Continuing The Journal’s recent publication of articles pertaining to Churches of God, the following is reprinted from the Jan. 22, 1995, issue of In Transition, the independent COG newspaper published by John Robinson. The Journal welcomes letters to the editor about this and all other articles, including comments from officials and other members of the old and newer WCG/GIGC (Grace Communion International).

This article originally appeared under the headline “WCG Leaders Air Views on CRI’s radio program” following is reprinted from the Jan. 22, 1995, issue of The Journal. The writer of the article was Hank Hanegraaff, editor of In Transition.

By Dion Cartwright

The pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, Joseph Tkach Jr., WCG pastor general, visits regularly to the studio in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., and was editor of the WCG’s Plain Truth magazine, appearing on The Bible Answer Man radio talk show with host Hank Hanegraaff on segments originating in a cave and seeking acceptance by the world of mainstream churches.

Mr. Tkach embraced Mr. Hanegraaff at the funeral of Mr. Tkach’s father, Joseph Tkach Sr., who died Sept. 23, 1995. Mr. Hanegraaff characterized the events of recent months and years in the WCG as dramatic and historic, declaring that nothing in Christianity has tranformed “the magnitude of what is happening within the Worldwide Church of God,” which he referred to as a “major rift” in the process of “embracing Scripture.” “Submerging themselves completely to the Word of God,” Mr. Hanegraaff noted that WCG leaders had contacted him “probably two or three years ago” and “we have spent quite a bit of time together over the last few years.”

On fire to help

Mr. Albrecht commented that he was a “longtime listener of the program,” so it’s great to be on the show with you.” Mr. Tkach said that one of the things he has enjoyed about the show is “a split sermon” (two short sermons) on the same topic, “which has been a real plus in the life of the church.”

By Dion Cartwright

A recent article by Milan Bizic, Robin Webber, the United Church of God (UCG) chairman of its elders’ council, called the annual general conference of elders to order on May 3, 2015. The theme of this year’s ministerial gathering is “Sabbatarian biker group forms in New Jersey.”

The elders approved the 2015 strategic plan, operation plan and budget, amendments and the disposition of four council seats.

Operation managers Roy Holaday (Ministerial and Men’s Services), Peter Eddington (Media and Communication Services) and Rick Shab (Financial Services) gave updates on the work of the church in those areas, wrote Mr. Bizic, “as did President Victoria Kubak on the overall administration of the organization.”

Donald Ward, a council member, church pastor and next-to-last president of Ambassador University, delivered the conference’s keynote address on the importance of the doctrinal trunk of the church.

Biking for the Kingdom of God

A way to appeal

The UCG’s 36 elders, including 283 in the United States and 83 elsewhere, where 243 voted for or against the measures up for approval and the elders’ vote on the council.

The strategic and operation plans and budget were overwhelmingly approved. For example, the strategic plan passed 229-14. All the measures passed by similarly large margins. Sound bites included the names of Anthony Wasikowski, Robert Dick, Mark Mickelson and Scott Ashley.

Declining to run for reelection were Carmelo Anastasi and Rox Corbett. A total of elders currently consist of Mr. Ashley, Bill Bradford, Aoran Dean, Mr. Dick, John Elliott, Mr. McCalla, Mario Sccoli, Rex Sexton, Dr. Ward, Mr. Wasikowski and Robin Webber (council chair).

The church president is Victor Kubak.

The UCG president is not a member of the council of elders.

A way to appeal

A feature article that passed with a large majority was the “Procedure for Appealing the Election of a Council Member.” The Journal as seen next month’s issue of The Journal.

LGC’s Tomorrow’s World tops 500,000

Making the list of the most watched programs by the Cults of the World, the LGC’s “Tomorrow’s World” is listed on 124 broadcast stations. The magazine has 500,000 subscribers.

Conference elects councillors, passes measures by hefty majority, including another appeals process

Conference elects councillors, passes measures by hefty majority, including another appeals process
The silence of the women

Radio Church of God

December 20, 2006

Editor, The Journal

The silence of the women

It is interesting that Paul says the same thing as 1 Corinthians 14:20: “Anyone should know better than what you have published in the photo caption.”

So she thinks Paul was referring to the oral law of the Jews, and she believes the passage should really refer to the Jews’ saying as bunk.

She quotes Adam Clarke’s comments on the passage. But in his three-volume commentary on this verse, he notes the law Paul spoke of as referring to Genesis 3:16, with Eve subject to Adam as her husband.

Clarke does write that in the church women should keep silent (or “speak in a Christian meeting was not allowed to speak” in the book of Genesis and was not instituted until Exod. 16, when God gave it to the chosen nation of Israel, a people that was never promised the Holy Spirit.”

Joseph Willey Folsom, La.

Many perspectives, one Lord

In the book of Genesis, from our perspective of the person who has been and still is among those who were speaking when they could speak—God being required to inspire the approval of a servant or chosen representative, so we could inspire a person even to ask a question in the servant’s leader’s service. The plain truth is that the chosen nation of Israel, a people that was never promised the Holy Spirit, was never promised the Holy Spirit.

Phil Griffith

One perspective has another perspective that has not been addressed: “The woman shall "submit herself" to her husband?” When you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

If you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be moved by God. Apparently Paul was saying that everyone at a Christian meeting should be allowed to speak in his or her own two cents worth, but not at the same time. The body of Christ would not be a givin subject, not a given meeting.

The class system’s roots apparently run deeper than the church. Sadly, as Dave points out, few see any problem with anything. Moreover, even if the church is divided, most are often not only comfortable with the status quo, even willing to support it and rejoice in it.

There appear to be many perspectives, but one Lord.

I love to go for a walk several times weekly. In one of the places I walk, there is a monument that states the following: “Do you want what God wants more than you want anything else?”

I really hope you find this letter an encouragement and helpful, not as rebuke but as a motivator. Was it Paul who said God forbid that I should cease ceasing or giving over? I admit I find myself lacking.

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Please note
How often have you been delivered to Satan?

The writer pastors the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a regular col-
munist for The Journal.

By Dave Halv

I G SANDY, Texas—Did the Father of Lies ever ask you not to pay attention? I thought so.

That’s why I chose it. It’s a great topic to discuss the biblical worded of “delivered to Satan” and how it may apply to the 21st century.

Delivered to Satan

Now let’s notice two examples of the apostle Paul strongly correcting people.

The first example is Paul’s confrontation with his own legalism.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with every one of the power of our Lord Jesus, I must deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that your spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Corinthians 5:5).

The second example involved two individuals who were brought before Paul and his authority in binding or loosing (Matthew 16:18).

Accepting differences

Notice how Paul explained how people should be corrected:

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to dispute over doubtful things. For all things are lawful for me; but not all things are expedient. For all things are lawful; but not all things edifying” (1 Corinthians 8:12).

God has received both vegetables and meat eaters.

“Do you judge your brother? Or do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. . . . Therefore, let us not pass judgment on one another any further. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:14-15).

What about today?

Those interesting scriptures. Those verses encourage great interactive Bible studies about their historical context and practice.

But what do those scriptures have to do with today?

What do those verses have to do with the excessive condemnation exhibited by Christian church leaders toward the Body of Christ?

Like Diotrephes

Many people today are filled with pride and proclaim that they have auth-
enticity and power.

They remind many of Diotrephes. I wrote about the church, but Diotre-
phes, who is a great example of having the pre-
eminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. But not only that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and for this reason our name is nullified among the Gentiles” (3 John 9-11).

We also fall into the trap of reduc-
tionsism, which may be understood as the pruning of all problems to a single prin-
cipal component in life and apply it to another situation.

Mechanistic thinking is a philo-
sophical term that refers to a particular approach to understanding the world. A dictionary definition of mechanism in philosophical terms is the doctrine that all natural phenomena, including life, allow mechanistical explanation by physics and other sciences.

A mechanistic person is one who holds the doctrine of mechanism. The reason this way of approaching prob-
lems brings about its own problems is that we do not take full account of all the causes.

This is why the modern world tends to treat effects rather than causes. We hope to find a single physics and chemistry, with no reference to the spiritual. In other words, we paper over the cracks.

Council of Venice a hotbed of non-Trinitarian thought

The writer, a doctor of philosophy and divinity, is a faculties member and was dean at Elia Salamone and Graduate School, Sweden; Neb. Dr. Roberts is a former WCG mem-
ber where he taught great interactive Bible teachings of the WCG and Ambas-
sador of Christ.

By Tom Roberts

BISH, Idaho—Church his-
torians often align the great contro-
sers and meat eaters.

What do those scriptures have to do with how we treat other people?

Many church leaders say that their church was redefined and, therefore, needed to be reformed by a tianity.

A movement happened within in the Anabaptist tradition in 1550 at the Council of Venice. Present were leaders from France, Germany, and northern Italy.

Protestant traditions were strong in the Venetian territories. Therefore the reformers had a great deal of impact in Germany and Switzerland.

The anti-Trinitarian movement traced their positions back to Michael Servetus, who was reported to have been murdered in 1553. The fol-
lowers of Servetus also felt that the Christ of servant was of Joseph and Mary and was filled with the powers of God and that the elect are justified not by the merits, blood or death of Christ, but by the eternal love of God.

This position was the early Jewish church and was championed by Hellenistic and Chaldaic tradi-
tions, while a higher Christology, divinity in Christ, was adopted by gentle churchmen.

Payment almost no attention

Traditional historians pay little attention to the Council at Venice because of its non-traditional doc-
ture and character.

Theologians certainly do question some of the veracity contained in the documents of this council, but any fair-minded historian should not leave out events that took place in history within a religious tradition, no matter how unorthodox the positions may be. Objectivity in all research should be held to the highest critical historical stan-
dard.

In 1535 the Synod of Geneva declared the Rhaetian confession un- acceptable to any of its pastors in at-
tempts to remove the Anabaptist movement. However, there continued to be Italian humanists who refused to be swayed and sympathetic with Servetus, which added to the distress of Calvin.

The Socinians

Similar trends continued to develop in the Reformed Church traditions of Poland and Switzerland.

The Socinian movement became associated with the two Sozins, uncle and nephew under the term Lucas Socin, who came from the distinguished family of juris of 1523.

Faustus Socinius, born in 1539, wrote the treatise De Jesu Christo Salvatore, which teaching that Christ’s death did not ap-
pear the wrath of a righteous God by removing the penalty of our sin.

But, when Christ becomes our Savior by making the path of eternal salvation known, we may reach the goal by imitating Him.

By 1604 Faustus Socinius has been in Poland for more than a quarter of a century. His teaching8 helped for-
mat the existence of that denomina-
tion, which represents the national church of Poland to this day.

Sorini was an outstanding leader in the Reformed Church movement, which had anti-Trinitarian roots. Even though his teaching was considered heretical, Sorini really didn’t change the other tenets of doctrine in the Christian church.

Church historians say that Dr. Henry Newman simply say the teachings of the Council of Venice were nothing but propaganda. No explanation is given in regards to the controversy of the council, nor are any source citations provided.

Objectivity in all research—can’t be held to the highest critical historical stan-
dard of view is not always pres-
ence even though the researchers may possess certain studies.

On the other hand, Kenneth Scott Latourette, along with Philip Schaff, is to be commended for his nonpar-
tarian approach in historical matters.

Issue No. 173 (May 31, 2015)
Mr. Tkach said the old WCG used a drunken reply to God reported in Isaiah 28 as a hermeneutic and didn't even know it was doing that. This meant that the WCG leaders weren't just being careless, they were being deceptive on purpose. Mr. Tkach believed that this was a clear example of deception and pharisaical wording. He argued that the WCG leaders had knowingly misled their followers and had failed to teach the whole counsel of God. He called for a return to the simplicity of the Gospel and for the WCG to repent and turn back to the truth. He also urged the WCG leaders to be transparent and accountable for their actions. Mr. Tkach believed that the WCG had a responsibility to set an example for other Christian groups and that they should be open and honest about their beliefs and practices. He ended his talk by encouraging the WCG leaders to repent and to seek the truth. He said, "If you want to see a God who is interested in the truth, then you need to be open and honest about your beliefs and practices. If you want to see a God who is interested in the people, then you need to set an example for other Christian groups. If you want to see a God who is interested in the truth, then you need to be transparent and accountable for your actions."
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Connections: Members to Member

Issue No. 173 Published by The Journal: News of the Churches of God May 31, 2015

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Why do you tithe on money?

Few of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptures to see what it really says about tithe. Honestly, 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 as badly misrepresented as the doctrine of tithe. If you now tithe on money, on your pay-check, then you owe it to yourself and your family to get the facts. Read this detailed study of tithe which has been freeing people from the false teachings on tithing for over 20 years. (Suggested donation $3, ppd)

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Is Iraq Against the War—Website

Sign Up in War There Are No Unwounded Soldiers. Many respond by going AWOL, or claiming the group was his idea. The sinking of the Lusitania resulted in the... was never told about them by the British since they cut their heads off. This later changed, but this fact was not mentioned!... an inflated and smart, that even audience hissing at the enemy, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, while ordinary ones might leave the survivor clinging to fragments would kill horribly, 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fragments would...
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

They try to subvert all other religions. Want to attacks, and bin Laden claimed he did not do

The Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. Also has

its own interpretation upon the law.”

Most people think of fascism as evil from Hitler and Mussolini, but corporatism was a part of the American Constitution from the get, the economic compound.

Many think of the US as a communist nation, though the US is sup-

and Pan-American being built on the love for the US military. The National

Alzheimer's disease is likely from Mad Cow diseases, and there are still no drugs to cure it.

No vaccine has ever been proven to eliminate autism. Children are given 50 times the safe limit of mercury in their vaccines. While the media comes out saying mercury levels are reduced, there are no restrictions on the level of lead in water. Diseases are on the decrease worldwide from such methods as better sanitation, not vaccines. A particular disease will ramp up after vaccinations because they contain the thimerosal from vaccines in addition to mercury. While the US military is downsizing, the number of troops to be used is less.

US citizens are paying a tax they do not even know about for every dollar to the military-industrial complex. It is a scandal.

WMD was Depleted Uranium that the US pol-

and that is what the US military is. The National Guard of Colorado in 1914, sponsored by the Colorado Masons and others on the Masonic-Zionist alliance. Almost all US pres-

school, and other foreign intelligence services are in cata

Almost all Congressmen and the president are

Alzheimer's disease is likely from Mad Cow diseases, and there are still no drugs to cure it.

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US citizens are paying a tax they do not even know about for every dollar to the military-industrial complex. It is a scandal.
Follow-up on Christ and Passover

M y last ad about the timing Christ fol-
lowed stirred up some comments.
It was a subject in agreement.
One was from a minister who con-
tends that Passover and all the rites
association with it are all contained within the
14th of Abib. Because there are a substantial num-
ber of WCG past members who believe this, I
was presented an opportunity to expand on
some of the points I touched on in the last ad (in
The Journal, issue No. 171).
First I want to say, I acknowledge how this can
be believed by those who do so. The wording is
rather convoluted. I suspect it is just for this rea-
son, so we would have to look closely at His word
to come to our own conclusions, as opposed to it
being easily proved one way or another.
I firmly believe God is testing those who still
claim to follow Him. We know there are many
that clearly just fell to the wayside. But, of the people
left, how can He know what their will is? Just as He
did to test Abraham, we are being tested. I believe
this is one area.
I won't condemn those who believe the Passover
meal is on the 14th. What I condemn are leaders
who are afraid to step out and teach a new truth,
because they are afraid of losing a following. I fear
there are a substantial number of those from the
WCG past out there leading churches now.
The proofs:
Number 1: Christ is nowhere condemned in the
Gospel accounts for not following the pre-
scribed ceremonies. We know the Jews were
looking for anything to condemn Him for, yet
we don't see this. Why? I believe because He kept the
Passover with the same timing as the rest of
the majority of the Jews. The same that the Sadt-
ucees did, since they controlled the temple.
We are told Christ was taught to observe Pas-
over at one point. He stayed behind in Jerusalem to
discuss God's word with the sages. Now, if He was of the opinion the sages were incor-
trollable a different calendar.
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If anyone is interested in debating this, you have my email below. Feel free to send a message, and we can go back and forth.

bill.hawkins1@gmail.com
Where Is the... True Church today?

Jesus Christ said, “I will build My Church.” He did not say “Churches,” denominations, “sects.” He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? . . .” (WHERE Is the True Church booklet, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

—The Darkness of the Night—

“For behold, the Darkness shall COVER the earth, and Deep Darkness the people” (Isaiah 60:2).

James Chapman for the Daily Mail published May 31, 2015—“Britain now has the gayest Parliament in the world after last week’s election. There are 32 openly gay, lesbian and bisexual MPs—just under 5 per cent of the total number in the Commons . . .”

The Power of Darkness—A chilling comment by British Prime Minister David Cameron suggests that even people who obey the law won’t be “left alone” by the state if they engage in anything the government deems to be “hate speech,” including “bigotry” and potentially criticism of homosexuality and feminism.

Change Coming—Preparing to introduce a new counterterrorism bill later this month, Cameron laid the groundwork for the measures by reminding that the state not interfering with people’s lives if they “obey the law” was a “failed approach.”

No Mercy—“For too long, we have been a passively tolerant society, saying to our citizens: as long as you obey the law, we will leave you alone. It’s often meant we have stood neutral between different values. And that’s helped foster a narrative of extremism and grievance. This Government will conclusively turn the page on this failed approach,” Cameron stated (Amos 5:11; Isaiah 59:14-15).

To Try Men’s Souls—Similar to Sodom and Gomorrah, prophecy reveals the evil of the darkness of night spearheaded by Manasseh and Ephraim will completely triumph before Jesus Christ brings upon them complete devastation (Isaiah 60:2; Jeremiah 30:4-7).

Drought Leading the Way to Famine—By Michael Snyder on May 12, 2015—“What are we going to do once all the water is gone? Thanks to the worst drought in more than 1,000 years, the western third of the country is facing the greatest water crisis that the United States has ever seen. Lake Mead is now the lowest that it has ever been since the Hoover Dam was finished in the 1930s, mandatory water restrictions have already been implemented in the state of California, and there are already widespread reports of people stealing water in some of the worst hit areas.

“But this is just the beginning. Right now, in a desperate attempt to maintain somewhat ‘normal’ levels of activity, water is being pumped out of the ground in the western half of the nation at an absolutely staggering pace. Once that irreplaceable groundwater is gone, that is when the real crisis will begin. If this multi-year drought stretches on and becomes the ‘mega-drought’ that a lot of scientists are now warning about, life as we know it in much of the country is going to be fundamentally transformed and millions of Americans may be forced to find somewhere else to live” [Where will they get].

The Day of the Lord—has begun! Soon the famine and disease epidemics—the Great Tribulation—the demise of the House of Jacob as nations! Where then will you and I be? In the place of safety? Or suffering terrible deaths? Please review the MYSERY OF THE AGES to make sure you are on the right track—if not, return immediately—no time to lose!—this is our only hope.

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Were The Pharisees All That Bad?

The sect of Pharisees came into existence several hundred years before the birth of Jesus. At that time Greek domination was strong with the Greeks applying pressure to Hellenize everyone under their influence. Because there was a growing tendency for some Jews to give in to Greek pressure and accept the lineup of Greek gods and their pagan worship, the Pharisees appear to have been born as a protest to the polluting of Jewish thought and custom.

Some people today question whether the Pharisees really were all that bad. After all, they were attempting to maintain the Jewish religious system and traditions. The Greeks had many gods, the Jews only one whom they said was the true God. The Greeks had developed their own set of rules of worship, the Jews had God's Law and statutes to follow.

Preservation of the Mosaic Law and Jewish national identity appears the basic reason for formation of the Pharisee sect. However, as with many well meaning efforts, passing years saw more control fall into the hands of the Pharisees. By the time Jesus began his formal 3 1⁄2 year ministry, the Pharisees had such a tight grip on Jewish society it was rare anyone challenged what they said or did.

Jesus publicly acknowledged the Pharisees sat in Moses' seat, that is, they had authority to administer God's Law (Matthew 23:2). Their problem, however, was they had become strict formalists and had succumbed to pompous, religious pretense with noses upturned toward anyone not properly initiated into their elite group.

"All whatsoever they bid you to observe, do it," Jesus told people, "but don't do after their works. They say what to do, yet themselves do not."

The Pharisee sect had degenerated into a group with neither the compassion nor understanding required for proper administering of God's Law, because they approached The Law with hypocritical thinking. (Have you experienced something similar in your life?)

Jesus was not afraid to speak directly to their faces. Matthew, Chapter 23, outlines Christ's thoughts about the activities of the Pharisees.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees. Hypocrites! You pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, but omit the weightier matters of The Law and statutes to follow."

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees. Hypocrites! To forgive sin.) By this response, also, Jesus had taken from the Pharisees some of their integrity and power over the people.

Luke 5:17-24—Jesus was in a house teaching. The power of The Lord also was present for healing. Some Pharisees and Doctors of The Law were nearby spying on the activities when some men arrived carrying a bed upon which another man lay with palsy. The friends of that man were attempting to get him before Jesus.

Failing to find a way into the dwelling because of the press of the crowd, they went on top of the house where they removed some roofing and then lowered the man on his bed down through the opening into the midst before Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him: "Man, your sins are forgiven thee."

Immediately some scribes and Pharisees began saying: "Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus perceived their thoughts and responded out loud: "Why reason you in your hearts? Is it easier to say: 'Your sins be forgiven thee' or 'Rise up and walk'?" (Jesus had said this so the people, and Pharisees, would know the Son of Man had power upon earth to forgive sin.) By this response, also, Jesus had taken from the Pharisees some of their integrity and power over the people.

John 11:43-48—Lazarus, brother to Martha and Mary, died four days prior to Jesus arriving at the home of the women. After Jesus did arrive, he went to the cave where Lazarus was interred, had the stonework removed, and called him who was dead to come forth. Lazarus came out still bound hand and foot with grave clothes.

Many of the Jews who had come to comfort the sisters saw what Jesus did and believed on him because of this miracle. Some in the crowd, however, rushed off to tell the Pharisee Council what Jesus had done.

"What do we do?" the chief priests and Pharisees questioned among themselves. "The man does many miracles. If we let him alone all will believe on him and then the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation."

Here was another example of the way the Pharisees thought. They were more concerned with loss of control over the people than extending comfort to the family and friends of Lazarus, an obvious omission of a weightier matter of The Law—mercy.

Matthew 6:1-7—Jesus told his disciples to take heed of the attitudes of the Pharisees. New King James: "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men (for the purpose) to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Were The Pharisees All That Bad?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

“When you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets. They have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so your charitable deed may be in secret.

“When you pray, be not like the hypocrites. They love to pray standing in synagogues and on corners of the streets (to be) seen by men. When you pray, go into your room. When you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. They think they will be heard for their many words.”

Today some people question how the Pharisees failed to accept Jesus for who he was. Didn’t they know the prophecies about a coming king? Didn’t they understand the timing given by the prophet Daniel and realize it was time for the king to arrive? They knew the king would be a Son of David, and Jesus said he was just such a son. But Jesus? Couldn’t be him. He preached kindness and peace.

The Pharisees failed to accept Jesus because he did not fit the picture they had in their minds. They expected a warrior wielding a sword in command of a powerful army driving out the Romans as David previously had done to enemies of Israel.

It was not to occur their way.

The Pharisees expected when the king arrived he would shake all their hands for a job well done, then invite them to take places of authority in a new government.

That was not to occur, either.

People were astonished when Jesus taught in the synagogues. He was neither a ‘learned’ Pharisee nor ‘recognized’ teacher of The Law. No one could attest to Jesus having formally studied with religious matters.

The Pharisees were confused and offended. Where did the man get such wisdom and mighty works? Isn’t he the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother called Mary? His brothers and sisters, are they not all with us? Whence has this man all these things?

The Pharisees tried to get Jesus to violate their law. They tempted him, and hoped, at the least, Jesus would trip over his own words and, at best, simply agree with their rulings. Instead, Jesus magnified his Father’s commandments turning the dogma of the Pharisees back on them (Mark 10:2-9).

There is a proverb that says nothing is new under the sun. The ‘new’ reference is to people, how they think and operate in certain situations. Nothing has changed. As during Christ’s time, today when someone says they are qualified to do something, people expect to see ‘letters’ behind their name. Doctors. Lawyers. Musicians. Ministers. Dentists. Movie camera operators. Judges. Teachers—and others.

A teacher today is a nobody if they cannot produce a paper certifying years of formal study at a recognized center for higher learning. Without that diploma, what they say is unacceptable to the majority, never mind what they say is the truth.

Jesus asked a very important question overlooked by many: “Why call you me ‘lord, lord’ and do not the things which I say? Whosoever comes to me and hears my sayings, and does them, he is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock. When the flood arose and beat vehemently upon that house, it could not shake it, for it was founded upon a rock” (Luke 6:46-48).

Jesus was not accepted, or taken seriously, because 1) He had no letters, 2) People were breaking God’s Law, and what Jesus said embarrassed them. What he said convicted them of their sin! Jesus told the Pharisees: “Did not Moses give you The Law, yet none of you keeps The Law?”

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees. Hypocrites! You bind heavy burdens, grievous to be borne, and lay them upon men’s shoulders. But you will lift not one finger in assistance.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees. Hypocrites! You compass sea and land to make one proselyte. Then when he is gained, you make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. You shut up the Kingdom of Heaven to men. You neither go in yourselves, nor allow others that try to enter.”

Ridiculous, religious posturing continued a prime target for Christ’s denunciations.

Hypocrites will usually find change difficult. Change is possible—because one must change or die—but most will continue thinking what they believe and are doing is correct and acceptable with God.

Were the Pharisees all that bad? Does judgment pronounced by Jesus upon the scribes and Pharisees imply the answer? In 70 AD the Romans came and destroyed Jerusalem, the so-called holy Temple, and Pharisees.

Biblically it is not unknown for God to use one enemy to destroy another. Nine years later Roman army commanders were at Pompeii celebrating the victory over those ‘nasty’ Jews and troublesome Pharisees. Mount Vesuvius suddenly erupted and buried them all up to 20 feet deep with ash and pumice. An accident, or justice?

It says in Psalm 111:10 fear of The Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Jesus never once feared the scribes or Pharisees. He said not to be afraid of them that can kill the body, because once done there is nothing more they can do to an individual.

“...but I will forewarn you whom you shall fear,” Jesus said. “Fear Him, which after He has killed, has power to cast into Hell Fire, Yea, I say to you: Fear Him” (Luke 12:4-5).

Jesus never wavered. He stood for God whom he said was his Father. “You shall love The Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the First Commandment” (Mark 12:30).

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

Is God compassionate and merciful? Oh yes! But God does not play games like hypocrites do.
You don’t have the right to be stupid, when you are causing the Eternal Death of your Members.

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For video of Sabbath March 28, 2015, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxrxKzrGFC4

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries." (Hebrews 10:26-27)

The Obedient Church of God / P.O. Box 1278 / Omak, Washington, USA 98841
od, out of His great love, changes His “covenants” according to people’s hearts. Your heart pumps your blood to all your cells to maintain life. Eternity is your choice. Biblically, your heart represents your nature and desires in all pursuits.

Covenants and Law

When a child is taught, by faith, how to live and obey, there is never a need for any laws. Laws, as Paul wrote, are for those who do not seek righteousness and are transgressors, like Israel (1 Timothy 1:7-10).

Covenants are contracts God makes, much like the United States’ Declaration of Liberty (freedom). If you, in faith, follow the declaration, you have liberty.

If you harm your heritage, you need mandated laws with penalties like taxation. Criminals either need to go to prison to be isolated, penalized financially or, if downright evil, be put to death.

Even in prison, beastlike, violent humans will kill and murder. To save others from being murdered, capital punishment is enforced. This makes certain no one else will be killed by this animal. If people followed the Initial Covenant of God, no laws would have been needed at all. If individuals respected the United States’ Declaration, no law or Bill of Rights would be required. No harm would be done to the creation of God.

This is why love fulfills the whole law (any law) because no harm would be done to anyone or anything in the creation of God.

Weakness of the Flesh

Morality is either a matter of heart—your desire to harm no one—or laws with penalties that keep an individual at bay.

It is quite simple, and the book of Hebrews outlines the sure principle: “For there is verily a disannulling [a making void of law] of the commandment going before [the Ten Commandments] for the weakness [wrong heart] and unprofitableness [uselessness] thereof.

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by which we draw near to God” (Hebrews 7:18-19).

God relates they could not even keep the Ten Commandments because of their wrong hearts (Deuteronomy 5:29). The Law of Moses was weak and useless because it could not make anyone “perfect.” The Law could only tell them what “sin” was but, with a wrong heart, the Law was useless (1 John 3:4). It is your desires that cause you to sin and miss the mark.

Hebrews and Hope

The book of Hebrews just told you the solution is a better hope or system to achieve salvation through Christ. The Messiah is the way to solve the Mystery of God (Colossians 1:27). By following Christ as His disciples (pupils), you see who God is and what He wants you to do.

The hope you have is to be clothed with the Glory of God. The Glory of God is all His goodness (Exodus 33:18-19). Jesus prayed that, in the resurrection, He would have the Glory He had with God in the beginning (John 17:5). You are to have the same Glory, which is all the goodness of God (John 17:22).

Just as Jesus was glorified when He was resurrected, your hope in faith is living the life of Christ. By doing so, your hope and faith in your resurrection will give you the Glory of God to be the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7-8).

Covenants and Law

Covenants and laws can be together and sometimes not together. They start with a change of mind from having a human mind to having Christ and the Mind of God. Your Savior did so by hope and faith, and you are to become like Him.

When you seek the righteousness of God by hope and faith, you fear God, and this is just the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Peter, the apostle, clearly told you that, if you do, then God will accept you (Acts 10:35). Christ then gives you the Holy Spirit of God, which becomes your Comforter (rest) and leads you to all truth.

“And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter [the Rest of God], that he may abide with you for ever [eternally]; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not [blinded], neither knows him; but you know him; for he dwells with you and shall be in you” (John 14:16-17).

Now you understand how God makes you in His “image.” It is like a baby growing into manhood and finally becoming an elder who is mature like Christ.

Changing covenants and laws is paramount so God can be sure you become like Him and Christ. The Everlasting Covenant, with no laws, sets you free and is based on your free choice. You would never, ever think of breaking any of the Commandments.

If you always seek God and His way—the Torah, with no law required—then the First Covenant of God will lead you to salvation.

Read Isaiah 55 and Psalm 51 in their entirety to grasp the most wonderful covenant of God. Only The Eternal Covenant continues under the New Heavens and on the New Earth.
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Are you developing Godly character? Lotsa' luck!

G
od doesn’t sin. Those who have Godly character do not sin (1 John 3:9, 1 Pet 2:24). So have you accomplished that, or are you still working on that? How long do you expect that to take?

Herbert Armstrong in his book The Incredible Human Potential indicated this character had to be developed. “It must be developed, and that requires TIME and EXPERIENCE” (pg. 70).

Why then does Paul compare the spirit-filled believer to a new man who renews his mind like someone changes his clothes? (Eph 4:22-24, see also Col 3:8-10). Changing clothes doesn’t take a great amount of time or experience. Why does he distinguish the spirit-led person as thinking of spiritual things and the carnal person as concerned with physical things? (Rom 8:5).

That indicates a night and day difference, not progress toward a goal. Where is the middle ground for those who are in the process of developing “Godly character”?

Why did Jesus say “whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34)? Why did Paul say “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Rom 6:16).

Is someone still working on his character a slave of sin? Can they serve two masters?

“Whoever says he abides in Him ought him- self also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:6). This doesn’t say anything about walking this way most of the time, or more of the time than last year. It is talking about all the time for everyone who claims to follow Messiah.

Yes, 1 John 2:6 does allow that some may sin, “if anyone sins,” but “when anyone sins.” The assumption is that this will be rare and unusual, if it happens at all.

So how does one become perfect (Mat 5:48, Heb 10:14) without time and experience to develop Godly character? I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal 2:20).

The believer doesn’t develop the character but lays down their life in repentance and baptismal death and then uses the example and teaching of Messiah to guide their conduct (Rom 6:3, 4, 6). “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:37). “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Mat 16:25).

Those commandments of God are. This is what David did. He never claimed a complete un- lern and how to take in new thoughts of obeying the truth (Ps 119:151). No one stands between Him, His word and each of us.

No minister-elder is our judge. Let us stand in His faith (Gal 2:20). Jesus Christ is our head. He shows us what to do and what to think. The Spirit of God in us shows us how to remain free from the law of sin and death.

Keeping control is a must, whether in church services or in our personal lives. Keeping out con- flict is a must. Dictatorship leads only to conflicts, whether it is done by one man or a council. Jesus Christ is our head. He shows us what to unlearn and how to take in new thoughts of obeying the truth (Ps 119:151). No one stands between Him, His word and each of us.

No minister-elder is our judge. Let us stand in His freedom the Lord gives us, which is thinking clearly, independently, abandoning sin and keeping the truth (John 8:22).

The kingdom of God is “within” you, not “among” you (Luke 17:21). It is by His Holy Spirit. See Strong’s Concordance Greek dictionary, No. 1787.

For more proof, write to the address below.

Are you developing Godly character? Lotsa’ luck!

The Great Lakes Church of God will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Alcoa/Knoxville, Tennessee. Join us to learn more about how you can be a point of light for God in today’s world. We will be offering a millennial atmosphere, just as the Feast of Tabernacles portrays. Call or e-mail for details.

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Feast Site Announcement

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

Issue No. 173 (May 31, 2015)
Ken put questions about Mr. Armstrong's book Mysteries of the Ages to the show's guests. He wanted to know, if Mr. Armstrong had lived, would he have corrected some of his books and other things he had written? Mr. Albrecht added that soon after he [Mr. Armstrong] died we looked at the show's guests. We felt that the show's guests were a trial run at salvation and then second thoughts about the chance at salvation for the people who followed the former teachings of the Worldwide Church of God now believes in the deity of Christ.

Mr. Hanegraaff didn't approve, but Mr. Tkach and Mr. Albrecht said they needed more time to tie loose doctrinal ends, specifically the soul-sleep doctrine, together.

Mr. Hanegraaff obviously didn't approve, but Mr. Tkach and Mr. Albrecht said they needed more time to tie loose doctrinal ends, specifically the soul-sleep doctrine, together.
Timberline Camp and Conference play host to its first summer camp Church of God Big Sandy will sponsor four sites for the Youth summer camp friendly site that has inspiring locations in the western United States in 2015. The Big Sandy church has been planning for the 21st consecutive year. Each site will have daily church services from Monday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Oct. 4. The brethren will observe the Feast at 1965 Chapman Highway, 3½ miles west of downtown on Highway 441. “We welcome all to attend with us to celebrate God’s Feast of Tabernacles in the Great Smoky Mountains’ starting at 2:00 p.m. each day, she said. The CGWM sponsored the World Television. It will also provide a meeting place for other Church of God groups to conduct their Feast services. The Timmonses will provide the meeting place which includes a large auditorium that will accommodate up to 250 people, at no charge. “Just bring your tent and your group,” Mrs. Timmons said. “Our area has reasonably priced motel rooms in Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg and many good restaurants, shopping centers everywhere and family-friendly entrees.”

Continued from page 1 Selfish individualism has emerged in the English language as a mechanism for survival. People are born to grow up to be individuals, but as we force each other to become selfish individuals, becoming selfish is that problem of hurt. Perhaps the danger of selfish individualism becoming selfish is that we force each other to become selfish in order to survive, even those who would not otherwise be so.

The concept of selfish individualism has emerged in the English language because something has happened to make the values that we believe have been in place all along for people who are not related, in a place, and for older campers, skeet shooting and paintball. We are also hosting a garage-sale fund-raisers on Friday, June 12, said a camp organizer, Diana Havir. “Donations of items we can include are greatly appreciated.”

Youth summer camp BIG SANDY, Texas—The Church of God Big Sandy will sponsor four sites for the observation of the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles. The Big Sandy church has been planning for the 21st consecutive year. Each site will have daily church services from Monday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Oct. 4. The brethren will observe the Feast at 1965 Chapman Highway, 3½ miles west of downtown on Highway 441. “We welcome all to attend with us to celebrate God’s Feast of Tabernacles in the Great Smoky Mountains’ starting at 2:00 p.m. each day, she said. The CGWM sponsored the World Television. It will also provide a meeting place for other Church of God groups to conduct their Feast services. The Timmonses will provide the meeting place which includes a large auditorium that will accommodate up to 250 people, at no charge. “Just bring your tent and your group,” Mrs. Timmons said. “Our area has reasonably priced motel rooms in Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg and many good restaurants, shopping centers everywhere and family-friendly entrees.”

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Notes and quotes Shirley King Johnson died LINCOLN, Neb.—Shirley King Johnson, pastor died March 5, 2015. Mrs. Johnson, 87, is remembered by many former and present WCG members as the author of a long-running series of stories about children about Major the Boagle that appeared in The Worldwide News in the 1970s. Mrs. Johnson’s obituary in the UCG’s member newspaper United News, said she left handwritten instructions for cremation and a short graveside service, signed at the bottom with a cheerful “See you later!”

The Big Sandy church’s four Feast sites BIG SANDY, Texas—The Church of God Big Sandy will sponsor four sites for the observation of the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles, announced Dave Havir, pastor on March 5, 2015. Each site will have daily church services from Monday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Oct. 4. Here is a list of the sites and how long the congregation has sponsored them: Big Sandy for the 21st consecutive year. Destin, Fla., for the 18th consecutive year. Myrtle Beach, S.C., for the 13th consecutive year. Grand Junction, Colo., is the congregation’s western site for the 15th consecutive year. Grand Junction rotates as a Big Sandy Feast site with other western sites in the United States such as Flagstaff, Ariz. The Big Sandy church has sponsored as many as seven Feast sites in a single year.

If you are looking for a small, friendly site that has inspiring locations in the western United States in 2015, the Big Sandy church has been planning for the 21st consecutive year. Each site will have daily church services from Monday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Oct. 4. The brethren will observe the Feast at 1965 Chapman Highway, 3½ miles west of downtown on Highway 441. “We welcome all to attend with us to celebrate God’s Feast of Tabernacles in the Great Smoky Mountains’ starting at 2:00 p.m. each day, she said. The CGWM sponsored the World Television. It will also provide a meeting place for other Church of God groups to conduct their Feast services. The Timmonses will provide the meeting place which includes a large auditorium that will accommodate up to 250 people, at no charge. “Just bring your tent and your group,” Mrs. Timmons said. “Our area has reasonably priced motel rooms in Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg and many good restaurants, shopping centers everywhere and family-friendly entrees.”

The United Church of God of an International Association began in 1995 with a meeting of former Worldwide Church of God elders and other members in Indianapolis, Ind. David Hulme was its first president. Mr. Hulme left the UCG in 1998 to found another church, the Kingdom, or World, God an International Community. For more information about the United Church of God go to uc.org.