are related in this 34th installment.

WE HAD come, in the 33rd installment (December, 1960, issue), to the spring of 1935. Now I should like to backtrack briefly.

The broadcast had started the first Sunday in January, 1934. The first issue of *The Plain Truth*, mimeographed, came out February 1, 1934. The third point of the "Three-Point-Campaign" got under way the first of April, with the evangelistic campaign in downtown Eugene, Oregon.

Old Notation Discovered

In an earlier installment I mentioned that the broadcast was started with pledges for only half of its \$2.50 weekly cost. That \$2.50 per half hour on radio station KORE was almost a donation from its owner, Mr. Frank Hill. He probably gave the \$2.50 to the announcer as a slight bonus for opening the station 30 minutes earlier. KORE had been going on the air with its Sunday programming at 10:30 A.M. To clear time for my half hour, Mr. Hill simply moved his operating schedule up a half hour earlier.

Now \$2.50 per week may seem a little ridiculous today, as the price of a half-hour broadcast. It was not a bit absurd to me, in those days! We were at the very bottom of the depression. I had, only a few months earlier, given up the \$3 per week salary I had received. A single dollar was a not very plentiful item to us then.

When I stated, in the earlier installment, that half of that \$2.50 radio charge per week had to be undertaken on sheer faith, I was quoting from memory 27 years later. The last few installments were written in England.

Since returning to Pasadena, I have researched in the old dusty files of the years 1933 to around 1940. The papers in filing folders are still intact in the

cardboard cartons I obtained without cost at a grocery store. We could not afford the luxury of steel filing cabinets in those days. In those old files, stored in a basement store-room of one of our buildings on the Pasadena campus, I have culled out a number of interesting papers, letters, bulletins, and copies of mimeographed *Plain Truths*. Among them I found an old yellowed sheet on which I had pencilled notations of the pledges for the beginning of the radio program.

Under "Pledges for Radio" are the following:

J. J. McGill	\$.50
Ernest Fisher	1.00
Mrs. C. A. Croffoot	2.00
T. P. Madill	1.00
John Davison & family	.50
Edgard W. Smith	1.00
Mrs. J. W. Snyder	.25
Mrs. Gemmel	.25
.....	—
	\$6.50

It may seem a little strange today that some were able to pledge only 25c or 50c per month. Perhaps we have been spoiled by today's prosperity. Perhaps we have forgotten those bottom depression days. But at that time 25c or 50c per month, over and above tithes and regular offerings, as a special pledge, may have meant considerable sacrifice.

Anyway, those are the names that made possible the start of the broadcasting work that now covers every inhabited continent on earth—that has expanded from 100 watts of radio power per week to more than 12 million watts—that has, today, probably become the most powerful broadcasting work on earth, world-wide!

And today I say, all honor to those people for that initial sacrifice! It was not so little as it might seem, at first glance, today! God has multiplied that

many thousands of times over!

When Almighty God does something Himself, by His own power alone, He does it in a manner so mighty and so vast our minds cannot comprehend it. But when God does a work through human instruments, He always starts it, like the proverbial mustard seed, the *smallest*. But it *grows* to the BIGGEST!

And so I honor those eight original Co-Workers. Some are now dead, but what they helped to start *lives on*—in *multiplying* POWER!

On this same yellowed sheet of paper is the notation of tithes and offerings received of \$11.75—probably an entire month's income for my family's living! Also special offerings for the "Bulletin" I was then issuing, \$4.25. But under it appear the notations: "Spent for Bulletin: stencils \$1.75; 1 ream paper, \$1.35; ink, \$1.25; brush, \$.15; postage, \$1.50; miscellaneous, \$1.52; total, \$6.02. That was \$1.77 more than offerings received for the purpose. I presume the \$1.77 was paid out of the \$11.75 family income, leaving less than \$10 for a month's living.

I have taken this brief "flash-back" because I feel that few readers, adjusted to the prosperity and luxuries of today, would otherwise realize the rough going under which this work of God was forced to start.

Actually, at \$2.50 per Sunday broadcast, I did have a little over half of the amount pledged. When there were five Sundays in the month, the broadcasting cost \$12.50, and when four Sundays it was \$10.00. The average cost was \$10.83 per month. The \$6.50 pledged was actually 60%. But taking that additional \$4.33 per month on sheer faith was a bigger test of faith, *in those days*, than it is easy to realize today!

I had no idea, then, where that additional \$4.33 per month was to come

from! But I felt positively assured that GOD had opened *this door of radio*, and expected me to walk on through it! And I relied implicitly on the PROMISE in Scripture that "my God shall supply *all your need* according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And although God has allowed many severe tests of faith, *that promise has always been kept!*

Smashing Your Idol

I think it well that the reader be given some idea of the financial hardship under which God's present worldwide work got under way.

And further because an advanced student here on the Ambassador College campus expressed great surprise, the other day, to learn that I had been forced to labor along for 28 long and lean years in economic hardship. He had heard that I had been "knocked down" by God economically, somewhat as the Apostle Paul was by blindness, and plunged into God's service. But he had supposed that the financial "punishment" had consisted of some three or four comparatively short periods of perhaps a few weeks or a few months at a time.

So let me say right here something about conversion I find most people do not understand.

The REPENTANCE required as a *condition* to being truly converted by receiving God's Holy Spirit is something far different than most people suppose. It is infinitely more than merely "seeing" God's TRUTH, or some of it, and being good enough to embrace and accept it. It is something altogether different from merely *agreeing with certain doctrines*.

Whoever you are, YOU HAVE, or you *have had*, an IDOL. You have had another "god" before the true living Almighty God. It might be your hobby or your habitual pastime. It might be your husband, or wife, or child or children. It might be your job. It might be your own VANITY, or the lipstick you paint on, or your business or profession. Very often it is the *opinion of your friends*, your family, your group or social or business contacts.

But whatever it is, that idol must first be CRUSHED, SMASHED,—it must be literally *torn out of your mind*, even

though it hurts more than having all your teeth pulled out and perhaps a jawbone, too! I don't believe that many people experience this painlessly. I don't know of any anesthetic that will render it pleasurable. Usually it seems like something more excruciating than the agony of death by the cruelest torture.

Now I had an idol. My whole mind and heart was set on that idol. I had worked hard, night and day, for that false god. My false objective was the intense desire—the desperate, driving, overpowering ambition—to become "successful" in the eyes of important business men—to be considered by them as outstandingly "IMPORTANT"—and to enjoy the fine things that money could buy. I did not have a love for money *as such*. I did have a love for the finer material things of life.

After establishing my publishers' representative business in Chicago, I aspired someday to own, or build, one of the finest and largest homes in the north-shore aristocratic suburb of Winnetka—with large spacious grounds constituting an important-appearing estate.

Crashing Down to Reality

I was so zealously set on that accomplishment that it became the god I worshipped and served.

God could not use me as long as I had another "god" that was more important in my eyes than He. Yet tearing that ambition out of me was like yanking out, root and branch, my very life itself. It was smashing dead everything I felt I lived for, and worked for.

So God first took away my business in Chicago by bankrupting every major client. Twice, later, He again swept businesses that promised multi-million dollar rewards right out from under my feet. He brought me down to poverty and to hunger.

By hard work, driving myself, using resourcefulness, personality, persuasion, by fierce determination, I had built, while still only 28 years old, an income equal to \$25,000 per year on today's dollar valuation. My wife and I were in the midst of realizing our first taste of the finer material things. We were furnishing a brand-new suburban apartment with the finest furniture and furnishings. I was beginning to have my

clothes made by the finest and most expensive custom tailors. I was moving up from "ordinary" haberdashery and men's furnishings stores to Kaskel & Kaskel's exclusive shop on Michigan Boulevard. At that time it was the most exclusive and expensive men's shop in America. I was wearing Kaskel & Kaskel custom-made shirts, wearing a \$20 beaver hat (which probably would cost \$75 or \$100 today). Above all, I was beginning to really FEEL important!

The biggest corporation in the publishing field at that time, the Curtis Publishing Company (*Saturday Evening Post* and *Ladies Home Journal*) had made a survey among Chicago advertising agencies to find the liveliest, most aggressive and promising young advertising man in the city. I was offered the job—but smugly turned it down! I was, in my own estimation, the strutting peacock of fashionable Michigan Boulevard. I was bigger, in my own estimation, than any man, anywhere.

But the bigger they come, the saying is, the harder they fall! And all this swelled-up EGO came crashing down, *down, DOWN!* I had been so big—so important—in *my own sight*, there was no room left for GOD! But God whittled self-righteous Job down to size! God drove strutting King Nebuchadnezzar out to eat grass with the beasts! God struck down Saul with blindness, changed his direction, and then his name to Paul. And God was certainly able to knock me down off my imaginary high perch—again, and again, and again! I had to come to realize that all this self-"IMPORTANCE" was pure illusion! I was brought down to earth and reality with a THUD!

Instead of ego, vanity, and self-IMPORTANCE, God fed me, for 28 long years, on the raw and scanty diet of humiliation and poverty!

Had God merely let me suffer financial reverses, even to the point of experiencing real hunger, for short periods of a few weeks, and repeated it merely some two or three times over, I would have bounded back and quickly set back up my idol to serve again! Had God let me suffer that kind of humiliation and poverty even for a period of a year—or even six or seven years—I probably would have resumed the same sense

of ego once back on my financial feet.

But God had in mind, as life-long events have since proved, using me as His instrument in a growing world-wide work involving tremendous expenditures in HIS SERVICE. And He knew that He could never entrust me to handle His money, in the administration of His work, as long as I set my heart on money or the things money would buy.

Please do not misunderstand. It is not wrong to have or enjoy the good material things of life. What is WRONG, and therefore harmful to our own selves, is *setting our hearts on these things*, instead of on the TRUE VALUES! The LOVE of material things—the VANITY of wanting to exalt the SELF instead of God—of wanting the worshipful praise of MEN by being considered "IMPORTANT"—these are the wrong things to set our hearts upon. When the heart is set on such false values, the soul shrinks inwardly and dries up! THANK GOD! He saved me from such a fate by that 28 years of poverty and humility!

Dying to LIVE

I was never *converted* until I was brought to the place where I realized my own nothingness, and God's all-encompassing GREATNESS—until I felt completely whipped, defeated. When I came to consider myself as a worthless burned-out "hunk of human junk" not even worth throwing on the junk-pile of human derelicts, truly remorseful for having imagined I was a "somebody"—completely and totally and bitterly SORRY for the direction I had travelled and the things I had done—really and truly repentant—I told God that I was now ready to give my SELF and my LIFE over to Him. It was worthless, now, to me. If He could use it, I told Him He could have it! I didn't think, then, it was usable—even in God's hands!

But let me say to the reader, if God could take that completely defeated, worthless, self-confessed failure to which I had been reduced, and use that life to develop and build what He has done, He can take YOUR LIFE, too, and use it in a manner you simply cannot now *dream*—if you will turn it over to Him without reservation and leave it in His hands! What has happened since gives

me no glory—but it magnifies again the POWER OF GOD to take a worthless tool and accomplish HIS WILL through it!

But don't ever suppose it came easy. If a mother suffers birthpangs that her child may be born, most of us have to suffer that WE may be born *again* of GOD—even in this first begettal stage we call conversion!

And what does all this mean? It means that *millions* of professing Christians have been deceived into believing in a FALSE CONVERSION! It means, as Jesus said, "whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Or, in another place, "He *that loveth his life* shall lose it."

It means that the individual must be CHANGED! It is a change in *what you ARE!* Jesus Christ never pictured the way of salvation as the broad and easy and popular road. Rather, He said, that popular road is the way that leads to destruction—and the MANY are travelling that road. He said that *many* would desire to enter the Kingdom of God, *and should not be able!* Why? Because they are not able to *give up* this world—this world's WAYS—to give up being concerned primarily with "what will my friends—my club—my associates—my relatives say?"

Repentance means GIVING UP *your way*—the world's way—the world's opinion of you! It means turning to the WAY OF GOD—the way of His law! It means SURRENDER—unconditional surrender—to live by EVERY WORD OF GOD. Since the Bible *is* the Word of God, it means to live by the BIBLE! It means utter voluntary submission to the AUTHORITY of God, as expressed in HIS WORD!

When you come to fully realize what is the full implication of your rebellion against the AUTHORITY of God—of the Bible—it is not so easy to give up! It is much more than a change of direction. It is a change in *what you ARE!* That old SELF doesn't want to DIE! This *true repentance* is excruciatingly painful. It is agony! Jesus said FEW find that way!

It wasn't easy for me.

The only people of God, going His way, that we knew at that time were at

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 who 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!

the opposite extreme of human society from the great and the near great I had been proud to associate with. I thought immediately, of course, of what my former friends and business associates would think of me. They would regard me as a fanatic embracing superstition. It was humiliating. I knew it meant giving up all such associations. I knew it meant giving up my life's ambitions. It meant giving up everything I had driven myself so hard to attain. But now I was disillusioned. I knew I had never possessed the brilliant abilities I had fancied. All that had been pure ego—pure inflation of VANITY. It was a blown-up balloon—and the balloon had been punctured.

When I literally *gave* what was left of my life over to God, I meant it! I did not count it mine any longer. Yet, had God brought me merely to this agonizing experience of conversion, and then restored me to economic ease and prosperity, I probably would have reverted back to the same goals and ways. The old cocky SELF-confidence probably would have returned. I probably would not have endured as a Christian.

So God not only brought me low. He *kept* me that way for 28 long years!

Yet living without this former "god" was no longer painful, once I gave it up. I had found the true GOD instead. I had found the overflowing JOY of receiving

new UNDERSTANDING of God's TRUTH out of the Bible. I now plunged into the study of the Bible with an energetic zeal surpassing any efforts I had expended in the quest of material success. I found a new happiness and joy in the fellowship of those humble and lowly folk that was infinitely greater than any enjoyment experienced before. Mrs. Armstrong and I were now seeking *first* the KINGDOM OF GOD, and His righteousness. We learned that happiness does not consist of material acquisitions.

When God Opens Doors

Among old papers, letters, bulletins in these dusty old files I find a mimeographed letter addressed to co-workers. Our little family of co-workers making possible this work of God was still very small—perhaps a couple dozen or so. The letter is dated December 20th, 1934.

It started out: "I am overjoyed to be able to make a most wonderful and important announcement. The Lord has very graciously blessed the work . . . And now He has opened the way for far greater influence during 1935. . . . A wonderful opportunity has come for The RADIO CHURCH to go on the air *IN PORTLAND!* This may be done by a hook-up between our present station, KORE in Eugene, and KXL in Portland."

A few other excerpts from this letter should prove interesting.

Here is one—and how true this is, still today! "But there is one fact I want you to realize. It has been said that if a minister would DARE to stand before his congregation and preach the PLAIN TRUTH OF THE BIBLE, he would not have a dozen members left. That is about true, for God's Word is profitable for REPROOF, for CORRECTION (II Tim. 3:16), and the minister who will use it to reprove and rebuke (II Tim. 4:2) as God commands, will find the time has come when people have adopted FABLES! We have DARED to preach the TRUTH! We have not minced words, nor toned down the Word of God. And but FEW will support such preaching.

"Yet," continuing the letter, "we have found a peculiar paradox. We have learned that people WILL LISTEN, *over the radio*, to the straight truth that would cause them to get up and walk

out if their own ministers preached it in their own churches! They will LISTEN, *over the radio*, but they WILL NOT SUPPORT SUCH PREACHING! We cut ourselves off totally from their financial support—yet they LISTEN! And do you know, there are MILLIONS over the United States who will never listen to the last Gospel warning in any way EXCEPT OVER THE RADIO. They can be reached BY RADIO—and by radio ALONE!"

How true that has been! That is one reason GOD ALMIGHTY opened the door of mass evangelism BY RADIO. Today, fifteen million people listen every week—yet the number who support this great world-wide work, even today, numbers only a very few thousand, and most of them in the lower income brackets!

Yet, even from those early days in 1934, we have made financial needs known *only* to those FEW who had voluntarily, without solicitation, become active co-workers! We have never begged for financial support over the air. We have never taken up collections in evangelistic campaigns. We have never put a price on any Gospel literature! People must send in offerings or tithes, voluntarily and without solicitation, at least twice in six months—or else tell us they wish to become co-workers—before we consider them as such, or acquaint them with the financial needs of the work!

That financing policy was in effect from the very first broadcasting year—1934! Every co-worker who helps support this work of God is individually responsible for reaching THOUSANDS with Christ's Gospel—because only one in thousands is a co-worker!

But the point I wish to make is that, by the end of our first year on the air, CHRIST opened *another door!* He opened the door for us to go on station KXL, Portland, then only 100 watts.

But at that time I was afraid to walk through that door—until *after* co-workers had PLEDGED enough money to pay for it. This very letter quoted above went on to ask co-workers for those pledges—totalling only \$50 per month, for the year 1935. A coupon form of pledge was mimeographed at the bottom of the second page of the letter.

Our co-workers failed to pledge the

needed \$50 per month. And I failed to walk through the door Christ had opened. We had to wait almost two more years before God gave us another opportunity for His work to expand into Portland! Later other doors were opened, when I wanted definite pledges before walking through those doors. But definite pledges was not FAITH.

We had to learn, by experience, that when God opens doors for CHRIST'S GOSPEL, He expects us to start walking on through, *IN FAITH*, trusting HIM to supply our every NEED!

Whenever we have done this, God has always supplied the need—though He has given us severe tests of faith. Whenever we have refused to follow where Christ leads *until the money is on hand*, the money has never come!

And so the entire year 1935 went by and we were still on only the one little 100-watt station in Eugene, Oregon!

My First Car

During the year 1935, we continued grinding out a hand-made *Plain Truth* on the antiquated neostyle. The mailing list had started with 106 names. But through 1934 and 1935 it continued to grow as a result of the radio program.

Evangelistic meetings continued, Sunday nights, through most of 1935 at our "Little Church at the End of West Eighth Avenue." I had taken out time for a short six-nights-a-week campaign of perhaps two weeks at the Clear Lake schoolhouse between Eugene and Al- vador. Also I had conducted a two- or three-week campaign at a schoolhouse near Goble, Oregon, some 40 miles north of Portland, and 160 miles north of Eugene.

A Bulletin dated March, 1935, announced the addition of 200 copies to *The Plain Truth* circulation, and a radio listening audience estimated, by the mail response, at 8,000 every Sunday.

By August, 1935, the radio audience was estimated at 10,000.

I find a letter dated September 19, 1935, sent out by three members of the Eugene church, telling members and co-workers of our dire need of an automobile. I had not owned a car since leaving Salem for Astoria in December, 1931. For all these meetings I had held

(Please continue on page 30)

The Religious Lie that is fooling millions!

A monstrous LIE is being palmed off on professing Christianity. Following last month's article, here is the concluding installment exposing it—and revealing God's TRUTH on this vital subject!

by Roderick C. Meredith

"I WILL NOT obey your God, even though you make me admit that He exists!" So closed Mr. Armstrong's interview with a highly "educated" woman. Educated, that is, in this world's way of thinking and doing. It was a typical reaction—although, perhaps, this woman admitted her true mental attitude more freely than most people would be willing to do.

After all, most people want their OWN way—*don't they?* And they will often go to any lengths in an attempt to "prove" that they are right. Usually their involved reasonings and arguments are necessitated because they are unwilling to face or admit the *simple TRUTH*.

So it is with the religious DECEPTION unmasked in last month's installment. Men deliberately invent many and varied reasonings to "excuse" their lawless behavior.

Why Men HATE God's Law

As pointed out in last month's article, literally *millions* of professing Christians have been DECEIVED into believing that the Ten Commandments were "done away" or "nailed to the cross"!

Even though many were taught to memorize the Commandments in Sunday School, in most cases their churches do NOT teach the *authority* of God's Commandments over the lives of true Christians. They have invented various arguments against the authority of the first, fourth, seventh or others of the Commandments.

Many have not realized it, but it is an astonishing FACT that most denominations do not believe in the necessity of *literal OBEDIENCE to a single one of the Ten Commandments of Almighty God!*

WHY is this? Why do men seem to

HATE the idea of *obedience* to the Commandments of God?

It is because men are basically *lazy*—because they want to *shirk responsibility*. The modern idea of "no obedience" frees man from the PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY to God of their thoughts and actions.

They would much rather believe in the teaching that "it was all settled long ago"—that all a Christian must do is "accept Christ as Saviour"—than to acknowledge their *responsibility* to LIVE AS HE LIVED through God's Spirit in them.

People Resent Authority

Another reason why many argue against God's law is that they *dread* and *hate* the idea of having to CHANGE *their daily lives!* Deep down, most men realize the terrific CHANGE in their daily lives that would be required were they to *literally* OBEY the Ten Commandments as a *way of life*.

The One who created our minds tells us that they are just naturally and normally HOSTILE toward God's law and His authority! "Because the carnal [natural or fleshly] mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

The reason a rebellious, carnal mind is antagonistic toward God's law is that it forces that man to acknowledge the AUTHORITY of a *personal, living RULING GOD*.

A carnal man *rebels* against the idea of a supreme God in Heaven who can COMMAND him what to do! He wants to invent his own "god"—to make a "god" in his own image and therefore CONTROL and LIMIT his so-called "god."

In their intellectual vanity and abject stupidity, many modernists try to

picture God as a mere "essence," or the "divine spark" in man's mind or some other vague, supposedly intellectual NOTHINGNESS! In actual fact, such men are trying to take to themselves the prerogatives of the true God and *make themselves* become "GOD!"

They want to decide *why, when and how* to worship. They are SELF-WILLED, and they want to seize the AUTHORITY of God Himself in deciding these matters!

For these reasons, then, many professing religious leaders today HATE God's law—and they have deceived many *millions* of their unsuspecting followers into rejecting the Ten Commandments of God as the true Christian *way of life*, to be *lived* and *literally* OBEYED!

Bible Says Only One Thing

Last month, we presented the positive proof that Jesus Christ and His apostles taught OBEDIENCE to the Ten Commandments of God as the Christian *way of life*. We showed how Jesus taught that we are not only to *do* but *teach* even the least of God's Commandments (Mat. 5:19). We related how when the young man came to Christ asking the way to salvation, He answered: "But if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Mat. 19:17).

We found that the Apostle James taught that Christians are to be *judged* by ALL TEN of the Ten Commandments (James 2:10-12). And we found the Apostle John describing the love of God which every Christian must receive through the Holy Spirit: "For this is the love of God, *that we* KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I Jn. 5:3). We saw that the entire Bible closes on a note

of *obedience*, for God states in Revelation 22:14: "Blessed are they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

In the face of *dozens* of plain, clear scriptures like this, what then are the arguments and where are the scriptures that the professing ministers of Christ use to nullify the authority of God's Commandments?

Arguments Against God's Law

The fact is that they are many and varied—and often *confused*. It would require a very large-sized book to even begin to answer in detail all of the arguments that men put forth against obedience to God! However, we will attempt to cover and expose the falsehood of some of the main arguments here. And it is important to understand that the way to see through these arguments is to read the *entire passage* in which the so-called "proof texts" against God's Law are found, and to *study* ALL the scriptures dealing with any one facet of God's Law which may be under consideration.

In their attempt to nullify God's Law, men have distorted literally *dozens* of plain, clear statements of scripture and have "spiritualized away" many others. Another common practice to watch for is that *wrong definitions* are placed on terms in the Bible having to do with obedience to God's Law. The key to understanding the TRUTH is to be willing to accept the *Bible definition* for these terms.

One of the basic arguments against the authority of God's Law is that it was supposedly "nailed to the cross." Even in this first instance, it is important to point out that most theologians blindly ASSUME without proof that the "law" is a huge, all-encompassing blanket term including the rituals of the Old Testament priesthood such as washings and animal sacrifices, the statutes and judgments given to Israel as a civil nation, and the Ten Commandments as well.

Once they have falsely defined the word "law"—trying to make it include all these things—then they attack their self-created "enemy" with vigor!

They exclaim that the "old law" was harsh and stern—the product of the "cruel" God of the Old Testament, as they look at it with human reason. They get people to believing that all of His "law" was very unnecessary, only temporary, and needed to be done away with by Christ at the cross.

Ten Commandments Nailed to the Cross?

The Bible shows what Christ did nail to the cross was OUR SINS! "Who his own self bare *our sins* in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness" (I Pet. 2:24).

The truth is that Christ did not nail His Father's Law to the cross, but rather that our disobedience to God's Law caused *Christ* to be nailed to the cross!

Your Bible plainly says: "For sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). And what is the *penalty* for sin? "For the wages of sin is *death*" (Rom. 6:23). So Jesus Christ had to pay the penalty of our sins by His DEATH on the cross!

There are only two places in the Bible which, taken out of the context, might even be remotely taken to teach that Christ nailed the Ten Commandments to the cross. They are Ephesians 2:15 and Colossians 2:14. In both instances, the word "ordinances" is used instead of "commandments" by the translators.

And rightly so!

Because an entirely *different* Greek word is used than is normally employed

to mean the spiritual Ten Commandments of God. The Greek word is *dogmasin*, from which we derive our word "dogma" or man-made belief or creed.

In Colossians 2:20-21—read it—the very same word translated "ordinances" is clearly explained to mean human pagan religious practices involving commands to "touch not; taste not; handle not"—penance! These have NOTHING to do with the Ten Commandments—the *spiritual* law of Almighty God showing us how to love God and our neighbor. Write for the article we have which fully explains these verses.

Another clear proof that Jesus did not do away with His Father's Commandments is given in His own teaching to His disciples AFTER everything was nailed to the cross, and He had been resurrected from the dead. Having taught *obedience* to God's Law throughout His entire ministry as we have seen (Mat. 19:17), Christ sent His apostles forth to the Jewish and Gentile peoples saying: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: *teaching them to observe* ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always*, even unto the end of the world" (Mat. 28:19-20).

Here we find the very Son of God—AFTER the cross—sending forth His disciples to preach the very SAME message of obedience to God's Commandments which He had continually preached and taught them throughout His entire ministry! Could anything be more clear?

Superseded by Paul's Teaching?

Another basic argument used to nullify the authority of God's Commandments is that they were "superseded" by the later teaching of the Apostle Paul. Those who hold this argument claim that Paul was more educated and "intellectual"—and therefore apparently knew better than Christ Himself! They don't put it in those words, of course, but that is certainly what it amounts to.

Often, their ideas are based upon the theory of "progressive revelation." It

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ЯЗЫКЕ!

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чати брошюра

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goes like this: God revealed a little bit to Adam, more to Abraham, more to Moses, more to David, more to Isaiah, more to John the Baptist, more to Jesus, then most of all to the apostle Paul.

Therefore, since they claim to find in Paul's writings arguments against the authority of God's Commandments, they feel that this is the "height" of God's revelation and that we have now become too "spiritual" to literally obey the Commandments given by Almighty God the Creator. In addition to being rather childish reasoning when you're dealing with the great GOD who made our puny little brains in the first place, this reasoning certainly falls down when you carry it one or two steps further!

For if you are going to logically follow on to the *last* Biblical author, you must come to the Apostle John.

And *nowhere* in the New Testament is the *authority* of the Ten Commandments over the lives of individual Christians taught more clearly than in the writings of the Apostle John! In addition to I John 5:3 which shows that God's love is that we **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**, there are many other passages which clearly show that each Christian should obey the Commandments of God the Father. "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22).

Remember John's inspired definition of the true saints of God? "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS** of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

These are just a few examples of the point in question, but the truth is that the theory of "progressive revelation" falls flat on its face when exposed to dozen's of clear scriptures in your Bible.

Another argument, used by the Roman Catholics and some others, is that the necessity of obeying certain of God's Commandments was set aside by the authority of the Church and its traditions. Needless to say, an entire article would be needed to thoroughly prove that human church leaders have **NO AUTHORITY** to set aside the plain statements of scripture *at any time or under*

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

In your recent series of articles on the Ten Commandments, why did you number them differently from the way that I have always been taught?

The Ten Commandments are sometimes misnumbered by men. Some assume the commandment against murder is the fifth commandment, while others recognize it as the sixth commandment.

Strangely enough, there were no numerical differences *until the fourth century after Christ!* It was then that Augustine took it upon himself to devise a *new method* of numbering the Ten Commandments. He combined the first and second commandments of Exodus 20:1-6 into one commandment in order to allow the use of images and statues in religious worship. The *first* commandment forbids *worship* of anything in the place of God. The second commandment is altogether different and forbids bowing down, serving or otherwise using statues in religious services—image worship. There are *two kinds* of idolatry—and two distinct commandments prohibit these two major sins.

Then Augustine deliberately proceeded to divide the tenth commandment of verse 17 into *two* commandments in order to have the proper number of ten (Deut. 10:4). According to Augustine's mistaken idea, commandment number nine was: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." Then, the tenth commandment was: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife. . . ."

Augustine's method of numbering the Ten Commandments *does not* include them all! It completely denies the *sec-*

ond commandment—the commandment against bowing down to, and serving images or statues. As a result, many catechisms contain *no mention whatsoever* of any commandment against use of images of Deity.

Notice how the Ten Commandments *should* be numbered. God has not left us in darkness. *We can know* the proper numbering.

Open your Bible to Romans 13:9. Here Paul is quoting from the Ten Commandments: "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, **THOU SHALT NOT COVET**; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In quoting the Ten Commandments, Paul made no distinction, as Augustine falsely did, between coveting your neighbor's house and coveting his wife. This commandment is *one principle*—one commandment. In Romans 7:7, he said: ". . . for I had not known lust, except the law had said, *Thou shalt not covet.*"

But the first two commandments refer to *two distinct principles*. The first commandment forbids the worship of false gods. The second commandment is an *entirely different* principle and forbids the use of pictures, images, or statues in worship.

Augustine was unjustified in changing the accepted order of the Ten Commandments. It is for this reason that we must reject his order in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and use the inspired numbering which Jesus, the apostles, and the Jews have always recognized.

any circumstances! They remain the same "forever and ever" (Psalm 111:7-8). Jesus Christ commanded: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **EVERY WORD OF GOD**" (Luke 4:4).

Certainly the principle of distorting God's Word mentioned in Revelation

22:18-19 applies to *every scripture*: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of

life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book."

Twisting Paul's Writings

Now let us analyze a few of the specific scriptures which modern theologians wrest and pervert in a vain effort to overthrow the authority of God's Law. Most of them, of course, are contained in the writings of the Apostle Paul.

Knowing this would happen, God inspired the Apostle Peter to warn: "Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable WREST, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Pet. 3:15-16).

Since God directly warns against *wresting* or TWISTING and PERVERTING Paul's writings, we should be very careful not to read a meaning into Paul's writings that is not there! Also, we should be very careful to get each verse *in context* and understand it as intended in the simple story flow of the passage under discussion. We should find and accept the *Bible definition* and *usage* of the terms involved regarding God's Law.

I personally have heard many ministers use the first *part* of Romans 3:20 as a proof text against God's Law. Notice it: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight."

This verse is often coupled together with Romans 3:28 for additional "proof" that it is not necessary to keep God's Law after the time of Christ. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Now here—even in this first instance—is a good example of text-twisting! Notice that only the first *part* of Romans 3:20 is quoted. Note also that these verses do NOT say that we should not obey God's Commandments, but rather that we are not "justified" by keeping the Law. But the preachers using these texts against God's Law generally ASSUME—without proof—that "justify" means salvation or the way to eternal life.

The Real MEANING

Now let us examine the real MEANING of these verses. First, notice the last part of Romans 3:20 which is usually omitted when quoting it against God's Law: "For by the law is the knowledge of sin."

You would think this phrase alone—if *honestly understood*—would be enough to convince any true Christian minister that God's Law is of necessity still VERY MUCH *in existence* and not by any means "nailed to the cross!" For this phrase says that God's Law *defines sin*—shows us what sin is.

And in this same book of Romans, the Apostle Paul again states under inspiration: "I had not known sin, but *by the law*" (Rom. 7:7). And in Romans 4:15, Paul states: "For where no law is, *there is NO TRANSGRESSION.*"

In other words, if God's Law were NOT in existence there would be no transgression—*there would be no SIN!* Then—we may emphatically ask—if God's Law is "done away," if there is NO SIN, then WHY did Jesus Christ have to die one of the most painful deaths ever invented by man to supposedly pay the penalty of our sins on the cross?

The plain TRUTH is, of course, that God's Law is still *very much in existence* and is BINDING upon true Christians as the *way of life* God intends them to live through the help of His indwelling Holy Spirit.

Let the Bible Define "Justification"

But now, what about the *first part* of this verse under consideration: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight"? The key to the right answer lies in the true definition of the term "justify."

"Justification," as the Bible always uses it, has to do with *forgiveness of past sins*. It is not directly used to describe the process of Christians being *born again*—glorified and made immortal in God's Kingdom.

Notice: "Much more then, being now *justified* by his blood [Christ's *death* for our sins on the cross], we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled [or "*justi-*

fied"], we shall be *saved BY HIS LIFE*" (Rom. 5:9-10).

You see, we are "justified"—*forgiven our past sins*—by accepting the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross in full payment for them. But then we must "GROW in grace and knowledge" and begin to OBEY God's spiritual law revealed in the Ten Commandments by Jesus Christ Himself, our living High Priest, living His life in us through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, as Paul states, ultimately, "we shall be *saved by His LIFE.*"

So it is actually CHRIST *in us* Who keeps the Commandments. It is the living Christ *in us* Who helps us grow in grace and in knowledge to become like our Father in heaven in holy, righteous character. It is "Christ *in you*, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

Now read again Romans 3:20, 28 with this *Bible definition* of "justify" in mind. Do you see?

Christ's Death Paid Penalty of Sin

Of course you are not "justified" for your past sins by beginning to keep God's Law today! It is the same with our British and American civil laws. We are not forgiven for breaking the traffic laws yesterday just because we keep all the traffic laws today! But that does certainly NOT mean that the traffic laws are no longer necessary! For they define the *right way* to drive and walk—just as God's Laws define the *right way* to live toward Him and our neighbor.

And the God of your Bible says that He will not ultimately "save" and give immortal life and glory in His Kingdom to anyone who REFUSES to obey Him and keep His Commandments!

Notice the Apostle Paul's conclusion to this entire chapter in which these "problem" verses are contained: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we ESTABLISH THE LAW!" (verse 31).

Knowing that *faith in Christ's sacrifice alone* can bring forgiveness for past sins certainly does not do away with God's Commandments! Rather, it reconciles one to God so that God will then grant that person His Holy Spirit—His *very life and character*. Thus, he will now have the spiritual POWER—the very

(Please continue on page 29)

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

MOSES BREAKS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

AARON leaped to his feet when he heard Moses and Joshua were coming.

"Send out men to the base of the mountain!" he ordered.

"But don't you want to meet them?" the officer queried.

"No. Not yet," Aaron answered hesitantly, waving the officer off to his duty.

"Let Moses see for himself what is going on first."

Moses Arrives

A little later, when Moses and Joshua came into camp, the people who recognized them stared in silence. Those who were guilty were ashamed of what they had done and were doing. Those who were having no part in the idol worship were ashamed of those who were having a part.

When he came close enough to plainly see the towering, gold-covered statue of a calf, Moses came to an abrupt halt. Although God had told him that the people had turned to using an idol in worship, he hadn't expected this sordid scene.

He could hardly believe his eyes. The sight of so many of his people bowing, dancing, parading and chanting before the shining idol gave Moses a sudden sick, sinking feeling. At the same time he became very angry.

He seized the two stone tablets and angrily strode up before the altar in front of the golden calf.

"Here is the agreement we made with our Creator only a few weeks ago!" he shouted, holding the stone slabs aloft. "We promised to keep it forever, and yet you are already breaking it!"

Because there was so much noise from the people, only those who were closest to Moses looked up to see who was speaking in such a loud voice. When they saw that it was Moses, whom they had thought of as dead, they straightened up in surprise and quickly directed the attention of others to the angry figure before the altar.

The vast mob of noisy revellers became motionless and silent. Thousands of pairs of eyes stared with unbelief at Moses.

"Look!" some woman screamed hysterically. "It's that man Moses! He has come back to haunt us!"

A low murmur of awe rumbled up from the people. Another of the revellers, having imbibed too much to care what he was doing, staggered up to Moses and shakily pointed with pride to the golden idol.

"What do you think of our new god?" he mumbled loudly.

Immediately Moses was so filled with fury at what he had heard and seen that for the moment he lost control of his temper.

Tables of Stone Broken

He lifted the two stone tablets high above his head, then threw them down with all his strength at the idol altar. The slabs shattered to pieces and flew in all directions. (Exodus 32:19.)

Even before he had finished this rash act, Moses realized that he had let his feelings get the better of him. He had foolishly broken something holy that had come from the very hand of God.

Somehow the huge crowd was greatly affected by what Moses had said and done. People began to slink silently back to their camps. It wasn't long before most of the throng had dissolved. Those who remained gathered into sullen groups. They were mostly the ones who had tried from the very first to threaten Aaron into helping create an idol.

Aaron, Hur and their officers had little more to say in their defense. It was obvious to Moses that they realized that it would have been wiser to have relied more upon God and less upon their own schemes.

Even as he stood there, Moses was again filled with anger at the thought of how some of the Israelites had forced idolatry on the people.

"Build a huge fire around the idol!" Moses suddenly commanded. "Burn it up! Melt down every bit of gold in the abominable thing!"

Men hurried to carry out Moses' order. Before long there was a huge heap of wood and brush around the calf idol, and flames soared up to hide it in smoke and intense heat.



Intense heat from the heaps of burning wood and brush soon melted the golden calf down to the ground.

Most of the Israelites were relieved to see this evil image slowly melt down to the ground. But there were many who bitterly and wrathfully watched their idol go down to such a quick and inglorious end.

"As soon as the fire has cooled," Moses commanded, "pick every bit of gold out of the ashes. Get workmen to grind all the pieces of gold into a very fine powder. Sprinkle that gold powder in the springs, brooks, wells and containers from which the people drink!"

It took many hours to carry out Moses' orders. But they were carried out to the letter. Soon it was impossible for the Israelites to drink water without drinking some of the gold. To those who hadn't taken part in the mad festival of idolatry, drinking the gold in their water wasn't such a terrible task. But it did remind them that idolatry was a great sin. As for those who had worshipped the golden calf as their god, it was a grievous and shameful thing that they should actually consume a part of their idol. (Exodus 32:20.)

Aaron Repents

Discouraged by what had happened, and disappointed in himself, Moses turned to go to his tent. Looking up, he found Aaron, Hur and several officers and elders standing beside him.

For a long moment Moses stared searchingly at Aaron and Hur, in whose hands he had left the governing of Israel when he went up Mt. Sinai with Joshua.

"What happened while we were gone?" Moses demanded of Aaron. "How did the people manage to talk you into letting this terrible thing take place?"

"Don't be angry with me because of what has happened, sir," Aaron replied. "You know how these people are. They always want to do the wrong thing." (Verses 21-22.)

"That isn't a very good answer to my questions," Moses rapped out impatiently.

Aaron hesitated a little before replying. He wasn't anxious for Moses to learn what had taken place because he was ashamed of his part. He seemed to be more fearful of Moses than he was of God. He had tried in his own way—which wasn't the best way—to handle the people simply by stalling for time and expecting help in the meanwhile.

"The people became impatient when you failed to return in a few days," Aaron finally answered. "They thought that you and Joshua had probably died on the mountain. They began begging us for a new leader. It turned out that many of them actually wanted an idol. At first I refused to do anything for them. Then they became angry and threatened me. I decided to go along with their wishes, but I was hopeful that you would come back in the meantime, and that the idea of building an idol would never come into reality."

"This monstrous statue of a calf—just how did that come about?" Moses queried.

"They wanted a metal idol," Aaron continued. "So I made them give up their gold jewelry. I had it melted down. I had already suggested that a large calf image could be made if there were enough metal. I reasoned that it would take many weeks to create something like that, and that you surely would return before it could be finished. As it turned out, the carpenters and metal workers labored with such speed that this gold-covered image was formed and erected in only a few days. If it could have been delayed only one more day, you would have arrived before this evil worship took place." (Verses 23-24.)

Moses listened to Aaron's story, but he wasn't pleased to learn what had happened.

"You know that our enemies are always spying on us," Moses said. "If they had chosen this day to attack us again, when so many of our people were lost in their pleasures, the Amalekites might have conquered us."

Moses wasn't yet finished with God's command to punish those who were guilty of starting the recent trouble. In fact, he had hardly begun.

Moses went to the main gate of the foremost camp. From there he sent out officers to go among the people and find those men who had no part in festivities before the golden calf, and who desired to worship only the one true God. In a little while a large crowd had gathered around Moses.

"These are the men who claim loyalty to God," Moses was told. "They are sons of the tribe of Levi, and they are willing and anxious to follow God's orders." (Exodus 32:26.)

"God has told this nation to punish those who were responsible for breaking the covenant," Moses said to them. "You who had no part in this thing must equip yourselves with sharp swords and go into all the camps to seek out and slay the offenders!"

There was a silence amid the crowd.

"I know how you must feel," Moses continued. "Many of the guilty are close friends and perhaps even your brothers. But you must follow this command which God gave to punish evildoers. The blood of those who must die will not be on your heads. God gives life and He takes it. It will be God using you to punish these criminals."

Realizing that God was using them as instruments of divine justice, the Levites obediently armed themselves, divided into groups with leaders and firmly went about their appointed task.

By the end of that day, when they had carefully gone through every camp, about three thousand men were executed. Thus were the idolatrous Israelites cut off from God and the good things He had promised them. (Verses 27-29.)

Next morning, while there was mourning for the dead, Moses called the elders together.

"Go and remind the people what a great sin—what a great crime—has taken place here," Moses instructed them. "Even though the guiltiest ones have been slain, God is probably still very angry with all the people for allowing it, and perhaps He has even more punishment in mind for them. I shall go back up the mountain and plead with Him to be merciful to all of us."

Moses Returns Atop Sinai

Already Moses had made several trips up Mt. Sinai. But he was anxious to go still another time to talk to God. When he reached the place just beneath the brilliant light on the summit, he kneeled with his forehead to the stony ground.

"My people have sinned even more than I realized at first," Moses said to God. "I know that you are a jealous God, and that you are very angry with them because of what they have done. But I beg you to forgive them. If you don't intend to forgive them, and if your anger is so great that you still choose to deal harshly with all of them, then I pray that you will do away with me."

"I shall not cause the innocent to suffer," God replied. "But remember that the guilty shall not escape my anger. I will not allow them to live.

"Now go back down to the people and tell them that because of their breaking the covenant, I no longer will be so close to them, lest I blot them out if they ever again so carelessly break my laws. I shall send an angel to lead them toward Canaan. As for now, let them show me whether or not they are sorry for their wrongdoing. Then I shall decide how to deal with them." (Exodus 33:1-3.)

When Moses had returned to the people and had told them what things God had spoken, many of them were quite unhappy to learn that their Creator no longer chose to dwell close to them as their Leader.

A large part of the people failed to realize just how great a loss this was to all. But most of them, to show that they regretted the golden calf affair, took off their jewelry and their best clothes and spent the next days in a spirit of mourning, as God commanded them. (Exodus 33:4-6.)

God was moved when He saw that the Israelites were willing to show that much of a spirit of repentance. For the time being He withheld any other punishment He might have had in mind.

There had been times when God had spoken to Moses within a large meeting tent. Knowing that God would probably no longer visit him in this tent while it was in the camp (because God had said that He didn't care to dwell too close to the sinning Israelites), and not wishing to lose contact with God, Moses had the tent taken up and moved outside the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation—

or the church meeting place; and those who were faithful to God went out to this Tabernacle to worship Him. (Exodus 33:7.)

When the people saw what was happening, they stood by their tents and stared in curiosity—especially when they saw Moses going out to the Tabernacle.

"Can it be that he is leaving us?" many Israelites anxiously asked.

"God said He was going to leave our midst," others observed. "Perhaps He is taking Moses with Him!"

The farther Moses moved off in the distance, the more concerned the watchers became. Then something pulled their attention elsewhere.

The cloud floated away from Mt. Sinai and began to move in the same direction Moses was taking! There was a great stir among the people, inasmuch as it appeared that both God and Moses were deserting them.

People watched closely to see Moses disappear into the Tabernacle. By that time the cloud pillar had moved to a point directly over it, and as soon as Moses entered, it slowly descended until its lower tip was right over the door of the tent!

Because of the height of the cloud pillar, most all the people could see that it swept down to meet Moses. Most of the Israelites who saw all of what happened were greatly moved by the sight. Thousands were comforted to learn that God and Moses were still so close. Many of them stood by their tents and uttered words of thanks and praise to God. (Exodus 33:8-10.)

Later, the cloud returned to Mt. Sinai. Moses returned to his camp. For the next several weeks he went out to the tent that was removed from the crowd. Whenever the people saw him go there, and noticed the cloud going to meet him, they would again praise God.

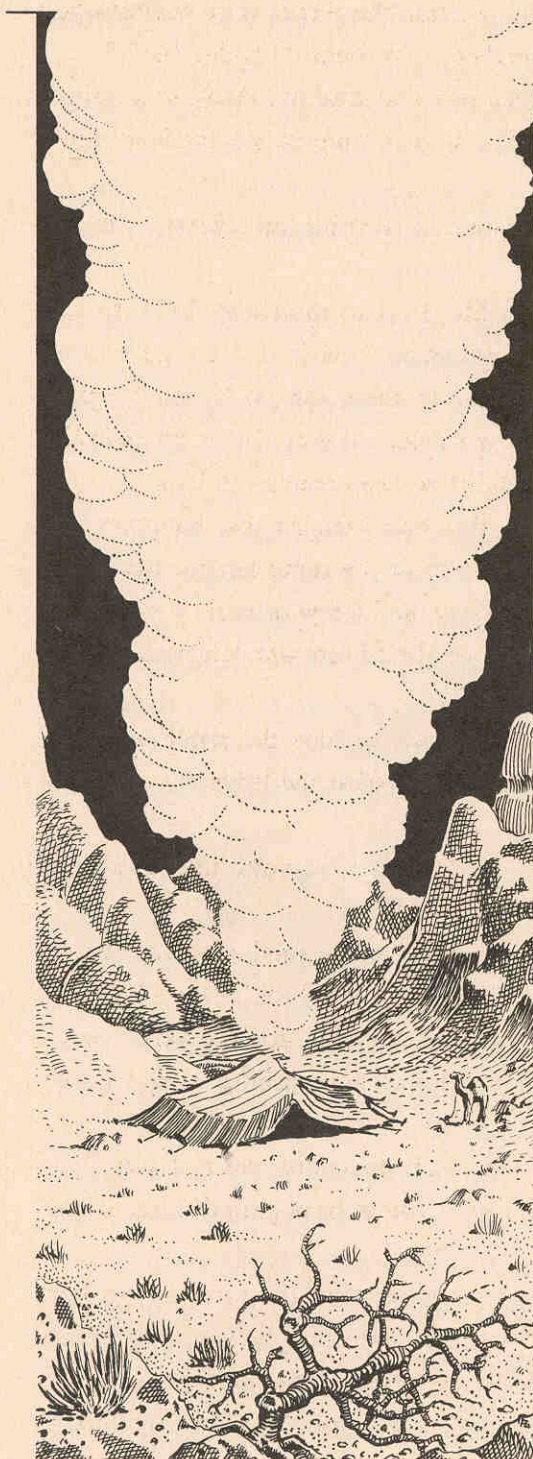
Thus Moses very often spoke with God, though the Eternal God stayed away from the Israelites. As for the meeting tent, it was never empty. Joshua was stationed there to keep things in order at all times. (Verse 11.)

Moses clearly remembered what God had said about not choosing to dwell with the Israelites because of their breaking of the covenant. The more Moses thought about it, the more concerned he became. He knew that without God's presence and help he would never be able to lead the people to Canaan.

Plans for the Future

In a conversation with his Creator, Moses finally became bold enough to ask what God intended to do about getting the Israelites out of the wilderness and into the promised land.

"Show me how I am to lead these people in safety and good health and keep



Whenever Moses needed to talk with God, he went to the special tent pitched off by itself, and God met him there in the cloud.

them from idolatry," Moses inquired. "I can't see how I can possibly do it without your help. In fact, I don't think I would even dare to try."

"The things you have said and done have pleased me," God replied. "I shall go along with you to guide you toward Canaan."

This statement from God made Moses happy. He was relieved and thankful, and felt so close to God that he made a most unusual request.

"Please show yourself to me," Moses asked God. "I know that I could more successfully lead the people to the land you have promised us if only you would let me know how my God appears."

"No man can look upon my face and live," God told Moses. "However, I want you to cut two tables of stone similar to those you broke. Bring them up to the top of Mt. Sinai early tomorrow morning, and I shall write on them the words that were on the first set of tables. While you are there, I shall quickly pass before you, and you will receive a glimpse of my back—but not face to face." (Verses 18-23.)

"Is anyone to come with me?" Moses asked.

"No," God replied. "You must come alone. No man must come up on any part of the mountain except you. Make certain, also, that none of your flocks or herds are allowed to graze too close to the base of the mountain."

When the conversation was ended, Moses sent out officers to make sure that

the barricades beneath the mountain were intact, and that the people were warned again not to go beyond them nor to allow their animals to pass them. (Exodus 34:1-3.)

Moses then quickly called in expert stonecutters and directed them to carefully hew two stone tablets out of beautiful rock similar to that from which the first tablets had been made.

While the stone slabs were being cut, Moses met with his top officers, including Joshua, Aaron and Hur.

"Tomorrow morning I am going again up Mt. Sinai to meet our God," he told them. "Perhaps I shall be gone many days. But no matter how long I am gone, I am now charging you with the task of keeping order in these camps. If you let these people get out of control as they did before, God will blot out every living being in this valley. Remember, your lives depend on your ability to keep matters in hand."

Early next morning Moses set out alone up the mountain. At that hour not very many people were up and around. But some of them in the camp nearest the mountain noticed their leader climbing up the rough slopes, and a few of these were curious enough to try to follow. However, they were stopped by officers who had been ordered to patrol the barricades.

Meanwhile, the cloud over Mt. Sinai floated down to hide the mountain peak. Moses climbed up through the thick vapor until he arrived at the ledge where he had received the laws from God.

"Enter the small cave at the end of the ledge, Moses," a voice instructed him. "Do not come out of the cave until your God has passed by."

Moses obediently stepped into the small opening in the solid rock and waited. Suddenly he found himself shaking nervously. The grayness of the heavy cloud was melting away under a dazzling light. He had reason to tremble, for the very Creator of the universe—the One who later became Jesus—was approaching close to him.

"I am the Eternal God!"

The tremendous voice, seeming to come from all directions, cracked like lightning. The growing brilliance became so strong that it sent stabs of pain through Moses' eyes.

In the next instant a dazzling figure—even brighter than the surrounding light—burst on Moses' vision. It was more blindingly brilliant than the sun, and seemed to be standing with His back to Moses. He saw the figure only for a moment. Then, before he could clap his hands over his eyes, the figure was gone and the light faded. (Exodus 34:5-6.)

"I am a merciful and gracious Creator," God continued. "I am slow to anger, loving and faithful. My love for thousands is not to be swayed. I forgive men of

their sins, but I will punish those who continue in their guilt. Furthermore, I will also bring punishment on their children, their grandchildren and even their great grandchildren!"

Weak, trembling and temporarily almost blinded, Moses stumbled out of the little cave and dropped face down on the rocky ledge.

"Oh, God!" he cried out. "If I have found favor with You, forgive the sins of my stubborn people! Dwell with us from this day on. Don't cut us off from your protection and the things that only You can give us!" (Verses 7-9.)

After quite a silence, during which Moses remained with his face to the ground, God spoke again.

"I will renew the covenant with your people," He said. "I will do marvelous things for them—things that have never been done before on this planet. They shall witness my great and terrible miracles."

God went on to repeat to Moses many of the plans He had told him when Moses was on the mountain to obtain the first two stone tables. Moses stayed in God's presence for another forty days and forty nights, during which he neither ate nor drank. As before, God's energizing presence kept him well and strong.

God again wrote the Ten Commandments—this time on the stone slabs brought up from the camp. When at last Moses went back down the mountain, he was a happier man than he had been



Even before Moses could clap his hands over his eyes the dazzling figure was gone and the brilliant light faded.

when he previously had come down with Joshua. Now he had a new set of tables, the covenant had been renewed and there was no sign of trouble in the camps. (Verses 27-28; Deuteronomy 10:1-5.)

When he reached the barricade, the first people to meet him stared and backed away in fright.

"Look at his face!" some of them muttered fearfully.

(To be continued next issue)

The Religious Lie

(Continued from page 18)

life of Christ in him—to keep not only the letter but the very spiritual intent and purpose of God's Ten Commandments.

The Galatian Arguments

Another favorite passage used by ministers attempting to prove that God's Law was "done away" is found in Galatians 2:16.

Paul states: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the *works of the law*, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: *for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*"

Again, the basic key to understanding is that the word "justify" has ONLY to do with forgiveness of *past sins*! It takes the blood of Christ and belief in His sacrifice to bring forgiveness of these *past sins*! Your obedience today can't undo your *past* mistakes.

But in this particular case, the term "works of the law" does not even refer to obedience to the Ten Commandments!

The whole question in this passage has to do with penance—mistakenly using the RITUALS of the Mosaic law for justification *instead* of the blood of Christ. The Ferrar Fenton translation of the Bible makes this plain in verse 16. It translates the expression "works of the law" as "*ritualism*." For the original Greek word here is *ergon* and involves *physical action*.

It is speaking of the misuse of temporary physical *rituals* and *sacrifices* of

the law of Moses instituted to instill the habit of obedience—and as a *reminder* of sin. This verse is NOT referring to the Ten Commandments of God which are described by this same Paul as "spiritual" and "holy, and just, and good" (Rom. 7:12, 14).

The entire Book of Galatians deals with this problem of the attempt to substitute the rituals of Moses as penance for sin in place of the blood of Christ. This is made plain in Galatians 3:19. "Wherefore then serveth the law?" Why was the law of rituals given? "It was ADDED *because of transgressions*, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made" (Gal. 3:19).

Which Law Was "Added"?

Notice what law Paul is talking about throughout this entire section of the Bible!

He is talking about a law which was "ADDED!" And notice that it was added *because of "transgressions."* In other words, there must have been *transgressions* of a PREVIOUS law or the Apostle Paul could not have made this statement! For we have already seen that God says: "Where no law is, *there is no transgression*" (Rom. 4:15).

Therefore, Paul is speaking about the law of RITUALS and SACRIFICES which was imposed for a specific period of time on the physical nation of Israel. It was "added" long after the eternal, spiritual Law of God, the Ten Commandments, had been revealed to man. Even Abraham, the distant ancestor of Moses, obeyed God's spiritual laws long before any "law of Moses" was instituted (Gen. 26:5).

Paul says that this law of rituals and sacrifices was added "till the seed should come"—in other words, *until* Christ came in the flesh. He describes it as a "school master" which would teach men the habit of obedience and the NEED of a Saviour until Christ came.

This sacrificial law of Moses was only *temporary* until the true sacrifice of Christ would be made. In Hebrews 9:10, God describes this entire system as a law, "which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them UNTIL *the time of reformation.*" So here we find *additional proof* that the law "added" UNTIL the time of Christ's coming was the *sacrificial law* and its *physical rituals* given through the Levitical priesthood under Moses!

What Does "Under the Law" Mean?

Another basic misunderstanding is caused by a distortion of the true meaning of the phrase "under the law" in the New Testament. This expression is used several times and *always* has the SAME meaning.

One of the most oft-quoted verses incorporating this phrase is Romans 6:14: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not *under the law*, but under grace." After reading these words, many preachers then launch into a tirade against the Commandments of God—claiming that we are not under the authority of the Ten Commandments any more.

But what *does* this expression mean?

"Under the law" ALWAYS means *under* the PENALTY of breaking the Ten Commandments! It means that we have broken the Commandments, and there-

fore come "under" the claim of God's Law and His justice.

And what is that claim? The *penalty* of breaking God's Commandments is DEATH (Rom. 6:23), and *Jesus Christ paid that penalty!*

Therefore, as Paul is clearly teaching in all of these verses if we read the entire chapters in which they are contained, Christians who have already accepted Christ's sacrifice are no longer "under" the penalty of God's Law, but are rather "under" the claim of *grace*—the claim to God's mercy through His Son Jesus Christ!

Note also that the first phrase of this verse, "For sin shall not have dominion over you," clearly teaches that we are NOT to break God's Commandments! For the Bible definition of sin is found in I John 3:4: "*Sin is the transgression of the law.*" Therefore, Paul is saying that sin—or law breaking—is not to have dominion over our thoughts and lives.

Paul continues in Romans 6:15: "What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." In other words, are we to BREAK God's Law because we are under *grace* and *forgiveness* of our past sins before we were converted? Paul says: "God forbid!"

He continues: "Know you not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, *his servants ye are to whom ye OBEY*; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (verse 16).

Whom Do YOU "Serve"?

Here God's apostle plainly declares that if you "serve" sin—if you BREAK God's Commandments—it will lead "unto death." If you sin, you will reap the *death penalty* described in this very chapter in verse 23!

But if you *serve* GOD and *obey His Commandments*, then we find that obedience leads "unto righteousness." And, of course, if you continue to grow in righteousness, eternal *life* will be your ultimate reward in God's Kingdom!

How plain! *The choice is yours!* Either you acknowledge the clear principles expressed in this article and in the Bible and OBEY the God of Jesus Christ

through His Spirit within you, or your reward is *death!*

God's Commandments reveal *the way* to happiness, joy, and peace. And God will not grant eternal life to anyone who is not willing to live the *right way*. He knows they would only make themselves and others *absolutely miserable* for ALL ETERNITY!

Forgiveness of your past sins—your "justification"—comes through acceptance of the blood of Jesus Christ which He shed as your Saviour. But your receipt of the gift of *eternal life* in God's Kingdom is a result of your going *further than this* in the true Christian life! As we found in Romans 5:10, you are not ultimately "saved" or given eternal life in God's Kingdom merely because of Jesus' *death*, but because of His *LIFE in you!*

For as the inspired Paul declared: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Yes, through the Holy Spirit, Christ will live His very *LIFE* in you if you surrender to Him as both Saviour *and Lord and Master*. Jesus Christ set us an *example* (I Pet. 2:21). He said: "I have kept my Father's commandments" (Jn. 15:10).

God states: "Jesus Christ the SAME yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus Christ will live the SAME *obedient* life in you through His Spirit if you will surrender your life and your will to the God who made you and gives you every breath of air you breathe. Through His Spirit, the very "love of God" is shed abroad in your heart (Rom. 5:5). And the inspired definition of this divine love in action in our lives is expressed by John: "For this is the love of God, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I Jn. 5:3).

If you will honestly and prayerfully apply the principles in this article to all of the "problem" verses which men use to try to knock and nullify the Commandments of Almighty God, the answers will become plain and clear. It

is up to YOU. Do you want to follow one of the greatest religious LIES of our time and refuse to obey the holy, righteous laws given in love by your Creator and God?

Or have you come to the place where you *know* there is a REAL God? That the Bible is His *inspired revelation* to man and that you are ready to say, "*Yes Lord, thy will be done?*"

May God help you to make the *right decision*—to let Jesus Christ *literally* LIVE His life in you, *keep the Commandments of God, and develop His very holy, righteous character*—that you may be granted eternal life in the very Kingdom and Family of the great God of heaven Who has made you in His image for this very purpose!

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 14)

8 miles, 12 miles, and 15 miles west of Eugene, I had been forced to hitch-hike a ride or be taken by someone attending who had a car.

A few excerpts from this letter may throw additional light on the circumstances of the time. Here are a few:

"Dear Friend: We want to bring to your attention a few facts that have not been known, about the work, ministry, and circumstances of your radio pastor and editor. . . . He started this work of Bible evangelism without any money or income of his own. He has received no salary or income from any organization, but solely on sheer faith in the Lord to supply his needs and those of his family. . . . To do this, Brother Armstrong and his family have sacrificed in a way you little dream of. . . . Most of the time Brother Armstrong has been preaching six to nine times a week. He and his wife do all the work of printing, folding, addressing, stamping and mailing out *The Plain Truth*, themselves, to save expenses. . . . We are three of the many who have been converted by his preaching during the past year. Now this work is expanding. . . . He has urgent call to open evangelistic meetings at once near Salem. The way is opening for him to go on the air in Portland. . . . But Brother Armstrong is severely handicapped, and may be prevented from expanding

this great work, because he has no car. The time has come when he must make quick trips back and forth between Portland, Salem, and Eugene. He must also have a way to get around to visit more of his radio audience, especially the sick and afflicted who call upon him for prayer. So we, the undersigned, have taken it upon ourselves as a committee of three, to try with the Lord's help and blessing, to provide a car for this great purpose. . . . We have in mind not even the lowest-priced new car, but a used car, the lowest priced car that will serve the purpose and cover the mileage he now will have to cover. One of the undersigned is an experienced mechanic and automobile man, and will select the right car for the purpose. We three are starting this fund, at a sacrifice to ourselves."

As a result of their letter, a fund of \$50 was raised. We purchased a used 1929-model Graham-Paige, in Portland. The price was \$85. We signed papers for paying the additional \$35, with the understanding I was to have ten days to pay it in cash and save the carrying charges of a year's payment contract. I borrowed the \$35 and paid for the car. Afterward the man from whom I borrowed it—and I believe it was Ernest Fisher—figured that he owed that amount of tithe money, and cancelled the note.

Back in the proud old Chicago days, it would have been a very painful blow to pride to have accepted a car in that manner.

Along in those early years, 1934 to 1936, I sometimes laughingly boasted that "I have a suit of clothes for every day in the week—and *this* is it!" But that one suit finally wore thread-bare. It became a handicap to the work. Mr. Elmer Fisher decided I had to have a new one, and took me to the Montgomery-Ward store and bought me a new \$19.89 suit. It may have been a year and a half or two years later when that one was looking equally unpresentable. At that time Milas Helms, near Jefferson, formed two committees, one headed by him at Jefferson, and the other at the Eugene church, to solicit contributions from members for another new suit. They raised \$35.

Through these years my wife wore

used clothes her sister sent her, and how we shifted to keep our children clothed I do not remember—except that one woman at Alvadore stopped tithing by saying:

"Well I'm not going to let any of *my* tithes go to buy silk stockings for those Armstrong girls." She said cotton stockings were good enough for them. Yet ALL other girls in high school wore silk stockings! This was before the days of nylons. Had our girls worn cotton stockings, they would have been ridiculed and laughed at by the other girls. Mrs. Armstrong did not want this to happen. She prevented it by accepting worn silk stockings from others, with runs in them, and sewing up the runs—for both her daughters, and herself.

It was incidents like this that soured and prejudiced our children against God's truth. It required a real miracle from God to convert our sons and bring them into His ministry. Through those years most of the members of the church in Eugene lived better, economically, than we.

I have a letter written November 13, 1935, showing that at that time, after almost two years on the air with the radio program, the income of the work was running around \$40 to \$45 per month.

It was some time during 1935 that opportunity came to purchase a small house of our own on West Sixth Avenue in Eugene. Certain of the church members raised the down payment. On this I have to trust memory. No figures are at hand, as I write. But I believe the price was \$1,900, with 10%, or \$190 down and 1% of the \$1,710 balance, or \$17.10 per month payments. The church members agreed that if I were able to keep up the payments, the property, when paid out, should be deeded to me. It was deeded to the three officers of the church and myself, as trustees for the Church, which made it church ownership.

More Persecution

There had come a request for me to hold evangelistic meetings of about three weeks in the Eldreage schoolhouse on a country road 12 miles north of Salem, Oregon.

In previous installments I have had

a great deal to say about Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Runcorn. We had come to regard them as our "spiritual" parents. They lived in Salem during these years. Their son, Fern Runcorn, and his family lived in this community close to the Eldreage school, and Mr. Fern Runcorn was a member of the school board. It was through him that permission was obtained by the board to hold the meetings. I was invited to be his guest while they were being held.

This school was one of the newer two-room schools. The rooms were divided by folding or sliding doors. These could be opened so that the two rooms became one larger auditorium room.

While it was a country community, we had an attendance running from 50 to 70 each night. Among them were some 15 teen-agers, including a few husky 16-year-old overgrown boys. They did not come because they hungered and thirsted for God's Truth. They came for mischief. They sat in the rear seats, making loud cat-calls and weird noises, trying to disrupt the preaching.

Mr. Runcorn had warned me about them in advance. He said that if I attempted to quiet them or discipline them in any way, I would find all the adults resenting it, and attendance would stop. I could not understand why, but he warned me that the people there were accustomed to this noisy confusion, and would resent any effort of mine to stop it.

Consequently, when the nuisance started, I stopped my preaching long enough to say that I had been warned against trying to stop it.

"Now," I said, "if that's the way you people want it, that's the way you may have it. These boys are sitting at the rear. They are closer to you people than they are to me. If you can stand it, I can. But if and when you get tired of it, and want it stopped, I shall STOP IT!"

When these young rowdies saw they could not break up my meetings that way, after a few nights they broke into the school one night after midnight, breaking a window, and stealing a number of books.

Next evening Mr. Runcorn said the chairman of the school board had called a board meeting, and he and the third

member had voted to refuse permission for the meetings to continue, on the ground that my presence there was endangering school property. But I learned also that the chairman of the school board was a member of a certain church, of which about half of all the residents of the neighborhood were members, and that he, himself, had deliberately instructed these boys to break into the school building, in order to give him the opportunity to deny the use of the building to me.

That rather aroused my indignation. I was to be allowed this one more service that same night. At this service, I announced to the congregation what had happened. I told them I did not want to be a party to a religious war in this religiously divided community, but I believed God would give me wisdom to handle the situation. I felt confident the board decision would be reversed before the following night, and advised all to come.

Next morning I drove to the Sheriff's office in Salem. I asked him if his office was willing to uphold the Constitution of the United States which guarantees the right of peaceful assembly.

"Mr. Armstrong," he said, "if there is anything this office will stand firmly behind, it is the right of peaceful assembly. What's your trouble, and what can we do for you?"

I explained what had happened. I asked for two deputy sheriffs to be present each night, beginning at the time of the meetings, and until about two hours after midnight, to prevent further breaking in or destruction of school property. He assured me his men would be glad to put down the disturbance of these young ruffians by arresting them and taking them to jail if they disturbed the meetings further, provided I would prefer charges. It was agreed. The deputy sheriffs were to remain in the school play-shed just outside the school.

Next, I went immediately, with two witnesses, to the home of the chairman of the school board.

"Now, Mr. X," I said when he came to the door, "I understand that your only objection to my meetings is your fear of destruction to the school property, and your desire to have the property

protected. Is that correct?"

"Oh, yes, of course," he replied.

"And of course," I pursued, "there is no religious persecution or bigotry in your action, is there. You are not trying to start a religious war in this community where half are of your religion and half of the other kind of Christianity?"

"Oh no, of course not," he said, his face turning red.

"Well, then, since you are not doing this as a matter of religious bigotry and intolerance, but only to protect school property, I'm sure you'll change your vote on this, for there will be no further danger to the school property. I have seen to that. The sheriff's office is sending two armed deputy-sheriffs out every night from here on. They are going to guard the school property until long after midnight—as long as there is any danger. So you have no other objection, now, have you?"

"Well," he stammered, "I - I g-guess n-not!"

"Thank you," I said. "These men are my witnesses that we now have your permission to continue the meetings."

We left, and drove to the home of the third board member. I told him what had happened.

"You might as well make it unanimous," I said, "since the other two board members have given permission, anyway."

He was glad to do so.

That night we had a good crowd.

"At the outset tonight," I said, "I want to say that I am sure, after this breaking into the school building and the robbery, that you people will be with me in demanding the constitutional right of peaceful assembly. There are two sheriff's deputies just outside this door. The first one of you young bullies that makes a single disturbing sound is going to be yanked right out of your seat, and thrown in jail for the night, and I will appear against you and demand the severest penalty of the law!"

At the end of three weeks, the interest had increased, and the meetings were continued for six weeks.

How we finally did get on the air in Portland, and the further growth of the radio and publishing work will be related in the next installment.

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