



The Midnight Cry

May 2010, Volume 2, Number 4

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

How Do You Identify the



Church Of God?

Joh 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.



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From the Editor ...



Hey! What's going on? That is a very common question being asked today from all walks of society. On TV and in our newspapers, people are concerned and wondering about all of the unusual events that are happening every week or even every day.

An extremely cold winter in the northern hemisphere produced record snowfalls, as was reported in many areas, and has caused the threat of serious flooding. Rain, rain and more rain poured down in the Northeastern United States. Super-powerful earthquakes have occurred one after another with devastating death and destruction. And the latest natural catastrophe is the eruption of the volcano in Iceland. That phenomenon has melted an enormous amount of the glacier above the volcano and sent millions of tons of toxic gases and gritty ash into the atmosphere. The cloud of ash and gases then drifted over much of Europe, grounding most air travel, resulting in stranded passengers and millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Add to these disasters the plagues of grasshoppers that are attacking areas of the United States and Australia. People are still deeply concerned over the reports of global warming and the threat of coastal inundation, whether true or not. And on top of everything else is the world economy, the disintegration of the family, unemployment, increasing drug trafficking and related crimes, fear of misguided world leaders and their quest for nuclear weapons, wars, famines in many areas of the world, and horrible diseases that stalk the earth.

This is the world we live in! People should be concerned.

Jesus Christ, in His Olivet prophecy, warned about the very things that are happening today.



And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows (Matt. 24:4-8).

The unpleasant situations that are happening today are only "the beginning of sorrows"! The Great Tribulation—the most horrendous time in all of man's history—looms right over the horizon. The entire world has been deceived and led astray by Satan the devil

Continued on page 12.

THE LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN: What does eating of this bread mean to us?

By Andy Yparraguirre

Year after year, God's people commemorate Passover, the most solemn ceremony of all of God's feasts that are commanded to be observed. Moses echoed the following words from the Lord:

“These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover” (Lev. 23:4-5).

On this occasion, baptized mem-

bers of God's church partake in eating the bread, which represents the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in drinking the wine, which symbolizes His blood (Mark 14:22-24). The Passover must be observed properly, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:19). In I Corinthians 11:28, the apostle Paul instructed God's people to:

“...let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

Why? Is it not enough that, through the keeping of the Passover, we remember the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His body and shed His blood for us? Continuing with Paul's instruction, he said,

“...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 (verses 29-30).

We of the CGF, as Christians, have taken these admonitions very seriously and have striven to partake of the Passover this year as instructed. We have seriously tried to correct any mistaken beliefs that had been previously taught in our efforts to discern the Lord's body correctly. We most certainly wanted to properly “eat of that bread” and “drink of that cup” as intended. We did not want to bring condemnation upon ourselves, but to partake of this solemn ceremony as Christ intends for us to do.

The Passover must be observed properly, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:19).

The Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread of 2010 have come and gone. Now, counting down to the wonderful Feast of Pentecost is the perfect opportunity for us to reexamine our spiritual lives, making sure we have done as instructed and avoid any condemnation. Looking forward to the fruit of Christ living His life within us and in faith expecting the physical healings many of God's people need.

The New Testament Passover Instituted

Some, during the apostolic period of the Church, assumed that they could eat and drink the Passover bread and wine just like ordinary food or drink, to satisfy one's hunger. Paul's admonition was directed primarily to those who had this attitude in the church. He wrote,

“Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not

to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating everyone taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry and another is drunken.

What! Have you not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise

ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise ye not. For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread: And when he had given thanks, he break it and said, Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come (1 Cor. 11:17-26).

God's people are commanded to gather together during Passover, not to eat the Lord's Supper, but to commemorate the sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ as a ransom for the penalty of man's sin. The so-called "Lord's Supper" was actually the last Passover celebration Jesus Christ had with His disciples before He was to suffer at the hands of His captors and be killed. The roast lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread were a full meal and it was as com-

manded in the Old Testament for observing the Passover. Jesus Christ did not command this to be continued as a full meal or observed as the "Lord's Supper". He gave the New Testament instructions and by His example, He demonstrated the observance of the Passover in its new form. Thus, year after year, we follow His example in the foot

were not used as Passover symbols. The Israelites of old used a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year, taken out from the sheep or from the goats (Ex. 12:5). The Israelites were instructed to take from their household a lamb on the 10th day of Nissan, and then kill it between the evenings, at dusk, as the 14th day began. They

were instructed to smear the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their houses, wherein they ate the roasted flesh of the lamb, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Ex. 1:1-8). During the night of the 14th, when the Lord smote the firstborn of the Egyptians, He passed over and did not allow the destroyer to enter the households with the smeared blood, thus sparing their firstborn (Ex. 12:21-23). God ordained the Passover to be observed by the Israelites and their sons forever (verse 24).

In 1 Corinthians 5:7 we read that the lamb that was killed in each household on Passover night represented the Lord Jesus Christ as the Passover Lamb. But Jesus Christ changed the symbols during the last Passover ceremony that He presided over and observed with His disciples hours before He was to be killed as the true Passover Lamb.



...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 Corinthians 11:29-30).

washing ceremony, and in consuming the unleavened bread and wine that represent His broken body and spilled blood.

The Lord's Passover in the Beginning

In the beginning, bread and wine

From Lamb to Bread and Wine

Hours before He suffered and died Jesus Christ said,

“With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. For I say unto you, I will not anymore eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you (Luke 22:15-20).

God ordained the Passover to be observed by the Israelites and their sons forever (Ex. 12:24)

Jesus Christ knew that his death would end the need for a lamb as a Passover sacrifice because He was the fulfillment of that sacrifice. He also knew that His death would pay the death penalty for the sin of mankind. But that was only part of God’s plan of salvation. Another part must also be fulfilled – and that is for Jesus Christ to live in those who believe and whose penalty for sin was paid for by His own death. For this purpose Jesus Christ changed the Passover symbols to bread and wine (Luke 22:19-20), in place of the lamb whose flesh was eaten (verses 15-

16) on Passover night.

Why Should We Eat the Living Bread?

Jesus said:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever. And the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

Further, he said:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have

no life in you (verse 53).

Man’s physical life will end sooner or later because this life is only temporary. The only way for man to gain eternal life is by the indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit (John 6:63; Rom. 8:11).

In John 14:6, Jesus Christ said that He is “the way, the truth, and the life” and that no man can come unto the Father but through Him. He also said:

“Moses gave you not that bread from heaven:

but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven

and giveth life unto the world (John 6:32-33).

Further Jesus Christ said:

“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me (John 6:54-57).

For us to obtain eternal life, we must not only believe that Jesus Christ was the Passover lamb who died for our sins and the sins of mankind, but also that Christ IS the LIVING BREAD that one must eat in order for His Spirit to dwell within us.

As we head for the wonderful Day or FEAST of Pentecost, let’s meditate on this wonderful plan which these two magnificent, brilliant and glorious God Beings have designed. Let us consider the Godly sacrifice that both subjected themselves to

so that we may fully obtain eternal life. Consider how deeply we have discerned the Lord’s body, and realize, each and every day, that Jesus Christ Himself is dwelling within us through His Holy

Spirit until the Day of Pentecost is fulfilled and we are changed from this present physical existence into eternal life. ❖

On Which Night Did the LORD Pass Over the Houses Under the Lamb's Blood?

by Gerry Ardis

There are some former members of the Church of God's Faithful (CGF) who are now teaching that the Passover should be observed between the evenings of the 14th and the 15th of the first month of the Hebrew calendar, Abib or Nisan. This group is following the tradition of the Jewish scribes and Pharisees, and not the commandments of the Holy Bible. The Worldwide Church of God (WCG), under the leadership of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, correctly taught us to commemorate the Passover between the evenings of the 13th and 14th of Nisan.

Most of the churches that have come out of the WCG still keep the Passover at the correct time. But recently, there is a small group stating that we should change from the instructions of the Word of God and follow the example of the Jews. This "scholarly" group wants us to believe that the meaning of between the evenings has a different meaning than what we have been taught. But let us get away from the scholarly approach and look at the Bible and what it really says.

The important question is: At the original Passover in Egypt, on which night did the LORD "pass over" the houses which were under the lamb's blood? To answer this question, let us get the answers to some other pertinent questions.

1. When is the Passover according to the Bible and God's calendar?

Answer: Num. 28:16: "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD."

2. Why is the 14th day of the first month called Passover?

Answer: Ex. 12:3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13: "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house... And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night,

roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it...And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

3. At what time of night did the LORD "pass over" Egypt?

Answer: Ex. 12:29: "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle."

4. Did the LORD "pass over" on the 14th or on the 15th of Nisan?

Answer: Lev. 23:5: "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover." God would not have called the 14th the Passover if He had "passed over" on the 15th!

5. Are we to keep the Passover today?

Answer: Ex. 12:14: "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever."

The group that want to observe the Passover between the evenings of the 14th and the 15th have not thought it through. If they had been living when the Passover was first instituted by God they would have applied the blood a day late and their first born would have died!

Today we must keep the Passover at the exact time that God prescribes. Those who have turned away from this truth will observe this sacred ceremony in an "unworthy" manner and bring serious judgment upon themselves.

This year God's Passover commenced at sundown on March 28, 2010.

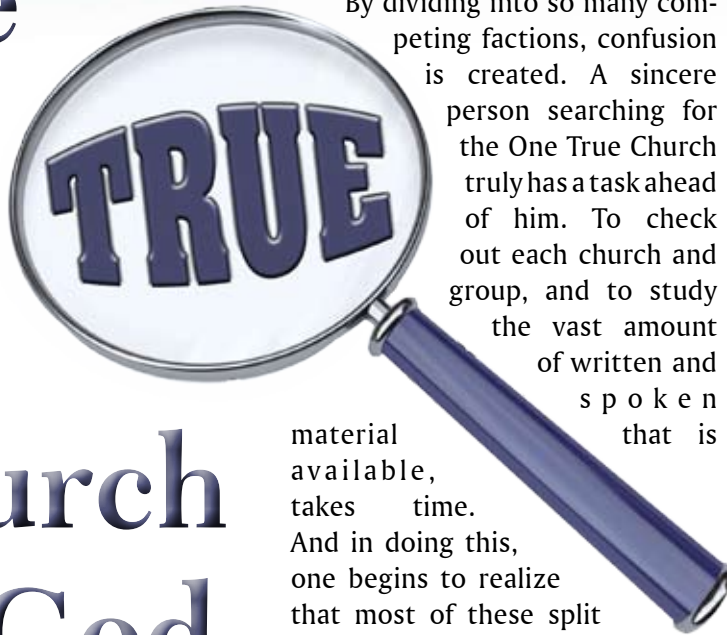
How to Identify The Church Of God

By Robert Ardis

A very ominous sounding scripture that has certainly been fulfilled is Rev. 12:9. It shouts aloud to anyone who reads it:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...”

The world is filled with all kinds of religions: major religions with millions of members and also very tiny groups of sincere people, all believing they are the true faith. Yes! Satan has deceived the entire world! And one of his greatest means of deception is religious confusion.



In the past 25 years the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), which we had previously proven by the Word of God to be THE True Church, has been viciously attacked by Satan, and has fragmented into hundreds of different churches and groups. That is another tactic of the devil: divide and conquer!

By dividing into so many competing factions, confusion is created. A sincere person searching for the One True Church truly has a task ahead of him. To check out each church and group, and to study the vast amount of written and spoken material available, takes time. And in doing this, one begins to realize that most of these split and splintered divisions are teaching their own “warmed over” version of what was taught a quarter century ago by the end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. Then, the realization that these factions are too proud and contentious to come together as one body of believers is another serious obstacle in the search for the True Church.

“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.”

I Cor. 1:10 has NOT been followed, and consequently, there is much confusion.

Christ Built His One True Church

Yet, despite all of the confusion that Satan and the competing churches have created, Jesus Christ said He would build His Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). Our Lord also stated in the last clause of John 17:11:

“...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”

Notice, Jesus asks to:

1. Keep through your own name.
2. That they may be one [in one accord, unity, harmony].

It is seen in the New Testament that the proper name for the True Church should be “Church of God”—or a variation of that title. There are seven verses in the New Testament that contain the title “Church of God”; one verse says “Churches of God”; one uses “Church of the Living God”; three verses declare “Church of God in Thessalonica in God and Christ”; one verse states “Churches in Judea in Christ”; and one verse uses “Church of the First-born”. Ephesians 5:23 and Col. 1:18 very clearly inform us that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church—and I Cor. 11:3 states that God is the Head of Christ!

There are dozens and perhaps a hundred or more churches bearing the name “Church of God” or a variation of that title; however, Christ said he would build His Church—not churches. Therefore, only ONE of the many churches out there belongs to Christ! All the others are

NOT His—they belong to someone else! And Christ identifies who they belong to—He calls them “the synagogue(s) of Satan” (Rev. 3:9). These churches are composed of begotten brethren of God, many of them claiming they are the “churches of God.” But the Bible shows that they are the “churches of god”—synagogues of Satan!

The Identifying Sign

So, how can a sincere person find the ONE TRUE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST? What characteristic must be apparent in the TRUE CHURCH that will set it apart from all the other splits and splinters of the former Worldwide Church of God?

Fifty-plus years ago, the WCG could be proven to be the TRUE CHURCH in a very unique way! The WCG was set apart from the churches of the world by TRUTH—the NEW TRUTH of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which was restored by the servant of Christ, Herbert Armstrong. That wonderful NEW TRUTH was revealed to Mr. Armstrong, and it was proclaimed to the world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14)! That NEW TRUTH had been right there all the time in the Word of God, but it could not be understood until the exact moment during the end-time, when God would have it restored.

After Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986, the WCG abandoned the mar-

velous TRUTH it once had, and is no longer the true Church of God. The Worldwide Church of God that had God’s precious truth no longer exists. As a test for His people,

The WCG was set apart from the churches of the world by TRUTH—the NEW TRUTH of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which was restored by the servant of Christ, Herbert Armstrong.

God allowed Satan to attack and nearly destroy the Church, as prophesied in Rev. 12:13. Today, the split and splintered daughter churches are spiritually asleep, mired in a 1986 time warp. They are not growing in any NEW TRUTH (that I am aware

of), as II Peter 3:18 admonishes us to do:

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Think of what that verse means. What is the knowledge of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ IS the Living Word of God! The Bible IS the Written Word of God! When you grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ—you grow in the knowledge of the Word of God! You grow in BIBLE KNOWLEDGE—NEW UNDERSTANDING! You grow in NEW TRUTH! And NEW TRUTH identifies where the ONE TRUE CHURCH is located—that is where CHRIST will be.

We were given the name “Church of God’s Faithful” in 1997! The name implies that we, the people, belong to God and are organized as a faithful church-body. The name also means we are the Church of God’s Faithful Witness—

Jesus Christ (See Rev. 1:5)—or the Church of Jesus Christ. And the Living Word of God has revealed New Truth after New Truth to His Faithful Church.

Check us out! See for yourself the New Truth we have. Our website is a fountain of spiritual TRUTH available for your study—for you to prove from your Bible.

The ONE TRUE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST is totally distinct from all of the other churches by the identifying seal of NEW TRUTH!

Our Lord and Savior asked God our Father the following in John 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” “Sanctify” means “set apart.” The Church of God’s Faithful is set apart by TRUTH—and that is HOW you identify the TRUE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST! ❖

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Will You Be Wise?

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Rev. 3: 7-12 &
Matt. 25: 1-13

The Midnight



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Dear Fellow Servants of Christ,

This year's Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread have come and gone, and I sincerely hope they were very meaningful and inspiring to you. All of us want to serve God in deep sincerity and truth. However, by a careful look at the Holy Scriptures, it becomes apparent that the Church of God has, for many years, taught a glaring error in regard to Passover!

Observe this plain Scripture: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the BLOOD of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin" (I Jn. 1:7).

Notice, this is just one of many Scriptures that inform us of the fact that ALL sin is forgiven through the BLOOD of Jesus Christ! But that is NOT what is expounded at Passover, is it?

Haven't you believed—and as a minister, taught—that at Passover, when we partake of the unleavened bread representing the BODY of Christ, our PHYSICAL SINS are forgiven—and as we drink the wine, symbolic of His BLOOD, our SPIRITUAL SINS are forgiven. Yet the plain Scripture above states that ALL sin is forgiven through Christ's spilled BLOOD—PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL SINS. This is a serious doctrinal error, a mistaken belief that has been proclaimed in the Church for over fifty years!

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 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 (I Cor. 11:26-30).

Ask yourself this question: Wouldn't the teaching of a mistaken belief at Passover be tantamount to partaking of this solemn ceremony in an "unworthy" manner? Have we not discerned the Lord's BODY correctly for all of these many years? Is this WHY many are weak and sickly among us and many have died?

Remember also—the wages of SIN is DEATH, not scourging (Rom.6:23)! After Jesus was horribly scourged, I Peter 2:24 shows that our SINS were NOT forgiven—He bore them to the "stake". Again, I John 1:7 tells us: "...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin!" See also Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:18-19; and Rev. 1:5.

Since ALL sin is forgiven by Christ's shed BLOOD (His life), what did the scourging and brutalizing of His BODY represent? The answer to that question has not been stressed at Passover as it certainly should be! Hebrews 10:19-20 gives the clear Bible answer in regard to His BODY: "Therefore, brothers, having boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by a new and

living way which He has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh..."(MKJV).

Notice the vital Scriptural statement in regard to "discerning the Lord's BODY"! Jesus' ripped and torn BODY symbolizes the VEIL in the Temple, which was ripped open from top to bottom the instant Christ died—providing ACCESS to God Almighty, "who forgives ALL of our SINS and heals ALL of our diseases" (Psa. 103:3)!

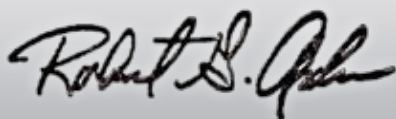
The small piece of unleavened bread we eat during the Passover service symbolizes Jesus' BODY, which was horribly beaten, ripped and torn—not for the forgiveness of PHYSICAL SIN, but to represent the VEIL in the Holy of Holies that opens the way to God our Father. Hebrews 10:19-20 is fundamental Biblical TRUTH that has been overlooked all this time, but should be greatly emphasized at Passover.

Jesus, as our Lord and Savior, died for the sins of the world. He took upon Himself the PENALTY for our sins. His BLOOD forgives ALL sins and His ripped and torn BODY provides the way to God Almighty. Shouldn't this TRUTH be declared instead of the obvious error that has been preached for so long?

If the mistaken doctrine is admitted and corrected, then, perhaps, many healings will be seen in the Church, as we rightly discern the BODY of Jesus Christ!

I have tried to present this as briefly as possible and, hopefully, have allowed the Scriptures to show that correction is needed concerning this vital subject. I will be interested in any comments you may have.

With all sincerity, your brother in Christ,



Why Is God Not Fully Healing His Church Today As In The Days Of The Apostles?



Is It Because We Are Not Properly Discerning The Lords 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).

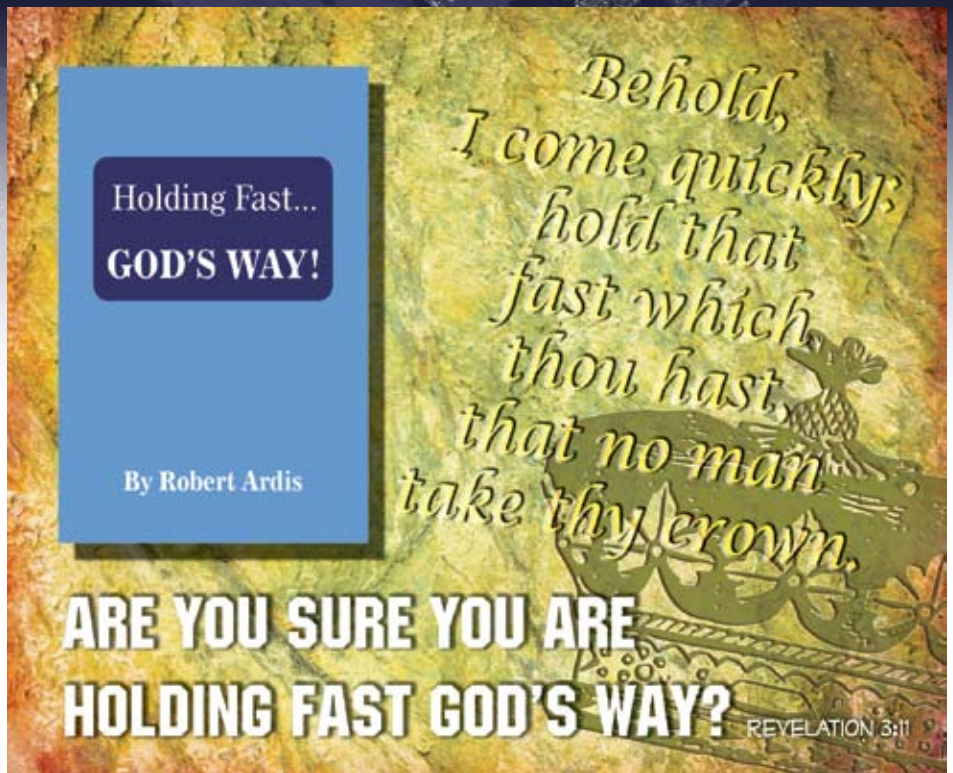
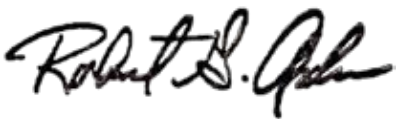
Ask for, or download, the Church of God's Faithful booklet *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*.

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From the Editor

(Rev. 12:9). The True Church of Jesus Christ has been lost from view in all of the religious deception. In this issue of the Midnight Cry, read "How to Identify the True Church of God." And know that God's One True Church is promised peace of mind and protection from all the horrors that are sure to come. That is where you want to be!

Your brother in Christ,



Behold,
I come quickly;
hold that
fast which
thou hast,
that no man
take thy crown.

Holding Fast...
GOD'S WAY!

By Robert Ardis

**ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE
HOLDING FAST GOD'S WAY?** REVELATION 3:11

The Feast of Firstfruits Fast Approches. But Do You Truly Understand the Incredible Meaning of It?

The Feast of Trumpets
OR
The Day of Pentecost...
WHICH?

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This Month's Top Articles from

The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at setapartbytruth.org.

Forecast: Flood risk for third of U.S.

More than a third of the contiguous United States faces a high or above average flood risk this spring, the National Weather Service reported Tuesday.

"As the spring thaw melts the snowpack, saturated and frozen ground in the Midwest will exacerbate the flooding of the flat terrain and feed rising rivers and streams,"

"We are looking at potentially historic flooding in some parts of the country this spring," Jane Lubchenco, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said at a news briefing while presenting the government's spring outlook.

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/...>

Comment: Mankind will continue to get it wrong, whether it be religion, politics, personal relationships and even climate change. Man is simply not able to direct his steps in whatever endeavour he embarks on, because God is left out of the equation.

"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer 10:23

This report warns of extensive flooding this spring throughout the U.S. It is good to be warned, but what can you do when as the report points out, some rivers can rise three feet in a matter of a few minutes?

Man has so much information, so much knowledge available to him, and yet, without the love of God shed abroad in his heart, which requires God's Holy Spirit and obedience to His Laws, he will always fall short in his endeavours.

U.S., U.K. Move Closer to Losing Rating, Moody's Says

March 15 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. and the U.K. have moved "substantially" closer to losing their AAA credit ratings as the cost of servicing their debt rose, according to Moody's Investors Service.

Under the ratings company's so-called baseline scenario, the U.S. will spend more on debt service as a percentage of revenue this year than any other top-rated country except the U.K., and will be the biggest spender from 2011 to 2013, Moody's said today in a report.

"We expect the situation to further deteriorate in terms of the key ratings metrics before they start stabilizing," Cailleteau said. "This story is not going to stop at the end of the year. There is inertia in the deterioration of credit metrics."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/...>

Comment: The corporations of this world make a lot of money by lending money to others, usually with a high interest rate. The US and UK governments are spending 7 percent of its tax revenue, and rising, just to service its debts.

The law of God prohibits rigorous imposing of interest or making severe demands, on a return of a loan without regard to the condition of the borrower.

"In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD." Ezek 22:12

God is even more strict as regarding lending lending money within His Church.

“I thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.”
Ex 22:25

If only people dealt fairly with each other and did not try to always seek an unjust advantage for self, much of the world's financial troubles would not exist. God's tax is 10 per cent. Man's tax runs far higher than that and we all suffer. Greedily trying to extract the best deal for yourself no matter how the other fellow suffers benefits no one in the long run. A good system is to ensure that in any deal there is something in it for everyone involved.

Roubini sees 'significantly rising' risk that European monetary union will rip apart

Economist Nouriel Roubini, the famed Dr. Doom of the global financial crisis, doesn't need much of a push to wax pessimistic. So the news Tuesday that Greece's credit rating had been cut to junk status was like pitching him a softball right down the middle.

At a panel at the Milken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills, Roubini worried that Greece's financial woes -- and more important, the deepening fiscal problems of its European neighbors Portugal and Spain -- could batter global credit markets, disrupt the economic recovery and potentially tear apart the 11-year-old European monetary union.

“The reality is that what has happened in the last few months is the first test of the viability of the European market” and the euro currency, Roubini said, adding that the possibility of the European monetary union coming apart is “significantly rising.”

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/...>

Comment: Not only do individuals have a credit rating in our financially driven world, but countries do also. Credit ratings generally range from AAA as the highest; to D as the absolute lowest, but anything below BB is a “junk” rating.

Spain and Portugal have just had their rating

downgraded and Greece's debt was given a “junk” status. It is estimated that U.K banks have lent to Greece £10 billion. Huge losses are possible in the U.K if Greece is unable to repay the loans. Britain at the moment enjoys an AAA credit rating, but the big worry is that this could be downgraded if Greece fails to pay £7.4 billion by May 19.

“Money” they say, “makes the world go round” The stability of the euro is at stake. However what is more important, money or food? We have nations starving today and no amount of money has been able to make much difference. When there is no food - money fails!

“And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? For the money faileth.” Gen 47:14-15

God blessed the people because of the obedience of His servant Joseph. Now why can't our world leaders put their faith and trust in Almighty God? It's a rhetorical question!

Israel warns against giving Iran too much time

WASHINGTON (AP) - Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak says the world can't afford to wait too long to see if Iran backs down on its nuclear program.

In a news conference with Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday, Barak said he supports the U.S. focus on tougher economic sanctions against Tehran. But he added that only time will tell to what extent sanctions are effective in persuading Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions.

Barak says that if the international community waits too long, Iran could acquire a nuclear weapon that he says would “change the landscape,” and not just of the Middle East.

<http://apnews.myway.com/...>

Comment: The modern nation of Israel is rightly concerned about Iran's nuclear programme and the apparent speed in which it is

forging ahead. The warning is for the U.S and the Western World much of it made up of the 12 tribes of Ancient Israel. Tougher economic sanction will not work but the men of Israel, Ephraim, Manasseh etc should know what will effectively protect them from Iran. In God we trust should still be our watchword, but is it? King David encouraged us to place our trust in the Lord.

“Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob. Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us.” Psa 44:4-7

If God’s model nation Israel cannot put their trust in Him, then who can? The world is left to its own devices - And so is Israel!

Second Coming of Christ Threat to World Peace According to War College Report

In a sixty-one page report that he prepared as a monograph for a thesis at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) and United States General Command and General Staff located at Leavenworth, Kansas, Major Brian L. Stuckert in no uncertain terms has declared that those who believe in “Dispensational Millennialism” (DM), i.e., the literal return of Jesus Christ to this earth to reign on His throne for 1,000 years, to be the enemies of America and totally unsuitable to serve in a leadership capacity in the U.S. military.

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/...>

Comment: Jesus Christ is coming to make war with the evil forces of this world. If it were not for Jesus Christ shortening man’s rule, no flesh would be saved alive on this earth. God pleading with man to obey His voice has not resulted in many converts to His Way. God’s Way is the only way which will work for the good of all, but man will have to be forced to be happy, and the only way to do that is to install the government of God on this earth.

The Bible tells us that Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords to judge and make war. This world is in the grip of Satan and the whole system is to be destroyed. Christ will be coming to make war, but He will not be a threat to world peace. Far from it, when God’s Government is finally installed it will be one of peace and plenty.

“And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit: they shall not plant, and another eat...They shall not labour in vain,...

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.” Isa 65:21-23, 25

True Christians understand all of this, but the problem is that this report classes them as enemies of the state. This being the case it cannot be much longer before people are required to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead to be able to operate in this world. (Rev 13:16-17) 13:16-17)

Iran begins war games in Gulf, Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard on Thursday started large-scale war games in the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state television reported.

Iran has been holding military maneuvers in the gulf and the Strait of Hormuz annually since 2006 to show off its military capabilities.

The war games have routinely heightened tension in the region, but they have more recently taken added significance as the standoff between the West and Tehran over Iran’s nuclear program grows deeper. ton after receiving assurances from administration officials that a new round of tough sanctions would be in place by the end of March, with or without the Security Council.

<http://www.debka.com/...>

Comment: Iran delights in showing off its military capabilities and unsettling its neighbors

and the West. The West suspects these wars games conceal a nuclear arm capability and are understandably nervous about them. It does also seem inappropriate to call anything to do with war a game! The Bible has something to say about those that delight in war.

“Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver: scatter thou the people that delight in war.”
Psa 68:30

Some 40% of the world’s oil and energy supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. Iran has indicated in the past that it would close the Strait of Hormuz if attacked by the West, making their holding of this three day manoeuvre there most likely to irritate the West.

Interestingly, Iran has code named these war games, “The Great Prophet” which fits into their plans to revolutionise the world with the Islamic faith.

‘False Religion’ Is How Long-Time U.S. Aide Now Describes Mideast Peace Process

An architect of the America’s Middle East peace process, who over the past 30 years served both Republican and Democratic administrations, is describing the continued pursuit of mediation among Palestinians and Israelis as “a false religion,” a pointless effort that will only meet with failure.

[http://www.nysun.com/...](http://www.nysun.com/)

Comment: A mediator serves to resolve or settle differences by acting as an intermediary agent between two or more conflicting parties. This does not seem to be working for the Middle East Peace Process, perhaps because the mediators are human beings trying to solve the problem in a human way.

Christians can be thankful that their problems can go to Almighty God in heaven by a righteous spiritual mediator.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”
1 Tim 2:5

The news item describes the Middle East mediation as a “false religion.” There are many false religions, but only one true religion established as the Body of Jesus Christ, the One True Church of God! This pure religion among other things exhorts one to be separate to the politics and dictates of our society and keep oneself unspotted from the world.

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, “To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:26-27

When individuals are made to realise that there is a God of Law and peace, they will cry peace, peace; and there will be peace!

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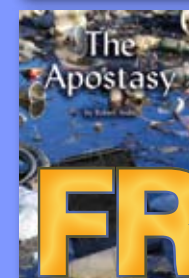
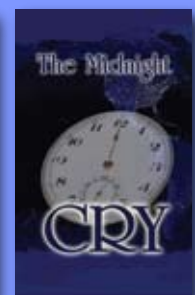
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