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## COMING OUT OF SIN IS DIFFICULT!

(This message was delivered on the fifth day of Unleavened Bread to a live audience)

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Greetings everyone. This is the fifth day of Unleavened Bread. As we continue to obey God's instructions to put the physical leavening out of our dwellings for a period of seven days, very soon we will have fulfilled most of our assignment, won't we? It hasn't been too difficult has it? Oh, it may have required some effort on our part in cleansing our homes from any leavened products or leavening agents and eating "flat bread" which is not as "tasty" to us as the soft, puffed up products, we eat through the rest of the year. But I don't believe that took an extraordinary amount of work to accomplish, did it? This is the easier part, compared to the really important lessons we are to learn from keeping these days. As we learn from God's Word, the observance of these Holy Seasons, the *physical* duties we perform are just a *type* of the far more important *Spiritual* application or lessons we are to learn. The lesson we are to learn and apply to ourselves, is to get rid of -to put out- the *sin* in our lives. You will find that Spiritual obligation to be far more difficult than the physical type. But it is possible! We will see this by reading the Scriptures.

### What Is Gods Purpose in Human Life?

The main purpose in this human life is to build Holy Righteous *Character*, and to eventually, *be born into the very Family of God*. Romans 8:29 "-- That He (Christ) might be the Firstborn among *many brethren*." God cannot create *character* by *fiat*, or as Webster puts it; "a peremptory order or decree". *Character is developed over time*, by knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing the right way over the wrong.

Even angels can turn to evil, as we find in Ezekiel 28:14-17: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire [at God's throne]. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, *till iniquity was found in thee*." (See also Isaiah 14:12-15.)

God made us *free moral agents* and placed *choices* before us. Notice Deut. 30:15-16: "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I

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## PASSOVER

God's Plan of Salvation begins with the Passover. Millions have rejected this most important day thinking it is for the "Jews" only. They have been deceived into believing the pagan holiday Easter is the day to be observed for modern day Christians. Little do they know that their very eternal life is wrapped around this ancient ceremony. Notice what your Bible says about the **PASSOVER**.

Turn to the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) chapter of Exodus and begin reading in verse one. (1) "And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, (2) This month shall be unto

*you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. (3) Speak you unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb. (5) Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. (6) You shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. (7) And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. (12) For I will pass through the land of Egypt*

*this night, and will smite all the first born in the land of Egypt, both men and beasts; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgement. I am the Lord. (13) And the blood for you will be a token upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. (14) And this day shall be unto you a MEMORIAL; and you shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; you shall keep it a feast by an ORDINANCE FOREVER.*

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone,

How clearly I can still remember the aspirations and desires I had as a young man. I loved sports – all sports – but mostly basketball, football, and baseball. If you could dribble it, shoot it, throw it, or kick it, I liked it. It was, for all practical purposes, the most important thing in my life. In fact, my objective for attending college was to graduate and become a coach. I fulfilled this goal in 1965. I obtained my first coaching job at a small school in Athens, West Virginia. In my first year I coached the Junior High School team. We won the County Championship. That was to be the last championship I ever won!

The next year the High School Coach resigned and I was appointed coach for the High School Team. My dream had come true. In my first season the team did not win a game. We went 0-21. That did not deter me from achieving my goal. I was determined to work even harder, and work we did! I believe my team was the best conditioned team around. But, conditioning alone did not win games; we still had losing seasons for the next five (5) years.

Between the years 1965 and 1970 my wife came in contact with The Worldwide Church of God. She and my father enrolled in the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. She was definitely being called into THE TRUTH. I was NOT interested. I had my GOD and was serving it well. However, one day I happened to read an article explaining how God would beget a human being with HIS Holy Spirit upon repentance and baptism. I was dumfounded! It was like a veil was removed from my eyes and I could see something from the Bible I never comprehended before, and most of all, IT MADE SENSE. I continued to read the literature and study God's WORD. I was baptized into the body of Christ in March 1970. My coaching days were over! I could not coach on Friday nights and observe God's Holy Sabbath Day. Thankfully, I made the right choice. I resigned my position as coach and became a teacher.

Now, why do I share this part of my life with you? Why, because there is a lesson in this for everyone. I recently delivered a sermon entitled "*What Really Matters?*" I am no longer that twenty-three year old man who worshipped sports. Oh, I continued to participate in sports for many years after I resigned coaching, actually until I was fifty years old. I had not fully learned my lesson. I was only beginning to enroll in the school of hard knocks. It took me many more years of neglecting my family, my study, prayer and other "important things that mattered" before I came to realize "*What Really Matters?*" I hope the sermon will have as much impact on you as it did me. It is a compilation of some of the lessons I have learned.

I am still learning "*What Really Matters?*" as I grow older each day. I realize the sunrises and sunsets are growing fewer and fewer with each passing day. I know that my pilgrimage here on earth is quickly drawing to an end. My children and grandchildren are growing up and I still do not have the opportunity to spend as much time with them as I would like. My wife and I are growing older. How much more time will we have together? I don't know the answer to that question.

At this juncture in my life, I could care less about sports. Oh, I still watch them, but I do not worship them. I turned the NBA All-Star game off recently with eight minutes to go and went to bed. Sleep is much more important than watching ten men trying to put a leather ball in a metal ring with strings attached to it.

So, "*What Really Matters?*" in your life? What do you devote the majority of your time and efforts toward? Do your earthly goals and desires supersede your quest for the Kingdom of God? Do they interfere with prayer, study, meditation and fasting? Do they push aside your wife, children, and other family members? Perhaps life's experiences will bring to you opportunities to choose "*What Really Matters?*" most to you. I pray that you will make choices that will enable you to come to grasp the significance of "*What Really Matters?*" to you. As we approach The Passover season it would behoove all of us to examine our lives and determine "*What Really Matters?*" most and pursue that course. One day, you will be glad you did.

Sincerely,

George Trent

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command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it." Here God instructs Israel to choose the way that leads to blessings, but in Deuteronomy 29:4 he says: "Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day."

### Obedience is Possible for Us

As I stated before, *it takes time and effort on our part to develop character.* Just as it takes a certain amount of resistance in an exercise program to develop muscle in various parts of our body, *it will take trials and tests to develop righteous character in our hearts and minds.* Matthew 7:13-14,21: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Notice that it is the one who "does the will of my Father in heaven." that "shall enter into the kingdom of heaven" but those who "practice lawlessness" (Ver.23) are told to "depart from Me". But also note that *a few* find that difficult way "which leads to life". **SO IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE!**

Let's go back to the account of Old Testament Israel being brought out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. They departed from Ramses (Jophesus records this city was called Letopolis. It is the city of Old Cairo today.). As well as we can calculate, the date of the Exodus was 1487 B.C. (The Companion Bible gives 1491 B.C.) As in the year when Jesus Christ was slain (31 A.D.), *the Passover occurred on a Wednesday*, the fourth (middle) day of the week, and the first day of unleavened bread fell on a Thursday, the fifth day of the week; the second day of Unleavened Bread was a Friday, the sixth day of the week. Keep this in mind as we cover some of the highlights in: Exodus 12:37 "And the children of Israel journeyed from Ramses to Succoth, about *six hundred thousand* on foot that were men, beside children." (Read verses 39, 40; 13:17-22) So in two days of travel, they reached Etham on Friday, the day before the weekly Sabbath, (which would begin at sunset.)

Now God had special instructions to pass on to Israel, and it would be through a *Sabbath service*: The column of cloud that became fire by night did not move on the Sabbath! GOD RESTED! Etham was on the edge of the wilderness, so Israel was now to strike out straight into the desert. Then, they were told to "turn and encamp" (Exodus 14:2) from the populated places, *on the weekly*

*Sabbath—a type of leaving the well-traveled popular road.* God knew Pharaoh would pursue and that it was necessary *for the Israelites own good*, that they be trapped and supernaturally delivered by God's own power to prove them or test them.

I now quote to you a "Comment" from the "Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, Lesson 34, Pg. 3: "Immediately after Israel left Egypt they were pursued by Pharaoh! So today, newly begotten Christians are often pursued by Satan. He will set any obstacle in your way—he will attempt to discourage you, to cause you to stumble—he will do *anything* to keep you from receiving eternal life. His favorite trick is to make you *want to return to the life of sin you should be forsaking*". Continuing on in Ex. 14:13 "And Moses said unto the people, fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever."

Don't forget that Israel cried out for deliverance in Exodus 2:23 "---Then the children groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came unto God because of the bondage." (Also, Ex.3:7-10). So, we likewise, need to cry out to our Father in Heaven whenever we have severe trials. God alone offers salvation *to us in these modern times and for our own good, as He did to Israel*, but, sometimes He allows trials and temptations to come upon us. What should we do? James 4:7-10: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. [We are symbolizing this, by keeping these Days of Unleavened Bread.] Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up." (We sometimes need to *fast*, when we need extra strength.)

Notice, I Corinthians 10:1-2,4,11-13: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye be ignorant, how that our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: *And that Rock was Christ.* Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation (trial) taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Yes, just as surely as God made a

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## THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

*“As the Days of Unleavened Bread drew nigh,”* Christ’s disciples came to him and asked, *“where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?”* The Spring Holy Day season includes the Passover and the SEVEN days of Unleavened Bread. As these days approach, we too must prepare for them.

### PASSOVER

Passover service is a solemn occasion. Our minds should be focused on the purpose of the service and our relationship with God. Only baptized members should partake of the bread and wine portion (Exodus 12:43-45). Children may watch quietly and learn from the experience (Exodus 12:25-27). Unbaptized adults may partake of the foot washing ceremony but should not partake of the bread and wine.

Passover services this year will be conducted on Friday evening, April 18, beginning AFTER sunset. (This corresponds with the 14th of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar.) Prior to services, the person or persons who will be conducting or preparing the service, should obtain a portion of unleavened bread, either Matzos or homemade unleavened bread. Also, obtain a non-fortified red wine, such as Burgundy, Beaujolais, or Merlot. Alcohol content should be between 10% or 13%. The bread and wine should be covered with a clean white cloth in preparation for the service.

All leavened products should be removed from the hall.

Those who conduct services should ensure that all unleavened bread and wine used during the service is disposed of after services. Bread or wine NOT USED DURING SERVICES need not be disposed of. If you do not have a minister to conduct services, you may send for our DVD for Passover services. Also, be sure and read the article entitled **“How to Keep the Passover at Home.”**

### FIRST AND LAST DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

*“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread unto the Lord: seven days you MUST EAT unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have a holy convocation...in the seventh day is a holy convocation, ye shall do no servile work therein.”* (Leviticus 23:5-8). As we can see, the FIRST and LAST days of Unleavened Bread are Sabbaths and, therefore, are Holy Convocations.

For those who will NOT have a minister available for the first day (April 20)

and the last day (April 26) of Unleavened Bread, you will receive taped messages from the ministry expounding on the meaning of these days as God command us to do. You should play those tapes on the Holy Days.

For those of you who are newly converted members, you should be advised that God commands an offering to be taken on these days (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). Therefore, we will be sending special envelopes for the Holy Days marked HDO on the envelope. Please, give only as you are able and have been blessed by God.

All products containing leavening agents should be removed from your premises BEFORE sunset on the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Remember, YOU MUST EAT unleavened bread for seven (7) days.

If you have any questions regarding how to observe these DAYS, please contact us at 865-774-8485. If you do not receive an answer, leave a short message **along with your telephone number** and we will get back to you.

## LEAVENING AGENTS

baker's ammonia = ammonium carbonate = baking ammonia = hartshorn  
 baker's yeast  
 baking powder = baking soda = bicarbonate of soda = sodium bicarbonate  
 bicarbonate of soda  
 cream of tartar  
 double-acting baking powder = double-action baking powder  
 hartshorn  
 single-acting baking powder = single-action baking powder  
 sodium bicarbonate  
 sourdough starter  
 yeast

**NOTICE:** Brewer’s Yeast, Torula Yeast and Yeast Extract are not leavening agents. Egg whites are also NOT leavening agents. Autolyzed yeast and cornstarch are also not leavening agents. Autolyzed yeast is used as a flavor enhancer and cannot be used for making bread.

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way for Old Testament Israel to escape from Egypt (a type of sin: Revelation 11:8), so will He make it possible for us to come out of this world and to enter into eternal life.

### **Yes, There Will Be Trials and Tests!**

Christ said in John 15:18-19: "If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of this world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (See also I John. 2:15-17) II Tim. 3:12: "Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Now knowing this, what should be our reactions to severe trials or tests? Jesus Christ is that *totally unleavened bread* that came down from Heaven to teach us how to be unleavened in our lives: John. 6:48, 50-51: "I am that bread of life. This is the bread which came down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

How did He react to persecution? I Peter 2:19-23: "For this is thank-worthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrong-

fully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, *leaving us an example, that ye should follow in His steps*. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed *Himself* to Him that judgeth righteously." Matthew 5:10-11: "Blessed are those which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my names sake."

These days of unleavened bread are to help all of us to develop holy, righteous character. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said in his book, "Mystery of the Ages": "Perfect, holy and righteous character is the ability to come to discern the true and right way from the false, to make voluntarily a full and unconditional surrender to God and His perfect way--to yield to be *conquered* by God--to determine even against temptation or self-desire, to *live* and to *do* the right."

How do we accomplish *this difficult assignment*? Galatians 5:16-17: "Walk

in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth after the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so ye cannot do the things that ye would." BUT, Paul also wrote in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

So it is through the Power of the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 1:7) and our willingness to obey God's command to keep these Days of Unleavened Bread, as we are instructed in I Corinthians 5:7 to "Purge out the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." Verse 8: "THEREFORE, LET US KEEP THE FEAST, not with old leaven, neither with the *leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*."

I believe this sums up the great meaning of these Feast Days. Not only are we to get rid of the Spiritual leavening in our lives, which is the breaking of God's Law, but we are to live "with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth", including following the example of our Passover, Jesus Christ. It is the difficult way, but God is able to deliver us from all problems!

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## **IS THERE REALLY A HEAVEN AND HELL IN THE BIBLE?**

The plain and simple truth is that there are three "heavens" and three "hells" listed in the Bible. The sky where the birds fly in the clouds – the atmosphere around the earth – is one heaven. The second heaven is outer space which includes the stars – the galaxies that stretch beyond man's reach (Genesis 1:1). (*The Hebrew word Shawmeh is plural and it means heavens. This includes both the sky above and outer space, where celestial bodies revolve*). The throne of God exists in the third heaven (Isaiah 66:1). This is a spiritual world that is in the far North beyond the physical universe (Isaiah 14:3).

The first hell is simply a hole in the ground otherwise known as the grave (Acts 2:31) The Greek word is *Hades*. *Gehenna* fire is the second hell where the wicked, those who do not repent, are destroyed. The third hell is outer darkness, like some black hole, where Satan and his demons, fallen angels, will be cast (Matthew 5:22; 18:9). This is known by the Greek word *Tartarus* which is a place of confinement for all eternity (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6, 13).

The word "hell" does not mean a fiery, burning place!

When one studies the Bible, the Old Testament only mentions one hell. The Hebrew word for hell is *Sheol*, which means the grave or pit, a place where the dead are buried. However, in the New Testament, we find three Greek words translated to the English word "hell".

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The slain lamb, without blemish, represented Jesus Christ. (I Peter 1:18-19). *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (conduct) received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”* So you see that as the children of Israel had to come under the blood of this slain lamb, WE TOO have to come under the blood of Jesus Christ. Christ is referred to as a lamb in several passages in the Bible. As John the Baptist saw Christ approaching he said, *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”* (John 1:29).

Jesus Christ observed the Passover his entire life. However, the night before he was crucified he instituted a great change in this ceremony. He knew that he was going to fulfill the real meaning of the Passover, so, *“He took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave it unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you; this do*

*in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”* (Luke 22:19, 20).

In John 6:53-54 Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh (bread) of the Son of man, and drink his blood, (wine) ye have no life (eternal) in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (Resurrection).*

After implementing the NEW SYMBOLS for the Passover *“He (Christ) riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. (John 13:4, 5). After that He poureth water into a basin and began to wash the disciple’s feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.”* John 13:13, 14.) He continues, *“You call me Master and Lord; and you say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; you also ought to wash one an-*

*other’s feet.”* Christ was teaching us to be servants and to be humble in our Christian lives.

We no longer slay a lamb at this time of the year, Christ fulfilled that role. We do however, take the bread and wine as a MEMORIAL to Christ’s death. John was inspired to write that failure to observe this simple ceremony would negate our eternal life. (John 6:53-54). Paul wrote to the Church in Rome that *“...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”, however, “...Being justified (made clean) freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission (forgiveness) of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;...”* (Rom. 3:23-25).

The Passover is only the beginning. Once we have been cleansed of our sins through the blood of Christ, what does God require of us? The Days of Unleavened Bread reveal this ageless secret.

## LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

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|----------------|--------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Kentucky       | London       | Mr. Scott Stephens                     | (606) 376-3989                   |
|                | Paintsville  | Mr. Bobby Whitaker                     | (606) 884-8705                   |
|                | Royalton     | Mr. Bobby Whitaker<br>Mr. Blaine Riley | (606) 884-8705<br>(606) 358-4284 |
| Michigan       | Millersburg  | Andrew & Patricia Haight               | (989) 733-5623                   |
| North Carolina | Angier       | Max & Portia Adams                     | (919) 639-6751                   |
|                | Fayetteville | Fostine Swain                          | (910) 425-3359                   |
| Ohio           | Cincinnati   | Brian & Marty Tinkler                  | (513) 893-2042                   |
| Tennessee      | Knoxville    | Mr. John Shelton                       | (865) 523-2159                   |
| Virginia       | Winchester   | Joe & Loretta Shuster                  | (540) 662-4241                   |
| West Virginia  | Bluefield    | Shelby Nichols                         | (304) 589-5676                   |
|                | Bridgeport   | Jim Harlow<br>Betty Whetstone          | (304) 472-7839<br>(304) 884-8178 |

## HOW TO KEEP PASSOVER AT HOME

Sometimes, due to distance, travel costs, age, or illness, it is not possible to attend Passover services with a church congregation. It becomes necessary to observe the Passover at home. If that be the case with you, here is the procedure to follow for observing the Passover at home.

The Passover service is a solemn occasion. It is solemn because it depicts the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for us. Paul was inspired to write, "...*Christ, OUR PASSOVER, is sacrificed for us.*" (I Cor. 5:7). Through Christ's death we can be justified of our sins that are past, and reconciled back to God, having the death penalty removed from us.

The Passover, sometimes called The Lord's Supper, begins on the evening of the 14th of Nisan or Abib. The corresponding date on man's calendar varies from year to year. (If you are not sure when the Passover will be observed this year, see page 4, send for one of our Holy Day calendars or call our office at 865-774-8485 for information).

When the evening comes, after sunset, the person conducting services should have prepared in advance the necessary water, basins and towels for the foot-washing ceremony. This person should also have obtained, and prepared, the necessary amount of wine and unleavened bread. A non-fortified red wine, such as Burgundy, Beaujolais, or Merlot is usually preferred. Alcohol content should be between 10-13%.

Matzos or perhaps homemade unleavened bread should be laid out on a platter or plate, and small cups for pouring the wine. Cover the bread and wine with white cloths, if possible. In larger groups the wine is poured into small cups in advance.

The person conducting services should begin with prayer. Then, turn to, and read John 13 verses 1 through 17. Following the words, "*If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them,*" announce the foot-washing ceremony. Men and women should be separated; perhaps using a different room, if available, or, if impossible, simply place the chairs in the opposite direction in the interest of modesty. Make sure everyone washes someone else's feet. If you are alone, simply wash your own feet.

Next, turn to, and read I Corinthians 11:23, 24. If you wish, you may also turn to, and read Matthew 26:26, or Luke 22:19. They say basically the same thing.

After reading the scriptures, bow your heads in prayer, and ask God's blessing on the unleavened bread. Then, solemnly break the bread into small wafer-size bits, and each person present eats a piece of the bread, meditating on the fact that Christ said He is the "*bread of life*" which came down from heaven; that the bread you are eating will become a part of you even as Christ dwells in us by the Holy Spirit.

Next, turn to and read I Corinthians 11:25-29. Parallel scriptures to these are in Matthew 26:28-29 and Luke 22:20. Once again, bow your heads and the individual conducting services asks God's blessing over the small cup of wine, acknowledging the deep significance of the shed blood of the "*Lamb of God,*" Jesus Christ for us. Thank God for His merciful forgiveness; for His grace and pardon toward us, and for His daily intervention in our lives. Then, solemnly drink the wine.

Following this, you may select passages from chapters 14-17 in the book of John to read. You may select certain Scriptures for brevity sake, or you may read them all.

Following the reading from the book of John, conclude the services by standing and singing a song (psalm) from your hymnal. (Matthew 26:30). Upon completion of the song, the person conducting services should make any necessary announcements regarding the first day of Unleavened Bread, and, then, indicate that services are over. Everyone should disperse and return to their respective homes.

The person in charge should dispose of any remaining bread and wine that was prayed over (blessed) during services.

May we never forget the deep, personal meaning of this very special ceremony. For Christ said, "*unless you eat of my flesh, and drink of my blood, you have no life in you.*"

## HOW DID JESUS CHRIST DIE?

You and I were born into a "ready-made" world. We had no voice in how it is structured; its customs, traditions, religious customs or its politics. From our earliest years, long before we learned to read or write; long before we learned to "research" or "study" we learned about the tooth fairy, Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, and watched, no doubt, hundreds of cartoons and kiddie shows on television. From our earliest years on this planet called earth our parents were inculcating into our minds the traditions, customs, fables, superstitions and assumptions of their own upbringing

The point is, you and I first learned of our religious customs through our parents or guardians. We did not research history, carefully weigh the facts, and make a reasoned decision to observe the religious customs we were taught.

We were not taught the true meaning of Easter, Christmas, Lent, Hot Cross Buns, or the truth about Santa Claus. We did not check into the account about the death of Jesus Christ, how He died, or when He died. Traditions are apart of upbringing, and we simply don't check our beliefs out as to whether they are true or false.

Today, the ministers of this world have taken the name of Jesus Christ and have attached it to pagan holidays. They think that just because they use the name of Jesus Christ they are no longer observing old pagan holidays.

They are wrong!

Let's take, for example, the death of Jesus Christ. When did it happen and how did Christ die? Was Christ put to death on Friday, or on a Wednesday? Did Christ die of a broken heart, or was He impaled on a stake? Did Christ shed His own

blood when speared by one of the Roman soldiers?

What do the ministers who are conformed to this world teach and observe? Why of course, those old pagan customs such as Easter and Christmas. They claim that Christ was crucified on a Friday and rose from the dead on "Easter" Sunday morning.

We are told in Jeremiah 10:1-2: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles or heathen." But what ever God tells us not to do, that we tend to do.

It's hard to believe, but there are people who teach that Christ was stoned to death or died of a broken heart. What is the true story behind the death of Our Savior?

Question: Why was Christ already dead when the soldiers came to break His legs? What killed Him so soon? Was Jesus Christ weaker than the other men?

In 1847 a man by the name of Dr. Stroud introduced the idea that Christ died of a broken heart. In his book, "On the Physiological Cause of the Death of Christ", Dr. Stroud claims that Christ died of "laceration or rupture of the heart." This idea has been perpetuated by many Protestants today. You will find this idea explained in the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, on page 489 under the article "Blood and Water."

The encyclopedia continues by saying: "It is well attested that usually the suffering on the cross was very prolonged. It often lasted two or three days, when death would supervene (that is, occur) from exhaustion. There were no physical reasons why Christ should not have lived very much longer on the cross than He did."

The question is: Why did Jesus Christ

die so soon? We know from John's account that the thieves crucified with Christ died sooner than usual because their legs were broken (John 19:32). But Jesus Christ was already dead when the soldiers came to break His legs. What killed Him?

Dr. Stroud, in his book, tried to explain that the death of Christ resulted because His heart ruptured. He reasoned that the blood passed from the heart into the pericardium or cauls of the heart where it collected into red clot (blood) and into the limpid serum (which he calls "water"). Therefore, after Christ was dead, says this doctor, a spear was thrust into His side and out flowed a little blood and water which had collected around His heart! So, it is reasoned, that Christ died of a broken heart!

But is this what your Bible says? Why was Jesus not able to suffer longer than He did? Was He a weakling? If Jesus Christ died of a broken heart, because He was weak and was suffering the penalty of sin, then He died for His own sins!

Jesus Christ was not weak, He was a very strong person because He obeyed God's laws, the physical laws as well as God's Spiritual laws. If Christ died because He was weak and had a broken heart, then He was merely paying the penalty of His own weaknesses.

Turn to John 19:31-33, "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day [Thursday] was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus,

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and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs."

Thus they broke the legs of the thieves in order that they might die sooner. But in this case, they did not break Christ's legs because He was already dead.

Now turn to Mark 15: 42-45. Here Mark gives us a few more details; "And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the (should be a, not the) Sabbath ( there is no definite article in the Greek text), Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus, and Pilate marveled if he were already dead." Notice, Pilate marveled that Jesus Christ was already dead! "And summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time." Even Pilate himself was struck by the fact Jesus Christ was dead so soon. Just what was it that caused the death of Christ so soon?

Now notice in I Corinthians 5:7, the last half of the verse, we read: "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." Unless Christ was sacrificed, actually shed His own blood, we don't have a Savior! Unless the original Passover lamb had been sacrificed or slain, had its own blood shed, the Israelites in Egypt could never have been delivered out of Egypt. Read Exodus 12:46, "In one house it (the Passover) shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones." Now if you will notice John's account, chapter 19, verse 36, "These things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken." Notice! Christ was already dead, and the soldiers who would have otherwise broken His bones did not, that it might be fulfilled, which John quotes from Exodus 12:46 .

Unlike Mosaic sacrifices which had

their bones broken, and the body of the animal separated and cut up and placed on the altar, the Passover always remained whole until eaten, because it was to foreshadow the fact that Jesus Christ would not have any bones of His body broken. This is one of the major proofs that Christ is our Passover.

Exodus 12:6 tells us how Israel was to kill the lamb. And how did they kill the lamb? By letting the lamb die of a broken heart? NO! They shed its blood! As Christ is our Passover, and as the lamb was a type, and had its own blood shed, so Christ should also shed His blood to pay for our sins.

You can read in Hebrews 9:22 that "without the "shedding of blood" there is no remission of sins. It does not say, "without a broken heart or stoned to death, there is no remission of sin"!

God requires all of us to have a contrite spirit and a "broken heart." That means you must repent and utterly give up your old way of life. But what pays the penalty of your sin is not your contrite spirit or your broken heart.

What God requires of us does not pay the penalty for our sins. What pays the penalty of our sins is the Passover, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood, because without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. But if Christ died of a broken heart, then He didn't die for our sins.

Now notice another piece of evidence. Israel was to eat the Passover. According to Leviticus 7:24 & 22:8 and also Deuteronomy 14:21 any animal that dies of itself, we are forbidden to eat. Israel could sell it to the Gentiles, if they wanted to, but any clean animal that died of itself, we are forbidden to eat.

If Christ died of a broken heart or even stoned to death, then that is how the Passover lamb should have died. But if the Passover lamb would have died of itself, it could not have been eaten, could it? In other words, a Saviour

that died of Himself was not fit to be our Passover! That is exactly what the Bible teaches.

Now what does the Book of Isaiah teach us? Here is the key verse in the Old Testament that tells us how Jesus Christ would die, "He, that is, Christ, "was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, and he openeth not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7-8).

Jesus Christ was brought as a lamb to the slaughter. When a lamb is slaughtered, its blood is shed, isn't it? It doesn't die of itself. So Christ, then, is pictured as a lamb which had its blood shed. Now turn to Acts 8:32. Philip had joined himself to the Ethiopian eunuch and the eunuch had been reading from Isaiah 53. Now the place of the scripture which the eunuch was reading was this, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth." Now, notice further, verse 34: "And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?" Verse 35: "Then Philip opened his mouth and preached unto him Jesus." This prophecy is referring to Jesus Christ. The New Testament tells us so.

Now what man was prefigured, was foreshadowed by a lamb going to the slaughter? Jesus Christ, who was our Passover.

Now read Isaiah 53:8: "He was taken from prison and from judgment, he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was He stricken." Notice that in the margin of most Bibles, instead of the last three words, "was he stricken," you will find the words, "the stroke was upon him" (Hebrew nega' lamo). Christ didn't die of a broken heart, but "for the transgression of my people the stroke was upon him." That is, the mortal wound of a spear.

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In other words, a stroke of a spear brought about His death. Now notice verse 12, "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he has poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors." Now did you notice that Jesus Christ poured out His soul unto death? It does not say that Christ was already dead, and then He poured out His soul. It said "He poured out His soul unto death". The pouring out of His soul led to His death. Death was the consequence of pouring out His soul.

What was His soul? The Hebrew word for "soul" come from the same Hebrew word translated "life" in a number of places in the Old Testament. The life (soul, nephesh) of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Jesus Christ poured out His life. And just where is the soul or life? It is in the blood! So Jesus Christ then poured out His blood unto death. In other words, the shedding of blood brought about His death, so says the Bible.

Jesus Christ did not die of a broken heart, nor was he stoned to death, and then after He was dead, a soldier pricked His side, and out dribbled a little water and blood, just to make sure. Jesus Christ was DEAD. The Bible plainly say "the stroke" of a spear brought about His death as payment of our sins. "He poured out his soul unto death."

Now notice another scripture, John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd," said Jesus, "the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep." His life was in His blood, wasn't it? That is where the life of man is. It does not reside in an immortal soul. The life of man is in his blood. So, if Jesus Christ is the good shepherd, which He is, then He must have given His life, or His blood, for the sheep. In other words, He was willing to lose His life, to lose His blood, in order to redeem or to buy back, human beings whom the Bible calls "His sheep."

Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. In the New Testament we learn that if we hate our brother, we are a murderer. We also read in the New Testament that Paul "breathed out threatenings and slaughter" (Acts 9:1). Paul wanted to kill Christians. Paul was responsible for murder. But Christ died for Paul. Christ died to pay the penalty of the sin of murder.

Now notice what kind of a death expiates the sin of murder. Genesis 9:6: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." It does not read: "Whoso shall shed man's blood shall die of a broken heart or be stoned to death." The only way to expiate the sin of murder is through the shedding of blood. Just how did Christ pay the penalty of those who have murdered and shed the blood of Christians? He did it by the taking on Himself the same penalty here that would otherwise have passed on to the murderer.

Read Matthew 27:45-50. We read from both the Moffatt and the Fenton translations a vital verse that we do not find in the King James Version and certain others.

The Fenton translation reads: "But another taking a spear pierced His side, when blood and water came out. Jesus, however, having again called out with a loud voice, resigned His spirit." Now this is how the Moffatt translation reads: "Seizing a lance, another pricked (Greek root is nussoo which should be translated pierced here) his side, and out came water and blood."

This verse should be located between verse 49 and 50 to get the true meaning of how Christ died so soon. But how is it that this verse doesn't appear in the King James Version? Why haven't we been reading that the reason Christ died is that one of the soldiers that was there came with a lance or spear and pierced His side and out came water and blood? We know from a number of scriptures, for instance, Zechariah 12:10,

that "They shall look upon me (Him) whom they have pierced."

Note from the Vaticanus, a Greek New Testament manuscript written in the 300's A.D. It was first published in 1859 by Angelus Maius. In the Greek of Matthew 27:49 is this verse: "And another took a spear and pierced his side and there came forth water and blood."

This verse is in the Greek text in this manuscript. It is also in the Sinaiticus codex which, as far as modern scholars know, are the oldest complete manuscripts of the New Testament. In A.T. Robertson's "Harmony of the Gospels we read this in the comment on Matthew 27:49, "Many ancient authorities add: And another took a spear and pierced his side, and there came out water and blood."

This verse that is in the Moffatt and Fenton translations and in the Vaticanus, the Ethiopic and many early manuscripts including the Sinaiticus, was left out as a result of a controversy that developed over the finding of what obviously was nothing but a spurious copy of Matthew's Gospel, planted in order to justify the political independence of the Island of Cyprus. They brought forth a text purportedly written by Barnabas himself, which was found in his supposed tomb.

It is vital to note that God's revelation to mankind is to be and has always been, preserved in a public manner. It is never to be added to or deleted from by the chance discovery of a secret document. God never does things that way. If He did, there would be no end of attempts to find secret copies of the original books of the Bible. There can be no doubt that the copy of Matthew, attributed to Barnabas, was a purposeful fraud! In this instance the Greeks have erred.

Yet God has seen to it that the Greek people, who are responsible for preserving the New Testament in

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Greek, have themselves left us the witness that this verse originally was in Matthew! And even though they have officially not approved it in their text since that day, since around 510 to 511 A.D., nevertheless, significant numbers of Greek manuscripts that they copied still retain it.

It was still a marginal reading of the Greek text when the King James Version was made! (Walton's *Biblia Sacra Polyglotta*, published in 1657, vol. VI, page 6 of the appendix "Variantes Lectiones Graecae") But the translators thought it better to leave it out.

By the Greek's own admission this verse was in there till as late as 510 A.D., when they made the mistake of removing it. However, this does not mean that they tampered with the rest of the Bible. God committed the New Testament to their care. But it does mean that when they did make this change, they were forced to leave us witness so that we might know what the true original reading of it is.

Now the reason that the King James Version translators did not include this verse is due to the fact that they, like many others have misunderstood the inspired statement of John concerning the piercing of Christ's side. People have assumed all these centuries that John tells us that Christ's side was speared after Jesus Christ died and at that time out came water and blood. They have assumed that that was the time when Jesus was speared, and they reason, "If He was speared after He was dead, then how could He have been speared before He was dead?"

Matthew's account makes it plain when He was speared before He died. The soldiers gave Jesus the sponge. Then He was speared in the side. Out came the water and blood. He cried with a loud voice and then died.

Jesus knew what was coming, because He said, "My God! My God! why have you forsaken me?" He knew Isaiah 53 had to be fulfilled, that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.

The word "pierced," in the Greek is in the aorist tense. In English we are familiar with the present, the imperfect, and the perfect tenses. The imperfect in English means that one "used to do" or "did" something. And the perfect tense, that he "has done" something. But in the Greek, the aorist means not time of action, but kind of action. It leaves the past indefinite. The aorist tense in Greek means that an action was done at a single moment, and not continuously.

The Greek has two major past tenses. One, the imperfect, and the other, the aorist. The imperfect means that the action continues in the past. The aorist means that it happened once in the past, or from time to time, action widely spaced apart.

The Roman soldiers pierced Christ's side not as a continual action, but one particular time. And out of His side came there forth water and blood. The aorist tense John used points out the type of action, not the time of the action. The aorist tense of the word "pierced" does not tell you when the spearing occurred, whether they then speared Him or whether He had already been speared. The Greek text, at this point could be understood either way. It is not definite. And because it could be misunderstood, it was misunderstood by many, as it is today. You can know the time only by putting John 19:34 together with the rest of the scriptures.

Now, let us consider this! Instead of the soldiers breaking Christ's legs, they saw He was dead already. Now if they saw He was dead already, they did not have any reason to pierce His side. He

was already dead! Now if they were not sure, what would they have done? They would have broken His legs! Remember that is what they had come to do. If there was a question or doubt, they would have smashed His legs, but when they saw Him, they knew He was already dead.

Now if Jesus Christ died of a broken heart, and just the blood which collected around the heart was shed, and all the rest of the blood was in His body, Christ's body would have corrupted in three days' time. Jesus Christ was buried for three days and three nights in the tomb. But the fact is, His body had no blood left! It was all shed! It is the blood that first corrupts. Flesh corrupts much more slowly. Because blood was not there, the flesh of Christ's body did not start to corrupt. Now that didn't mean that He had some kind of immortal flesh as some people reason. It means that, as all of the blood was gone from His body, there was no corrupting agent, and over a three-day period of time the flesh would not have begun to disintegrate into dust.

Christ was mortal flesh. He took upon Himself the flesh of man Hebrews 2:14. There was nothing immortal about His flesh. Whatever blood was in the lower portion of His body and His legs that didn't pour out of His side, drained out from His wounds in the feet as a result of the nails that pierced them.

Jesus Christ is our Saviour! Christ did die by shedding of blood. Each Passover season we should re-commemorate that sad event with real feeling. And as a result of that terrible spear wound and the complete loss of blood, the Creator was dead! Christ did shed His blood for you and me. But He is now alive forevermore!

## MINI-CORRESPONDENCE COURSE QUIZ

*For those of you presently enrolled in The Church of God New World Ministries Mini-Correspondence Course and would like to know how well you have comprehended the information you have studied so far, we are providing a QUIZ for the Lessons 17-21. (The previous Lessons were covered in past Newsletters). The questions are self-explanatory. Simply write your answers on a sheet of paper and when you are finished you may check your answers found on **page 15**.*

TRUE or FALSE:

1. \_\_\_\_ A tithe is one tenth.
2. \_\_\_\_ Melchizedek paid tithes to Abraham. (Gen. 14: 17-20).
3. \_\_\_\_ All sin is against God. (Ps. 51:4).
4. \_\_\_\_ One comes to repentance because of God's goodness. (Rom. 2:4).
5. \_\_\_\_ God will forgive all sins. (Mat. 12: 31-32)
6. \_\_\_\_ Christ's disciples were called "Christians" first at Ephesus. (Acts 11: 26).
7. \_\_\_\_ Any one who professes and believes on the name of Jesus Christ is a "Christian." (Rom. 8:9).
8. \_\_\_\_ "Christianity" is a way of life. (Acts 9: 1-2).
9. \_\_\_\_ To be in Christ one must have the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:9).
10. \_\_\_\_ When one fasts he must refrain from eating food but may drink a little water. (Est. 4:16).

MATCHING:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ____ 1. Man's basic nature is...                   | A. Give                            |
| ____ 2. Tithing is a ...                           | B. Holy and good                   |
| ____ 3. God initiated tithing to teach us to ..... | C. Hold fast to that which is good |
| ____ 4. The law is ...                             | D. The Kingdom of God              |
| ____ 5. When we sin we...                          | E. Evil                            |

- \_\_\_\_6. Prove all things... F. Personal communication with God
- \_\_\_\_7. Seek ye first... G. Put on the Divine Nature of God
- \_\_\_\_8. All thy commandments are... H. Law
- \_\_\_\_9. Prayer is man's... I. Righteousness
- \_\_\_\_10. The newly converted person must... J. Miss the mark

## FILL IN THE BLANK:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ will possess the Kingdom.
2. Under the sacrificial system tithes were paid to the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_ the law.
4. Where there is no \_\_\_\_\_ there is no transgression.
5. He who knows to do good and doeth it not it is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. All that live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The true "Christian" must believe that God exists and is a \_\_\_\_\_ of those who diligently seek him.
9. The law of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Concentrated thinking on a spiritual topic is called \_\_\_\_\_.



## If You Do These Things, You Shall Never Fall God's Plan Completed

As we sang the traditional last hymn, "God be With You Till We Meet again," on the Last Great Day, I stood there teary-eyed sorting out the many thoughts that were rapidly filling my mind. In a few hours it would be over. I may never see all these people again...what a GREAT FEAST it was...it will be a long time until the Spring Holy Days arrive... will all these people be with us next year...These were just a few of the thoughts I was dealing with.

Each year God commands His People to assemble seven times in three separate seasons to rehearse His magnificent plan of salvation for mankind. The Last Great Day completes that plan for another year. We look forward to the Spring Holy Day season to begin rehearsing and remembering this awesome Plan again.

Who would have ever thought that many of our brothers and sisters who attended the feast with us in years past would not be with us this year? For over thirty-eight years I have watched thousands of "called out ones," fall away from the TRUTH of God, and unless they repent, will miss out on the Kingdom of God. That is tragic. (If you have not received our FREE DVD entitled "The Greatest Tragedy", send for it today.

### A Long Winter

Peter recognized the frailty of mankind and admonished those who have obtained like precious faith with us to put on certain traits to ensure they endure to the end *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**; And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**; And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor un-*

*fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **FOR IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, YOU SHALL NEVER FALL.**" (2 Peter 1:5-10).*

You may ask, "How can I do all these things?" No one wants to fall from the TRUTH. But, nevertheless, some do. They lack these things because they have become blinded and cannot see afar off. I have been in God's Church for thirty-eight years. I realize I am as susceptible to falling as anyone. However, I have applied certain principles in my life that have aided me in my spiritual quest for God's Kingdom. I would like to share these principles with you in this article.

### 7 Principles

#### 1) Pray Daily

Paul admonished the Church in Thessalonica to *"Pray without ceasing."* (I Thess. 5:17). Certainly we understand that we cannot go around praying all the time. However, Paul is saying that we should develop a habit of praying often. Christ advocated prayer. He did not say if you pray, but *"when you pray"*, in Matthew chapter six and verse six.

It is IMPOSSIBLE to maintain a close relationship with God if you do not pray. We were admonished by the former Worldwide Church of God to pray at least thirty minutes every day. The Church of God, New World Ministries does not attempt to tell you how long you should pray. We only admonish you to pray as the Word of God directs us. However, I must say that the habit I developed some thirty-eight years ago of staying on my knees until I had communicated with God for at least thirty minutes has helped me stay close to God. How often and how

long do you pray?

A superficial study of all those listed in Hebrews 11 will show they had a close relationship with God, and that relationship was enhanced by prayer. It would be wise for us to follow their example. And don't forget, Christ rose up very early each day to pray, and he said, *"I am thankful you always hear my prayer."*

#### 2) Study Daily

The Bible is God's Word. Since we are instructed to live by every Word of God, it would behoove us to know what he is saying to us. Paul admonished Timothy to study God's Word. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Timothy 2:15)

Once again, I must reiterate the Worldwide Church of God's admonition to study thirty minutes a day. Whether they were being dictatorial or not, I did it, and thousands of others did it, and many are here today because of that. Oddly enough, that admonition to study and prove all things and hold fast to that which is good, may have gotten many of us through the Great Deception that came upon that Organization after Mr. H. W. Armstrong passed away in 1986.

You need to know what God expects and requires of you as a Christian. If you fail to grasp the TRUTH about God's Plan of Salvation, you may be susceptible to every wind of doctrine. Paul praised the Bereans as they *"received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore MANY OF THEM BELIEVED."* (Acts 17:11-12). If you want to stay close to God, you should follow the Bereans' example.

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### Answers to Mini-Correspondence QUIZ from pages 12 &13

Each question is worth five points. If you score below 90% you should go back and review lessons 22-25.

| TRUE or FALSE |           | MATCHING |       | FILL IN THE BLANK |                |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. True       | 6. False  | 1. E     | 6. C  | 1. Saints         | 6. Death       |
| 2. False      | 7. False  | 2. H     | 7. D  | 2. Levites        | 7. Persecution |
| 3. True       | 8. True   | 3. A     | 8. I  | 3. Magnify        | 8. Rewarder    |
| 4. True       | 9. True   | 4. B     | 9. F  | 4. Law            | 9. Holy Spirit |
| 5. False      | 10. False | 5. J     | 10. G | 5. Sin            | 10. Meditation |

If you are *NOT* enrolled in the Mini-Correspondence Course and would like to be, simply write The Church of God, New World Ministries and advise us you would like to enroll in the course and we will send it out to you in the next mailing. Don't forget to give us your name and address.

## Acts 12:4

One of this world's most "holiest" religious observances is EASTER. However, the word EASTER cannot be found in the Bible. If you are a student of the Bible and have read it at all, you should immediately correct me and say, 'turn in your Bible and read Acts the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 4'. And true enough, the King James Bible does use the word EASTER in that verse. Notice, *"And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternion of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.* (Four quaternion of soldiers is sixteen men, or four companies of four men each, who had the care of the prison, each company taking in turn one of the four watches of the night.) (Adam Clark Commentary).

Again, the Adam Clark Commentary states, "The term **Easter**, inserted here by OUR (Adam Clark's) translators, (emphasis mine) borrowed from the ancient Anglo-Saxon service-books, or from the version of the Gospels, which always translates the (NT:3588) pascha (NT:3957) of the Greek by this term; e.g. Matthew 26:2: Ye know that after two days is the feast of the **Passover**. The Anglo-Saxon has: "Wite ge that aefter twam dagum beoth **Eastro**." Matthew 26:19: And they made ready the **Passover**. The Anglo-Saxon has: "And hig gegearwodon hym **Easter** thenunga" (i.e. the **paschal** supper). Prefixed to Matt 28:1, are these words in Anglo-Saxon: "This part to be read on **Easter** even(ing)." And, before Acts 12:8, some similar words. Mark 14:12: "And the first day of unleavened bread when they killed the **Passover**." The Anglo-Saxon has: "And tham forman daege azimorum, tha hi **Eastron** offrodon." Other examples occur in this version. Wycliff used the word "**paske**", i.e. **Passover**; but Tyndale, Coverdale, Becke, and Cardmarden, following the old Saxon mode of translation, insert "**Easter**": the Geneva Bible very properly renders it the "**Passover**". There are several Saxon spellings of the name of the goddess **Easter**, whose festival was celebrated by our pagan forefathers in the month of April; hence, that month, in the Saxon calendar, is called "**Easter** month". Every view we can take of this subject shows the gross impropriety of retaining a name every way exceptionable and palpably absurd".

Regarding this same verse Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary states, "Intending after **Easter**, [meta (NT:3326) ta (NT:3588) **pascha** (NT:3957)] - it should be, 'after the **Passover**:' that is, after the conclusion of the festival. (The word employed in our King James Version being an ecclesiastical term of later date, is improperly used here.) (from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

It is quite evident that the term **Easter** is a mistranslation inserted by translators. The Greek word used here in this verse is **pascha** and should be rendered **Passover**. Does it not make you wonder why these two words were interchanged? A brief study of the words Ishtar, Astarte, Ashtoreth or even **Easter** should give you the answer. Easter observance is absolutely NOT BIBLICAL. True followers of Christ should observe the annual Passover.

## IN THE RESURRECTION, WHAT WILL YOU BE LIKE?

In the resurrection, what kind of body will you have? It will be of a different TYPE and for a different PURPOSE than you have probably imagined! If you could examine the kind of body you will have when you are resurrected to immortality, it would clear up a great many questions in your mind, would it not?

Believe it or not, someone has already acquired the same type of body you will have and that person is Jesus Christ! God, the Father, has desired to form for himself, and from his very being, a Family of immortal children who will be partakers of his own divine nature (II Peter 1: 4 and Psalms 17:15), and who can be trusted with great power and on whom he can lavish his love by sharing with them all that he has created. This Family will compose the Kingdom of God because you must be born of God to enter it.

Being a God of order, he has established laws which mankind must obey in order to be admitted to this family. We must show, in advance, our willingness to be obedient to Him by having these laws written in our hearts and minds (II Corinthians 3:3).

If we are not obedient, then we sin (I John 3:4), and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), ETERNAL DEATH! "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). All of mortal mankind that God ever made was doomed to die!

Most certainly there could be no Family of God formed from these mortal people if they were to be dead forever. It was at this point that the Word, who was soon to become the Son of God, sacrificed the Glory of being God to BECOME FLESH AND BLOOD, just like you and I (Hebrews 2:14) so he could die in place of us for our sins. No wonder that you and I owe Jesus Christ so

much.

Now notice, very carefully, the begetting of the Father's very first Son, who would later, after his physical death, be born into the Family of God! The angel, speaking to Mary concerning Christ's future birth, said, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the POWER of the Highest shall over-shadow thee: therefore that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the SON OF GOD" (Luke 1:35).

The angel said to Joseph, Mary's husband, "...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is CONCEIVED (or Begotten) is of the Holy Spirit."

Two things happened here: Christ was begotten as a mortal man and physical birth took place shortly thereafter, and he was also begotten by the Holy Spirit at that time.

At the end of his physical life he died a PHYSICAL DEATH in the place of all mortal men who would have died for their own sins, but at his resurrection he was born again, this time a Spiritual Birth because he had been begotten by the Holy Spirit. This time he was born into the Spirit Family of God with a Spiritual Body! (I Corinthians 15:44-45).

Except a man be BORN AGAIN he cannot see (or enter) the kingdom (or family) of God. (John 3:3-5). "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:44). "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 15:50). "That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). Christ's physical body, which did not corrupt, was changed into spirit like that of the Father. God is Spirit (John 4:24).

It was of the Holy Spirit of God, put there by the Father at Christ's human begetting and dwelling in Christ, by which the Father resurrected him with

an immortal SPIRITUAL BODY and he has promised to give you and me the same reward IF we now let God beget us with the impregnating germ of eternal life, His Holy Spirit!

"If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by the Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11). To quicken is to make eternally alive!

By repenting and being baptized, YOU and I, who are made of the same MORTAL FLESH which Christ took on himself by having Mary as his mother (Hebrews 2:14), may also receive the gift, or, in other words, BE BEGOTTEN OF, the Holy Spirit! Now, what does this mean? It means that when YOU and I are resurrected, Jesus Christ becomes our eldest brother in the Spirit Family of God, for all of us will have the same Father, all are begotten of the Spirit, God's Spirit, and all are born into the same FAMILY! (Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-12).

It means that as Christ will be our elder brother then YOU and I will have the same kind of body that He has! "WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM" (I John 3:2).

The outstanding difference between the body we now have and the one we will have is that while this one is a natural or mortal body the one we shall have will be different, a Spiritual Body: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a Spiritual Body" (I Corinthians 15:44). If we are alive at the time of the resurrection, our mortal bodies will be changed. If we have died, our character comes forth out of the dust in a spiritual body which God gives through His Holy Spirit from heaven (II Corinthians 5:2). This is a different kind of resurrection than to mortal life as described in Ezekiel 37. Also we read: "The wind bloweth

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**RESSURECTION...Continued from page 16**

where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Spirit is not subject to physical laws because it is not matter.

Jesus Christ could suddenly appear: "and as they thus spoke, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them and saith unto them, Peace be unto you, But they were terrified" (Luke 24:36-37). Christ also had the ability to vanish after he was resurrected. "And he vanished out of sight" (Luke 24:31).

We shall be able to pass through barriers or walls as Christ did: "Then the same day at evening ... When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst" ( John 20:19).

We shall be able to travel rapidly through space. In John 20:17 Christ says: "Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father." Now note that on the same day Christ had been able to travel to the Father and return: "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold; Jesus met them saying All hail. And they came and held him by the feet" (Matthew 28:9).

The eating of food will not be necessary although we may eat for pleasure as did Christ with his disciples (Luke 24:41-43) and, of course, no shelter will be necessary.

When desirable, we will be able to change into a body of physical flesh and bone so mortal eyes can see us: Jesus Christ, himself stood in the midst of them (after his death) but they were terrified and supposed that they had seen a spirit, and he said, Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24: 36-39). A spirit has flesh and bones, composed of spirit, not physical as the disciples saw Jesus. Since man is in the image of God, both man and

God must have form and shape hence flesh and bone, but one physical, the other spiritual. We will not change into flesh and blood because the life we shall have is not from the blood but from the Spirit of God. (Leviticus 17:11; John 6:63 and II Corinthians 3:6).

Now, what about the WORK we are to do in the 1,000 years of Christ's and our rule HERE ON THIS EARTH (Revelation 20:4 and Isaiah 11) in relation to these new, powerful bodies which are like Christ's and the Father's.

We know that we shall be Judges (Revelation 20:1-4), and Priests (Revelation 20:6), and Rulers (Revelation 20:4) of God and Christ on this earth (Revelation 5:10). To govern all the great number of human beings, who at that time will need guidance (Isaiah 2:1-5; 9:6-7; Jeremiah 31:1-9) so that they can also be begotten and be born into the FAMILY OF GOD, we will certainly need the kind of body that Christ and the Father possess (Isaiah 40:28,31).

This certainly does not say that, at death, we go at once to heaven and lie around in idleness and ease, does it? NO! And the Bible does not teach it! See Zechariah 14. We will have work to do according to the plan revealed only in the Bible. We shall be teachers visibly manifested to human beings (Isaiah 30:20). With bodies that can go without food or shelter and which can travel so rapidly. Those called now can accomplish an immense amount in guiding large numbers of people and in governing the universe with God!

We have now seen that our bodies are to be resurrected as Spiritual bodies, and that we will be able to change into physical flesh and bone. But there is something else that is going to happen to OUR SPIRITUAL BODIES, something that Christ considered very important! Notice what Jesus Christ said to the Father in finishing His work here on this earth! "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, Glorify thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

Christ said: "I have glorified thee," How? In raising people from the dead, healing, and performing miracles he had glorified God by showing to man only a part of God's Great Power! Soon Christ was going to be back with the Father again and he looked forward to being restored to the Great Power He Once Had! To be glorified means to be given power and glory!

But what has that to do with us? God is going to glorify you and me also, going to give you and me great power! "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him that we ([You and I] may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:17 and II Corinthians 3:18). This prospect leaves us breathless, yet there it is in your own Bible! Read it! God has promised it and He will DO IT!

This power we shall have will be so great that it will MAKE OUR SPIRIT BODIES SHINE as the sun and our raiment be white as the light. Jesus gave us a fleeting glimpse of this future condition when he was transfigured while Peter, James, and John looked on. "Till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom ... and after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them and his face did shine as the sun and his raiment was white as light" (Matthew 16:28 and 17:1-2).

But there are other places that give us a more complete picture of the Glorified Body we will have (Revelation 1:13-16). Also Daniel 12:3, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and they that be wise shall shine as the

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**RESSURRECTION...***Continued from page 17*

brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever.”

In as much as we will be begotten of the Father, we will be **BETTER THAN THE ANGELS**: “Being made so much better than the angels for unto which of the angels said He, “Thou art My son this day have I begotten thee?” (Hebrews 1:4-5).

There will be no sex as we know it in the spirit form: “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30).

Now, notice Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Yet we shall recognize one another as Mary Magdalene did Christ (John 20:16).

Our work will be so effortless and pleasant after our resurrection when we have our New Bodies that Paul spoke of it as a **REST**. “Let us labor therefore to enter that **REST** lest any man should fall after the same example of unbelief” (Hebrews 4:11). We will no longer have physical handicaps as lameness, blindness or missing members.

Human beings are not born with the mind of God. Here is the kind of mind the Bible says that we naturally have: “For from within, out

of the heart of men [all men] proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness...” (Mark 7:21-22). Christ spoke this of the mind or attitude you and I are born with!

Why is this? God made us that way: “I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18). “The carnal (natural) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God” (Romans 8:6-7). Yet obedience to the Law of God is the only way that will bring happiness! But God has constructed us so that we would not want to follow His laws but our own ways instead.

Why? So that we will try every other way of living and discover that, regardless of what we think, the only satisfactory way is to live and think by the Father’s Laws! This is how we develop the Character of God, by coming to right knowledge and by acting upon it.

Some of us, becoming discouraged with the way of living in this world, learn of the true way to live, repent, believe, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit -- we are begotten of the Father. By our own mental efforts we cannot overcome this **NATURAL** or **CARNAL** mind that we were born with. But God has given us a part of his own self to aid us. If we will nourish this earnest (down payment) of the Spirit which is the nature and mind of God by which

we are begotten (II Corinthians 1:22), it will grow at the expense of the carnal mind, and will restrain the carnal mind: “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary one to the other: so that ye cannot do the thing ye would.” “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16-17).

Thus we acquire the same mind functioning in our physical brain as was in Christ, (Philippians 2:5). After this mortal body dies, we will be resurrected with a spiritual mind and body if we have grown enough to be born (Romans 8:6). At our birth we will indeed have the mind of God and Christ in full; we will have no mortal mind to bother us any more! It will have perished with the flesh. All will have one mind then (Philippians 1:27), and God will have completed his New Testament Covenant with us: “I will put my law into their mind and write them in their hearts” (Hebrews 8:8-10). “**I DELIGHT TO DO THY WILL, O MY GOD; YEA THY LAW IS WITHIN MY HEART**” (Psalms 40:8)

Contrary to what most think, we do not waft away to heaven in some ethereal ghostly form, but will truly become glorified spirit beings actually born into the very **FAMILY OF GOD**. When you are resurrected, this is what you will be like.

**HEAVEN AND HELL...***Continued from page 5*

The first is *Hades* which corresponds to the Hebrew word *Sheol*, which is the grave.

The second is *Gehenna*, which means “hell-fire”, a place where the wicked are consumed, burned up.

The third is *Tartarus*, which means “a place of constraint”, found only once in II Peter 2:4 referring to the fate of Satan and his demons. (*For more information on this subject send for our Mini-Correspondence Course – Lesson 6 – Angels*).

Now, back to *Gehenna*. It comes from the Greek word

*GEENNA* which means “the valley of *HINNOM*”. This is a name for the place of everlasting punishment. It means permanent punishment **not** burning forever in some flame of mental torment. See Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #1067.

For further reading on this subject look up the following scriptures:

Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; Mark 9: 43, 45, 47, Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:5, Revelation 19:20 Matthew 18:9, James 3:6, Revelation 20: 10, 14, 15, Matthew 23: 15, 33, Revelation 21:8, The Lake of Fire

IF YOU DO THESE THINGS...Continued from page 14

### 3) Fasting

Fasting is something very few of us like to do. It means we must deprive our physical bodies of something we want, and need. However, James wrote that to draw close to God, fasting was required. (James 4:8-10) *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."*

Fasting is an individual thing between you and God. If you are having particular problems in your life and God doesn't seem as near to you as he used to be, you should consider fasting. It may turn your life around.

### 4) Meditation

Meditation is another good habit to develop. King David was a man after God's own heart. We read in Psalms 4:4 and 19:14 that David meditated on God's Word often. The Proverbs state that, *"as a man thinketh, so is he."* What you put into your mind will determine the type person you will be. We are to, *"let this mind,"* (the mind of Christ) be in us. Meditate often on God's Word. Think on those things that are lovely, pure, just and good. If God's Word is written in your heart and mind, you will not turn from the TRUTH.

### 5) Listen To The Tapes and Read the Literature

The Ministry of the Church of God, New World Ministries is committed to preparing the Bride (the Church) for the marriage supper. Sermons coming from the Leadership have been, and will continue to be, focused in that direction. We are committed to *"crying aloud and lifting up our voices like a trumpet and telling my people their sins."* The True Ministry

of Jesus Christ must not whitewash God's Word. God's Word is like a two-edged sword. It cuts to the marrow of the bone. God's Word may hurt our feelings now, but the reward is fantastic if we give heed to its correction.

Furthermore, the Ministry is instructed to warn people of the crisis ahead. This mission will be accomplished through the tape and literature program. Listen to the tapes and read the literature. Then, follow principles one and two above. Search the scriptures and prove what you are hearing and reading is TRUE. Prove all things! Then meditate on what you learn. You will grow in grace and knowledge. You will draw nearer to God.

### 6) Attend Sabbath and Holy Day Services As Commanded

If you truly want to stay close to God you will establish a habit of attending EVERY SABBATH and HOLY DAY service. The Sabbath is the SIGN that identifies you to God. The Sabbath looks back on creation. If you attend every Sabbath service and REMEMBER, every Sabbath, that God is the CREATOR of this vast UNIVERSE, how can you forget him?

The Sabbath also looks forward to the millennial reign of Christ on this earth. Renewing this thought in your mind each and every seventh day will only reinforce the hope you have of ETERNAL LIFE. If you neglect assembling yourselves on the Sabbath Day you run the risk of forgetting. Did God not say REMEMBER the Sabbath Day, and keep it holy?

Additionally, you should make every effort to attend every Holy Day. God expects us to rehearse his Magnificent Plan of Salvation on each of these Holy Days. If you miss one of these Days you run the risk of forgetting. When you forget, it eventually won't be as important to you. If you want to stay close to God, keep every single one of God's weekly Sabbath days and His

Annual Sabbaths. You will be glad you did.

### 7) Examine Yourselves Daily

Paul admonished the Church in Corinth to examine themselves daily. (2 Cor. 13:5) *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* Read Galatians the fifth chapter, particularly the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit. Make a list of the works of the flesh and a list of the fruits of the Spirit. Put a check under the categories pertaining to you. Where do you find yourself? If you have more checks under the works of the flesh, that should tell you something.

You may want to follow David's example. In Psalm 26:1-2, David said, *"Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide (fall). Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try (test) my reins and my heart."* David wanted to do what was right. He wanted Christ to correct him. He loved God's Law. David will be in the Kingdom of God.

### CHOOSE LIFE

The quest for God's Kingdom is not an easy one. God places the responsibility for choosing the correct Way of Life on each of us. Upon begetting, each of us has been given a down payment of the Holy Spirit, a guarantee of ETERNAL LIFE—If we stay the course! However, we must put forth the effort to put on the Divine Nature of God. God will NOT do it for us. Application of these Seven Principles will assist you in staying close to God.

***"If you do these things, you shall never fall!"***



## NEWS FROM THE WEBSITE

Hello, and welcome to the COGNWM web site!

I feel like a broken record, but the web site continues to grow, and continues to reach more and more members and new people searching for the truth contained in their very own Bible.

A new function that was enabled in January on the web site allows us to see from what countries the visitors to the web site originate, and we are truly reaching the ENTIRE world with the information contained on the site.

January saw the US, France, Canada, Sweden, and Ghana at the top of the 61 countries that visited. February saw the US, Spain, Canada, Germany, Nigeria, at the top of 59 visiting countries; and to date in March, Italy, the US, Canada, Poland, and the Netherlands top the list of 20 countries that have visited *in the first 3 days of the month!*

Just to give you an idea of the growth we have experienced in the first year of the church, and the amount of people that the web site is reaching:

- We have grown from 120 active people on the mailing list to over 500!
- Monthly DVD mailings have gone from 101 to 252!
- The correspondence course started out at 88 people, and has grown to 354!
- First month of operation, we sent out about 440 pieces of information (monthly letters, bi-weekly DVD's, web orders). In February of 2008, we sent out 1,135!

These are significant increases, and we thank each and every one of you for the prayers that we keep to the truth, and God finds favor in the work that we do to spread His good news to those that would listen to the Truth.

### ***Moving Forward***

We are looking at making some changes over the next couple months to better address the two commissions of the work, so look for a little different navigation through the information on the web site.

In addition, we are looking at adding a "favorite church recipes" section of the site. You'll be able to submit, read, and print recipes for general use, or some of your favorite Holy Day recipes. We figured that this would be a good way to get

some of the recipes for the delicious bread and desserts we've had during the Days of Unleavened Bread gone past. If you attend the monthly Grayson, Kentucky Sabbath service, I for one am hoping that the mud pie recipe ends up there... (purely selfish, I know!)

And it does not have to be JUST for the Holy Days. As we have all traveled to different church groups, we've all come across that one delicious dish that we would love to know how to create—here's how we can share these. This new section of the web site is under development now, and should be ready to go by the beginning of April 2008.

Ever had question about a biblical verse or passage that just doesn't seem to make sense? Well now you'll have the opportunity to "Ask a Minister".

This upcoming section of the web site will allow you to send us a question that will be sent to all the ministry for them to answer. You'll not only receive an answer via e-mail, but we will post the question and answer (anonymously) to the "Biblical Q & A" section of the web site so that others who may have the same question can see and research the answer for themselves.

Look for this section to be added to the web site some time in March 2008!

And very exciting, especially to those of you with young children

who would like to start teaching them the basics of the Truth of God—we have someone writing Sabbath school lessons and activities for the children—both young and old!

These lessons will be on the web site by the time you receive this newsletter.

### ***Thanks and request for feedback***

In closing, I would like to thank ALL of you for your continued support, and feedback. Since we started, we have continuously added information and things to do to the web site as people request new items.

If you have ANY ideas, please help us add material to YOUR web site and e-mail us at:

webservant@cognwm.org

#### ***On The Web Site There Are...***

- 302 audio sermons
- 127 printable articles
- Answers to 36 difficult scriptures
- Answers to 65 biblical questions
- 15 "Is that really in there?" articles
- A visitor created prayer request list
- 183 study materials you can order
- World news in prophetic categories updated regularly
- Details about ALL of God's Holy Days
- Sunset calculator for your location

## The Natural Way To Better Health

*“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat”. (Genesis 1:29)*

### DOES WHAT WE EAT MATTER TO GOD?

When one reads Matthew 15: 10-11, one could draw the conclusion that it does not matter what one eats. After all, Jesus said what goes into the mouth does not defile the person for it enters the stomach and it is eliminated (verse 17). But most people do not read verse 20, which explains what is going into the mouth – the dirt and grime that might be on one’s hands because they were not washed.

In defeating Satan, Jesus said man must not live by his own ideas but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. God told the Israelites in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 what beasts, birds, water creatures, and insects they could or could not eat. One could argue that God only said this for them, but the truth of the matter is that God was teaching them what they had previously forgotten. In reality, Noah knew what animals were clean and unclean for human consumption. So did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their forefathers, and so did Adam and Eve, Cain and Able, for even Able sacrificed a clean animal and God accepted it. Daniel and his three friends dared to observe the dietary laws of God.

In Acts 10, Peter, in a vision, is told to kill and eat all kinds of unclean food. But Peter refuses even though a voice spoke saying “What God has cleansed you must not call common”, (verse 15). One could once again think that it no longer matters to God. Perhaps one would think God is now changing His law, but God plainly says, “I CHANGE NOT”. It definitely appears we have a contradiction, but if one carefully reads the entire account the problem is answered in verse 26. God was not making all foods fit for humans to eat but was telling Peter, a Jew, to no longer be separated from Gentiles, for they were now clean.

What God told ancient Israel not only applied to them then, but to all mankind. God is not a respecter of persons. His laws apply to everyone. In Acts 15 when discussing the issue of circumcision, we find in verse 21 that the law of Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament) was being taught to the Gentiles every Sabbath Day. They too were learning the truth of God – the truth about clean and unclean foods – and so must we. It does matter to God what we eat.

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### HONEY

Honey has long been recognized as a natural remedy and has been used as a medicine for thousands of years. Research has shown that a spoonful of honey is more effective than DM cough syrup in treating coughs, and is safe for children over 12 months old (“Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, December 2007).

The types of flowers the bees pollinate determine flavor and color of honey. The darker shades of honey are believed to have more antioxidants, which combat the free radicals that can damage the cells in our bodies. Also, if you have allergies, eating honey local to your area may help prevent or lessen allergy symptoms. Bees use the pollen from local plants, and it eventually ends up in your honey.

Honey is also a natural antiseptic. It contains antimicrobial agents, which prevents infections by killing the bacteria in and around your wounds. Many types of bacteria can’t survive in honey, so wounds heal, swelling eases, and tissue can grow back. It may help to heat it before applying, just be sure to test the temperature before applying it to your wound.

Honey contains vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. It is a wonderful beauty aid that nourishes the skin and the hair:

- Honey mixed with ground almonds makes an excellent facial cleansing scrub.
- To give your hair a lustrous shine, mix 1 teaspoon of honey into 4 cups of warm water. Use as a hair rinse. If you are a blond, add the juice of one lemon.
- Mix 1 teaspoon of honey with 1 teaspoon of olive oil and 1/2 teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply to dry patches on hands, elbows, or other dry spots and wash off after 15 minutes.
- Honey works well on chapped lips and for acne because of its antibacterial properties.
- Mix 2 tablespoons of honey with 2 teaspoons of whole milk, smooth over face and throat. Rinse off after 15 minutes and splash with cold water.

## COMMUNITY PAGE

### GOLDEN DISCS (UNLEAVENED BREAD)

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- 4 Cups Unbleached Flour
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 1/2 Cups Water (room temperature)

Combine the flour and salt. Add enough water to make a dough that will clean the sides of the bowl and can be gathered into a ball. Turn out onto a lightly floured board and knead 10 minutes. Shape into a ball and cut in half. Cut each half in 8 pieces and form into 16 balls. Roll out each ball to form about a 7" circle. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake in a preheated 500 degree oven for 5 minutes or until discs are lightly colored, blistered and crisp. Serve with cheese chips and soups. Makes 16 discs.

### FETTUCCHINE WITH SPINACH-CHEESE SAUCE

- 10 Ounce Frozen Spinach, thawed and drained
- 3 Cloves Garlic
- 1/4 Cup Walnuts
- 1/2 Cup Parmesan Cheese
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon Pepper
- 3/4 Cup Olive Oil
- 3/4 Pound Fettuccine

Prepare Fettuccine according to package directions. Meanwhile, mince garlic in a Food Processor. Add walnuts, parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Pulse to blend. Add the spinach and then the oil. Pulse again to blend.

Drain the Fettuccine and add spinach mixture. Toss well to coat, serve immediately.

### God's Signature

Look at the paths the waters  
has carved,  
Look at the stars how they  
look like ours!

When you stop to take a look  
around,  
What can be found?  
Gods signature in every town!

So intense the wind must blow,  
how all the rivers just flow!

How happy are you and me,  
when we notice what God has  
done for thee?

Look at the sun how it gives  
its light, and how the moon  
directs you at night.

See how all the birds flock  
together, and some how  
always find the berried  
treasure.

You look around and what can  
be found?

After of course you notice  
all of these,

Gods signature in every town!

Look at the sea how it moves  
with glee,

You stop to take a look  
around and what can be  
found?

Look at the trees how they bow  
with ease,

See how what goes up must  
come down.

Gods signature in every town!

### A WINTER DAY

The sky is all cloudy, with back rows of gray,  
Dawning the start of a crisp winter day.

The tree limbs are empty, no fruit, flowers, or leaves,  
The branches hang over, and sway with the breeze.

The river flows onward, with places to go,  
Trying to flee from the cold winter snow.

While animals scurry and hurry around,  
Storing up food from wherever it's found.

The earth lies unyielding, and set for a time,  
As winter continues, with fall left behind.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FEAST!

*Basil Hronchak*

Three weeks before the Feast of Tabernacles, mayhap sooner, the frustration of "what clothes to pack for seven days"! The stress begins after the car is washed! But it really takes hold after the clothes rod is in place. (Did you remember to put the clothes hanger caddy in the trunk (at the motel – one small niche in the wall for TWO people?). It's hectic trying to decide what to take, but somehow you get everything packed, suits and dresses hung in the clothes bags and loaded in the car and (whew!) we're on our way! Lexington, Kentucky 2007, September 26th at 6:30 p.m. to register and sign in please, and all thoughts of "What??" and other feelings of aggravation disappear because, you are being hugged by everyone!

The spiritual food is abundant as well as the music and the fellowship is overwhelming as well as the JOY and you find you are truly rejoicing! Then, before you know it, you are heading back home where I suffered chronic "homesickness" for the Feast for several weeks until I just remembered to start planning for 2008 – to make it just as good – maybe better!! Let's!!!

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## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS SPOTLIGHT ON....

Knoxville, TN

The Church of God New World Ministries meets as a group at:

**2110 Harris Road  
Knoxville, TN 37924**

We meet at the local Host's home in the city of Knoxville, off **exit #392 of Interstate 40**. Services start at **12:00**. Don't forget your appetite! There is usually something good to snack on during fellowship following services!

Surrounded by unsurpassed natural beauty and filled with great places to go, Knoxville has something for everyone. Enjoy history, nightlife, dining, shopping, museums, championship sports and endless outdoor activities. It's here. It's Knoxville.

Discover a rich history of musical milestones and military masterminds. Knoxville's walking tours, carriage rides, and historical homes and sites keep history alive and meaningful for all ages and interests. Trace your family history at the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville, which houses the Southeast's largest resource for genealogical research, or explore the history of Knoxville's seven historic homes of the Civil War and the First Frontier. Want to get a gander at Davy Crockett's famous rifle, Old Betsy? Our museums, tours and other historic sites will add immeasurably to your visit.

The city rests on the banks of the Tennessee River and in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The beauty and natural resources surrounding Knoxville mean limitless opportunities for fun and adventure. Not only is our land and water beautiful, but you can also enjoy them year-round as Knoxville is in a temperate climate zone. The summers are green and gentle, and the fall is magnificent as the hills light up in brilliant autumn hues. Winters are brief, and spring arrives early with dogwoods, azaleas and beautiful flowers.

Please contact **Mr. John Shelton** at **865-523-2159** for more information.

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“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 10:28-30

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## TEEN BIBLE STUDY

The group that meets in Grayson, KY the first Sabbath of each month now offers a Sabbath school for children and teens. This class begins at 12:00.

March's lesson covered Passover, both the Old Testament and New Testament observances. We discussed the symbolism of the bread and wine as well as the meaning behind the foot washing part of Passover. We also discussed why Christians today no longer sacrifice lambs or put blood on doorposts, as Christ's sacrifice and His blood was what the original Passover services foreshadowed, and animal sacrifices were no longer necessary and would be blasphemous. (See Hebrews 10, especially verse 10).

April's lesson will cover the Days of Unleavened Bread, and beginning in May, we will study the Law. This will continue several months, as we learn how to apply these principles, thru both physical and spiritual obedience. For example, we will discuss not only what we don't do on the Sabbath, but what we can do, looking at both the Old and New Testament. Remember, the answers to all of our questions can always be found in the Bible.

All are invited; Please check the website, [www.cognwm.org](http://www.cognwm.org), or contact the home office at (865)774-8485 for directions to services!

# Church of God, New World Ministries

## Financial Statement

January 1, 2007through February 2008

|                            | <b>Expenses</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>            |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Total Income               |                 | \$ 130,606.55           |
| Operational Expenses       | -\$14,933.58    |                         |
| Business Expenses          | -\$25,711.42    |                         |
| Contract Services          | -\$820.25       |                         |
| Facilities and Equipment   | -\$13,760.00    |                         |
| Operations                 | -\$5,277.55     |                         |
| Computer Equipment         | -\$6,084.46     |                         |
| Computer Software          | -\$945.46       |                         |
| Web Site                   | -\$461.70       |                         |
| Misc. Expenses             | -\$273.55       |                         |
| Payroll Expenses           | -\$11,800.00    |                         |
| Travel and Meetings        | -\$7,677.70     |                         |
| Total Expenses             |                 | -\$87,745.67            |
| <br><b>CURRENT BALANCE</b> |                 | <br><b>\$ 42,860.88</b> |

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**PLEASE SEND ANY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE HOME  
OFFICE FOR THE NEXT NEW  
WORLD MINISTRIES NEWS.**

**Church of God,  
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Sevierville, TN 37864**

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