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The Midnight Cry

March/April 2009, Volume 1, Number 2

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

Love Your Enemies...
Do Good to Them
That Hate You!

Does God's Word Offend You?
He Only Speaks the Truth in Love!

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Passover Pictures
Love and Unity

"God speed the day when His work is accomplished and the total unity pictured by Passover is experienced by all of God's people as one Body!?" See Pg. 2 *From the Editor*

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Passover Pictures Love and Unity

Greetings Brethren,

Passover is only weeks away. Each year at this time true Christians come before our great God in sincere prayer and fasting asking for His Spirit to help us prepare for this most solemn of occasions—the New Testament Passover. As we cry aloud unto Him, God's Spirit opens our spiritual eyes to our faults and shortcomings—our sins—we discern the spiritual weaknesses God would have us overcome (Rev. 3:21).

In His perfect wisdom, God places the Passover and the Holy Days as “mileposts” along the way so that each year we enact His Plan of Salvation. His wonderful Plan begins with Passover—the memorial of the death of the Son of God! All sins are forgiven through the spilled blood of the true Passover —Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 1:7). Christ poured out His life for our sins (Lev. 17:11)! Thus at Passover in a humble and repentant state of mind, we partake of the bread and wine that our Lord designated as the emblems to represent His ripped and torn body and His spilled blood. We humbly and prayerfully ask that the powerful scriptures connected with Christ's sacrifice can have their full impact on us.

Understand, God the Father and Jesus our Savior will *live their lives within us*, they will *abide within us*. John 14:23 states: “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”. Next, skip to chapter 17, verses 20-24:



Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

The Passover pictures total unity, dedication, loyalty, and love. It depicts the greatest example of each of these characteristics. The Father gave His only begotten Son in loyalty, dedication, and love for their Plan for all mankind that they had designed before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:7). God IS love! Jesus, the Son of God gave His perfect life in total accord to perform the will of His Father and to finish His work. The Passover pictures us pure and clean, loving and serving our brethren with the love of God and Christ within us—with eternal life indwelling within us. This ceremony pictures us at one accord, in faith accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, being forgiven of every sin as we partake of the emblems that symbolize His body and blood giving us free access to the throne of God.



God speed the day when His work is accomplished and the total unity pictured by Passover is experienced by all of God's people as one Body!

Your brother in Christ

Robert G. Ardis
Pastor General, Church of God's Faithful



by Frank Borg

Till recently, God's people have differentiated between physical and spiritual sins. We believed that breaking physical laws constituted the committal of 'physical sins', and that Christ's beating and scourging prior to His death was the penalty that paid for the forgiveness of our 'physical sins'. Meanwhile, we also believed that

the breaking of spiritual laws constituted the committal of 'spiritual sins' which were forgiven through the spilled blood of Christ.

Consider this: Our physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). If, for example, we eat unclean meats or treat our bodies harmfully by overeating and drinking or accident, are we not damaging the temple wherein dwells the Holy Spirit? When we break 'physical' laws such as these, are we not ultimately sinning against God? Whether breaking a 'physical' or 'spiritual' law, are we not committing sins against God? Is not ALL sin spiritual sin (Rom. 7:14)?

Christ's Blood Cleanses Us From All Sin

Scripture does not differentiate between physical or spiritual sin, it simply discusses 'sin'. The Bible also tells us that sin is forgiven by the shed blood of Christ. Please read and understand the following scriptures carefully:

1. "...the BLOOD of Jesus Christ His Son CLEANSSES us from ALL SIN" (1 John 1:7).
2. "In whom we have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD" (Eph. 1:7).
3. "Unto Him that loved us, and WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD" (Rev. 1:5)
4. "Christ died for us...BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, we shall be saved..." (Rom 5:8-9)

Scripture is so clear! It plainly states that forgiveness of sin is made possible through Christ's spilled blood. Furthermore scripture tells us that "the wages of sin

is death" (Rom 6:23). Notice carefully! This scripture says that *death* is the penalty of sin. It doesn't say that beating or scourging is the penalty of any sin – not even so called 'physical' sin! You will not find one single scripture in the Bible that supports the pre-conceived idea, or theory, that 'physical sin was forgiven by the *beating* of Christ'. (We will come to Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Pet. 2:24 later). Christ *had to die* for the forgiveness of ALL our sins. His *blood* had to be, and was, spilled for the forgiveness of ALL sin! The Church of God's Faithful has had the courage and faith to acknowledge past error on this subject and accept New Truth – a hallmark of God's true Church!

By His Stripes We Are Healed

Let us proceed by taking a look at Isaiah 53:5 (1 Pet. 2:24 is another almost identical scripture). This most crucial scripture is one which we certainly have to study carefully along with all the aforementioned scriptures on this subject to get a true understanding of Christ's sacrifice and honestly 'discern the Lord's body':

“ He was WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, He was BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: the CHASTISEMENT of our peace WAS UPON HIM; and WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED” (Isaiah 53:5).

Christ went through a tremendous beating and scourging. He endured the pain of being whipped with leather whips. These whips had metal spikes or bone attached to the end of them which ripped into and tore open Christ's flesh and

disfigured Him to the point where He was no longer recognizable (Is. 52:14). It was by the stripes of Christ that forgiveness of our sins and healing was made possible. He was brutally *wounded* as a result of our sins, but those sins were then forgiven by His spilled blood. With the stripes of Christ alone, our sins could not be forgiven and we couldn't yet be healed *till Christ spilled His blood!*

We Must Understand

This is what we must understand: All of our sins and diseases were 'borne' (Strong's 5375: accept, carry, taken, worn, etc) upon Christ's body through every stripe of the whip that He received (Is. 53:4-5). The transgressions of God's law (physical and spiritual) were placed upon Him at the time of His beating and scourging. This is when He bore our sicknesses and diseases (Is. 53:4)

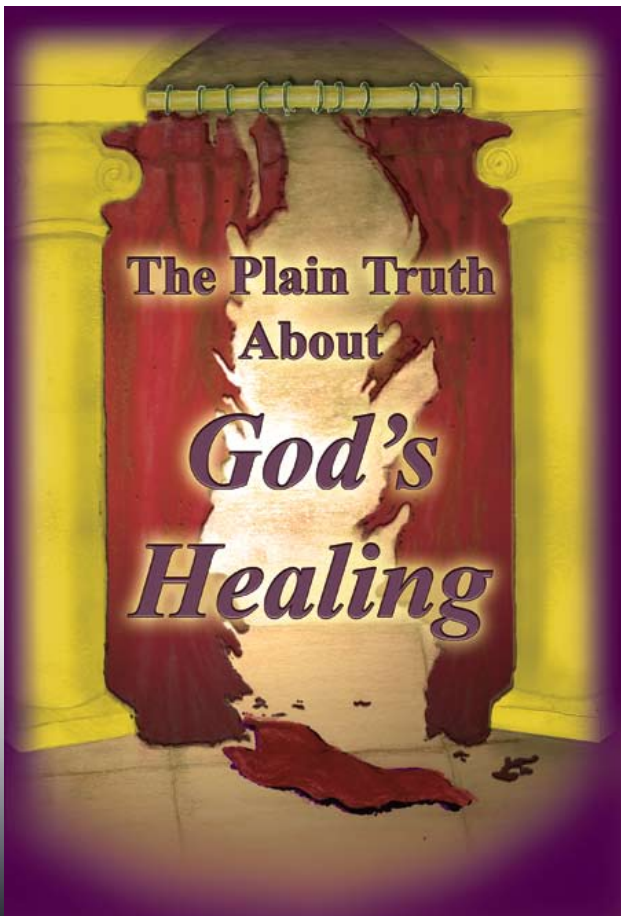
and every other sin (verse 5) on Himself! This was a tremendous burden our Savior carried because of God's tremendous love for us. Understand further: When Christ was beaten, no sin was forgiven! The beating that He suffered signified the heaping of our sins upon His body! He then carried the weight of those sins to the stake. He still bore our sins while on the stake (1 Peter 2:24). It was then by His spilled blood that our sins were washed away (1 John 1:7; Eph 1:7; Rev 1:5; Rom 5:8-9; Rom 6:23 etc).

Christ finally took His last breath on the stake as "one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (John 19:34). The story continues in Matthew 27:50-51:

“ Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

The moment the soldiers spear ripped through Christ's side, His blood was spilled and He died. At that same time, the veil of the temple was ripped in two. Hebrews 10:19-20 clearly confirm that (a) our sins are washed away through Christ's spilled blood, (b) His death gave us access to The Father through Christ's torn body representing the torn veil of the temple, and (c) Christ's sacrifice provided access to God so that He can forgive our sins and heal us from all our sicknesses and diseases.

We must deeply understand the meaning of Christ's sacrifice. We are so privileged to be able to partake of the Passover having this deep knowledge. Meditate upon the meaning and significance of Christ's beating and spilled blood as we examine ourselves in the run up to Passover. This is deeper understanding of the Lord's sacrifice and clearer instruction to the Church in regard to healing which no one on this earth has fully understood till recently, when God saw fit to reveal it to His Church! ❖



Discerning the Lord's Body

There are many who are weak and sick in God's Church. Some have died of terrible illnesses. Why? What has happened? God is God - He changes not! Are we doing something biblically wrong? Are we weak in the faith? Are we not discerning the Lord's body properly? These are honest questions! Now we need to honestly ask for answers and then diligently search the scriptures to determine if we are rightfully discerning the Lord's body - or do we have more to learn? We must examine this question prayerfully and carefully!

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (1 Cor. 11:28-30).

Ask for, or download, the Church of God's Faithful booklet *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*.

Love Your Enemies... Do Good to Them That Hate You!

By Robert Ardis and Frank Borg

God is love (I Jn. 4:8, 16)! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the express image and character of the Father (Heb. 1:3), thus He is also characterized by love. As members of the Body of Christ we are to grow into Christ in all things—therefore we must be developing godly love within ourselves. Being faithful to the very end, we will be born into the Family of God at the resurrection—we will be God—we will be love as the Father and the Son are love. Therefore in our Christian life today we must be growing in love. Matt. 5:43-44 is set before us as a means to grow in the number one fruit of the Spirit:

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you...

And it is especially difficult to do good to those that hate us when they are our dear brethren and refuse our help.

The CGF Wants to Help

We are the Church of God's Faithful. We are deeply concerned for our brethren snared in Laodicea and in the 300 + divided and scattered churches that are mired in

a 1986 time mode. True Christians must be continually growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Pet 3:18). The CGF desires very much to help our brethren to grow in the New Truth Christ has revealed to us in the past nearly 12 years.

It is an act of love to attempt to get this knowledge to our brethren, but we often receive very nasty replies demanding we remove their names from our mailing list. This we do. We certainly mean no harm. We want to help them. But notice the scriptures that we face as we try to bring wonderful new knowledge from God's Word to our sleeping brethren.

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22).

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake (Matt. 24:9).

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you (John 15:18).

Notice how the hatred intensifies; from all men, to all nations, to the entire world! And we just want to be the loyal servants of Christ and help our brethren. Jesus Christ was

the Lamb of God and the express example of love to everyone. He gave His life! He was also the Word of God and spoke the plain truth to those of His day—and His words offended those who did not grasp the spiritual intent of His words.

On one occasion Christ was teaching a very spiritual lesson to the Jews and His disciples in the city of Capernaum.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat (Jn. 6:51-52)?

Even the Words of God spoken by God can offend if they are misunderstood:

“When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life (vv. 61-63).

Therefore it should not be strange to us if our words and literature are

not appreciated when we follow Christ's example. He said He was hated first—and we would also be hated. Truth can hurt as in the case above. Truth can offend even when it is the Word of God.

An example of the Word of God offending a Church group is the term "synagogue of Satan" as in Rev. 3:9. *The Journal Newspaper* published by Dixon Cartwright is sub-titled, *News of the Churches of God*.

The Bible is very plain that Christ was going to build his Church—not churches (Matt. 16:18). Thus Christ has only One True Church not many groups of competing churches. That should be a simple fact easily understood, but look at the confusion that exists in the hundreds of competing churches claiming to be Churches of God.

Christ Is Not Divided

I Cor. 1:10 is easily understood: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment".

Christ is not divided (v. 13). He does not have hundreds of divided and contentious churches. He has one True Church! The scattered churches have come about in a similar fashion as the Protestant daughter churches that came out of the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church. This we see today is a modern version of the same old thing—

the scattered churches came out in protest of the corrupted old mother church the Worldwide Church of God. The fussing and disagreeing scattered churches, disfellowshipping one another

are false churches. They are not Christ's One True Church—so who do they belong to? If they are not Christ's they are Satan's!

They are the "synagogue of Satan"—and oh how they resent being told that! The CGF often

presents a more gentle expression as we use, the churches of god, with little "c" and little "g". But our Lord and Savior introduced the title "synagogue of Satan".

Both are very offensive titles to the scattered churches! People get very angry and can literally hate us for stating this; nevertheless we speak the Words of God and we emphasize Rev. 3:9 where "synagogue of Satan" is mentioned as a tremendously important scripture of hope to our scattered brethren.

Another term the CGF has initiated that causes much resentment and hatred is when referring to the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG), with their corporate headquarters in Edmond, OK, as the Laodicean Church! Gerald Flurry the leader and high priest of the PCG labels every one of the former Worldwide Church of God (WCG) members and the 300 +

splits and splinters of the WCG as Laodiceans, but he becomes furious with us when we show the fruit of his PCG that identifies them as the seventh candlestick, the Laodicean Church.

Mr. Flurry and the PCG were raised up by Christ to warn the bewildered members of the WCG of the apostasy that was occurring before our amazed eyes. Gerald Flurry and the PCG was the only organized church to do that dynamic work of warning. He should have chosen the name **Laodicean Church of God** instead of **Philadelphia Church of God**, but Laodicea carries an unwanted stigma that is undesirable to the churches although Christ used Mr. Flurry and the PCG for seven years to do the dynamic Work of Laodicea. The highly ranked evangelists and pastors of the WCG that did not accept the corrupted doctrines, but taught them anyway to preserve their paycheck, as the Church was led astray, still would not come to Mr. Flurry's aid, but waited for several years until they could draw out a following and maintain their life-style (see

Acts 20:28-30). Therefore as we look back in retrospect we see that Christ gave Gerald Flurry the seventh candlestick and the great honor of being the chosen leader of a

Church era—Laodicea. [Request or download our booklets, *The Midnight Cry* and *The Apostasy* for this intriguing bit of Church history.]

To call a PCG member a Laodicean is very offensive to them and they

The scattered churches have come about in a similar fashion as the Protestant daughter churches that came out of the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church.

Christ is not divided. He does not have hundreds of divided and contentious churches. He has one True Church!

hate us for that—but it gets worse. For seven years Gerald Flurry and the PCG followed their commission of warning the WCG of the great falling away that was taking place. But Mr. Flurry became impatient and made some very unwise decisions:

He allowed his improperly trained ministers to conduct an abusive, dictatorial type government over the PCG membership casting out sincere members who asked legitimate Bible questions that the ministry could not answer.

He illegally seized *Mystery of the Ages* (MOA) and printed and distributed several thousand copies, thus prompting an all out legal battle with the WCG that lasted for six long years—with the PCG finally losing the court battle. But in a surprise move after the WCG emerged victorious they offered to sell the copyright of MOA and 18 other publications of the WCG to Mr. Flurry and the PCG for \$2 million. Gerald Flurry had refused to negotiate with the WCG in the beginning referring to them as demons, but after six years and approximately \$4 million in court costs and legal fees the PCG paid another \$2 million for the copyrights. Had this been done at the beginning a lot of money and time could have been saved. The PCG is greatly offended when the actual truth of the outcome of the court battle is told. But the CGF must teach truth and the PCG lost the court battle. Truth will stand and time will tell!

Another huge blunder from truth by Gerald Flurry occurred when, in his vanity, he took the title of *That Prophet!* Of course, that title belongs only to Jesus Christ the Son of God

(Deut. 18:15, 18-19; Matt. 5,6,7, John 6:14, Acts 3:20-22). Mr. Flurry as the leader of the Laodicean Church is described in Ezek. 8:15-17 with “about 25 priests” standing in the inner court of the Temple!



The n said he u n t o me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and

thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshiped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here...?

Please notice, they are in the *inner court*—they are Laodicea! Which other church group could

possibly fit this description? The scattered churches are “the synagogue of Satan” and are in the *outer court!* The PCG is Laodicea and are aptly described here and also in the New Testament section of Laodicea, Rev. 3:14-19. These verses in Revelation vividly portray the PCG today. Lukewarm to the Work of God, rich and increased with goods, having

need of nothing, wretched and miserable, poor in spirit, blind and naked! In Ezekiel 8 they represent the

The synagogue of Satan, the Laodicean Church, and the abomination standing in the Holy Place are expressions that come from the written Word of God.

flickering seventh candlestick of Laodicea! And they are practicing that which is an abomination unto God. It is certainly paradoxical that the man Christ used to reveal “*the man of sin sitting in the Temple of God*” is

revealed by these plain scriptures to be “*the abomination which makes desolate standing in the Holy Place*”. Understand, this is what the Word of God tells us; taking Christ’s title of That Prophet to himself, makes Gerald Flurry a *false prophet* and a *false Christ*—an **abomination in the sight of God**. [Our booklet, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand* explains this in detail.]

To call the PCG “Laodicea” is terribly offensive to them—but to call their leader “*the abomination standing in the Holy Place*” infuriates them—but it is truth and we must speak the truth—in love.

The abusive rulings separating families who have awakened to the unbiblical and twisted doctrines coming from Gerald Flurry have caused great grief among those affected by these doctrines. Mr. Flurry and his leading ministers have even promoted the dissolution of some marriages when one mate that awakens to the false doctrines leaves the PCG. And with no bible support for these godless decisions, the PCG ministry resorts to ridicule, suspension, disfellowshipping, marking entire families, and hiding from the truth. They have no answers for

their unbiblical rulings except that it comes from Gerald Flurry, so they revert to resentment, bitterness and hatred. We have letters and articles from former PCG deacons and elders who have experienced exactly what I am reporting. These unbiblical rulings are abominations and as we *reprove these works of darkness* (Eph. 5:11) we are despised and hated for it—just as Jesus said we would be.

The scriptures we read earlier that say we will be hated by all men, nations, and the whole world can be understood as we speak the Words of God that are plain truth, but are not what the churches of god or the Laodiceans want to hear. The “synagogue of Satan”, the “Laodicean” Church, and “the abomination standing in the Holy Place” are expressions that come from the written Word of God as inspired by the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Remember, He said they hated him first, therefore as we use these terms from the mind of Christ we will be hated too.

And there is another action the CGF forcefully displays as a sure fruit of the one true Church that is extremely offensive to the “churches of god” and to the Laodiceans. We teach New Truth as is required by scripture of the true Church of God—

the Church of Jesus Christ. II Peter 3:18 states: “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the living Word of God.

The Holy Bible is the written Word of God, therefore as we grow by the grace of God in the knowledge of

Jesus Christ, we grow in the understanding of the Word of God—we grow in New Truth! If a church is not growing in New Knowledge of the Word of God, it is not the true church—Christ is not there. The Laodicean PCG has not had New Truth in years and the *churches of god* are stuck in a 1986 time warp and have learned no New Truth since the death of Herbert

W. Armstrong. If you are aware of any New Truth, not idle speculation, being taught in the scattered churches, please let me know.

The Gospel Has Been Preached

One obvious truth that the CGF teaches is that Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the scriptures in Matt. 24:14 and Zech. 4:9. We state that the competing churches attempting to do that which Christ successfully fulfilled through Mr. Armstrong is a work of futility and confusion.

The scripture Mr. Armstrong most commonly used to describe the commission which God gave him to fulfill was Matthew 24:14. This scripture states:

Mr. Armstrong's commission was to preach the gospel to the world. No other man on this earth has come close to doing that job!

the world for a witness unto all nations; and then 5119 shall the end 5056 come”.

Scripture clearly shows that the effort of the Laodicean PCG and the synagogue of Satan to preach the gospel to the World again, is a futile endeavor!

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all

Mr. Armstrong's commission was to preach the gospel to the world. He was the man that God used to preach the good news of the coming

Kingdom of God. No other man on this earth has come close to doing that job! He was the man used to pave the way for Christ's return and the setting up of the kingdom of God. Mr. Armstrong was used to bring us the un-

derstanding of the wonderful world tomorrow, mans incredible human potential and much more! God's Laodicean Church (PCG) and many of the WCG splinter groups understand this. What is *not* understood by those outside God's remnant Church (the Church of God's Faithful), is the second half of Matthew 24:14. Many are unclear about the 'end' spoken of in this scripture.

The word 'end' in Matthew 24:14 is 5056 in *Strong's*, and is defined as follows:

“ to set out for a definite point or goal; the point aimed at as a *limit*; the conclusion of an act or state; the goal reached or accomplished.

The question is: what 'definite goal' is being referred to in this scripture? Is it talking about the end of this age, or is it talking about something else? What is the 'end' spoken of in Matthew 24:14? In the Church of God's Faithful booklet, *Set Apart by Truth*, the question is answered clearly and succinctly. On page 15 we write:

“ [Strong's] number 5056 is used [for the word “end”] in Matthew 24:14

to clearly show that the *goal of proclaiming the gospel to the world* was successfully concluded. *The point aimed at was reached!*

Once Mr. Armstrong preached the gospel to the entire world, *at that time*, the conclusion of that act was reached! Thayer's lexicon of the New Testament agrees with Strong's as it states:

“1. *end*, i.e. a. Termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be, (in the Grk writ. always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time...)”

Consequently, the 'end 5056' spoken of in Matthew 24:14 is not talking about “the end 4930 of the age” spoken of in Matthew 24:3! (Notice the different Greek words used for the word 'end' in these two verses). And very important from verse 15 onward tells us that there were certain events, certain details, that **still had to be fulfilled after** the gospel was preached but **before** the end of the age!

The word “then 5119” in verse 14 is one which gives credence to this new understanding given to the Church of God's Faithful on the Matthew 24:14 'end'. “Then” is 5119 in Strong's and could be translated as “the when” or “at that time”. With this in mind, Matthew 24:14 could read as follows:

“The gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and at that time (or once it was done) that act will be concluded.”

How clear and easy to see for those who want to believe what the Bible says! Mr. Armstrong's commission was to preach the Gospel and once he accomplished that act, that job, that commission—was finished. The goal was reached!

Zechariah 4:9 reinforces the notion that Mr. Armstrong finished a work and adds more depth to Matthew 24:14: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house (or temple); his hands shall also finish it”. This scripture tells us that Zerubbabel's (Mr. Armstrong's) hands would *finish* the temple. No one else is mentioned as coming to finish off the Zerubbabel work after his death. This scripture is emphasizing the fact that Mr. Armstrong was the one to FINISH the spiritual temple. The brethren are the spiritual temple (1 Cor 3:16-17; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21 etc). Zerubba-

other scriptures describing another work proclaiming the Gospel after Mr. Armstrong? The Two Witnesses will accomplish a type of this as Rev. 10:11 indicates. But all in all the Two Witnesses contribute very little to the Spiritual Temple! During their ministry many Firstfruits await the resurrection in their graves and the majority of the Church, the Woman, is in the place of safety. Those Laodiceans and other begotten brethren of the scattered churches caught in the Great Tribulation must give their lives to qualify for the Kingdom (Rev. 12:11) and can only receive encouragement from the Two Witnesses, thus Matt. 24:14 doesn't really apply.

The *angel flying through the midst of heaven* (Rev. 14:6) is in the time period where the resurrection has already taken place and the Firstfruits are in heaven with Christ. However, at the “end” of the angel's proclamation would that be fulfilling Matt. 24:14? The “end” here would not be rendered *telos* (5056) but *suntelei* (4930)—everything of man under Satan's influence is coming to a complete end. The 144,000 Israelites of rev. 7 are products of the Two Witnesses ministry but they are not a part of the Spiritual Temple—they are the first citizens of the World Tomorrow. The entire earth will be under the sway of Satan

and his Beast system for 42 months. During that time does the Bible say “...the Gospel will be preached for a witness unto all...”



*Do you not know that you are a temple of God
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1 Cor. 3:16

bel's hands FINISHED that spiritual temple!

Consider this: Mr. Armstrong most certainly fulfilled Matthew 24:14, but do we see a duality in any

Continued on page 15.

Satan will be destroyed Spirits Can Die!

By John Durrad

Life is the greatest gift God can give us! All life forms we see on this earth are God's creation but they are finite. God did not create the physical world we live in to be everlasting. The physical has a "shelf life" according to God's overall majestic plan for mankind. The wondrous beauty of God's Plan is that human beings, baptized and begotten with the spirit of God, may receive everlasting life.

Being granted eternal life has conditions. Every human that desires eternity must first repent, change, be baptized, and continue in obedience to God's Laws for the rest of his life. In a resurrection, these individuals will receive this tremendous promise of God – Eternal Life!

“Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

God Is Immortal

Those in God's Church who are alive on a future Day of Pentecost when Jesus Christ comes in the clouds will be changed and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (1 Cor. 15:52). This word “incor-

ruptible” means, “not subject to decay, immortal”. The meaning of “immortality” means “endless life and no longer subject to death”.

God is immortal and has endless life; Jesus Christ is immortal. Till recently, we believed that angels and even demons are immortal, and not subject to death. In his book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Herbert Armstrong wrote this:

“The Great God through the Word first designed and created these SPIRIT BEINGS –angels, each individually created – millions or perhaps even billions of them! Angels are actual personal spirit beings, each having a mind of greater capacity and ability than human minds, capable of attitudes purposes and intentions.... They are composed wholly of spirit. They were given self-containing life – life inherent –immortality (p. 60 hardback version).

More recently, Mr Gerald Flurry wrote the following about Lucifer in his booklet entitled *From the Beginning*:

“What an exalted office Lucifer had. But he wanted more. Lucifer became so arrogant that he – the created – tried to overthrow the Creator! He was on God's “holy mountain”. Then he fell off – and what a hopeless fall it was. He now faces only the blackness of darkness

forever (pg. 40).

Mr Armstrong taught, and Mr Flurry continues to teach, that spirit beings are immortal – that they cannot die. The following scripture appears to back-up this past understanding:

“Jesus replied, The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection” (Luke 20:34-36 NIV translation).

The above scripture tells us that human beings who are resurrected and changed from flesh to spirit will never die. From the point of the resurrection they will be eternal and like angels in that they are also eternal spirit beings.

Many, if not most, of the people in the churches of god today believe that spirit beings cannot die. This belief, as we have seen, goes back to the days when Mr Armstrong mistakenly held and taught this belief. We do not blame Mr Armstrong for this because certain understanding was simply not revealed to him at that time. However, this erroneous belief is so deeply rooted in the minds of so many members that the consideration that spirits

can die never enters their mind.

Let us, with an open mind, consider some BIBLICAL facts on this subject.

God the Father and Jesus Christ are spirit beings and have inhabited eternity. However, because of their love for us, Christ divested Himself of His divinity and was made man (Heb 2:9). He also DIED for us (Rom. 5:8)! Consider this: If God had not raised Christ from the dead, Jesus Christ would still be dead! This is proof positive that spirits can die!

Can Spirits Die?

Interestingly, Romans 6:23 tells us: "For the wages of sin is death". Of course, God's Law is universal and applies to all. Consider further: If a spirit being broke the law, wouldn't it come under the death penalty just as a human would?

Let us, at this point, pose the question: 'can spirit beings die?' Perhaps this question might be better understood if we stated it this way: 'Can a spirit being be put to death?'

As we begin to answer this question, we need to remember some important facts:

The Eternal Christ was able to give up His Life (Rom. 5:8)

Angels have appeared as physical men, even having partaken of meals with ordinary men (Gen 18:1-8, 16-22, 19:1-13).

Referring to the above mentioned

scriptures, Mr Robert Ardis explains the following in his book entitled *Set Apart by Truth*:

“Isn't it OBVIOUS by these plain scriptures that God and angels can turn themselves into MATERIAL FLESH and BONE? Isn't it also very POSSIBLE for God to turn sinful ANGELS into material flesh and have them destroyed?

Luke 20:36 is NOT a contradiction! The Bible

is Truth, and we of God's Faithful Church are SET APART BY TRUTH! Let Mark 12:24-26, a parallel account of Luke 20:36 explain:

“And Jesus answering said unto them, do ye not therefore err, because you know not the scriptures, neither the POWER of God? For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are they given in marriage: but are as the ANGELS WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN.”

The righteous angels in Heaven have not sinned and they will NOT die. They, like members of the GOD-FAMILY, will LIVE forever. The wicked angels, including the chief demon, Satan, have SINNED and will DIE! The wages of sin is DEATH – PERIOD!”

Ezekiel 28:16 confirms that Satan and his demons will be *destroyed*: “I

will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.” Surely it must be obvious that our preconceived ideas were false and spirit beings can die! Of course two thirds of the angelic host have never sinned, are not under the death penalty, and have eternal life. Having chosen right from wrong, the resurrected Firstfruits and those humans given eternal life at the second resurrection will never die – they will be God! But what about the sinning angels, the demons, and Satan? Can these spirit beings be put to death?

We, in the Church of God's Faithful, have been given much amazing New Truth on this subject. The understanding that spirits can die may have come as a shock to you, but it is an undisputed fact attested to by scripture. Satan and his demons have known that they will die because of their sin, they know the scriptures and their fate, but this is something they have successfully hidden from God's people – until now!

“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, (the unclean spirit cried out to Jesus) Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do

with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know who you art, the Holy One of God (Mark 1:23-24).
If a spirit being broke the law, wouldn't it come under the death penalty just as a human would (Rom. 6:23)?

with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know who you art, the Holy One of God (Mark 1:23-24).

This demon was concerned that Christ had come to destroy him there and then. He knew it was possible!

Notice John 3:15: “That whosoever

believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life". The word 'perish' in this scripture could be rendered 'destroy'. Interestingly, 'perish' (or destroy) is contrasted with 'eternal life'. Those obedient to God will not perish, or be destroyed, but will obtain eternal life. By contrast, all unrepentant sinners will be destroyed forever! Notice this astounding scripture in the book of Ezekiel:

"I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth" (Ezek. 28:18)

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; (trade); therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be anymore" (Ezek. 28:17-19).

Satan's Fate

Satan, this great being created as a light bringer decided, with incredible vanity, that he was greater than the One who created him. By attacking God with the desire to sit on the Almighty's Throne, he and his demon cohorts seared their minds to the point of no return. They committed the unpardonable

sin, no longer willing or able to repent. This sealed their fate forever: they will die and be brought to ashes (Ezek. 28:18)!

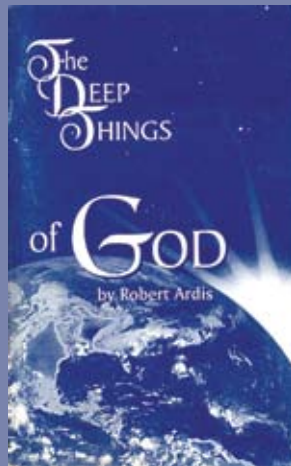
That fate, eternal death, will come. Before that occurs, Satan and his demons will be cast into the bottomless pit (or abyss) for the duration of the millennium where they will be totally restrained. Then, through the 1000 year age of the Last Great Day spent in the mental torment of the lake of fire (Ezek. 28:12-19).

Here they will be an example to all mankind fulfilling the wages of sin. People from all over the earth will be compelled to view these evil beings in their wretched state. They will see them as they are confined to hell, gehenna fire, for the duration of the Last Great Day. Satan and his demons will be an example of terror to all who should behold

them. They will be tormented and humiliated.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms" (Isa 14:12-16).

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The Deep Things of God

Have you ever wondered about Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium? These multitudes from the four quarters of the earth will be deceived by Satan's power after living their entire lives during the 1000-year reign of Christ. How could they be deceived into attacking the headquarters of the only God they had ever known? Are these people, described in such enormous numbers, lost forever? Does this part of God's Plan fail? Of course not! God's Plan is perfect.

What is the ultimate fate of Satan and the demons? You might think Spirits cannot die or be killed.

But, the Creator of all the angelic beings died! Jesus Christ was KILLED and would still be dead if the Father had not raised Him up. If God can die, can He not put a rebellious demon to death? What will the Lake of Fire be created for? When will it begin to burn? Why do we believe there will be three resurrections, while the Bible mentions ONLY two? And how long is the period of the Last Great Day? All of these questions concerning these *Deep Things of God* are thoroughly explained by the Word of God as revealed in our booklet. Request your own free copy.

The World AND The Church Have Been Deceived!



Following Eve's deception by Satan, and Adam's yielding to obey the voice of his wife instead of the voice of God, sin entered the world and humanity became enslaved to sin. Satan began to successfully deceive the World:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Rom. 5:12).

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Rom. 6:16).

ans 4:4 are two scriptures which clearly demonstrate the dire bondage we were in.

We should remember and be thankful, however, that through God's mercy and grace, He rescued us:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved (Eph. 2:4-5).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

We Believed and Repented

Before the world began, God predestined us to be called according to His purpose and grace (Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Tim. 1:9). He “made known unto us the mystery of His will... That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ” (Eph. 1:9, 12). We, as God's firstfruits, are very important players in His Great Plan. This should emphasize the great importance and duty to again understand and accept the grave responsibility we have been given. Let us remember that we had *believed* the gospel of the Kingdom of God that was proclaimed in all the world, and we had also *repented* before we “were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Eph. 1:13-14).

The Great Rebellion

With the death of the end-time Elijah also came “the end” (Strong's #5056: conclusion of an act) of the preaching of the gospel to the

What NOW?

by Daniel Frendo

On the fifth day of the recreation of the earth, God created different kinds of fish, birds, cattle, reptiles and wildlife of every kind, *each to reproduce after their kind*. On the sixth day of that most eventful week, He created man *after the God-kind*. God then blessed Adam and Eve and instructed them to reproduce. He also gave them dominion over all the earth (Gen 1:26-28).

As scripture emphasizes, every person who has ever lived, except Christ, is in bondage to sin unto death (Rom. 6:23). We must realize that, even though we are now begotten sons of God, *this* is describing *our* past. We were also children of Satan through our own sins (John 8:44). As we allowed Satan to blind our minds through lies and deception, we were enemies of God. Romans 8:7 and 2 Corinthi-

World (Matt. 24:14). Once Herbert W. Armstrong was “taken out of the way”, the prophesied great rebellion took place among God’s begotten children. The “mystery of iniquity”, which had lain dormant for some seven years, came to the fore (2 Thess. 2:7, 3). This is what led the Pastor General of the Church of God’s Faithful, Robert Ardis, to write:

“ Never in the history of God’s great plan has there been a more dangerous time for those who have been called and chosen as first-fruits, as it is today. God’s end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong, died in 1986 after having completed his commission of proclaiming the true gospel to the world as a witness to all nations. Each of us was called through the ministry of that servant of Christ—either directly or indirectly! As that monumental task was completed, the Spiritual Temple was finished—all of the *lively stones* had been called and set in the position designed for them” (*The Midnight Cry* booklet, pg. 9).

Mr. Ardis continues:

“ God’s Church, the called and chosen of the *Spiritual Temple*, also symbolically pictured as *the woman*, has been viciously attacked since 1986 by the master of deceit. Let me repeat; these are extremely dangerous spiritual times in which we, the begotten children of God, are living. Satan has deceived the world—and God’s Church! (*The Midnight Cry* booklet, pg. 10).

In the same way that ancient Israel rejected the Lord their God as King and Ruler, desirous of fol-

lowing the ways of the idolatrous nations around them (1 Sam. 8:5-8), so do God’s called-out ones in our time today. Evidently, many of us did not *love* the truth enough to refute “the lie” that was being promulgated by the “man of sin” and “son of perdition” leading the great falling away from the truth of God’s precious restored gospel (2 Thess. 2:10-11). God’s begotten children became lost sheep: “their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place” (Jer. 50:6).

Immediately after Herbert Armstrong’s death, Satan deceitfully and viciously attacked the Spiritual Temple. It soon became evident that the majority of God’s ministers became *hirelings* who, as they saw the wolf coming, left the sheep and fled the truth preferring to safeguard their paycheck. The hireling ministry allowed the sheep to be scattered (John 10:9). The result has been that the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) split and splintered into over 300 churches and groups. It should be evident that all of these disagreeing churches cannot all be God’s Church (1 Cor. 1:10).

The Solution

Following Herbert Armstrong’s death, the Church of God underwent four years of trial and test (Luke 13:6-9). After this, it became evident that God ignited the seventh Candlestick – the Laodicean

Church – misnamed the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) under the leadership of Gerald Flurry. Mr. Flurry began to warn the betrayed brethren of the apostasy occurring in the WCG. You may read this amazing recent history of God’s Church by requesting our booklets *The Midnight Cry* and *The Apostasy*. True to the prophecy recorded in Rev. 3:14-22, the PCG membership gradually degenerated to the point of becoming spiritually “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”. In retrospect, it is apparent that at the same time that the Laodicea Candlestick was ignited, the Philadelphia Candlestick was passed to John Amos, a minister who had accompanied Mr. Flurry to Pasadena before they were both disfellowshipped by Joseph Tkach Jr. When Mr. Amos died in 1993, the Philadelphia Candlestick was subsequently passed on to Robert Ardis. The abundance of revelation – NEW TRUTH – that Christ has given the Church of God’s Faithful since its incorporation in Sep-

**The solution is to
prove, accept and
love God’s truth...
and then follow
Jesus Christ!**

tember 1997 is truly amazing. Please request our booklet *Set Apart by Truth*. As you prove the veracity of more than seventy new truths with your Bible,

remember the Apostle Peter’s exhortation to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge (truth) of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).

Here’s what the apostle John was inspired to write to the Church of Philadelphia – the faithful Church – in Rev. 3:8: “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and

hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Jesus Christ is the Open Door (John 10:7-8). He is the Head of the Church – His One Body – and the Revelator of Truth. The solution is to *prove, accept and love* God’s truth... **and then follow Jesus Christ!** ❖

Continued from page 12:

Satan will be reduced from his power, beauty, and splendour and brought to ashes for all to see. However, the Last Great Day will finally come to an end. Satan and his demons, just like all the unrepentant humans who have perished forever in the flames of the Lake of Fire, will come to their end. Satan and his demons are immortal creatures, but will become mortal. They will be changed from spirit to flesh, changed into combustible material, flesh and bone, and will be devoured by the flames of the Lake of Fire. That is the fate of Satan and his demons. Spirit beings can die!

Our human life today is a physical, chemical, temporal existence. We are kept alive by air, food, and water and the grace of God. When God’s people are changed from flesh to spirit, because of growing in grace and knowledge and holding fast to truth, we will by the promise of God live forever. Those who do not seek the Kingdom will be consigned to the grave, (death), forever!

God’s Kingdom will be totally united, with no dissention, disagreement or disharmony. All will conform to God’s Way because they have chosen that way and know it works. Anyone who would have the audacity to consider overthrowing God has no place in God’s Government. That’s why Satan and his demons must, and will, die.

Spirits can die! ❖

Continued from page 9.

nations and then the *end* will come?” No! Rev. 14:6-7 copied below states that the Gospel will be proclaimed and *judgment* is coming—but it does not say, and the *end* (5056, te-los) shall *come*.

“**And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters** (Rev. 14:6-7).

As is so clearly brought out in chapter two of the book *Set Apart by Truth*, it explains that either directly or indirectly, *each one of us*, AS THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE, were called by God through the ministry of Mr. Armstrong. Again, Mr. Armstrong **COMPLETED** that temple. He himself has gone on record as having said so (Hear Mr. Armstrong’s sermon of February 1981 or write us for a transcript). That means that no one else would be called into the Church (or the spiritual temple) from that point on EXCEPT for a few from the “streets and the lanes of the city” and the “highways and the hedges” to replace those that have thrown away their crowns (Luke 14:21-23). Scripture clearly shows that the effort of the Laodicean PCG and the “synagogue of Satan” to preach the gospel to the World again, is a futile endeavor! This is **FANTASTIC** new truth that is *only* understood by God’s people—those in the Church of God’s Faithful!

The Gospel Preached – What Next?

If the gospel was preached by the time of Mr. Armstrong death—what was left for the Church to do? Mr. Armstrong wrote in *several* letters just before he died that the **Gospel had been preached to the world**. His last instructions to Mr. Joseph Tkach his successor, was this, “I have reached world leaders; *your job is to get the Church ready!*” (*Philadelphia Trumpet* January 1994). This was Mr. Tkach’s responsibility and he failed to do it! Logically, it would have then been up to Mr. Flurry to take on that commission in December 1989 as God began to use him to raise up His seventh Church, Laodicea. At that time, Mr. Flurry clearly understood this commission. However, in time, vision of that commission began to get blurred till it was eventually lost. Let us take a look at how the Laodicea Church of God’s commission has subtly changed over the years:

“1989-1997 - The commission of the PCG was *“to warn God’s people about their dangerous rebellion against God, His truth and His Work”* (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, Personal, July 1993)

“1997 - The first seven years of our Work were concentrated primarily on warning God’s own Laodicean Church’s...*Now, that emphasis has shifted to the whole world and only secondarily to God’s Laodiceans.*” [Comment: Remember Mr. Flurry labels everyone from the WCG and not in the PCG as Laodiceans not admitting that the PCG IS the Laodicean Church.] (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, Personal, February 1997)



2008 - First, we are to *proclaim to the world as a witness the good news of the coming Kingdom of God...* (www.pcog.org/ourmission August 2008)

When God lit the Laodicean candlestick in 1989, the PCG understood its commission: *to warn God's Church and get it ready!* By 1997, one can notice a major shift in commission. The emphasis of the work shifted from warning God's people to warning the whole world with an illegal re-distribution effort of Mr.

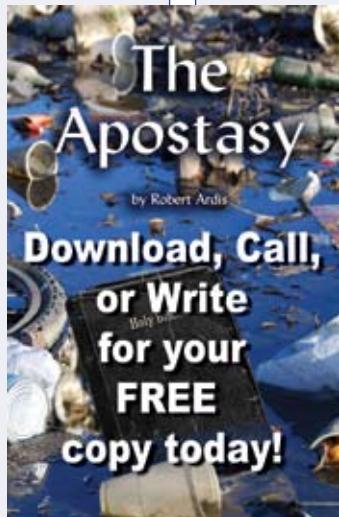
Armstrong's book 'Mystery of the Ages'. Irrespective of what is said in Matthew 24:14 and Zechariah 4:9, the PCG began changing course and defiantly began taking the gospel message to the world once again, while warning the 'Laodiceans' (getting the Church ready) was only secondary – an after thought. By

2008, the PCG makes no provision in its mission statement to help those that have wandered off, or those that have been driven away from God's true flock. Shockingly, the PCG's primary mission is to once again preach the gospel to the world— a work which even the PCG had once understood to have already been completed through the administration of the end-time Elijah!

Does this 'new' commission insinuate that the PCG doesn't believe Mr. Armstrong completed his office or commission after all? What about what was written in the January 1994 *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine, that Mr. Armstrong had *preached* the gospel? Have the

Laodiceans lost sight of that? How about Matthew 24:14 and Zechariah 4:9 demonstrating that Mr. Armstrong completed his commission himself?

Thankfully, God's Philadelphia candlestick still glows brightly in the **inner court** through His loyal remnant, the Church of God's Faithful. Christ will give us great growth in the near future to grow from the "remnant" into the "Woman". In the meantime the CGF will patiently and persistently carry on with the God given commission



of warning the Laodiceans by knocking on their door (Rev 3:20), and welcoming as many as possible of the synagogue of Satan that Christ will give to us as part of His One True Church. Rev. 12:17 warns that although you may keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, if you are not apart of the True Church (the

Woman) you will face the wrath of Satan and the Great Tribulation.

Thus we have a great work to do that as of now is not appreciated, but despised. However, the CGF will continue to knock on Laodicea's door and welcome our brethren of the synagogue of Satan as Christ brings them to our open arms. We grow in love! We lay down our lives for our brethren even though they appear today as our enemies. We do as Christ tells us: "But I say unto you, *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you...*" This is another opportunity to grow up into Christ in all things—grow in love! ❖

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