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## What is the Work of the CGF?

*by Robert Ardis*

Over four thousand years ago, the patriarch Noah was commissioned by God to build a huge ship, an ark, for the preservation of the life of all to would heed and come aboard (Gen. 6 and 7). God was going to send a world wide flood upon the earth and every living air-breathing creature not protected in the ark would die—they would drown! The construction of the ark was the Work of God and would provide the only place of safety from the coming flood.

Noah was given 120 years, a specific amount of time, to complete his Work, but the masses of people down through those years laughed and scoffed at him and none heeded his warnings. Slowly but surely that huge structure began to take shape. The building of the ark was such a tremendous undertaking that nothing comparable to it as a sea-going vessel was constructed until thousands of years later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

But finally the ark was completed except for the final finishing touches. The last coatings of pitch were applied to the ark as a waterproofing sealant. However, those who looked and had laughed became concerned as they witnessed the huge amounts of food being gathered and stored in the ark. And most assuredly they were perplexed and startled when a multitude of all varieties of animals began to gather and in an orderly fashion enter into the ark.

One hundred and twenty years had passed—time had run out and Noah had successfully completed the Work God had given him to do. Finally when those scoffers saw the “door of the ark” close suddenly by the hand of God—then it was too late! Life saving protection was available only within the ark!

In Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus Christ tells us that these days in which we live today would be *as it was in the days of Noah*.

And as it was in the days of Noah, God has chosen the Church of God's Faithful as His Work and his Faithful will be protected from the greatest time of trouble ever to be in the one and only place of safety. The place Christ shall prepare. As Noah did at the close of his commission, we are approaching the point of applying the “*final coat of pitch*” and the door will soon close.

The parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25 brings us to the *midnight hour* nearly 12 years into the Day of the Lord and makes the “closing of the door” a sobering reality for today, especially verses 10-13: “*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*”

The CGF has been sending forth the message of the **Kingdom is at hand** since the revealing of this great truth was given to us—this is our Commission—to cry aloud that the Day of the Lord has come.

Our Commission was to go first to the Laodicean Church as Revelation 3:20 tells us: “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*”

Christ has used the CGF to continuously rap upon the door of the Laodiceans that incorporated under the name Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) located in Edmund, OK and led by Gerald Flurry. Christ has directed the CGF in knocking on their door by sending forth over twenty thousand of our booklets, hundreds  
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## Greetings brethren!

Issue number 9 of *The Philadelphia Witness* is being put together one day before crucial elections take place in the tiny nation of Israel. Through *World Watch*, we will endeavour to put together those news stories that most accurately reflect how the outcome of these elections might affect immediate developments in the Middle East in the light of Bible prophecy that must be fulfilled at this juncture of the Day of the Lord.

This edition of the Church bulletin is also being completed prior to normal schedule, just before I commence my travels to Belgium, Italy and Kenya. On Sabbath the 14<sup>th</sup>, I will be holding services in the town of Voghera with the faithful brethren on the Italian peninsula. The following Sabbath the 21<sup>st</sup>, the brethren in Kenya will assemble in Nairobi where all-day services will be held.

As we continue our countdown to Passover, making sure that we get ready to renew our baptismal covenant, we must also get moving with our preparations for the Feast of Tabernacles 2009. So whilst in Italy, I will also be looking at a new Feast site in Saint-Vincent, situated in the scenic Val d'Aosta region, very close to the world-famous ski resorts of Breuil-Cervinia/Zermatt, right under the famous Matterhorn. Aosta Valley combines all possible types of scenery, climate, fauna and flora passing from dells all the way up to glaciers.



Some of the breath-taking scenery at Saint-Vincent in Val d'Aosta, Italy

Aosta Valley also boasts some of Europe's highest peaks in the Alps, including Mont Blanc at 4810 meters. An uphill tram departing from near the hotel will take Feast-goers to the «Terme Fons Salutis», the thermal spas, in less than a couple of minutes. The

"fountain of health and riches" gives the town of Saint-Vincent international fame.

Please pray for the success of every aspect of this trip; and as we stay even more alert than ever before to all that's going on in the world and in the Church, making sure that we're continuously tuned in to God's wavelength, it will certainly be most exciting to see what God has in mind and how everything will proceed in the days and weeks ahead.

At this time, we have the responsibility to continue to do the Work (please refer to Pastor General Robert Ardis' lead article) whilst we're ever-increasingly being witness to threatened worldwide economic collapse accentuated by millions of job-losses, the awakening and rising up of the Beast, third world nations becoming more desperate, weird weather systems, earthquakes, etc. We must now also make sure that we increase our study and prayer, as well as be even more vigilant in the face of the possible unprecedented acceleration of events on the world scene; and that God will open our eyes to more clearly understand that which we may still possibly be seeing through the glass darkly. Times are probably even more serious and urgent than we may perhaps think!

With much love, in Christ's service

Daniel Frendo

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of cassettes and video taped sermons, cds, letters, calls, and visits. We have been used to rap loudly on their door. Thankfully, some few have answered the knocking and have joined with us as faithful members, qualifying to be stalwart Pillars in the *Temple of God*.

Our Commission to the Laodiceans is fast being completed—although we will *sigh and cry* for them to the very end! The blind and complacent Laodiceans who have refused to answer or are content following their leader have been warned as the people were in Noah's day. Yet there may be some that God will still call from the PCG at this late date.

There are also the "castaways" of the PCG who have not been *sought after*, but are of a special concern to Christ. And there are thousands of our begotten brethren still trapped in the *synagogue of Satan* that

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must be rescued. Revelation 3:9 and Matthew 25:1-9 assures us that Jesus Christ will awaken these sleeping brethren and bring them to the CGF.

God's Word tells us that Noah was faithful in his commission: "*Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he* (Gen. 6:22). We, also, have been called and chosen! And we must be faithful in our overall Commission.

"*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*" (Gen. 6:22). And truly we have found grace in the eyes of the Lord. To be called and chosen as a Firstfruit in God's Plan is astounding. To be brought to repentance, baptized, and given the gift of God's Spirit and to be born into the Family of God staggers our thoughts. To be the very Wife of Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God that shall *increase forever* (Isa. 9:6-7) is incomprehensible to our minds, but by faith we believe it. And to be given opportunity to overcome and be a Pillar member in the Temple of God—by the *grace of God*—powerfully emphasizes how urgent our Commission really is.

Let's state it this way: the Commission of the Church of God's Faithful is to submit to God in our life: *to "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..."* (Matt.6:33). To strive to *grow up into Christ in all things* (Eph. 4:15). To be faithful and overcome as the Pillar members Christ has selected us to be converted into (Rev. 3:12). We must diligently prepare ourselves through God's Spirit for the purpose of teaching, educating, and assisting any of the begotten sons and daughters of God that are currently snared in Laodicea or the synagogue of Satan before time runs completely out.

Our approach to our Commission will be in three areas:

#1- There possibly still exist Laodiceans who may yet respond even at this late date. Most have had their chance, but this is according to how God wills it. Remember, Joshua, the high-priest, is a *brand plucked out of the fire!* The "fire" mentioned in Zechariah 3:1 is most likely the Great Tribulation.

#2- We as the servants of Christ are to specially *search out* the "former PCG members" who were cast out of the PCG and were never *sought after* by the PCG (or the CGF) according to Ezekiel 34:4: "*The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again*

*that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*" Read the scripture again!

The commission of the PCG was to warn and to seek after the begotten brethren of the corrupted WCG (the synagogue of Satan) that Gerald Flurry labels mistakenly as Laodicean. Through the Laodicean Work the brethren of the WCG were *called* and *sought out!* Nevertheless, those who responded and came as members of the PCG were later cast out for whatever reason and have not been *sought after* since being cast out. They were driven away and have suffered the cruelty of being separated from their families that still may be members of the PCG. God wants these brethren to be *searched out*. God will cause them to come. Perhaps some of these might yet be chosen as Pillars—according to God's Plan.

#3- We must be ready to receive the multitude of *Lively Stones* from the *synagogue of Satan* and teach them the New Truth we have been given!

Revelation 3:9 declares: "*Behold, I will make (give) them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*" Upwards of 50,000 brethren, the *lively stones*, the wise virgins, will be awakened and made to come to Christ's true Church as part of the Spiritual Temple. Time will run out so we must work while we can. It won't be long until we may be applying the final "coats of pitch" as Noah did. We have Work to do!

***Please send your Article contributions via e-mail as a Word doc. attachment to:***

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## Marriage - a Physical Union and a Divine Institution - Part 3 The Role of Parents and Children

by Frank Borg

So far, we have taken a look at the role of a husband and a wife in marriage and family. As we did that, we very briefly touched upon their roles as father and mother, but need to do this in greater detail as we look into the roles of children within the family.

When we deeply understand the role of parents, it should help us understand God's plan in a more profound way. The role of parents should help us to better understand God the Father, Christ the Son and the purpose of His Church. A careful study of John 3 shows that the human reproductive process points to a wonderful spiritual parallel. On the spiritual level, God begins the process by calling us: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). Once God calls, the individual is nourished through the Church (our spiritual mother). The Church is the *spiritual organism* that feeds spiritual food to begotten children as they are being trained to be future God beings. It is the function of the Church, the spiritual mother, to help develop holy righteous character in those whom God has called. In the *physical family*, the father impregnates, then the child is fed in the womb through the mother – who, in turn, is nourished by her husband the father in the family! Both parents have active roles and responsibilities, physically and spiritually, in raising and nurturing their children. The main goal for parents is to prepare their children to enter the family of God.

The concept of fatherhood comes out of the mind of God the Father; he is *central* to the family unit. John 1:18 states: "No man hath seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, *which is in the bosom of the Father...*". Christ is in the bosom of His Father! This demonstrates the *most intimate relationship* a father and his child could hope for! It is a relationship that God so desires to extend to us, *if we allow Him*. God the Father has a strong desire and a craving for this intimate relationship. This is what the fulfillment of His plan looks forward to. Physically speaking, this should be the kind of relationship and intimacy that a father wants with his sons and daughters. However, how many fathers are able to inspire this kind of devotion from their children? How many strive for this level of intimacy? This strikes right at the heart of what it means to be good parents. Again, this is what

God's master plan is about – family, and intimacy within that family!

Ever since the beginning of the creation of man, the family has increasingly been under attack. Satan has tried many different tricks to chip away at the responsibilities of fatherhood within the home. He has consistently tried to diminish the role and effectiveness of the father. He does this because of the spiritual parallel that fatherhood represents. The father is the center point of the family and this is what Satan is trying to destroy by developing upside-down families! In this end time, *during the Day of the Lord*, Satan has even managed to deceive the Laodiceans into rejecting their spiritual Father by rejecting His voice (Mal 1:6)! We must constantly be alert and vigilant and not allow this to happen to us! God the Father must be esteemed greatly and the way we teach our children to do this largely depends on how the (physical) father fulfills his role within the family! If a father is to be effective, he should aspire to fulfill the physical role of God the Father in his family unit. A father must remember that he is in the place of God the Father to his children. His positive example helps them relate to, and honor, God. This is the reality and responsibility fathers are faced with! The better fathers do their job, the easier it is for their children to relate to, and come to know, God! Matthew 5:48 should be the standard that fathers aim for: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect".

The love relationship within a family begins with the love of a father. If administered properly, a father's love will flow through to his wife (the mother) and to his children -- and back! God's law of love is the foundation of a strong family unit. Parents cannot force their children to love them, but children will naturally love their parents back if their parents love them first! This principle is outlined in 1 John 4:19: "We love Him because He first loved us". Parents must set the example first! God's way of life is encapsulated in the law of love (1 John 4:7-9) which must be exemplified by the parents! If a child 'loves' one of his/her parents more than the other, the parents should question the proper implementation of the law of love within the family unit – from the top down.

Disciplining children in love is a most important ingredient of the law of love. Without discipline children are alienated from their parents and also from God! It is important for parents to strike the right balance between love and discipline. If there is too much discipline, children will grow to be hostile and

resentful. For this not to happen, parents must be careful not to correct out of frustration, but out of love. Fathers must not be unjust in their disciplining: "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, *lest they be discouraged*". Punishments should fit the crime! This demonstrates parents implementing godly *love in action*. Children need to recognize this quality in parenting skills as it points them to God!

John 1:18 is an important scripture which parents must meditate upon: "No man hath seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, *He hath declared Him*" (*Strong's 1834*). Christ 'declared' His Father! Strong's concordance tells us that the word 'declared' means 'to consider, rehearse, and tell'! Christ 'considered' His Father! This means He thought about His Father and believed Him! He 'rehearsed' and applied His Father's will! We could clearly see this in the example Christ set before us (1 Peter 2:21). Importantly He 'told' others about God and His plan and was able to advise those He came into contact with because of the wisdom obtained from His Father! How do we, as fathers, measure up to this example of teaching and loving our children? Do we, as fathers, ensure that we do our utmost to set the right example? Do we advise with godly wisdom? How intimately do we love our children? Also, how close do our children come to fulfilling their part of John 1:18? Do they 'declare' us, as fathers, by considering our counsel, applying it and setting the right example for others to see? It all begins with how well fathers are fulfilling their roles! As the children's link to their forefathers, fathers have to set the example and point children to God *first* (1 John 4:19; Mal 4:6), the rest will follow. Fathers are commanded to teach and declare the law of God to their children (Ps. 78:5-7). Family Bible Study a number of times a week is important to achieve this, while parents should constantly outline and explain biblical principles with their children as they arise in daily life situations.

God the Father asks us to talk to Him as much as possible and as often as possible. He wants us to talk to Him *without ceasing* (1 Thess. 5:17; Matt. 7:7)! He wants us to take our petitions, grievances, hopes and desires to Him. God wants to hear everything we have to tell Him! This indicates a high level of intimacy – one which physical fathers should strive to attain with their children. How attentive are we, as fathers, to our children, their needs and requests? Do we say 'no' to our children before they even finish their requests, or because they always seem to have so much to say and ask? Are we understanding parents, giving good advice, consolation and comfort (2 Thess 2:16-17)?

Do we give our children the attention they need to feel loved and secure? If we lack in these areas, the results could be quite negative. More on this later.

As already mentioned, the Church is a spiritual organism that nourishes the begotten members of His family. The Church is instrumental in the development of the begotten children of God. On the physical level, a mother's role is also *instrumental* within the family. She is responsible for nourishing, comforting (Is. 66:13), and teaching her children (Prov. 1:8, Prov. 29:15; Prov. 6:20). This is emphasized in Proverbs 10:1 where it states: "A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother". Ultimately this responsibility falls on both of the parents! A mother must fulfill her responsibilities under the direction and guidance of her husband. She is the primary nurturer, helping the father to raise future God beings and royalty (Ps. 45:16). The mother carries much authority, more so when the father is away from the home, and children disrespecting her in any way must be corrected. If and when this happens, fathers should step in immediately! In ancient Israel, unrepentant children falling into this pitfall were stoned (Deut. 21:18-21)! This is how serious God views children disrespecting their parents! The father must support the mother's role because her role is honorable and irreplaceable (Prov. 30:11). Each member of the family must understand this.

Spiritually speaking, the ministry has the responsibility to feed the membership, otherwise it results in 'heaviness of the mother', or the Church (Prov. 10:1). There is a wonderful parallel between the physical and spiritual family from which there is so much to glean and learn! What kind of example do we set for our children spiritually (John 13:15)? Do we think and act like Christ (Phil. 2:5)? The positive, Christ-like, example which we set is a gift that we can give them. Giving our children time and a positive example is the most powerful demonstration of love that we could offer them (Prov. 22:6). If they are neglected or not given positive examples, the results will be negative: "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, everyone by another, and every one by his neighbor: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable" (Is. 3:4-5).

God instructs children to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1). "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Ex. 20:12). This law establishes strong, united, happy families. Because parents represent God within the family, they are

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given an exalted office, and as such, children are commanded to 'honor' or esteem them. Children must never neglect their duties towards their parents whatever their age or situation (Matt. 15:3-6). [Here is another area where the Laodicean Church is breaking God's commands. Those trapped in the Laodicean no-contact ruling are being stripped from their God-given responsibility of honoring their parents!] Children who apply the fifth commandment are promised a wonderful reward: "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Exodus 20:12). It is right for children to obey their parents (Eph 6:1), and God always rewards good!

God's people have an awesome responsibility, honor, and privilege to have such a deep understanding of marriage and family! Through His inspired Word He has ensured we have detailed instruction on the roles of every family member. It is our responsibility to continue digging into the Bible to find out what more is expected of us and, importantly, to ensure we apply His instruction with His help! This will lead to the edifying the family unit.

Family points to something so meaningful and significant on the spiritual plain. It is something we should never take lightly! God requires strong, healthy families that can teach 'family' to others, especially in the World Tomorrow! We not only need to be skilled in 'family', we must be *experts* in this field if we are to teach it successfully – and now is the time to get it right!

(To be continued)

## What is Blasphemy?

by John Durrad

One of the more subtle sins today is swearing. It is subtle because many people don't realise they are doing it. It quickly becomes a habit, and then a part of their normal speech. It is the same with cursing. People curse and swear over the smallest of matters. It really is just a lack of self control.

Even God's people may be using words that are not right. Even correct words used out of context become swear words. Saying someone has a bloody nose is correct if his nose is bleeding, otherwise it is swearing. We should not even be using what we might consider "mild" swear words. Why not? Well one reason is that we get used to "mild" swearing, it is almost inevitable that it will lead to worse things.

It's about restraint! About using our mind before opening our mouth!

But as God's people there is a more dangerous aspect to this, and that is if we swear or curse when things go wrong, we are opening our minds to a far greater evil – and that is blasphemy!

Now blasphemy is not just swearing, cursing or taking God's name in vain. There are many forms of blasphemy and we must be sure we are not even getting close to committing this great sin.

Although blasphemy can come from the mindset of someone who swears and curses, they are not the same thing. Blasphemy is far more serious.

"And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp; And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord, and cursed. And they brought him before Moses:.... Lev 24:10-11

He did two things. He blasphemed and he cursed. For this he was put to death.

"Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him" Lev 24:14

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Note carefully that he was put to death for blasphemy, not for cursing! One who cursed would have to “bear his sin” or have to live with it.

“And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.” Lev 24:15

The implication was that the one who cursed would be under a curse. But notice verse sixteen.

“And he that blasphemeth the name of the lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemed the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.” Lev 24:16

We see that cursing and blaspheming are two separate offenses. The word “curse” in verse fifteen means to, make light of, or despise God’s Law. When we understand that the human heart is enmity against God and desperately wicked, we can see it is not difficult to despise God’s Law. So this was not punishable by death – At least not immediately!

But blasphemy was punishable by death. Webster’s Dictionary defines blasphemy as, “Indignity offered to God in words, writings, or signs. Blasphemy applies offering strictly to any intentional utterance defying or offering indignity to the Supreme Being.” However, the Bible definition covers it better than Webster’s. The Hebrew word translated blasphemy in Leviticus 24 means, “To violently poke holes through. To jab at or perforate. To hack – with words.”

God’s prophecy written by the Apostle Paul of these last days reveals the fact that blasphemy would abound. 2 Tim 3:1-2. How many times a day must God have to listen to His name being taken in vain? God says He has heard our blasphemies.

“For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.

For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord.” Jer 23:10-11

Even the very land mourns underneath the mountain of sin caused by swearing and cursing. The priests are profane, blasphemous. Many of them swear. It occurs all the time on T.V. So called nice educated people swear today. Remember, swearing is a form of

blasphemy! We should not be using the name of God or Jesus Christ as slang expressions.

Many common expressions such as Golly Gosh and Gee-whiz are used as substitutes for the name of God the father and Jesus Christ. These are disguised expressions of strong profanity and are actually blasphemous.

It is easy to swear or blaspheme. Why is that? Why is it not as easy to praise God and Bless His Holy name? The reason is human nature. Human nature has the downward pull of sin. One of these sins is blasphemy. It is part of human nature to blaspheme, but it is a part that must be overcome.

When Hezekiah was King of Judah, Sennacherib King of Assyria planned to conquer Judah. He actually boasted against Judah.

“Thus saith the King (Sennacherib) Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, The Lord will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the King of Assyria.. Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?” Isa 36:14-20

Here King Sennacherib of Assyria challenged God. He tried to bring God down to the level of an idol. He spoke out intentionally defying God and His power to deliver Judah. God called it blasphemy!

“And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the lord, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard,, wherewith the servants of the King of Assyria have blasphemed me.” Isa 37:6

Do men or nations get away with blasphemy against the Most High God? God said he would defend Judah and Jerusalem. He accepted the challenge given by the King of Assyria, a boastful arrogant challenge. Who do you think won?

“Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.” Isa 37:36

What about blasphemy by hypocrisy. Could this have anything to do with the Laodiceans? They say they

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are Jews – Spiritual Jews – but God says they are not Rev 3:9. In fact God says it is blasphemy to say you are a Spiritual Jew when you are not!

“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.” Rev 2:9

Romans 2:28-29 tells us what a Spiritual Jew is. The people of God’s One True Church must be sure that not only do we look to be a Christian – But that we really are!

By attending Church, we look like a Christian. By paying tithes, everything looks right. We can claim to be a member of God’s Church, and follower of Jesus Christ.

But to claim to be a Spiritual Jew we must be constantly overcoming sin.

Do we put up with sins we know we have? Are we content with the same faults day after day? If we do and yet still claim to be a Spiritual Jew we could be in trouble.

Another way to blaspheme God is shown in the book of Acts.

“And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:44 -45

Let us note right here that they were coming to hear God’s Word on the Sabbath. We know God’s Word is Truth. When the Jews spoke out against the things Paul was saying, they did two things. They contradicted and they blasphemed. It follows then that if we speak out against God’s ministers or doctrines of God’s Church we are blaspheming the very God we profess to serve.

It is not blasphemy if you just don’t agree or can’t understand. But it is if you speak against the Word of God spoken by His ministers! If you don’t understand something spoken by a minister, then ask the minister about it, pray about it. Search your own heart to make sure you are not deceiving yourself. But above all, don’t speak against it.

What about causing blasphemy? You may not be one who is blaspheming directly yourself. But you could be causing others to do so. If by your actions you cause others to blaspheme the name of God, perhaps you are more guilty than they of this sin. The Apostle Paul condemned the Jews for this very thing.

“Thou that makes thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonoureth thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.” Rom 2:23-24

Because of their bad example and sin in their lives they caused the Gentiles to blaspheme. We have a grave responsibility in front of non-member mates, relatives and friends. Does our example cause people to praise our religion or give them occasion to speak out against the Church of God’s Faithful, the very Body of Jesus Christ? If it does then you have participated in the sin of blasphemy.

We should be a living example of what people will be like in the world tomorrow. Our lives should today reflect the life of one obeying God. Have you ever done something that would cause others to speak out against God? Has anyone ever said to you, “If that’s the way Christians act, I don’t want any part with God or religion,”

Actually those are words of blasphemy, said in ignorance of course. But stop and think. God hears every word uttered. He hears the blasphemy of so called Christians, atheists, sceptics and so on. God must be sick of it! And then we, God’s very elect pillars of His Church, by our letting down, or foolish actions, cause more blasphemy. We have a great responsibility to our fellow man.

Notice the responsibility we have towards our employer – or in fact anyone we are doing some work for.

“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. 1 Tim 6:1

We are to give those we work for due respect and of course quality work. More than likely your boss will know you belong to a Church. You have told him you must have the Sabbath and Holy Days off. If he has questioned you as to why you need this time off, you would have had to explain something of your beliefs. Then, if you give him sloppy, half hearted work, you



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will give him occasion to blaspheme God through your beliefs.

Now, blasphemy is dangerous! But, like other kinds of sin, it can be forgiven upon repentance. But there is one kind of blasphemy that cannot be forgiven. But first notice that the Apostle Paul was forgiven of blasphemy that he had done in ignorance.

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Who was before s blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.” 1 Tim 1:12-13.

But what does God say about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? In Matthew chapter twelve is an account of Christ healing the sick and casting out demons, something that greatly upset the Pharisees who were present.

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Matt 12:32

What did the Pharisees do or say against the Holy Spirit that Christ should say this to them? Verse 23 says the people were amazed at the healings carried out by Christ. These people were so taken by the miracles performed by the Holy Spirit that many were probably close to repentance. They were ready to acknowledge that God was working through His Son Jesus Christ.

This was no small matter. God wants all to come to repentance and takes no pity on those who would put a stumbling block in front of true believers. The Pharisees saw the same miracles, but did not allow the work of the Holy Spirit to convict them. Instead they hardened their hearts.

“But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doeth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of devils.” Matt 12:24

This was blasphemy! They called a work done by God’s Holy Spirit – A work done to bring them to repentance – The work of Satan the devil. Instead of repenting they struck back at God’s Holy Spirit. This is the power that brings us to repentance. They spoke against the only power that could cause them to repent

and be baptised into the Body of Jesus Christ. They therefore seared their consciences to the point they could never repent. Therefore they could never be forgiven. They committed the Unpardonable Sin!

Let us put away all forms of blasphemy. Let us not use even so called “polite” forms of swearing. Let us not profess righteousness and then commit sin. Let us not claim to be Spiritual Jews when we are not. Let us be careful of the example we set in front of others – in the home, at work, wherever we are. All these things are included in the sin of blasphemy. And above all, let us never attribute work done by and through the power of God’s Holy Spirit as being the work of Satan the devil.

If we harden our hearts to this extent we shall have committed the sin, the sin to which Jesus Christ said, “it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

What is blasphemy? It is something to be avoided at all costs and by thinking on these things: Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.