The Journal's Feast listing in this issue
T he Journal lists contact information, locations and dates of the Feast of Tabernacles observances for 2014 in this issue on page 13. If you haven’t already, you’re invited to send your information to The Journal, PO Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or info@thejournal.org. Or fax it toll-free to 1-888-488-6603.

Be sure to include the name of the city nearest the Feast site, the name of a person to contact, the name of the sponsoring church, ministry, fellowship or individual and the dates of the observance.

It is best to include all nine days in the date. For example, many observances this year will fall from Oct. 8 through Oct. 16. The Feast is eight full days, counting the last day, but falls on nine days or partial days on the Gregorian calendar.

21 years ago this month: Waco eyewitness argues that 1993 holocaust was avoidable
By Dixon Cartwright
SAN ANTONIO, Texas—April 19, 2014, is the 21st anniversary of an event seared into the synopses of the brain of Phillip Arnold. On April 19, 1993, Mr. Arnold, founder and director of The Reunion Institute, was there for the Branch Davidians’ holocaust.

Mr. Arnold remembers the events of April 19 as “a view of the Tulsa congregation’s compound and the Tulsa Church of God on Wednesday evening, April 30, 2014. This is probably the last photo taken of Mr. Kurr, who died unexpectedly two days later. Mr. Kurr, a relative of Joannus, publishers Dixon and Linda Cartwright, was heavily involved in music as a singer and director in the Churches of God and his community. He attended the Church of God Big Band and the Tulsa Church of God. He snapped the photo that appeared in this place in the March 2014 issue of The Journal: a view of the Tulsa congregation’s building and sign. See Mr. Kurr’s obituary on page 9. [Photo by Britney Kurr]”

The book of Daniel means about the people of God perishing by sword, pestilence and fire. Such eschatological prophecies in Daniel and Revelation have convinced them that one day the world would turn on them for following God, for keeping the Sabbath and holy days, for observing “pagan Christmas” and “pagan Easter,” for not eating pork, for doing as they are believed Jesus did based on the Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

Prophecies of death by fire
They realized that, indeed, they may someday get burned up by their enemies. Then again they speculated that God might protect them as He did the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) and Daniel in the lions’ den (Daniel 6).

Or perhaps there would be a combination of both, as in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, where the people of God are transformed into spirit through a divine act.

At any rate, the Branch Davidians understood that God would use fire to destroy the end-time enemies of God’s people, prior to elevating His people to spirit.

Professor Newport echoes law-and-order prophecies that the fire at Mount Carmel, near Waco, Texas, was inevitable. He implies that there would play an important role in the final confrontation of the community with the enemies of God.

In sermons and publications, the Davidians had speculated on what the day of the Lord means about the people of God perishing by sword, pestilence and fire.

The Music Man
Last picture of Ray Kurr—Ray Kurr (left) and Ken Barton, both of the Tulsa, Okla., area, down around during a choir practice in the building owned by the Tulsa Church of God on Wednesday evening, April 30, 2014. This is probably the last photo taken of Mr. Kurr, who died unexpectedly two days later. Mr. Kurr, a relative of Joannus, publishers Dixon and Linda Cartwright, was heavily involved in music as a singer and director in the Churches of God and his community. He attended the Church of God Big Band and the Tulsa Church of God. He snapped the photo that appeared in this place in the March 2014 issue of The Journal: a view of the Tulsa congregation’s building and sign. See Mr. Kurr’s obituary on page 9. [Photo by Britney Kurr]

Was U.S.A. established on Christian principles?
The writer is founder of The Reunion Institute in Houston. This article is an excerpt from his book, America’s Biggest Lie: Our Constitution—written, America’s biggest problem was freedom. There was too much of a law-and-order society.

Why? It was because of the weak Articles of Confederation, which the Colonists adopted in 1781 in the middle of our war of independence with Britain.

Under the Articles each state was a “free, Sovereign and Independent” to do pretty much as it pleased, with little regard for national interests.

Lake bratty children with no parental control, the 13 states disputed laws against each other, issued their own currency and could exclude commerce from each other.

Nine states had their own navies. New states came and went. Transylvanian, Franklin, Westsylvania and Vandalia cobbled together government units for own courts of laws.

America needed a central government with enough clout to bring order and unity.

To get that kind of government, America needed a new constitution.

Congress sanctioned, in 1787, a convention in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation to deal with the chaotic situation. The 55 delegates to the convention began meeting in May of that year.

When they emerged four months later, we already had something that was heroic—and untrue.

FBI and ATF view that Waco fire was inevitable wrong
By Phillip Arnold
OUSTON, Texas—It is true that for more than 30 years the various permutations of the Davidian tradition had been discussing what the biblical texts promised in the way of fire in the end time.

K e n n e th Newport in his The Branch Davidians of Waco: The History and Beliefs of an Apocalyptic Sect (Oxford, 2006) calls special attention to the fact that the Davidians at Mount Carmel believed fire would play an important role in the final confrontation of the community with the enemies of God.

In sermons and publications, the Davidians had speculated on what the book of Daniel means about the people of God perishing by sword, pestilence and fire.

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LAST PICTURE OF RAY KURR—Ray Kurr (left) and Ken Barton, both of the Tulsa, Okla., area, down around during a choir practice in the building owned by the Tulsa Church of God on Wednesday evening, April 30, 2014. This is probably the last photo taken of Mr. Kurr, who died unexpectedly two days later. Mr. Kurr, a relative of Joannus, publishers Dixon and Linda Cartwright, was heavily involved in music as a singer and director in the Churches of God and his community. He attended the Church of God Big Band and the Tulsa Church of God. He snapped the photo that appeared in this place in the March 2014 issue of The Journal: a view of the Tulsa congregation’s building and sign. See Mr. Kurr’s obituary on page 9. [Photo by Britney Kurr]
In those days, none of us had any experiences with the complexities of conscientious objection. It's been a long journey for all of us since those early years.

If you would like to submit your letters or articles for consideration, please email them to letters@thejournal.org. We welcome letters from readers around the world, and our editorial staff will consider them for publication. Please note that we cannot guarantee publication of all submitted material.

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Columns and commentary

I was shocked by the Lord’s appointments

Bernie Monsalvo

LADEWATER, Texas—I recently finished reading a book called The Bible by Joe Kovaks (Thomas Nelson, 2008, 224 pages). The author relates that most people don’t know what the Bible says. Some people may have attended church, but certain things that cannot really be found in the Bible. Others seem to twist what the Bible says.

In general, ignorance about the Bible astounding.

Public schools don’t teach it; church and synagogues teach the Bible once a week.

What doesn’t the Bible say?

Some scholars seem to argue a lot from what the Bible does not say. The typical quote is “The Bible nowhere says...”

Other scholars meticulously analyze the original languages of the Egyptian covenants—trying to divine what the author meant and why.

Manuscripts are analyzed, compared and cataloged with the idea of harmonizing the original readings. Readers variants must be dealt with, and some scholars assign a range of values to each manuscript depending on origin, age and quality of the manuscript.

People study the Bible. But they don’t study what the Bible says. Bible translations offer a range of scholarship. Sometimes the translators had to choose which translation conformed to preconceived notions of the patron of the translation.

King James in the 17th century

Such is the case, for instance, with the 1611 translation of the Bible known as the Authorized Version, or King James Version, commissioned by King James of England. Jewish translations of the Scriptures as well as Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Witness and Reformation versions reflect corresponding views.

Paraphrases, rather than translations, of the Bible have also gained popularity. They include The Living Bible and the Contemporary Version. I have witnessed the twisting of Scripture that validates the truism that “you can make the Bible say anything you want.”

Over time, I have read books on theologies that try to make sense of particular renderings of certain passages. I have collected quite a number of “difficult scriptures” published in magazines and books.

Taking a clue from Joe Kovaks, I have also been shocked by what the Bible says.

Bad idea

Even though it includes dos and don’ts, it is not a good idea to look to the Bible and the Contemporary Version. I have witnessed the twisting of Scripture that validates the truism that “you can make the Bible say anything you want.”

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Taking a clue from Joe Kovaks, I have also been shocked by what the Bible says.

Much has been preached about the ‘Lord’s Supper’ even though only one mention is found in the Bible.

By Dave Havir

The way the Bible works

My observations about the Bible fall into three groups.

1. If God says in the Bible to do something, mankind will go out of its way to do it.

2. All problems are due to human problems. 

3. If God says in the Bible not to do something, mankind will go out of its way to do it.

Two clear examples

You shall not commit adultery.

Learn not the way of the heathen.

If the Bible has a lot of verses on one particular topic, it will ignore them. Sabbath observance and the dietary laws come to mind. The Judgment of Solomon (1 Kings 3:16-28) is given as a reason why God rejects the Jewish religion.

The reason given is: “For they have forsaken me and served other gods.” (1 Kings 14:23)

No other reasons are given.

One-verse topics

If a topic is mentioned in only one Bible verse, it will only be mentioned once.

In one-verse topics, there is a gap because the Bible is not sufficiently developed to deal with the topic. If a topic is mentioned in only one Bible verse, it will only be mentioned once.

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The Bible does not say “You should not smoke.” Therefore some conclude that it is okay to smoke.

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Much has been preached about the ‘Lord’s Supper’ even though only one mention is found in the Bible.
The Davidians saw several splits during the 1950s and 1960s, some of them resulting in major battles. In 1962, Mr. Koresh and his wife declared they were the rightful heirs to Waco, announcing that they were planning to build Mount Carmel in Texas. This move was seen as a rejection of the established大卫派．

Later, when Mr. Koresh gained power among Davidians in general, they began to refer to themselves as the Branch Davidians. Mr. Koresh explained that “Branch” came from prophecies of Christ, such as in Isaiah 11:1, which refers to the Messiah as a Branch.

Sunlight with rivals
Over the years the Branch Davidians lived a frequently stormy existence, with rival Davidian factions, with other leaders, such as George Roden, son of Jim the Prophet, concerning each other's authority and influence.

Dr. Arnold, then 45, quickly concluded that blood on my hands I had to do something. "We should not criticize the enemy, we should not question it. This was every week."

Dr. Arnold briefly on radio news broadcast, saying: "But I did go back up to Waco and confer with the authorities there, and the FBI expressed no real interest in the situation warrant it."

Returning to the events of 1993, Dr. Arnold outlined how the FBI listened to his call to try to help peacefully resolve the situation at the Branch Davidians’ compound.

To ask questions seemed to be infringing on the authority of the Branch Davidians. The Branch Davidians are profoundly different from Catholic Church, sees Scripture alone as authoritative. Jesus has a strong sway over people's minds."

"I implored the FBI to listen to me. "I used to be able to recite all the prophecies of the book of Revelation. I implored the FBI to listen to me."

"So I jumped in my car and drove to Waco."
paraphrased it as follows: “In the seventh seal a revelation came to come out, and I will come out as soon as I write down the message of the seven seals. As soon as you get it, give it to Jim Tabor and Phillip Ar-

Koppel, and I said these

He also, in 1995, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives for Judiciary Committee, which investi-

The FBI used specially attached

ünd the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1994

Koresh was writing the mes-

Flame

Koresh was the last in a long line of

they were subtracting the

Mr. Koresh wrote a letter to his

Mr. Koresh was writing the mes-

they were subtracting the

attorney for the compound that

Law enforcement

by calling himself the Lamb, Mr.

by calling himself the Lamb, Mr.

as if they were teaching. We just

about the way the U.S. government

the AT
to do—and you always wonder if

child who was killed, they would

William Paul Joner.

and AR-15s to block the tanks.

A certain convoluted logic moti-

in this case, it was the FBI. The

Although not quite as big as the

Arnold, “What are they doing? He

The Branch Davidians, said Dr. Ar-

the Branch Davidians probably believed they were protecting

The Branch Davidians believed they

the first 30 years Waco

the Branch Davidians, said Dr. Ar

the Lamb who could explain

The Branch Davidians said, Dr. Ar

of April.

Philly. He had never written anything,”

Arnold, “They wrongly concluded

You've got the Spirit, the text

By calling himself the Lamb, Mr.

tics and plagues and earthquakes and this kind of mental-

and Dr. Tabor believed they should

to place current events in a cer-

sion. "They wrongly concluded

several years before, and some of

that's when the powder keg is ripe to

There is some evidence to some peo-

the FBI was the one who

the life of the Lamb, he was explain-

the FBI was the one who

the life of the Lamb, he was explain-

Frontline better ending

Dr. Arnold thinks the danger is in-

to the FBI he lied. "But while he was recov-

Arnold. "They wrongly concluded

Dr. Arnold was telling him every day," said Dr. Arnold.

able to give David Koresh a vision

march 1 or 2.

waiting, and at that moment the

Waiting for Passover

When Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the spiritual leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, was buried on April 30 in Brooklyn, thousands of Orthodox Jews, as well as a dozen or so prominent non-Jews, gathered for the rabbi’s funeral. The rabbi, who died in March at the age of 89, had been a prominent figure in the Jewish world for more than a half-century, and his death was a significant loss for the Orthodox Jewish community. The rabbi’s funeral was held in a large, ornate synagogue in Brooklyn, and it was attended by thousands of Orthodox Jews from around the world. The rabbi was known for his spiritual leadership and his commitment to the Jewish people, and his funeral was a testament to the love and respect that he had earned. The rabbi’s coffin was carried into the synagogue by a large group of men, and it was followed by a procession of Orthodox Jews carrying Torah scrolls and other religious objects. The procession was led by the rabbi’s son, Rabbi Schneur Zalman Schneerson, and it was accompanied by a large choir of Orthodox Jews singing traditional Jewish music. The rabbi’s coffin was placed in the center of the synagogue, and a large crowd of Orthodox Jews gathered around it to pray and mourn. The rabbi’s family and friends gave speeches, and they spoke about the rabbi’s life and his contributions to the Jewish community. The rabbi’s death was a significant loss for the Orthodox Jewish community, and his funeral was a testament to the love and respect that he had earned.
Waco-tragedy eyewitness claims 1993 holocaust avoidable

Continued from page 5

“Vernon is no longer the Messiah.”

Mr. Koresh believed that Jesus could not be descended from the spoon.

They did not necessarily need Billy Graham, they did not need any other religious leader, they did not need Jesus as a Heaven\-brating the Feast. Wouldn’t you go to jail if the police came in here and said, “Stop celebrating the Feast”? Wouldn’t you go to jail if the police came in here and said that? That\-you\-don’t go to jail as a protest?

What if right now the police came into this hotel and said, “Stop celebrating the Feast”? Wouldn’t you go to jail if the police came in here and said that? Wouldn’t you go to jail as a protest?

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While religionists cry end of the world, let’s understand the truth.

The winter of 2013 was one of the driest in the last century, and the 2014 winter rainfall and snowpack are down by 80 percent to date.

But on rare occasions, to correct the descendant nations of Israel as occurred before World War II in the Dust Bowl years, and as a prelude to war and possible national capacity, God allows terror attacks and then introduces a national drought that begins slowly over decades, drying out the country’s farmland and the dwindling supply of water. See this detailed in Leviticus 26.

Inexorable blocks

Experts have determined that a series of unexplainable “blocks”

in the weather be explained by global warming? While proponents on both sides fight over the issues and some religiously cry end of the world, let us understand the truth behind this mounting tragedy.

Droughts, floods and famines have been occurring for thousands of years. The Passover is called an ordinance of God (Exodus 12:14, 42-43), the Passover introduces a national drought that preceded the Second World War III military defeat.

People talk about the change in the weather, unsuspecting that it will eventually bring a massive reduction in American farming and industry and will over time destroy American and British life as we know it. For more than 800 years and 200 years, respectively, our governments have used the Ten Commandments as a basis for their laws, and we have attempted to please those who are pushing for this. We cannot force our will upon the people. It is on the 14th of Abib (also known as Nisan). You will want to read your Bible out looking for an early-14th or late-14th or early 15th Passover, it is not just there.

Will we seek Almighty God and His truth, which will indeed set us free from man’s customs and traditions? Or will we be held hostage by our fear to be different? All of it on the 14th

If you have read this far, and most probably have not, you are asking: How can I question the very words of Jesus my Savior in favor of Jewish customs and traditions? Either Jesus knew when the Passover is or your Bible is not true. The Jews’ Passover was on the day after Jesus kept the Passover.

Jesus’ own words.

The Bible does not make clear when the day begins or when the month begins, so we readily accept the Jewish tradition and not the teaching in Leviticus 23:32 and Genesis 1:5 which are in our Bibles today.

Confusion reigns over questions of early and late 14th and 15th

The Bible does not cry end of the world but it does not. It tells us only when we are to celebrate the Day of Atonement. We are to start our fast from the evening before.

The Passover is called an ordinance of God. Verse now but God’s Spirit would come and His disciples He had much to tell them. But now, today, our nations—and the nations just as it hit Britain and the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

A chink will be found

As we watch this occur, we need to be thinking. First, we must realize that God does exist and therefore, this concern and embarrassment they are being warned of a coming World War III military defeat. Drought that preceded the Second World War.

Miseducated inability to please

Our leaders simply do not know what they are causing as they continue to do away with laws that were based on the Ten Commandments in an attempt to please those who are pushing for this. Let us encourage them to begin to live by God’s laws to avert a national tragedy, or some may escape what it is to come.

Do you feel your part to help warn our nations.

The Dust Bowl revisited

Watch Ken Burns’ production of The Dust Bowl on PBS nations to learn how bad the drought was in the 1930s. Read “Drought, Flood and Famines,” page 18, American Britain’s Free Library, at BritishFuture.com, or write for a free copy of our study guide, or for an Outreach Program to US-British Future, P.O. Box 4877, Oceanside, Calif. 92056, U.S.A.

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Some people apparently think ‘Do not this’ means ‘do this’.

Continued from page 3

The problem is that the Bible has different senses of the same word, and these senses are not consistent in the English translation. Why isn’t this mentioned when one goes to the Greek or Hebrew text?

For example, in the KJV the word translated "feast of unleavened bread" is translated as "pascha" in the Greek text. Yet in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word is translated as "mow’ed". The Septuagint is the original language in which the New Testament was written.

The word "mow’ed" is used 23 times in the Old Testament, while "pascha" is used 10 times. The KJV translators chose the word "pascha" because it sounded similar to the English word "pass." However, this choice is not consistent with the original language.

There are several other examples of words being translated differently in the English language.

Some examples of words that are not consistent in the English language:

- "Singular and plural"
- "Mother ofclean bread"
- "Ethnic"
- "Feast"
- "Passover"
- "Festival"
- "Convocation"
- "Assembly"
- "Sign"
- "Solemnity"
- "Appointment"
A sunset-to-sunset weekly Sabbath is not in the Bible!

It is an old story: assuming a belief comes from the Bible, when in fact the Bible says nothing of the sort. Most of us came out of the Babylonian method of reckoning the day gradually replaced the true, the Scriptural truth, is the sunset-to-sunset Sabbath. How many of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptural truth. Few of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptural truth to see what it really says about tithing. Honest, where does the Bible say, or even hint, that we are to tithe on the money we earn? What truly is Biblical "increase"? Few doctrines have been more confusing than the subject. The Biblical facts and history do not lie. The charge for classified ads is 25 cents per word. For more information go to www.godward.org or 3 Santee Rd., Lincoln, ND 58504.

Connections: Member to Member

Connections runs classifieds: Resources, Help Wanted, For Sale, For Rent, Park Requests and more. The charge for classified ads is 25 cents per word. There is no charge for Prayer Requests, Obituaries, Anniversary and Birth Announcements. Send classified advertisements (including Prayer Requests, Obituaries and Birth Announcements) to CONNECTIONS, P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or to Linda Cartwright at lckartwright@aol.com.

Obituaries

Marilyn Zemlicka. ¶ You may sign the online guest book, which has been freed from people of the false teachings on tithing for over 20 years. (Suggested donation, $3 pdp)

Connections: Member to Member

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Proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel of the Kingdom of God

According to the Holy Scriptures: Book of Psalms, Psalm 91 (note: clearly identifies and reveals two distinct divine spirit beings—spirit personalities—not one or three), Book of Daniel, Chapter 7, Mark, Chapter 13, Mark, Chapter 16, Matthew, Chapter 24, Matthew, Chapter 26, Verses 1-13, Matthew, Chapter 28, and Revelation, Chapter 14. This Church adheres to all of the Scriptural Covenant requirements, including but not limited to: To the Seventh Sabbath of God as well as the Annual Sabbaths of God, and the Ten Commandments. This Church conscientiously objects to coming under, any and all military authority, in any form. This Church believes and upholds “the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints, Book of Jude, in The First Century Church as Scripturally Defined.” This Church believes and accepts all Scripture, to be the divinely inspired Revelation of God, and “God-Breathed” (self-contained substantiation). For more information, address all correspondence and confidential communication to the Ambassador/Publisher at: The Church of God — The Most High, © in care of Oguek Publishing 230 N. Gate St., Unit 929, Lake Forest, ILLINOIS 60045.

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Guard Against Deception

Don’t Swallow Everything, Don’t Be Gullible

2 Cor. 1:24: “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Paul spoke also as did Jesus Christ: “Let no man deceive you by any means” (2 Thes. 2:3). Many will be deceived by the false prophets (preachers).

Where does it come from? Satan! God is not the author of confusion. He, Satan, has deceived the world. He will be deceived by the false prophets (preachers).

That includes us too. We have a mixed picture of the gospel. Details and pieces are missing, and other things have been put in. Some pieces are correct, others are false. In the Sabbath-keeping churches, there is much blindness and deception.

The reason many are blinded is “money.” Where are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Why were there false prophecies starting with 1936? Why is there absence of true prophecies? Why the many splits? Is there anyone preaching the true, unperveted gospel? Who has the correct understanding and simplicity of Christ? (2 Cor. 11:3).

There is confusion and division. Why would God set His Spirit into such confusion. When we get this straightened out, then He might.

We need to ask God to cast Satan the dictator out of our midst and send His Holy Spirit with the gifts. Let us get back to the faith once delivered, including the New Covenant.

Man’s Church Government Is a Fraud

Nowhere is a dictator over the church Jesus Christ built. Diotrephes (3 John 9-10) was the first to try to dictate, expelling true Christians from the congregation at his whims.

He had put out those who were friendly to the brethren. He loved to lord it over the congregation. He wanted to have preeminence, the top position. This was contrary to what Jesus Christ said (Matt. 20:25-26; 23:8; 11:29; 16:24).

Nicolaits came into power in Rev. 2:6 and 2:15. They were like Diotrephes. They gained superiority over the brethren, so their name, Nicolaits, express by analyzing.

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, not some man or council.

The doctrines of God are in the New Covenant—New Testament and need no embellishment. There is no need for any man to exercise lordship over the congregation(s).

The epistle of 1 Corinthians shows how Jesus Christ wants people to run the church.

Chapter 5:1-5: To eject someone was the priority of the congregation, not the pastor or any other elder.

Chapter 6 is concerned with grievances (verses 1-5). Chapter 14:23: “The whole church” with any man could speak when he had something to say (verses 26, 27, 31, 33 and especially 37).

Chapter 11 shows the real chain of authority (verses 3, 9). Jesus is the Head, not some man.

Chapter 12 concerns gifts and offices as gifts, but not for dictating.

Chapter 13 shows the best way—love—agape.

2 Cor. 1:24: Helpers are those of the offices in chapter 12.

Some men want to give orders to others, but will not help (just talk and order), as in Matt. 23:4, Luke 11:46. They enjoy walking around in their expensive suits, trying to appear important. They accuse others of being “independent thinkers,” but they don’t consider Phil. 2:12.

Read Isa. 55:7-9. They don’t have the thoughts of God. When men gain control, it is through money. Then they hire assistants who do their “dirty work” such as preventing others to speak or express opinions contrary to them as seen in the Bible. Diotrephes loved that way—to have preeminence (3 John 9-10).

These men preach a gospel of bondage. They promote a gospel of money and great prosperity, quoting Malachi 3:10. There are conflicts in their preaching. They want to keep their high standard of living. Headquarters of the church is in heaven, with Jesus the Head (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; and Col. 1:18; 2:19—check that).

Doctrines Can Be Manipulated

Did the early church have a doctrinal committee? Is it up to men as to what other men should believe? The whole church came together in Acts 15—apostles, elders and the church-congregation. All the members. Only one other place where doctrine was discussed was Galatians 2:2-6.

During Paul’s ministry to the church at Corinth, the men could speak, but in order.

1. Cor. 14:26. Verse 40, as to anything that would edify. Understand there was no doctrinal committee.

The scriptures can be presented as to what the speaker wants to present. Example: Jesus Christ said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” I have heard sermons presenting “the Father did not forsake Him” and also the opposite.

So just because a doctrinal committee says “This is the official church stance” does not make it so every member believes it.

Picking and Choosing

All the leaders of the churches want to push their (and their gurus’) doctrines. However, they don’t want you to really research that doctrine except what they choose. They want you to use the reference books that suit their ideas of what they want to push. If you find the contrary, they will make an excuse as “it is controversial; it is right to believe what we have heard.”

It is a cover-up to protect their big incomes and expense accounts. (Just as their guru did.)

Are you free indeed? (John 8:31). By knowing the truth, you will be set free. Bondage limits anyone. We are free from everything except the debt of love.

Avoiding Wrong Doctrine

1. Heresy is not going against or contradicting what one man says. He may be wrong.

2. You cannot knock one scripture with another. The Scriptures are inspired by God.

3. Tradition is not sacred.

5. Do not add nor detract from the Scriptures.

6. Men do not have authority over the scriptures, and they do not stand between the Scriptures and other men, so do not allow them to dictate what you should believe.

7. Here a little, there a little.

8. Beware of mistranslations and additions.

9. Italics in the KJV are words that have been added.

And Do These

1. Be open to God’s Spirit to guide you.

2. Ignore past teachings.

3. Be apart from the influence of anyone.

4. Pray for guidance.

5. Let God choose the subject.

6. Be on guard against imaginations and fantasies.

7. Write your studying down, making notes of side issues and subjects.

8. Get the facts, ask questions:
   a. Who—individuals
   b. What—conditions
   c. When—date
   d. Where—location, area, city
   e. Which—comparisons
   f. Why—purpose, because
   g. Wherefore—conclusion(s)

9. If the Bible does not fit into your ideas, then change. Admit you are wrong.

10. Remember, most church Bible studies and courses are indoctrinations into their way of thinking, but not God’s way of thinking. Just because someone says something, that does not make it a fact.

Church Government

This topic is radically misunderstood. A church with a central governing body is a contradiction from the Catholic Church. It was backed by the Roman government at the behest of Caesar.

There was no earthly church government. Congregations did not answer to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They did look there for decisions that they were not able to decide. An example is found in Acts 15:1-6. They came together to consider the matter.

All ideas were discussed. James (Jacob), being the chairman or pastor of that congregation, gave a wise decision. Verses 20-21 is his statement. Notice it pleased all, including the whole congregation. This is never a concern by a modern church hierarchy. They do not consider what the people think, just what the top people want. It includes what the decision would do to their income, not what is pleasing to God.

There is really no human in charge of the church. “I will build My church.” Jesus Christ is the Head. He is also the Head of every man (1 Cor. 11). Every man should look to Him for guidance—letting Him be in him. That is the real government of God.

There should be small decision-making groups in each congregation, as to small functions there. There is no expression such as “church government” in the New Testament. Those offices in 1 Cor. 12 are for building and not for governing or for dictating (Matt. 23:8).

All are brethren. It is up to the individual as to whether he will keep God’s word. Rank among people only breeds competition, politics and contempt. It was the congregation that Peter told to seek out seven men that the apostles would appoint.

It was the congregation that was instructed by Paul to remove that sinning individual. This set a standard as to how people should govern and remove offenders. (Not the local pastor, by secret means to his own discretion and desires.) (This has been done with many righteous people having been put out because they did not agree with the top man.)

Wicked people were to be put away, for their wickedness, not because of their disagreement.
Living Water

The Children of Israel saw all God’s miracles and wonders. The plagues against Egypt. Death of the firstborn. A pillar of fire by night lighting their way of escape, a thick cloud by day to keep Pharaoh at bay. Parting of the Red Sea. Final demise of Pharaoh and his army. Manna. God speaking from the mountain.

Yet, in spite of all these, the Israelites demanded a golden calf be made and then claimed it was the deity that brought them out from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 32:1-4, 8).

What was wrong with them? Insanity? Dumbness? Just plain stupid? God had the answer. They were stiff-necked (Exodus 32:9).

The Lord God turned out to be a real deity with real rules. That was not expected. The Israelites wanted the benefit of a powerful, living God to get them out of slavery, but they wanted that god on their terms. Doing things The Lord’s way was turning out to be too much trouble.

God commented to Moses about the attitude of the Israelites: “O that there were such an heart in them would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that they might live with them, and with their children forever” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

The majority were giving God lip service. Did they think God would not know?

Some individuals today are giving God lip service. Entire church groups are giving God lip service. Out of one side of their mouth they say God’s Law is ‘done away,’ and then from the other side they say are following and worshipping God.

A long time ago the prophet Jeremiah summed up this very condition. “My people know not the judgment of The Lord, (so then) they say they are following and worshiping God. Out of one side of their mouth they say God’s Law is ‘done away,’ and then from the other side they say are following and worshipping God.

Consider the annual feasts of The Lord. What purpose do God’s annual feasts serve? Why have them? We can example the last of the seventh annual feasts, the LGD Feast. One idea is the feast points to a future time when the righteous of God are converted into spiritual Beings and granted admittance into God’s eternal family and His great, heavenly city of New Jerusalem.

Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Great Day Feast. He cried aloud, saying: “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believes on me, as scripture says, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37-38).

The Messiah was not suggesting people should come to him so they could die. However, that is what some people say is part of the purpose for the Last Great Day. The LGD is about a beginning not an ending, a beginning of spiritual life for the righteous of God. Certainly that will be a great day when the acceptable of God are converted into spiritual Beings and granted admittance into God’s eternal family and His great, heavenly city of New Jerusalem.

Being wearied from his journey, Jesus sat at the edge of Jacob’s well in Samaria. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus asked her for a drink. She was surprised. She responded he was a Jew, so how was it he spoke to her? (The Jews refused to have dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her. “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you: ‘Give me to drink,’ you would have asked from him and he would have given you living water.”

The woman responded: “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. From whence then have you that living water? Are you greater than our father, Jacob, which gave us the well, and himself drank from it?”

Jesus said back: “Whosoever drinks of this (well) water shall thirst again. But, whosoever drinks of the water I shall give him shall never thirst. The water I give shall be in them a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:6-14).

Living water is obtainable from Jesus for the asking. He said so in the synagogue. He said so at Jacob’s well, because Jesus has direct access to the supplying fountain. That fountain is the Father God in Heaven (Jeremiah 2:13 / Revelation 22:1).

The apostle John recorded that he had seen a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1). Rivers of everlasting waters of life obtainable from God and Jesus are commemorated by the Last Great Day Feast. It shows eternal life, not eternal death.

As the End of The Age moves closer into view, only a fool jeopardizes their chance for obtaining life. No one said being a Christian was going to be easy. The war is against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. The ‘wolves’ are out there seeking those whom they are able to devour with their foolishness.

Put on the whole armor of God: The helmet of salvation; The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God; Girt your loins about with truth. Be ‘meet’ for the Master’s use (Ephesians 6:11-17).

God wants workers and women who are not ashamed to come before Him because they rightly divide the word of truth. Shun profane and vain religious babblings for they will increase to more ungodliness and eventually eat one through as does aanker (2 Timothy 2:16).

The fear of The Lord is the beginning of wisdom concerning all God’s feast times.

The annual feasts and their purposes are summarized in the free booklet: The Biblical Annual Festivals. Request a copy.
Did the Apostles Baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

D id The Apostles Baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Matthew 28:19 states, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Did the Apostles follow this instruction?

Of particular note is the baptism of Gentiles at Pentecost. Peter, when admonishing the crowd in Acts 2:38, said, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” Peter, when baptizing Cornelius, quoted the prophecy in Joel 2:32, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” When Paul was baptized, he was exhorted only to call on the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 22:16; see also Acts 9:17-18). Paul also mentions baptism to the Romans, but mentions only the confessional aspect of baptism. A similar thought occurs in Galatians 3:27. The context of 1 Corinthians 1:13 indicates baptism involves only the confession of Jesus Christ. The holy spirit is definitely associated with baptism, but the text of Matthew 28:19 didn’t seem to have very much effect on the practice of those who baptized in the New Testament church.

There are also other scriptures that, while not mentioning baptism directly, run contrary to the injunction of Matthew 28:19. “... For there is no other name under heaven, given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” (Col 3:17). “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). The record of history casts doubt on the authenticity of Matthew 28:19.

This verse is the only indication one has of an open attendance policy; that is, visitors are welcome. However, it is the Father’s understanding that some Church of God organizations allow Feastgoers to attend with them only by special permission. Therefore, if you wish to attend to one of those church Feasts, you must reconcile yourself to the practice of others, or to special permission and the advertising section of Creation magazine.
Continuing on:

they that follow the Lamb whithersoever H E goes. These were
ducees; why beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sad-
spoke not to you concerning bread that you should be-
ducees. . . How is it that you do not understand that I
shall not be burnt
on the altar for a sweet savor.”

The Two Leavened Wave Loaves:
Firstfruits unto the Lord

There is a belief that leaven pictures sin; therefore the Two Wave Loaves
Of Leviticus 2 have sin and cannot picture the Bride. Is this true?

When looking at the subject of the Leavened Loaves (with the premise that the waving of the Two Wave Loaves (Firstfruits unto the Lord) pictures the resurrection of the Firstfruits, the Bride), I consider the following scriptures:

Rev 14:1: And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the Mountain
Zion, and with Him a hundred forty-four thousand having His
father's name written in their foreheads. . . . These are they that
were not defiled with women for they are virgins. These are
they that follow the Lamb whithersoever H E goes. These were

This page is part of CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, the advertising section of The Journal

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Issue No. 161 (April 30, 2014)

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For the Firstfruits of Wheat picture the Bride restored to Kingdom glory. The sequence is:

Wave Loaves, then Wave Loaves, then the Lamb, then the Lamb.

The Wave Loaves were a type of unleavened bread used in the Mosaic Law. They were made from fine flour, and were to be baked fresh and eaten on the same day they were brought to the temple. The Wave Loaves were a symbol of the sacrifice of the Firstfruits of the harvest, which were to be offered to the Lord as a firstfruits. The Wave Loaves were to be distinguished from the leavened bread given to the people during Passover. The Wave Loaves were to be eaten by the Levites, and were not to be given to the Gentiles. The Wave Loaves were a symbol of the spiritual Israel and were to be kept pure and holy, just as the firstfruits of the harvest were kept pure and holy. The Wave Loaves were a type of the resurrection of the Firstfruits, who were to be set apart for the Lord and kept pure and holy. The Wave Loaves were a symbol of the spiritual Israel and were to be kept pure and holy, just as the firstfruits of the harvest were kept pure and holy. The Wave Loaves were a type of the resurrection of the Firstfruits, who were to be set apart for the Lord and kept pure and holy.
The Day of the Lord—Based on the miraculous healings in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and with prophecic Scriptures in mind, undoubtedly there will be other heavenly-visible signs, as a type and forerunner of the very end-time pointing to the rapidly approaching closeness of the Great Tribulation; and the return of Jesus Christ.

For Jesus could be caught up in it and our cry to God could be, "Beware of false prophets (minis- ter), who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves...[19.] Not every-one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

To be under the protective caring love of Jesus Christ from all that we will soon be experiencing, we MUST be watching vigilantly, praying always seeking a closeness with our wonderful Father and Jesus Christ so as to be graced with His loving protective care and ultimately be able to stand before His glorious presence when He returns (Luke 23:36). Nothing else really matters.

Heavenly Signs—Bearing the heavenly signs are already being seen as forerunners of the fullness of the Day of the Lord, no one will be able to say they were not aware of over many years by God’s late apostle when the fullness of these things come to pass:

“Now when these things BEGIN to happen, LOOK UP and Lift Up Your Heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).

Surely everyone who watches the news media cannot help but realize how bad of this nation really is, including England and the other nations of Israel, so utterly bad off, there is no other solution but repentance and turning to God.

The House of Israel and the other major problems that are now coming closer together and the possible loss of life! A coming time so utterly sad there will only be a few who have heeded the warnings, as God’s prophet makes known.

I set myself as a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and WARN them for Me” (Ezekiel 7:6-8; 33:7).

By Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Church of God, Faithful Flock

It is so strange that the Warning Scriptures above are ignored as meaningless to most of the membership. This is due primarily to their leaders who are off-track from the Bible and could stand in the end time Elijah and the Warning Messages given through him by Jesus Christ. This group has never seen an end-time prophecy in our time in heavenly signs, such as lightning striking twice the dome of St. Peter’s, a meteor striking the roof of the dome in two places at the same day in February 2015. Also record-breaking acts in nature: devastating tornados, record-breaking floods, drought, snowfall, etc.

**A Four-Year Warning**—The duality of the warnings that began being given by God in 66 A.D. was four years before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. A.D. 70 A.D. was involved in the many unsurroundable and accelerating problems facing the House of Joseph. It would appear there will be little more than four years, if any, before destruction also befalls the House of Joseph.

The Day of Pentecost—This Holy Day, observed in Jerusalem in 69 A.D., played a very significant role for it was on this Day the final warning came from God to the Jewish people of the impending destruction of their city.

Ancient History in Bible Light, Page 261, Miller: “Again on the night of the last Pentecost ever celebrated in the sanctuary "as the priests were going by, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a sound as of a mighty wind, saying, ‘Take heed!’”

Josephus adds: “But these men interpreted some of these signals for bad, believing that they were only signs occurred in all things, to their own pleasure, and some of them they utterly despised, until their madness was demonstrated, both by the increasing gripping disaster of the House of Joseph, it would appear there will be little more than four years, if any, before destruction also befalls the House of Joseph.

The Three Elijahs—The book of Malachi 2:10-16 is the book of the Three Elijahs, who come to us in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves...”[19.] Not every-one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

The M YSTERY OF THE AGES—Jesus Christ led His apostle to restore: the Ten Commandments, the threefold division of the Mosaic Law, and the book of Revelation. This book of the Three Elijahs is the book of the Three Elijahs.

For by the increasing gripping disaster of the House of Joseph, it would appear there will be little more than four years, if any, before destruction also befalls the House of Joseph.

The Philadelphia Remnant—To be kept informed and lifted up, BECAUSE your redemption draws near when the fullness of these things come to pass. Should YOU not be in the faithful Church Jesus Christ is using in this end-time to support His work vis-a-vis the recorded Works of His late apostle on our websites (Revolution 3:5-7; Matthew 24:24-25). Knowing that the following is true: ‘... You have forsaken the LORD your God and the fear of Me is not in you,’ says the Lord God of hosts (Jeremiah 2:28).

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The brain is the last and grandest biological frontier, the most complex, thus the most difficult to penetrate. Our memories are sequences of connections. The brain boggles the mind.

Kurzweil agrees in the first part, but believes the brain fires on a grand scale, so relatively reducible ones so the brain has not yet become conscious. Our memories are sequences of patterns. They can be compiled and replicated for our own purposes, or enhanced. We can also extract the brain's design information. Then we develop a new organism, which in the case of the brain pattern recognizer that will fire up to 100 times a second, drawing from the pattern recognizer that will fire up to 100 times a second. But the conscious brain is less likely to be correct. The conscious brain is less likely to be correct.

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issue No. 161 (April 30, 2014)  

Advanced Thinking  

Closed to human brain replication  

Suppose in the future someone copies your mind onto a chip. Will it be you? Will it be the clone and you be the same? No, they are not identical. They are different in the way identical twins are different. All humans adapt to their environment. And if they asked you a question, perhaps very much like the one you had in your youth, would the ‘new’ you be ‘you’? No, you have evolved with the technology of your birth.

A crucial implant for Parkinson’s disease or a cochlear implant for the deaf is, in some sense, a device put inside the body, but outside the brain. The consequences for the auditory nerve of the brain. Perhaps in the 2030s, when the computerized devices the size of white blood cells will be introduced into the body without surgery. Ordinary white blood cells already identify and attack foreign cells. Future artificial versions could do even more. Artificial cells alter our natural body parts we will remain the same person.

Is the singularity near? Artificial pancreases already appear. The artificial pancreas is far ahead of the natural version. The artificial pancreas could eliminate diabetes. You gain for by taking over from the insulin problems and stimulating or controlling insulin production. We maintain the same time. Kurzweil wants us to believe that artificial cells for our natural body parts we will remain the same person.

Downside of transhumanism  

Kurzweil’s claims are transhumanist. DNA is what he advocates in books, lectures, and writings, as well as his work to enhance the human mind or body with artificial parts. Recall that he did call his translation program a self. He wrote most on the advantages and not the disadvantages of replacing human parts with machine ones. He briefly mentions the disadvantages of using such a person’s mind could be hacked?

TransEvolution by Daniel Estulin  

He starts with mostly economic matters then strays to a larger discussion. In the chapter Bildergroup, he foresees a bleak near future especially as early as 2015 of the elite having iron rule over the masses. Some of his technologies predict governments to do its bidding. Several top secret experiments have been done. The recent world super rich will face threats from the masses due to the growing gap between them, so he predicts, as well as surveillance measures being added to them and arrest if needed.

To finally, Whitfield Diffie, one of the whistleblowers that Snowden have risked their jobs to tell the truth publicly of US government surveillance of US citizens. Recently in the news, the CIA was found to have spied on the US Congress and committed that was not for such practices on the US populace.

Tavistock aided Hitler to power, and now tries to engineer future shocks for psychological warfare so the population is under multiple threats as terrorism. Adults accept a lower moral standard, acting more like children, and the kids are the same. Famous families imitate their parents loss control.

The January 2008 issue of Nature Medicine says that the 111 attacks is just the prelude of what they have planned ahead. The corporate empire is run by central banks and central banking systems. The world economy is collapsing independently, they gain for by taking over from the inherent problems and stimulating or controlling its financial crisis production. They cut, and even got bailouts.

DARPA is running tests to implant a computer chip on a human head to allow use of 7 of 9 pesticides to be used again after they were banned in the past for being too toxic in making food crops.

To finally, Whitfield Diffie, one of the whistleblowers that Snowden has risked their jobs to tell the truth publicly of US government surveillance of US citizens. Recently in the news, the CIA was found to have spied on the US Congress and committed that was not for such practices on the US populace.

Tavistock aided Hitler to power, and now tries to engineer future shocks for psychological warfare so the population is under multiple threats as terrorism. Adults accept a lower moral standard, acting more like children, and the kids are the same. Famous families imitate their parents loss control.

Everything you post on the internet, even your personal messages, can be read. Facebook has the right to read the fine print of the agreement or license to use Facebook, that which people post can be data mined.

Cell phones do much more than provide phone service. They have a camera, apps or a keyboard, and they can play music. The use of cell phones now is greater than in the past when it took a machine to size of a house to compute similarly. 

Wikipedia claims Kurzweil is a transhumanist because of what he advocates in books, lectures, and writings, as well as his work to enhance the human brain or body with artificial parts.

Recall that he did call his translation program a self. He wrote most on the advantages and not the disadvantages of replacing human parts with machine ones. He briefly mentions the disadvantages of using such a person’s mind could be hacked?

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code:
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Prolonged suffering is a problem that is too large for mere contemplation. The question posed by the problem of evil is not whether God wants to put two really stupid people (perhaps related) in hell, but whether God would want to put two really stupid people (perhaps related) in a hell with all the rest of the universe. This vastness of the problem is caused by the generality of the supposed evil.

One answer, quite popular with theists, is that evil is not real. However, there are extenuating circumstances that make this answer less plausible.

A much more popular approach is the so-called teleological solution to the problem of evil. The idea of the teleological solution is that God has a purpose for the universe, and evil is a necessary part of that purpose.

The problem with this approach is that it fails to deal with the problem of particular evil. For example, if God wanted to create a universe without suffering, why would He create a world with such suffering?

There are many other possible approaches to the problem of evil, but none of them is fully satisfactory. It seems clear that the problem of evil is a difficult problem that is not easily solved.

The problem of evil is a problem that is mentioned in many religious texts. For example, in the Bible, God is often portrayed as a being who is not only all-powerful, but also all-good. However, the world is full of suffering and pain, which raises the question of whether God is really all-good.

Some people believe that God is not all-good, but rather is malevolent. This view is known as the view of a malevolent God. However, this view is not without its problems, as it raises the question of why God would want to create a world with so much suffering.

Another approach to the problem of evil is the view of a God who is both all-good and all-powerful. This view is known as the view of a benevolent God.

However, this view is also not without its problems, as it raises the question of why God would allow so much suffering in the world.

The problem of evil is a complex and difficult problem that is not easily solved. It is a problem that has fascinated thinkers for centuries, and it is likely to remain a significant challenge for many years to come.
God's total destruction of communities is problematic. God pronounced his creation very good (Gen. 1:10-31) but then killed off humanity and (evil animals?) in a worldwide flood.

God's omnipresence, in America. Many religions believe God is everywhere at one time. At the Bible specifically teaches that God is both everywhere at once and transcendent (above all) and for what? The future and the present... and the past. The Bible teaches that God is both omnipotent and omnipresent, characteristic of the God who is all-powerful and everywhere.

God's effect on evil. God allows suffering, not on the part of the principal (God) and his agent (the devil) created an agency relationship by consent. A contract was not necessary if it was clear that they intended to act as principal and agent. Obviously, in Job's case, they did intend to so act. God's role is thus to protect the innocent. If God is without mercy to one who has shown no concept of vicarious liability. God's role is thus to protect the innocent. If God is without mercy to one who has shown no concept of vicarious liability.

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I now continue with the concluding theme of Part 13. That theme was that, prior to the return of the Son of Man and the establishment of his 1,000-year kingdom, great religious works will be fulfilled on earth. This work will begin from the Holy Land, and the authority over these works (or permission to conduct them) will be of Gentile origin.

The following scriptures, pointing to this time of new beginnings, are for an overview only. Specifics will follow in future writings.

“...in the last days, it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of Jehovah shall be exalted above the hills, and that people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say, Come! Let us go up to the mountain of the Jehovah, and to the house of the Jehovah of the God of Jacob. And he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths” (Micah 4:1-2).

There is a bit more to this scripture that I will come back to. But first I wish to show what the above works are all about. For example, “the last days.” As mentioned earlier, the “days” refer to the “years” before the Son of Man will return and his kingdom will be established. “Mountains, hills, and peoples” refers to Gentile nations and religions, in this case mostly to the Gentiles of the European and Arab powers—though there will still be many Israelites living within those Gentile nations. These Israelites will live in Zion, and will return to their homeland just prior to, or just after, the return of the Son of Man.

Then there is the word house, meaning the Temple that will be built. Perhaps more important, it does not refer to “the” symbol of religious Gibson. Combine this with the word “Luz” and one sees the fulfillment of Zechariah 1:16. There will be a Temple built in Jerusalem, from which will begin a future work. But, as I mentioned, in the future there will be two works. Both of these works are spoken of in the concluding words of the previous scripture Micah 4:2-4. “For the Law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem!” Two works! Two locations! Two ministries!

From this point I will be going on in Zechariah and beginning to expand out further into other prophetic scriptures. This is because, before the “two works of Zion and Jerusalem” can begin, there is much to be done and only a fair amount of time in which to get the works underway.

But I have to stop and say, I must see if anyone to this point even cares. It is the only few who will become a part of the future great work of Philadelphia, while the majority will continue to sleep—just as Scripture says they will continue to sleep. Please note that, when I write these words of those few who will hear and the majority who will sleep, I am speaking only to Sabbath observers.

The churches of Revelation 2-3 are Sabbath-observing churches. But the churches of Revelation 2-3 are not the True Church of God! By that I mean to say that the Philadelphia Church is somewhere out there, beyond the vision of the seven churches of Revelation 2-3. When Messiah said that “their eyes have been blinded, and there ears stopped,” he was speaking of Sabbath observers then and the seven churches of today. How is this known? Well, the end of the influence of the True Church in the 1st century was with Diotrephes. And the descendants of Diotrephes are the “seven churches.” The Philadelphia Church is the only church that has “brotherly love.” The Worldwide Church of God claims to be the Philadelphia Church is a part of the future great work of Philadelphia, while the majority will continue to untruthful. The splits that continue the WCG attitudes, clearly, also, prove themselves to not be of brotherly love.

Hey, how about the Living Church of God, which seemingly is as righteous as the Philadelphia Church? Or, going back a bit, the Seventh Day COG, of which Herbert Armstrong emerged? C’mom, guys. When have any of you guys actually said “We were wrong”? On both sides? And, after the admission, were united in brotherly love?

None of you! This means that the true Philadelphia is yet to appear. When it does, do not expect open arms from the already “righteous” “no more” with devil and anti-Jehovah, and that woman Jezebel, and the Nicolaitans, etc., et al., with only, as shown in Revelation 2-3. Are there any out there who would really like to sit back and simply look to the Bible?

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Prophecy Today

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PART 14

In the future there will be two ‘works.’ Both of these works are spoken of in the concluding words of Micah 4:2.

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PART 13

Deliver yourself, O Zion, destroyed with the daughter of Babylon!” (Zechariah 2:7).

Now, most believers, when they see the word Zion, will almost always identify it with the word Jerusalem. But, again, I point out that Zion and Jerusalem are two different cities and are located in two different tribes of Israel. I will also say that there was a Temple in Zion and a Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon built the first for his father, David, in the City of David, and the second in Jerusalem for himself: the one that was called Solomon’s Temple. As Scripture shows us, the Temple in Jerusalem was totally destroyed by the armies of Babylon. The “Jews” were taken into captivity. After 70 years exile, a few of the Jews and Levites returned to Jerusalem and Judaea, and they built a new, but much inferior, Temple in Jerusalem. When they arrived back in Jerusalem, the Temple that was in Zion was still there.

Moving on to the 1st century A.D., by this time the small, inferior Temple in Zion was still there, though now, because of an earth-quake, the Temple in Zion was covered with the rubble of the building that had been built around it in the time of Solomon. Is this true? Yes! Do you want to see from Scripture? Then we will have to wait until said Temple in Zion becomes revealed in the “last” of the “latter years.” For thousands of Jews still remained in the land, but these were Edomite Jews. In other words, they were Gentiles. Since 70 A.D., no Israelites Jews have ever resettled in their former capital city. This is true, even though many “Israelites” of the Second Temple, called now “Jews,” were expelled from the borders of the Roman Empire. Many thousands and perhaps more important, it does not refer to “the” symbol of religious

Israelites, and some Gentiles, will build a new Temple in Jerusalem. They will be under Gentile authority and happy to ‘eat well from their fleshpots.’

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CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, Philadelphia Church.
Does Scripture validate that each human born is destined to be saved? Absolutely! This also includes those whose lives were aborted. Listen to the Word of God:

“Who has heard such a thing [life]? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth [world] be made to bring forth [give life] in one day? or shall a nation [children] be born at once [by command]? for as soon as Zion [the Kingdom of God] travailed [went into labor] she brought forth her children.

“Shall I bring to the birth and not cause to bring forth [mature]? said the Lord: shall I make to bring forth [give things]? Shall the earth [world] be made to bring forth [give life]? Who has seen such a thing [eternal] from the dead?” (Romans 11:15).

World Salvation is proven by Isaiah and Paul. The two scriptures (above) by Isaiah and Paul (Isaiah 66:8-9 and Romans 11:15) are only two of thousands of writings throughout the Bible that prove God saves the world.

STEP 2

Christ confirmed salvation will include everyone: “For God so loved the world, that he gave [a gift] his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Most Bible advocates quote this Scripture. But only faith is required and nothing else, “and we have seen and do testify [witness] that ...” (John 21:24).

STEP 1

“For if the casting away of them [Israel] be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be but life [eternal] from the dead?” (Romans 11:15).
The Everlasting Covenant

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the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world” (I John 4:14). Christ came to save everyone!

Obviously, this short article cannot cover a thousand Scriptures proving everyone will be saved. However, it will attempt to give many examples contained in the Bible to prove this fact. Jesus gave a parable of a shepherd having 100 sheep. One was lost and he went after the one that was lost (the lost one was eventually found).

Christ also said that He did not lose even one of the sheep but kept all that God gave Him. Verse after verse, one proverb after another proves this point.

The Everlasting Covenant

The first book in the Bible is named “Genesis.” It is a Greek word from the Greek Bible, the Septuagint translation. “Genesis” means “the start of a new beginning.” In Hebrew, the word “beginning” is quite different. Genesis 1:1 begins, “In the beginning.” The word “beginning” in Hebrew is bereshit, which means the “Everlasting Covenant.”

This covenant refers to the Garden of Eden including the Tree of Life. Adam and Eve made a wrong choice and were not mature enough to know good from evil; they were naked and not out of the bosom of God, as yet.

Adam and Eve were not ashamed. This was because they did not know they were naked.

God had this original covenant in the Garden that lasted to Noah’s Flood (Genesis 9:16). This was the Everlasting Covenant, which is also mentioned in the book of Hebrews (Hebrews 13:20). God did not hold Adam and Eve responsible for their nakedness because they were blind (John 9:41).

The Everlasting Covenant is restored by Christ’s blood giving all flesh access to the Tree of Life with salvation once again under the New Heavens and on the New Earth (Revelation 21-22). World Salvation is now available, and Christ was the one who restored what was lost (Matthew 18:11). Read all those Scriptures restoring eternity in Paradise in the Kingdom of God. The Bible is flooded with the potential for everyone to be saved.

The Doctrine of God teaches that the Creation of God will be saved (Deuteronomy 32:1).

There are a plethora of announcements to restore the Eternal, Everlasting Covenant to heal and restore what was lost.

“See now that I, even I, am he and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound and I heal; neither is there any that can deliver [save] out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven and say, I live for ever [salvation by Christ] (Deuteronomy 32:39-40).

How many Bible verses do you need? Every individual who ever lived will receive salvation.

STEP 3

The number three is the completion number of God. The Apostle puts salvation for the whole world nicely and sweetly so you can understand. People in His day knew Jesus was to return in the Savior’s “generation.” Some lost heart and stopped believing there would be a resurrection (I Corinthians 15:12).

The weakness of humans is that individuals know only in part and understand prophecy in part (I Corinthians 13:9).

You need to live by every word of God, as Jesus told Satan (Matthew 4:4). You need the whole story.

Paul knew it and made it simple: “For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead” (I Corinthians 15:21).

The above first two steps made that clear. Now Paul enters the third step. He covers more paragraphs very openly for anyone who honestly believes the Bible. “For as in Adam all die, even so...”
The Old Covenant Did Not Work

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in Christ [like him] shall all be made alive” (I Corinthians 15:22). What more do you need?

The Mysterious All

Many think the word “all” does not include “all” or “everyone.” They think “all” is not really “all.” You accept the gossip you hear, but what does Greek grammar say the word actually means?

“All” is known as in the aorist subjunctive mood (state of mind). “Aorist” relates to “undefined action.” It is not in the present tense as being right this minute. It conveys a future action.

The action, a verb means “to exist endlessly, forever,” just like the Everlasting Covenant, which is eternal and will never stop.

Remember that the world had the Everlasting Covenant, but Adam, the first christ, did not follow through.

The Old Covenant did not work either. The Christ had to come with the New Covenant.

One can have doubts, study and learn (learn piecemeal).

The future can complete the action of being “in Christ.” Finally, the verb “doing” will complete its goal of being like Christ and God as equal family members: the Father, the first-begotten Son and, finally, all Sons of God.

“All” is not “everything” but an “order,” a system of learning until “holiness” is achieved.

“But every man [mankind] in his own order [time]: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s [His ‘bride’] at his coming [the Millennium] (I Corinthians 15:23).

Guests and Naked

Then Paul continues when Christ, as King of Kings, with His bride announces the coming Wedding Feast. The marriage has been arranged with the Father’s approval.

The wedding feast consummates the marriage during the feast. It is time for many children to come to Christ and God.

When death ends, God takes back His reign and becomes All In All to and in every Christian (I Corinthians 15:28).

Now, “all” become spiritual as the flesh changes in a twinkling of an eye.

The guests at the feast are those who physically kept the Law of Moses but still needed more spiritual growth (I Corinthians 15:45-49).

“And so it is written [world saved], The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [human] was made a quickening [a process] spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual but that which is natural [a figure]; and afterward that which is spiritual.

“The first man is of the earth [dust], earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven” (I Corinthians 15:45-47).

Paul summarizes that everyone will be healed and saved.

“And as you have born the image [an idol] of the earthy [nothing], you shall also bear the image of the heavenly” [like God and Christ] (I Corinthians 15:49).

Now you can see that everything started with Adam and Eve, and all of their children are guaranteed to become the sons in the Family of God. There are thousands of scriptures telling the story of salvation and eternal life.

Revelation Is Eternal

The book of Revelation does not end the account of World Salvation but goes on into eternity as well. “And he said to me, Seal not the sayings of the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand [God and Christ]. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy [corrupt] let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy let him be holy still” (Revelation 22:10-11).

Christ is ready to come at any time. It is up to all true Christians with their free choice to turn to the will of God.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears [salvation] say, Come. And let him that is athirst come.

“And whosoever will [free choice], let him take the waters of life freely [healed].

For I testify [witness] to every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book: “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:17-19).”

Those refusing to change will end up in outer darkness, blind, and later will repent and call out for the light of God—the Truth.

The salvation of God never ends. The unrepentant go into outer darkness (the prison of God) as wandering stars. Amen.

★★★

[If you want more information on this subject, request Art’s free book God’s Short Story. It is still in editing stages but for those interested we will make a copy for you.]

A Summary

Old Testament Scripture confirms for you that everyone will be saved.

“Remember the former things [ancient history in the Garden of Eden] of old: for I am God and there is none else; I am God [plural noun—is all things], and there is none like me, Declaring the end [what will be] from the beginning [Everlasting Covenant—eternity—Tree of Life] [bereshit], and from ancient times the things that are not yet done [eternal life], saying:

“My counsel [advice] shall stand [always succeed] and I will do all my pleasure [save everyone] [the goodness of God]: Calling a ravenous bird [raven—eats anything] from the east [like anti-Christ], the man that executed my counsel [Messiah] from a far country [Orient]:

“Yes, I have spoken it [decreed], I will also bring it to pass [guaranteed]; I have purposed [will happen] it, I will also do it [absolute]. Hearken to me [pay attention], you stouthearted [courageous—the heart of God], that are far [strangers—Gentiles] from righteousness:

“I will bring near [everyone on earth] my righteousness [goodness]; it shall not be far off [always there] and my salvation shall not tarry [be held back]: and I will place salvation in Zion [King David’s palace] for Israel my glory” (Isaiah 46:9-13).

How many times does God have to tell you He will ultimately save everyone?

This includes the “good” and the “bad”—it is guaranteed to happen.

God has absolutely promised He finally will bring it to pass. Mankind alone is the enemy. Each of you is causing the delay and not God or the Messiah.

Be humble as a babe, willing to learn here a little and there a little because it is your choice. God will help you. Just ask Him.
Continued from page 2
always appreciate the interviews with those who had known and worked with him.

In the latest issue [No. 160, dated March 31, 2014] Don Billingsley [in an interview with Bill Hawkins] reminded us of important truths from the Old Testament. He said that the spiritual organism we dearly call the Church(es) of God is the Boazian dialectic. It seems, indeed, to be a two-part prophecy, first speaking about the man of sin to lead the end time movements and then, from verse 7 onward, about the false prophet who will deceive the world with Satan-inspired wonders and miracles.

I am glad that we were reminded, based on the book of Daniel, that the Boazian dialectic is to be rebuilt with Old Testament sacrifices restored prior to other prophesied events.

Don’s conclusion that God’s people will most likely gather into one group in the place of safety struck me as a sensible thesis.

For the past few years the Boazian dialectic has begun this year among some parts of the Body of Christ, so may it continue and not be cut off to the escape of the hour of trial coming upon the habitation of Satan.

Aleksandar “Sasha” Veljce

Novi Sad, Serbia

More letters from our readers

Hello, Dixon and Linda. I received your lovely wife with me in the writing. Thank you both very much.

Don Billingsley

Valley Springs, Calif.

The COGs’ 82 calendars

Is this year’s calendar of “harmless,” to quote Velvet Delorey, that I read her letter in issue No. 160 regarding the arguments and counter-arguments that fill every issue of The JOURNAL.

Velvet proposes three questions we need to ask ourselves to arrive at the truth. The first two are similar and ask what did the church teach before and presumably after the “apostasy.”

This approach is problematic because the church taught different things at different times, sometimes even when the same man was in charge.

When one says “What did the church teach?” the question really boils down to, if we are honest, What did the leader of the church teach?

Those of us who have been around long enough should know that in the day the leader’s interpretation was what was taught, no questions asked, at least not if you wanted to remain a member of the organization.

Although much younger than I am, even Velvet should remember that this was true. Unfortunately, in the vast majority of groups it remains true to this day.

Here are some examples to ponder:

In the late 1930s Herbert Armstrong taught a diametrically opposite view of church government from what he taught from the 1950s onward.

During World War II [page 1] that Hitler was the beast power and the coming Antichrist.

By 1947 he was sending out co-worker letters saying the “end will come in this generation,” and he continued to preach this for several generations.

And who can forget the on-again off-again doctrines about makeup and marriage?

Looking at what the church taught will get you nowhere unless, of course, you are looking for justification for one’s preconceived notion of what the truth is.

Velvet’s last question was “What do the Scriptures say?” Again, this is a problem. The best way to read through the pages of The JOURNAL to come up with interesting ideas of what the Scriptures say.

I once worked out that there are about 12 different possible permutations of the titles of the calendar issue, and over the years of them there have just been suggested by contributor, John H. The Passover debate has raged for millennia. Deut. 23:4 (Hebrew) (and its implication for the state of the heart of the man on this test) has been a bone of contention for many years.

Some things, however, have never changed over all the years in WCG living. God, not of tables of stone, but in fleshly tablets of the heart.

In my study at home I have both been to read the KJV, with which I grew up during the 70s, 80s, and 90s. I have yet to read a version that is more God-inspired, much less one that literally translates word-for-word.

In the latest issue [No. 160, dated March 31, 2014] Bill Hawkins’ latest ad (“Do You Really Want to Christ?”) is more than fair for me and my life.

His love is so strong in my life that, even if it turns out I am not one of the two witnesses and my position in heaven’s kingdom is of a lower order, I will be content if the Lord only asks me to be of service to my fellow believers, to evangelize and to encourage/exhilarate my fellow believers.

The Lord knows my heart and my long to be one of the two witnesses. But I have to accept what God has for me as he made me. I can do my best to reflect my Father and Creator? To Him be the glory!

Owen J. Finnegan

Via the Internet

I once worked out that there are about 82 different possible permutations of the calendar issue, and over the years most of them have been suggested by JOURNAL contributors.

The COGs’ 82 calendars

Friday, April 25, 2014

The Heegelian dialectic

The following is an expansion of Bill Hawkins’ latest ad (“Do You Really Want to Christ?”), in issue No. 160.

About 400 years ago the philosopher Hegel identified the same trait in human society that Bill Hawkins & Adam and the resultant Adammite.

The KJV was one of the first to

•V isit to Legacy

• Bible seminars

• Cultural events and performances

• Visit to Legacy Foundation

• Queen Sirikit agricultural Demonstration farm tour

Every year Legacy Foundation in Thailand sponsors a Festival of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai. Attendees include international visitors as well as local Church of God members and families. Activities and amenities include . . .

• Daily worship services

• Bible seminars

• Cultural events and performances

• Visit to Legacy Foundation

• Queen Sirikit agricultural Demonstration farm tour

• Elephant Farm tour

• Teakwood Carving and tour of Handicraft Center

• Accommodations provided by the Empress Hotel and Convention Center

• Extra-Festival activities abound: Local shopping at the Night Bazaar or Sunday Market

• Tourist attractions: Tiger Kingdom, Flight of the Bumblebees, Night Safari, etc.

• Western food: Starbucks, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, The Duke’s and much more

For more information please contact

Anita Showers | 330-852-2709 | mail@legacyinstitute.org | www.legacyinstitute.org

For a complete list of contributors, please check The JOURNAL.
How Well Are You Hiding Your Light?

“N”either do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:15-16, KJV).

“....Do they light a lamp, and put it under the measure, but on the lamp-stand, and it shineth to all those in the house: so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in the heavens” (Matthew 5:15-16, YLT).

How many of you old-timers out there remember the attitude and sometimes outright directives of the leadership (evidently from the highest position) that we were not to “go about looking like Pentecostals, and giving the world occasion to lampoon God’s work”? Gerald Waterhouse was excellent at making this point. His flamboyant speaking style lent itself to mocking the preaching style of many in the evangelical community.

I know many in the WCG took these admonitions to heart. I’ve mentioned before about the issue of public prayer. It was basically forbidden. We didn’t pray in restaurants, and we didn’t say much at all about God or His work. That was the minister’s responsibility. Just like in Christ’s time.

You know those Pharisees and Sadducees guys? After all, Christ never had any messengers. Their fellows were right on target with their teachings, right? We wouldn’t want to misrepresent the corporate position of the Church on anything, now, would we?

Again, sort of like the legal language most people have to abide by when they work for a corporation. Any position statements by the employee must be vetted by corporate legal and leadership before it can go public.

Was there a legitimate reason for this? Probably. After all, we know there were some strange birds attracted by Mr. Armstrong’s preaching. But the membership carried this ‘prohibition’ to a level I feel was counterproductive. We were told not to talk to others about our calling. We were told this would only infuriate them and alienate them from God.

There is some truth in that position. For instance, there is a relatively small group centered in the town I grew up in that follows one of their leaders as a prophet. He is dead, and they have gone above and beyond some who followed Mr. Armstrong. They accept only what their leader said. No new teachings or knowledge. None of that heretical talk about changing things! They have stopped growing in grace and knowledge. While most in the WCG offshoots have not progressed that far yet, there are some who do exactly the same thing.

And there was the old WCG directive to keep your religion to yourself? How well are you hiding your light? Are you still working diligently at making sure not one little ray can escape? Are you still following the WCG attitude that only the ministers and the official corporate body can proclaim God’s message of the coming of the Millennium? Or are you also personally proclaiming the truth of God’s word?

Do you engage others in conversations about Scripture and God’s teaching? Do you call them on false beliefs they proclaim as truth? Or do you sit meekly by, allowing them to proclaim their false beliefs as Biblical fact? And hide your light?

God has given us a wealth of knowledge. Mr. Armstrong was somewhat egotistical in claiming he learned everything directly from God. For instance, the idea of the English-speaking peoples are legend. It didn’t work—because they were trying to force others to see what they saw.

If your neighbor asks you something that leads to an answer based on God’s principles, by all means answer using that logic. But don’t whip out Scripture on him unless he’s interested. Let him see you working on the handicapped man’s house down the street. And it might not hurt if you had to do it on a Sunday. Christ healed on the Sabbath and was accused of working. Show them you follow the second great command.

(2) Being involved! What if your neighbor only sees you come home after work, or mowing the lawn, and you don’t even take the time to interact with him because he isn’t a Church member? What kind of message does that send? Do we interact only in our communities as a consumer? Or are you part of the community?

The work the Church did is gone! There is not any combination, let alone any single group, that puts out eight million glossy print magazines a month!

The lines previous to this verse should be a serious reminder that we have a part to play in the ‘commission,’ as HWA would have put it. Granted, he probably would have agreed with the role of lay members in the church as ‘pay and pray.’ We had a job to do while the WCG was in place.

But the Church is GONE! The work it was doing is GONE! I don’t care how much any minister or group tries to fluff up their statistics, but there is not any commission, let alone any single group, that puts out eight million glossy print magazines a month!

Did HWA preside over an impressive work? You bet he did! He was a successful marketer that God was able to use to put forth His message to the world and world leaders. Did he fulfill the goal of reaching the world? I don’t know, and no human can. Only God knows if HWA fulfilled that responsibility.

But the reality is no group is doing a substantial work now. Some will say they are, but you ask to strangers on the street, and see if they have heard of whatever alphabet-mix church you happen to believe is proclaiming a great work. See if they have heard. I guarantee at least 90% of them will look at you and say, “What’s that?”

So, since it is, we are responsible to preach God’s message to others INDIVIDUALLY.

What does this entail?

(1) BEING WISE! HWA was a very successful marketer. We can’t beat people over the head with God’s word. The stories of wives in the Church who tried to convert their husbands are legend. It didn’t work—because they were trying to force others to see what they saw.

The work the Church did is gone! There is not any combination, let alone any single group, that puts out eight million glossy print magazines a month!

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If you aren’t sure you know what the Church did, please read Bill Hawkins book: "The Church That Died."

BEING INVOLVED! What if your neighbor only sees you come home after work, or mowing the lawn, and you don’t even take the time to interact with him because he isn’t a Church member? What kind of message does that send? Do we interact only in our communities as a consumer? Or are you part of the community?

Do your neighbors know you? How can they see your light if they don’t even know what you believe, or do, or how you react to those in need? Our collective stay to ourselves’ attitude serves only to harm us.

People are afraid of what they don’t understand. And tribulation is coming. If you are different and isolated, do you really think your neighbors will stand up for you when times are tough?

But, if you interact with them, they can then see why you don’t eat pork chops. Or why you don’t mow the lawn on Saturdays. Or why you are against the path of a one world government. Do we have to be afraid to stand up and be counted as one of God’s chosen?

Yes, some may still hold to the notion that you are a crazy and should be eradicated as soon as society collapses. But most people will see that, while you may be different, you are just as much a part of the community as they are.

Remember the parable of the talents? Don’t be the last guy!

bill.hawkins1@gmail.com
Continued from page 1

process in which American politicians amend. Opposition was greatest ratification, probably outnumbered that opposed the Constitution. Those rancor.

Rancor among factions wanted, but what each was willing to grueling months.

Congress to sit under this new Constitution. Most of them thought with a new constitution that would be represented in Congress. And some who were active at the time of Independence 11 years earlier.

And those names are not the same as those signed off on the Articles of Confederation (1781), five years after the Declaration, and those are not the same as those signed at the Continental Congress in 1774, two years before the Declaration.

In fact, there is only one name that appeared in all three documents: Roger Sherman of Connecticut. Any list of our founding fathers would include him, for Sherman played key roles in our liberty and government, and who spoke with one voice in formulating the principles of democratic behavior, customs and prejudices.

For example, consider South vs. North. East vs. West. merchant. farmer. Animosity ran so deep that a dangerous government that the convention might dissolve and the entire project come to naught.

When the convention finally completed its work in September 1787, deciding that the government it had created had achieved a new constitution. But the states had to adopt it. James Madison used the word miracle to describe the outcome.

This miracle was the result of that process in which American politicians have proved so adept: compromise. Day by day it had to compromise on many things, starting with what kind of government they wanted. For whether there should be a chief executive and, ultimately, the most important compromise in the entire convention, was the ratification of the new constitution. Congress.

The states were now in the process and continued to work for four grueling months. But the result of compromise—not all what any of the sides of an issue could get their way. But it was possible to accept a constitution and remain a union—are what led to our Constitution.

Rancor among factions

• Perception No. 4: Ratification was undemocratic. After all, didn’t all 13 states ratify?

Only nine of the 13 states were required by the new Constitution to ratify it, and nine of those states ratified after the Constitution was adopted by the other 11 states. Several of the 11 states ratified by very close votes and only after much debate.

Every state had powerful factions that opposed the Constitution. Those who approved the Constitution did not apply the same strong ratification, probably outnumbered those who supported them. Some of these ratified did so with accompanying demands for amendments. Opposition was greatest in Massachusetts, Virginia and New York, all as decided by narrow margins and after heated debate.

Founding fathers were not a pure democracy.

• Perception No. 5: The Constitution was written by our founding fathers. Are you sure? We speak of “founding fathers” as though they were a special group of men who lived at one moment in history who conceived all our ideas of liberty and government and who spoke with one voice in formulating the principles of democratic behavior.

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Continued from page 27

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As the delegates had already intuited, the press was resonance of their own opinions and the bounds of their country’s current constitution—which they had pledged to uphold—and had found the scope of the mission prescribed to them by Congress. Yet they remained slow-ly and deliberately considered the proposal before them. The government they were creating had been given charge of their time and future generations.

Public silence

■ Discipline: All the men honored their commitment to public silence for the four months the convention was underway. Even when debate was most intense, the press was restrained to reporting that all was cordial. Suppression of self-interest: Most members of the convention were party politicians, but only through a minimum of political self-serving or through professional ambition. There was no grab for power by any one faction, in spite of the discord between political parties.

Nor was there any evidence that these men were in any way manipulated by personal or political influences to further their actions.

ideas, not personalities

■ Willingness to let ideas, not personalities, prevail: If the new government could be called a revolution, it was an advantage few revolutions have had: No one leader swept it into being.

The convention delegates let themselves be swayed by men of thought and historical perspective, not by men of political charismas.

■ Genius: People like Hamilton, Franklin, and Madison were simply brilliant, and they had the power to grasp any subject under discussion, to run through it, formulate one central idea, and compare one political system or idea with another at computer-age speed;

Then they could calmly either overwhelm the opposition, or reassure it.

Humble, incorruptible, non-Christian

But spiritual character? Maybe it is true that George Washington, president of the convention. He was self-disciplined, humble and incorruptible (and non-Christian).

Washington’s mere presence kept the process going, just as his presence kept the rebel-guarded army together throughout those awful years.

Though unanimously elected president of the convention, Gen. Wash-

ington did not take undue advantage of his position. He did not even express a point of view until the last day.

Washington’s character was so well established that there were citi-

zens ready to support the Constitution sight unseen because he had helped write it.

We are still living with the effects of Washington’s character on the office of president.

Since everyone at the convention knew that the government could be in some manner set at the head of the new gov-

ernment and that it could probably have the president under the new Constitu-

tion more power than they would have given there had not been a man of his character available.

Not a particularly holy project

From my brief research, it does not appear that the Constitution was based on Judeo-Christian principles, or that God directed the writing of the Constitution, or that those who did write it were particularly holy.

Washington, by the way, was convicted of the gospel message of Jesus Christ and who had supported the spreading of that gospel to the world.

I know of no better government under which the Christian mission could be carried out than this non-Christian, non-Muslim, non-Hindu, non-Jewish government of the United States of America.

I think the prophets and apostles of Scripture would agree.

Our presidents and other govern-

ment officials frequently profess their faith, sometimes to millions in tele-

vised events. Houses of worship pro-

liferate our landscape. Our airwaves are full of evangelism.

But under our secular govern-

ment, the delegates probably gave as much weight to their Christian principles, there would have to be restrictions on all of this.

Christian Taliban

Religious discipline requires that we order our lives by religious convic-

tions. Therefore a government operating under such convictions would have to dictate three things: one, eliminate the people who do not share our convictions—all based on the govern-

ment’s interpretation of scripture.

We would have a Christian Taliban.

But under our secular government all citizens are free to be as righteous as Moses or Christ or Buddha teaches one to be. We are free to use the media and our personal testimony to convert others.

No governing principle of our sec-

ular Constitution prevents the entire nation from being righteous by script-

ural standards. Our secular govern-

ment does not get in the way. A reli-

gious war can therefore be carried on.

“it’s not what we don’t know that hurts us,’ sagely commented Will Rogers. ‘It’s not what we don’t know that hurts us.”

“it’s not what we don’t know that hurts us,” the late Ignatius Brown, O. F. M., said, “but what we do know, but ain’t so.”

Go ahead and dig

The conclusions are reached through brief, non-scholarly research. However, I have probably looked more deeply into this matter than 99 percent of the people who wade in proclamations that our nation was built on Christian principles.

If you would like to see something bigger than I have, there is much material in the works of Max Farrand; Records of the Federal Convention by Farrand and Gaillard Hunt and the seven volumes of The Records of the Federal Convention by Max Farrand; Documents Illustra-
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gious war can therefore be carried on.

“it’s not what we don’t know that hurts us,’ sagely commented Will Rogers. ‘It’s not what we don’t know that hurts us.”

“it’s not what we don’t know that hurts us,” the late Ignatius Brown, O. F. M., said, “but what we do know, but ain’t so.”

Go ahead and dig

The conclusions are reached through brief, non-scholarly research. However, I have probably looked more deeply into this matter than 99 percent of the people who wade in proclamations that our nation was built on Christian principles.

If you would like to see something bigger than I have, there is much material in the works of Max Farrand; Records of the Federal Convention by Farrand and Gaillard Hunt and the seven volumes of The Records of the Federal Convention by Max Farrand; Documents Illustra-
tive of the Formation of the Union of America by J. C. Innes; The Delegate From New York (notes by John Lansing); The Federal and State Constitutions (seven volumes) by F. N. Thorp; Letters of the Members of the Continental Congress (eight volumes); E. B. Burnett; Documents of American History, Henry Steele Commager; and History of America, Commager and Allan Sevin.

I have read 20 volumes of The Writings of George Washington by John C. Fitzpatrick, the nine volumes of The Writings of Thomas Jefferson by Gguard Hunt and the seven volumes of The Papers of Alexander Hamilton by Jacob E. Cooke.