

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective. The left page is mostly blank and slightly yellowed. The right page is also mostly blank but features a red-bordered rectangular box containing text. The text is in a bold, red, sans-serif font and is centered within the box. The book's spine is visible in the center, separating the two pages.

**The Startling
Prophecy
of God's
True Church!**

The Startling Prophecy of God's True Church!

by Michael H. Exton

What will happen to God's true Church? Will it be revived by today's leaders repenting of their apostasy or will they be removed and replaced with loyal converted ministers? Or will God soon step in and *separate* the few faithful members from the current organization? Read this startling booklet and find out what will soon befall God's true Church!

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are from the New King James Version.

False Brethren Infiltrate the Church!

Over 1950 years ago Jesus Christ founded His church. It was started on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. But almost immediately following the founding of God's church false brethren began to INFILTRATE the Church of God, and it wasn't long before they began to *change* the true doctrines and teachings of Jesus Christ! It got so bad that the apostle Paul marveled at how QUICKLY many in the church were turning to ANOTHER GOSPEL (Gal. 1:6), a false gospel inspired and led by Satan the devil through many false brethren and *false ministers in the church!*

Yes, the apostle Paul was absolutely astonished that so many IN the church (baptized and supposedly converted members) would so quickly accept new and different doctrines, teachings CONTRARY to what he and the other true apostles of God had PREVIOUSLY TAUGHT the brethren (Gal. 1:6-9)! It got so bad that there were actually *false leaders in the church who spoke up against the apostle John and even put some of the true and faithful members out of the church* (3 John 1:9-10)!

Just as the New Testament is filled with many examples of heresy WITHIN God's true church, the Scriptures also reveal that it would ALWAYS be that way in the true Church of God, and so it is even today among God's true church, and has been for the last 1950 years or so. But the *true members* of God's church are strictly WARNED in many places in the Bible not to be so easily deceived, that we are without excuse since we have been warned beforehand that this would indeed take place (Mat. 24:24-

25, Acts 20:29-31, 1 John 2:26-27 & 4:1, 2 Tim. 4:3-4, and Jude 1:17-19).

Instead, we are constantly admonished to be alert, to be *watchful*, never to BLINDLY accept new and different teachings, but to instead carefully and diligently prove and test all new teachings, to make sure that they are of God, because there would surely be false leaders *in* the church who would indeed teach *false* doctrines and in so doing lead many astray (2 Peter 2:1-3, Jude 1:3-4, and 2 Cor. 11:3-4)!

As the book of Acts shows (Acts 20:29-31) Paul did not cease to warn the church night and day for three whole years that this would happen - that converted members needed to be extremely careful! Because of the many false brethren and ministers *in* the church (not out of the church or who have left the church, but *in* the church!) the true and faithful followers of Christ are continually exhorted not to be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine nor to be deceived with persuasive words (Eph. 4:14 & 5:6, and Col. 2:4 & 8), but instead to follow the good example of the Bereans (Acts 17:10 & 17) who tested everything that was taught to them.

Whether it was from an apostle, or a minister of God, or someone else, the Bereans didn't take any chances by BLINDLY accepting anything that any man - regardless of who that man was - taught them. Instead, they obeyed God by turning to the Scriptures to PROVE if what they were being taught was true or false. Instead of BLINDLY accepting new teachings they on the contrary *obeyed* God by testing all teachings with all diligence. And once they proved something to be true and good they were to HOLD FAST to it (as we are admonished to do in 1 Thes. 5:21 and Rev. 3:11), not quickly tossing it aside when a *sup-*

posedly new and better doctrine comes along.

Just as false teachings were being taught among God's church in Paul's day, and for the last 1950 years or so, so it is today. And no one should be surprised at this - because God Himself said it would be so (2 Peter 2:1-3, Mat. 7:15, 13:24-30 & 36-40, 24:11, and 2 Cor. 11:3-4 & 13-15)! Especially in the end time when Satan knows he has but a very short time left (Rev. 12:12) you would expect this deception to be at its worse, and this is exactly what is prophesied in your Bible (1 Tim. 4:1, 2 Tim. 4:3, and Jude 1:17-19)!

What Will Be the Final Outcome?

So what can one do and where is all of this leading? What will be the end result? What will happen to God's true church? What will befall the false ministers and members in God's church? And what will happen to the true members and ministers of God's church?

Now we move on to the startling and perhaps shocking prophecy of what's soon to befall God's true church - the Worldwide Church of God - and in so doing to answer the above perplexing questions!

Not All Church Doctrines Are From God!

First, before we do, we must get CLEARLY in mind that everything that is taught in the church is not always from God, but that sometimes it is instead from Satan the great deceiver. God nowhere promises that the church would be perfect, that it would always have chosen converted ministers and members. On the contrary, as we have already plainly seen, God promises the exact opposite! God clearly states in the Bible that there would be tares among the wheat (Mat. 13:24-30 & 36-40) and that there would

be false ministers in the church (2 Pet. 2:1-3)! That's why God constantly warns us in His Word over and over and over again to **BEWARE!** To **WATCH** and continually **TEST** what is taught in the church to **PROVE** if it is true or not.

Prove All Things!

We are told to test the spirits (1 John 4:1). We are even told to carefully examine those in the church who might be considered an apostle, to prove if they really are a true apostle or not (Rev. 2:2). Nowhere does God tell us to **BLINDLY** accept what is taught in the church just because it happens to be the true church. Nor should we try to prove the truth halfheartedly, but instead we should take it very seriously. After all God says He will reject those who have rejected knowledge (Hosea 4:6)!

God wants us to be sheep, but *not blind sheep!* He wants us to be humble, converted members who obey HIS every command. And God commands us to prove **ALL** things and then to *hold fast to the truth* (1 Thes. 5:21), regardless of what anyone else might teach, be it a fellow member of the church, a minister, an evangelist, or even an apostle. We must obey **GOD** and not man, regardless of what that man's position might be! God plainly tells us not to trust **any** man, friend, or even a brother (Jer. 9:4 & Micah 7:5). As a matter of fact God pronounces a curse on anyone who might do otherwise - who insists on trusting in a particular man (Jer. 17:5).

Now if this all true - if false ministers were prophesied to occur in the church - then we would certainly expect to find some evidence in the history of God's true church of this occurring, of false ministers getting a foothold in the church and then teaching false doctrines. But do we? Or does God promise that this would never hap-

pen, that since this is His church He would not allow us to have such trials? That the only thing we have to do is obey the ministers since we must have faith that God is leading the church? Of course not! How ridiculous! As this booklet has already plainly shown, God purposely allows false ministers to creep their way into the church and teach false doctrines!

If God somewhere in the Bible told us to **ALWAYS** do what the ministers say, or to **ALWAYS** believe what the ministers teach - that they would always follow His lead, then fine, it would be perfectly OK to have faith that God was always guiding the church in every decision that it makes, and therefore we would just have to follow the church in whatever direction it went. But God promises **NO** such thing! On the contrary, *God promises the exact opposite!* God promises throughout His Word that there would indeed be false doctrines being taught in the church from time to time. That we would have to be diligent in studying the Scriptures daily to make sure we were doing what God wanted us to do.

Do You Have Faith In Man or God?

God wants us to have faith all right! Faith in what *He* says! Not faith in human beings - no matter what their position of authority might be. And that is exactly what we are doing when we say we have faith that God is leading the ministers who are in charge of the church - we are believing in them and **NOT** in God and what He says in His Word! Faith is believing what God says in His Word. So do **you** have faith in *God*? Do you believe what *He* says? Do you believe Him when He tells you not to trust in any man? Do you believe Him when He tells you that there would be false leaders **IN** the church? Do you

believe Him when He tells **you** to test and prove ALL things and then to *hold fast to the truth*? Or do you just CARELESSLY ASSUME that since this is God's true church that the ministers must be teaching what God wants them to teach us?

God does promise to guide us into all truth (John 16:13), *but only if* we work hard to live by every word of God - including proving all things! But don't assume God is inspiring others to the truth. You do NOT really know if they are truly converted nor do you really know if they are living by every word of God! Instead, let's put faith in God. Let's believe what HE says, and then let's DO what HE says!

God never says that the Christian life would be an easy one. On the contrary, He says it would indeed be difficult with many trials along the way. That is why God allows false brethren and teachers in the church. He uses them to test the truly chosen ones in the church, to prove them to see if they will follow HIM no matter what is being taught. God also uses trials like these to help build character among His truly begotten sons and daughters. So we shouldn't be surprised when these things happen - for after all - God told us beforehand that it would be so, and besides that it has happened many times in the past.

God plainly tells us that a spiritual person judges all things (1 Cor. 2:15 & 5:12). Are **you** spiritual? Are you converted? Do **you** judge and critically examine everything you are taught to make sure it is what God wants you to believe? I hope so!

There Must Be Divisions!

God would like us all in the church to speak the same

thing so that there would be no divisions among us, but unfortunately God also realizes that there *must be* divisions and heresies among us - so that the truly converted can be made known (1 Cor. 11:19). God would like us all to speak the same thing and be united, BUT God wants us to be united in the TRUTH and *not in false teachings*. This is why the apostle Paul said he would like us to be one, but then stated that there MUST be factions among us, because he realized that false leaders would rise to prominent positions in the church, teaching false doctrines, and we are NOT to go along with these false teachings just so that the church would be one and speaking the same thing.

When heresies are taught it's not the faithful and converted member's fault for not speaking the same thing, but it's the ministers who are teaching the false doctrines who are at fault and who will have to answer to God for not speaking the same thing, for not speaking the truth!

Where is the Evidence?

So once again I ask - if this is all true - if false ministers have been prophesied to take over leading positions in the church during different times in the history of the church, and then to teach false doctrines, where is the evidence of this occurring? Surely there must be repeated occurrences of this happening during the last 1950 years or so, shouldn't there? Yes, there should be proof of this occurring, and there is - lots of proof!

Perhaps the best place to start in showing false ministers and false teachings **in** God's church is in the very pages of the Bible, during the first era of God's true church - the Ephesian Era (Rev. 2:1-7). As already shown in this booklet there were many false brethren and min-

isters in the first century church era, who taught many false doctrines. Scriptures such as: 3 John 1:9-10; Jude 1:4, 1:10-11; 1 John 2:26-27; 2 Peter 3:15-17; 2 Tim 1:3-7; Gal. 1:6-9, 2:4, 3:1, 4:9, 5:7; 2 Cor. 11:26; and Rev. 2:2 clearly point this out. And this same thing has been going on for the last 1950 years or so, and of course the same is still true even today in God's church and will continue to be so until the return of Jesus Christ (as Scripture undeniably indicates).

If you do any kind of research at all into the history of God's true church you will quickly discover this happening **MANY TIMES** throughout the last nineteen centuries. In order to save some time and space I will tell you about a few of these occurrences - some of the more recent occurrences since there is more detailed information about them and since they are perhaps the most intriguing and fascinating examples of *heresy* **WITHIN** the Church of God!

William Davis and His False Teachings

For my first example of false ministers during the recorded history of God's church we need to go back to the early 1700's, to a man named William Davis.

Mr. Davis first started attending God's true church in the year 1710, and by 1713 he was authorized to preach and to baptize. But once this William Davis got a foothold in the church and was in a position of authority it wasn't long before he started introducing false doctrines in the church.

One of his teachings was the false doctrine of the **trinity**. Unfortunately he eventually deluded many people in the church with his persuasive words and his fine-sounding arguments (see Col. 2:4 - especially the NIV, and Eph.

4:14 - especially the LB), until **many** embraced his doctrinal heresies.

Of course it shouldn't be any great surprise that many people in the church followed the false ways of William Davis since the Bible emphatically states that there are tares among the wheat (tares being weeds that look just like wheat and grow up **AMONG** the wheat, but are counterfeit and are useless except for maybe being used as compost)!

Since there are many people in the church at any given time who have never really been conquered by God, many suddenly succumb to false teachings *within* God's church once someone with authority within the church starts preaching false doctrines, teachings contrary to what they were first taught in the church (see 2 Cor. 11:4 and Gal. 1:6-9).

Many of William Davis' doctrines were **Protestant** teachings that he refused to give up, even though the Church of God not only did **NOT** teach these Protestant viewpoints - but was **STRONGLY AGAINST THEM**, and in many cases *taught the exact opposite!*

But sadly, under the bad influence of Mr. Davis, the church **ONCE AGAIN** started allowing Protestant teachings within the church, an enormous mistake the church had made several times before. Once again the same old vicious cycle (that had been repeated many times before in the church) was once again beginning to take place.

Vicious Cycle Repeats Itself

And what is this often repeated terrible cycle? Precisely the following: The church would start off with lots of enthusiasm and zeal preaching only the pure and undiluted **TRUTH** of the Bible and continue to do so for many

years until finally someone of authority WITHIN the church would start preaching false doctrines, and then quickly MANY OTHERS within the church would do likewise, until eventually it would get so bad that Christ would step in and **separate** the *two divergent ways of thinking*, the true way of thinking from the false.

And this is exactly what happened with this false movement started by William Davis. Before long his descendants and followers became the MAJORITY within the Church of God and started to *take over* the church, even MOCKING (see Jude 1:17-19) and poking fun at the true and time honored doctrines that Jesus Christ had put in the church!

They spoke disparagingly of those truly converted within the Body of Christ, calling them "fanatical" (perhaps even falsely accusing them of refusing to change - change to their way of thinking that is - of supposedly refusing to grow in grace and knowledge).

But like always there were a *few* who utterly refused to give in to the temptations of Satan the Devil (whom God had allowed to lead unconverted ministers WITHIN the church to teach false doctrines).

Ultimately the VAST MAJORITY in the church accepted these Satan-inspired Protestant type doctrines that had made their way into the Church of God, the only church on earth that held the true doctrines of Jesus Christ. But now *only a few were holding fast to the truth*. If the church would have continued to exist much longer in the manner it had now found itself it would no longer have been God's church, and the church that Jesus Christ had founded in 31 A.D. would have ceased to exist! But as Christ had promised in Mat. 16:18 the church would never die, but would continue to endure on this earth un-

til the return of Jesus.

And so it was that in the year 1818, the VAST MAJORITY of the members of the church who had accepted the truth of God *with a mixture of many Protestant type teachings* were **separated** from the FEW members in the church who had held fast to the true beliefs of God's true church.

Therefore, the majority united and became one (but united in FALSE doctrines), and officially adopted the name "Seventh Day Baptists". But *as always, the few had refused to go along* (despite the dire warnings and perhaps condemnations of others), and had remained FAITHFUL to the name and BELIEFS of the Church of God! And so the true Church of God continued on its way in 1818 with most of the false brethren and false teachings removed from it. But it wasn't long before this awful cycle would once again repeat itself - inspired by Satan the fiery dragon who would never give up in trying to destroy the true Church of God!

The Adventist Movement

Now for my next example of heresy within the true Church of God we move to the 1840's. For many years after the 1818 breakup the Church of God continued on its way without too many disturbances until the mid 1840's.

Within a few years after 1844 many of the people who were previously known as "Adventists" gave up their worship of Sunday, the trinity, and many other false beliefs, and BECAME MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD - keeping the seventh day Sabbath and all of the other true doctrines that the true church had at that time.

Unfortunately it wasn't long before many of these

"Adventist" people became very influential within the church and started **changing** some of the church's teachings. By 1860 they even rejected the name "The Church of God" and officially adopted the name of "Seventh Day Adventists". And sadly, as had happened so many times before in the recorded history of God's true church, *only a few* faithful members hung on to the TRUTH and adamantly refused to go along with this false movement inspired by Satan the great destroyer. But like always a few converted members did HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH and to the church's true name, and therefore the history of the Church of God continued unabated through them.

And so once again, even though Satan influenced many in the church to become deceived and to accept false teachings, a FEW (like always) had remained FAITHFUL to the true doctrines of Jesus Christ. Some of these faithful members even retained a knowledge of God's holy days (even keeping Pentecost on the correct day - Sunday) as well as knowing the true identity of modern Israel.

And so it was that in 1860, as had happened so many times before in the recorded history of the true church, God continued His church through a SMALL group of people - with most of the unconverted members (the vast majority) **separated** from them.

God Separates the Faithful Few Once Again

For my next and final example of members refusing to follow the guidance of Jesus Christ and instead electing to do their own thing we move forward to the 1920's.

Often in church history when the church got off the track and stopped following the lead of Christ it would

eventually change its name (as shown by the previous two examples) and then God would continue His church through those who retained the church's true name ("Church of God") as well as the true doctrines of Jesus. But this hasn't always been the case. Occasionally, people would keep the true name of the church but still lose many of the true beliefs, thus causing God to continue the lineage of the true church through those in the church who remained loyal to Him and His true teachings as well as preserving the proper name of the church. And this is exactly what happened in this next example.

By the 1900's the Church of God had lost many of the true doctrines that Christ had previously put into the church, and therefore the Church of God was about to *die* (Rev. 3:1-2)! But God would not allow this to occur and therefore He started working through a man who had in 1927 become associated with this "Sardis Era" of the true Church of God. As this man began to follow God and to obey God by sincerely and earnestly proving all things, Christ slowly but surely started RESTORING all the things in the church that had been lost over the centuries - through this man (see Mat. 17:11).

And so it was that this man, Herbert W. Armstrong, who by the early 1930's was an ordained minister in the Church of God, began to teach others in the church about these new (actually restored) truths that God was revealing through him.

Unfortunately, the leading ministers in the Church of God rejected the knowledge that God was inspiring through Mr. Armstrong, and therefore the church continued to die spiritually. But Mr. Armstrong would not give up and instead continued to teach others about the truth about such subjects as the holy days, healing, and the true

identity of modern Israel. As a result, God stopped working through the leaders of this Sardis era - those who made up the church government - because they *rejected TRUE knowledge* (see Hosea 4:6). Consequently, it wasn't long before God rejected them and continued the true church through Herbert W. Armstrong and a FEW loyal followers.

So once again we have an example in the church of ministers, the leading ministers in the church, those responsible for the administration of God's church, refusing to follow the guidance, inspiration, and direction of Jesus Christ! Eventually, God **separated** Mr. Armstrong and the few faithful members from this Sardis era of God's church, continuing the church through them, which began the "Philadelphia Era" of the Church of God (see Rev. 3:7-13).

How Are We Doing Today?

So where are we today in the summer of 1992? Is the church doing well? Are we **HOLDING FAST TO THE TRUTH** as we are admonished to do in Rev. 3:11? Or have we *once again* taken on **Protestant** type teachings?

And how about the leading ministers in the church - how are they doing? Are they teaching the truth or are they being misled by Satan the master deceiver to preach false doctrines, teachings contrary to the biblically sound and time honored doctrines that Jesus Christ put into the church?

Are we receiving knowledge or are we rejecting it? Are we following the lead of Jesus or are we following the lead of Satan? Are we still the Philadelphia era of God's church or have we now become the last and final era of God's church - the "Laodicean Era" - which is luke-

warm and *blind* (Rev. 3:14-22)?

These questions and many others can now finally be answered! Do you have your Bible opened? Or are you going to **BLINDLY** reject this teaching? Or are you **BLINDLY** going to accept this teaching? You should do neither! Instead you should prove all things by turning to every Scripture in this booklet, and humbly go to God and ask Him for wisdom in discerning the truth, so that you can better worship Him and not be beguiled.

But first, before we go over the answers to the above questions, it's important that we quickly go over the history of the church during these last 50 years or so.

The Last 50 Years

From the mid 1930's - when God started the Philadelphia era of His church through Mr. Armstrong - until about 1970 the church *grew at a tremendous rate!* It grew **DRASTICALLY** in just about every area possible: including the number of radio stations airing as well as the number of people listening to the World Tomorrow radio program; the number of people reading the Plain Truth magazine; the number of baptized members and co-workers; the income of the church; as well as the incredible amount of **TRUE** biblical understanding the church was gaining with each successive year.

As the church continued to please God by doing God's will and not its own God continued to bless the church at an amazing rate, and Christ continued to lead the church in the direction that He wanted it to go. At the dramatic rate that the church was growing it looked like it wouldn't be long before the **GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** would be preached as a witness to all nations (Mat. 24:14)! But it wasn't to be, at least not during the 1970's.

During the 1970's Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong traveled quite extensively around the world, bringing the good news message of the Kingdom of God to many of the world's top leaders. But while he was away many of the TOP MINISTERS in the church (who were relied upon to continue the day to day administration of the church at the church's headquarters in Pasadena, California) began to water down the pure and undiluted doctrines that Jesus had put into the church through Mr. Armstrong.

One by one, the true teachings of Christ began to be diluted, protestanized, compromised, liberalized, and laodiceanized! Once again the devastating cycle that had hit the church so many times before in the church's history was once again beginning to raise its ugly head!

As a direct result of FALSE PROTESTANT TYPE TEACHINGS being taught in the church, God began to remove his blessings from the church! Instead of the church continuing to go *forward* each year at a 30% *increase* - at least in many important aspects of the work - it stopped growing all together and even started DECREASING!

The Work Declines

The Plain Truth magazine declined at a rapid rate (from over 3 million copies per month to only about 1 million copies per month). And that wasn't the only major part of the Work that went down hill. Other areas that deteriorated swiftly included the World Tomorrow radio program, the number of baptized people in the church, and the income of the Work. Not only that but the *Good News magazine was discontinued*, the Bible Correspondence Course was cut back from about 58 lessons to only 12 lessons, and many if not all of the church's BOOKLETS WERE EITHER DISCONTINUED OR DRASTICALLY WATERED DOWN

(such as the USA and Great Britain in Prophecy booklet which was cut back from over 200 pages to less than 60 pages)!

These false compromising and PERMISSIVE teachings also had their effect in the conduct and morals of many ministers and members alike. Adultery and other forms of illicit sex became much more common in the church, drug use and alcohol abuse increased, and some even played golf and watched TV on God's Holy Sabbath Day!

Another sore spot were the church's college campuses which became a haven for parties and loose behavior. As God removed His blessings and His guidance from the church (because of its false teachings and immoral practices) the church continued to water down the true doctrines even more and more. Things got so bad that God even allowed the state of California to temporarily take over the church - in order to wake it up and bring it to repentance!

Finally, towards the end of this infamous decade, the church, through the strong leadership of Mr. Armstrong, began to be put back on the right track, once again following the lead of Jesus Christ. As Christ inspired Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Armstrong began to remove all of the liberal, permissive, Laodicean type teachings that had crept their way into the church during the 70's. The result? The church improved dramatically!

The Work Increases Once Again!

From about 1979 until Mr. Armstrong's death in January of 1986 the church was indeed back on the right track - no more following the deceptions of Satan the adversary! It showed up not only in the morals and conduct of its members but in the fruit of the Work as well.

In the liberal 70's the church sowed bad seed (false teachings) and therefore it reaped devastating consequences (see Gal. 6:7), but for the last seven years of Mr. Armstrong's life the church sowed good seed (wholesome, true, biblically sound teachings), and as a result the church reaped tremendous blessings!

Some of the good fruit the Work reaped from its obedience to God during these seven years consisted of the following: The Plain Truth magazine *increased* at the incredible rate of roughly 1 million more copies per month every year! It grew from about 1 million copies per month in 1979 to over 8.5 million copies per month by 1986! Likewise, just about every aspect of the Work increased drastically!

The Good News magazine was once again in print, the Bible Correspondence Course was revived from 12 measly lessons to 32 lessons (and it was even supposed to continue far beyond that), the church's booklets were restored to their full undiluted length, and the church's membership was once again on the increase - as well as the income of the Work (even during the big recession of the early 1980's)! For seven straight years the church showed a significant GROWTH from the previous year, and the conduct of its members improved as well.

So What Are the Fruits Today?

But what about *today*? What has gone on for the last six plus years in the church since the death of Mr. Armstrong? What are the FRUITS of the church? Are they good or are they bad? And what are the leading ministers in the church teaching today? Are they teaching the pure undiluted truth of the Bible or are they COMPROMISING with the false popular teachings of the world? And

just where is the church headed?

Well, if we really look at the FRUITS of the church with both an honest and open mind we will clearly see that the church is once again repeating that same old vicious cycle that it has gone through so many times before. The church is *once again* teaching the same old watered down **Protestant** type teachings that we did in the 70's.

Growing in Grace and Knowledge or Supplanting the Truth?

If you look closely at all of the CHANGES in the church during these last few years you will no doubt see that all of this "growing in grace and knowledge" is nothing more than the same liberal Laodicean type teachings of the 70's.

Once again, one by one, the pure and undiluted truths that Jesus had put into the church through Mr. Armstrong are being diluted and compromised with the world, just like they were in the 70's! Instead of growing in grace and knowledge we have definitely done just the opposite - we have digressed - replacing many of the biblically sound teachings of Mr. Armstrong with doctrines that the false churches of this world have taught for many years!

Protestants Know Best?

Why do many of the leading ministers in the church today apparently think that the PROTESTANT ministers of this world know the Bible better than Mr. Armstrong? And if they don't think that then why are they replacing many of his teachings with that of the PROTESTANTS?

Just as Simon Magus (in the first century) *mixed to-*

gether the true beliefs of the early Christian church with the false popular religious teachings of his day (the Mystery Babylon Religion), we have been **weaving** together the true teachings of the Bible with the false popular religious teachings of our day (namely the PROTESTANT religion). And as we continue to adapt more and more of these false PROTESTANT ways we are quickly moving further and further away from God the Father and His son Jesus Christ.

Bad Fruit

God says in His Word that we would know them by their "fruits" (Mat. 7:16-17), and God also exclaims, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7). So if all of these things are as bad as I say they are - then there must be bad fruit. But where is the bad fruit? And what horrible consequences are we reaping?

Well, if you look keenly at the fruit that the church is producing today, with both an open and honest heart, you will clearly see that there is an *abundance of bad fruit* in the church today.

Once again (AS IT WAS IN THE 70's) just about every major statistic of the Work has DECREASED ENORMOUSLY! Instead of the Plain Truth magazine increasing one million copies (per month) every year as had occurred from 1979-1986 when we were on the right track, the Plain Truth has *decreased* almost one million copies (per month) each year since 1986! We have gone from publishing 8.5 million copies per month in 1986 to about 3 million copies per month today!

But it isn't just the Plain Truth magazine. In just about every major area of the Work today the results (what we

are reaping) have been virtually the same - DRAMATIC DECREASES!

Like the 70's the income of the Work has decreased, the membership has apparently decreased (according to the Worldwide News about 20,000 less people attended the Feast of Tabernacles in 1991 than did in 1990!), the Good News magazine was first decreased from ten issues per year to six issues and then it was cut out all together, the Youth magazine has been trimmed back from ten issues per year to only six issues, almost all of the church's booklets have been drastically reduced and even some of the church's booklets and books are no longer even available (such as the USA and Great Britain in Prophecy, Mystery of the Ages, The Missing Dimension in Sex, and The Wonderful World Tomorrow)!

Sins On the Rise

LIKE THE 70's the church is once again reaping bad fruit. But how about the conduct of the members? Certainly the morals of the members hasn't gotten worse, has it?

Unfortunately the same thing can be said of the behavior of the members. As any TRUTHFUL minister in the church will tell you the sins of the church members (like the 70's!) has been on the rise in the last few years. The incredible number of divorces in the church is a good example of just how bad things have gotten.

God Will Intervene Soon!

Now you might be wondering, if things are really this bad - are we still God's church? Apparently we are, but if things continue to sink in the direction that they are now going it won't be long before we are no longer God's

church!

Since God promised that His church would never cease we can be assured that God will SOON step in to prevent it from disintegrating, that somehow God will intervene to restore it to the *truth* and bring its people to repentance. But how will God accomplish this? How will God restore His church so that it continues unabated until the return of Jesus Christ?

Will God Once Again Separate the Faithful?

Well, as far as I can see there are just three possibilities: ONE, God will bring the leading ministers (who are responsible for today's watering down of the truth) to repentance and thereby the church will be preserved; Or TWO, God will remove the liberal ministers who are responsible for today's decadence and replace them with loyal converted ministers who will revive the church; Or THREE, God will (once again like in times past) **separate** the two distinct ways of thinking - separating those within today's church who think and reason similar to that of Herbert W. Armstrong from those who think and rationalize like that of Protestant ministers.

If this third way is the way that God intends to handle the situation then this of course would be a DIVIDING of the Philadelphia era of God's church from the Laodicean era. Sadly, it looks like this is the way things will prevail.

It is fairly obvious that the Laodicean era (which apparently began after the death of Mr. Armstrong) has been joined together with the Philadelphia era - just as the Philadelphia era was part of the Sardis era during the late 1920's and early 1930's (from about 1927 to 1934). It

appears that **history will once again repeat itself!** That the Philadelphia era will once again be SPLIT UP from one of God's other church era's. But this time instead of it being separated from the era preceding it (the Sardis era), *it will be separated* from the era that follows it (the Laodicean era)!

If you LOOK closely at the parable of the ten virgins in the 25th chapter of Matthew with the Scriptures describing the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-22), you will notice that there is a strong correlation between the five foolish virgins and the typical Laodicean. Both are told to go and figuratively buy a supply of the Holy Spirit. The Laodiceans actually have been begotten of God's Holy Spirit. Their lamps are lit but they are going out (Mat. 25:8) because their supply of "oil" (the Holy Spirit) has not been continually replenished and increased. This apparently is the condition that many find themselves in the church today!

Interesting Predictions Made in 1969

In the church's Bible Correspondence Course that was published in the 1960's a few very interesting predictions were made of the Laodiceans. On page 14 of the 53rd lesson we are told that the Laodiceans would be very much involved with MEDICINE (apparently medical doctors as well). How interesting that the very first doctrine that was changed after the death of Mr. Armstrong was the church's teaching on HEALING. The church's new booklet on healing states on page 56 that if you rely on God for healing instead of the medical doctors that you may be behaving in a spiritually irresponsible manner! Throughout this booklet we are encouraged to seek out medicine and medical doctors.

Another very interesting prediction that this same Correspondence lesson made of the Laodiceans is that the WORLD (at least before the tribulation) would speak well of them (see Luke 6:26). If you haven't noticed the WORLD (especially the PROTESTANT churches) are indeed speaking well of us today - in sharp contrast to when Mr. Armstrong was alive (see John 15:19).

So it should be rather obvious to you by now that we are indeed the Laodicean era of God's church, and the Laodiceans do not like prophecy (see 1 Thes. 5:20) because it exposes them. It identifies who they are and it describes their faults, and people hate to be told that what they are doing is wrong (especially unconverted people)! God tells us that open rebuke is better than secret love (Prov. 27:5), but unfortunately those in the wrong don't usually listen to correction (Prov. 13:1).

So for now the Philadelphia people are associated with the Laodiceans and are patiently waiting for God to intervene and act on their behalf (and intervene He will)!

But what of Mr. Joseph W. T'Kach, the physical head of the church today - the man who replaced Mr. Armstrong in 1986? What is his role in all of this? And what if anything is prophesied about him? And what will befall the Philadelphia and Laodicea eras of God's church?

Martyrdom for the Laodiceans

Well, as you probably know already, the Laodiceans will have to go through martyrdom (Rev. 3:16, 3:19, 6:11, and 12:17). The Laodiceans will have to suffer death at the hands of the world because of their lukewarmness, for their *lack of zeal in truly overcoming* the carnal nature within all of us, for not being eager to bear good fruit and do God's will in all aspects of their lives, and

for not coming totally *out of the world* (see Rev. 18:4, 18:2, and 2 Cor. 6:17).

Perhaps another reason this particular church era will have to go through martyrdom is because of their unwillingness to declare to mankind their sins (see Isa. 58:1), as well as refusing to WARN the USA, England, and the other modern Israelite countries of the impending danger that lies right around the corner (see Ezek. 33:1-11, especially verses 6 and 8).

Protection for the Philadelphians

In sharp contrast to the Laodiceans the Philadelphians will be protected by God during the soon coming great tribulation (Rev. 3:10, 12:13-16, and Luke 21:36). God will take this particular group of people to a place where they will be protected from the murderous hand of Satan the great destroyer.

The Philadelphians will have persevered (Rev. 3:10) - HOLDING FAST TO THE TRUTH OF GOD (Rev. 3:11). They also will have demonstrated great BROTHERLY LOVE to their fellowman by continually pleading with humanity to repent of their wrongful ways, so that mankind might be spared the great harm and suffering that results from rejecting God and living a sinful life style (as Nineveh was warned by Jonah and repented of her ways, and was therefore saved from utter destruction)!

Therefore, because of their faithfulness, obedience, and love towards their fellowman, God will spare the Philadelphians from the great tribulation that's soon to erupt on this sin torn world.

But fortunately, because of God's immense love, patience, and mercy, the Laodiceans (whom God still loves) can still be granted eternal life in God's soon coming

Kingdom - *if they will just repent and be zealous* for God (Rev. 3:19)! Though they will have to prove their sincerity in wanting to obey God through martyrdom, those who do REPENT of their false ways and turn to God will indeed be in God's incredible Kingdom for all eternity!

But what will be of EXTREME IMPORTANCE to the Laodiceans is that they not accuse one another by trying to put the blame on others (such as the leading ministers who are currently leading them astray). Instead of becoming bitter and blaming others for the sad predicament that they will soon find themselves in, they must instead examine themselves and realize the part that they individually have played.

Instead of becoming offended, and betraying and hating one another (see Mat. 24:10), they must humbly accept the consequences of their own actions and repent - thanking God that they can yet be granted eternal life in God's magnificent Kingdom. They should also sincerely intercede on behalf of others in heartfelt prayer, even for those who have led them astray - asking God, if it is His will, to grant them repentance also so that they too can be part of His Great Family for all eternity!

What About Joseph W. T'Kach?

So what of Mr. Joseph W. T'Kach? What will become of him?

Well, like anyone else, if he repents and bears good fruit, overcoming and enduring to the end, he too will be part of God's wonderful family for all eternity. But unfortunately at this point in time (and I sincerely and wholeheartedly hope I am wrong!) he appears to be the foolish shepherd prophesied in the Old Testament (Zech. 11:15-17).

In this particular prophecy God declares how *He* will raise up a shepherd (and ministers are often referred to as shepherds in the Bible) WHO WILL NOT FEED THE FLOCK (and God's church is often described as a flock throughout the Scriptures). Obviously this shepherd (this leading minister) does not feed the flock (the church) with knowledge and understanding like he is supposed to do, and as the shepherds will do in the millennium (Jer. 3:15).

Not only does this (apparently) end time leading pastor not feed the people properly but he doesn't **heal** those who are injured and sick - and remember - the very first doctrine that Mr. T'Kach changed was the church's teaching on HEALING!

Implements of a Foolish Shepherd

Now something very interesting is spoken of by God in the book of Zechariah. In verse 15 of the 11th chapter God tells Zechariah to once again take the implements of a foolish shepherd. But what are the implements of a foolish shepherd? And how do they relate to everything else that is said about this foolish shepherd? And how do the tools of a foolish shepherd contrast to those of a wise shepherd?

Well, as Psalms 23:4 and many other Scriptures in the Bible reveal, a good shepherd always takes a staff (to guide and direct the sheep) as well as a rod (to protect the sheep from wolves and lions and other vicious enemies of the sheep). If a shepherd is truly wise and really **LOVES** his sheep he will carry *both* of these tools to help protect and lead his sheep. But what of the foolish shepherd? What kind of instruments does he use?

Well, if you go back a few verses in the 11th chapter of Zechariah to the 7th verse you will notice that the fool-

ish shepherd does NOT carry a rod and a staff, but instead carries two staffs. In other words the foolish shepherd does not carry a rod!

Spiritually speaking, a *wise minister* carries BOTH a staff and a rod, using the rod to beat back the false doctrines of this world's religions (the wolves and lions of God's true church)! A wise minister is to use this spiritual rod to PROTECT God's people from false teachings, teachings that would harm His people and eventually destroy them!

Unlike the wise shepherd, the foolish shepherd does not carry a rod. He apparently thinks that carrying a rod is cruel and needless (perhaps unnecessary offensive), therefore he gets rid of his rod. This foolish minister seemingly thinks that if he trades in his rod for another staff, that he can use this new staff to gently pull the people of the world towards God. He thinks that he can use this rod to reach out and touch the people of this world - those not being called by God at this present time. He probably thinks that this is the better approach, that he is showing more love to the inhabitants of this earth. But unfortunately he does not really realize that it is God who must do the calling (John 6:44 and 6:65), and that God will do it in *His way* and in *His time frame*.

This foolish shepherd does not seem to really understand what God says in Proverbs 27:5 - that open rebuke is BETTER than secret love! He forgets that we are to live by EVERY WORD of God (Mat. 4:4), including Isaiah 58:1 which states that we are to: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins" (RSV). He simply thinks that his way of doing things is better than God's. He doesn't really comprehend what

God says in Proverbs 12:15 - "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes..." and Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (both quotes RSV).

He believes *in* God but he doesn't always believe WHAT HE SAYS. He picks and chooses according to what *he* thinks is right, and in this case it SEEMS RIGHT to him to abandon his rod for what he considers a more loving implement - a staff. But he is neither showing real love to his flock nor to the people of the world. For without his rod to smash to pieces the false, subtle, compromising teachings of the incredibly cunning Satan the devil the people of God begin to embrace false doctrines, which takes them further and further away from God. And strange as it may seem, neither is he showing real love for the people of the world. Because unless the people of the world are told just how bad and sinful their ways are they will never be able to truly repent of their sins and thus avoid the horrifying consequences of their wrong way of life.

If Nineveh wasn't warned by God through Jonah, then that great city would NOT have repented and been spared from the great destruction that awaited it. Likewise, if we REALLY LOVED the people of this world we would be using our spiritual rod to shout out to the world just how evil their ways are (like the past leader of the Philadelphia era did) so that they might possibly repent and be saved from the terrifying tribulation that awaits them!

Will Christ Have a Rod?

So why am I even mentioning the implements of a foolish shepherd? Because the church for the last couple of years or so has been teaching precisely this. The church

has been teaching that when Jesus returns He will NOT rule with a rod. That what God really meant (?) is that He will rule with a staff and gently reach out and touch the hearts of humanity, gently pulling the people of the world towards Him with His loving staff. How ridiculous and how **Protestant!** God says no such thing!

God CLEARLY says He will rule with a rod, therefore, *He will rule with a rod!* And a rod of iron at that! Let's not go to great lengths to try to change what God plainly states in His Word to fit our own OPINIONS! Christ specifically mentions in many places throughout the Bible that He will absolutely, positively rule with a rod. Such Scriptures as Rev. 2:27, 12:5, and 19:15 (to name but a few) clearly affirm this! Let's not ONLY believe in God but let's also believe *what He says!* Let's not twist and distort what God says so it will fit into our own preconceived ideas! And let's not bend and pervert what God PLAINLY says so that it will conform to what the supposed scholars and would-be intellectuals of this world falsely preach!

Have Protestants Taken Over the Church?

Why do some of the top ministers in God's Church today think that the Protestant leaders of this world (who do NOT have God's Holy Spirit nor do they keep God's commandments) know more about the Bible than Mr. Armstrong? And why are some of the highest ministers in God's church today speaking about Mr. Armstrong and his teachings in the same way that the false Protestant ministers of the world have always spoken about him? And why do some of the leading ministers in the church today sound just like Protestant ministers? Could it pos-

sibly be because they are Protestant ministers themselves?

Are some of the top ministers in the church today really Protestant ministers who have crept in unawares? And if not, then why do they sound, in many respects, just like the false ministers of this world?

Since the Scriptures PLAINLY TEACH that Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron - then Christ will rule with a rod of iron! End of argument, case closed!

The Church Has Abandoned Its Rod

But why does the church now teach (in direct opposition to what the Bible emphatically declares) that Christ will *not* rule with a rod? Because many of the leaders in the church are not ruling with a rod, that's why! Because they have traded in their rod for another staff. Because they are compromising with the false doctrines of the world by gently pulling them closer to the church with their supposedly loving staff, instead of smashing them to pieces like a potter's vessel that has been shattered into tiny fragments (like the church is commanded to do in order to protect the flock).

We seem to be more interested in pleasing the lions and wolves of this world than we are in protecting the little flock. And since we are being soft with the evil ways of this world we naturally expect Christ to do the same when He returns to this earth, but of course God says NO SUCH THING!

Are the Ministers Following Christ?

Some people in the church would have you believe that God doesn't *really mean* what He says. They would like you to believe that they know the Bible a whole lot better than you do and the way you were taught by Mr.

Armstrong. They often say, "just have faith that God is leading the church" (but of course what this statement REALLY MEANS is to just have faith in THEM - that they *must* be following Christ)! How absurd! God nowhere says to do any such thing!

Yes, we should have faith that Jesus leads the church, but the problem is - they are NOT following His lead! Plus, to supposedly just have faith that God is inspiring the decisions that the church is currently making, would be to admit that you do NOT have faith that Christ inspired the decisions that the church made in the past (since many of the present teachings are very different, if not totally opposite from what Mr. Armstrong taught)! And of course this would be a complete contradiction in terms! And God does NOT contradict Himself!

Prove All Things!

No, God never promised that the leaders in the church would always follow His lead. That's why we are **commanded** to test the spirits, to test the ministers in the church, to test those who call themselves an apostle - in essence - to *prove all things!* And then to HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH!

It's very sad to say but some people just refuse to believe what God emphatically states in His Word, instead they prefer to make God in their own image - the way they WANT Him to be.

Original Greek?

Some leaders will often deceive others by telling them that the original Greek (or Hebrew) really means something else (as if they knew the original language better than the world's finest translators). This is not to say that

there aren't a few places in the Bible in which the translators have made a mistake, but in virtually every case in which an error occurs - usually more than one of the major translations will have it correct.

Therefore, when you are in doubt about a particular Scripture, look up that verse in some of the more accurate translations (such as the King James, New King James, Revised Standard, and New Revised Standard versions). When every or just about every reliable translation has it the same way, you better think twice (or even more often!) when someone (no matter who that someone is!) tells you that the original Greek really meant something other than what the Scriptures clearly state! In most if not in all cases, this is utterly ridiculous, and that person is just trying to delude you into believing what *they want* the Bible to say (regardless of what the Bible REALLY says)!

They do exactly what God accuses them of doing - they twist and distort the Scriptures to their own destruction. They try to give the Scriptures a meaning of their own liking, often in total opposition to what God really says, and really means!

Besides all of this, do you honestly think that the leaders of the Laodicean era will be following the lead of Jesus Christ? Of course not! At least not until they repent of their ways during the great tribulation. I only wish, for their own physical well being as well as for those who are blindly following them, that they would repent long before that, so that they could be spared martyrdom.

What Should You Do?

So what should you do? Trust God and follow HIM of course! And follow His church when you have *proven*

that the church is *following* Christ. But when you prove from the Bible that the church is not following God - then you must humbly and respectfully obey God instead.

Unfortunately, the church of today is the Laodicean era of the Church of God, at least the organization is. The Laodiceans are pictured in the Bible as the five foolish virgins, who have a leader - a shepherd - a foolish shepherd.

Hopefully (and I sincerely mean this with all of my being) EACH AND EVERYONE of them will eventually repent and turn to God (in faith and obedience), zealously doing His will and not their own, so that they too (along with all of God's faithful servants throughout the ages) can hear the following words from Jesus Christ, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Mat. 25:21).

So please pray wholeheartedly for ALL of God's people, so that as many as possible can ultimately enter His everlasting Kingdom. And if you would like to escape the tribulation and be protected by God, make sure that you are staying very close to Him through continual prayer, daily Bible study, frequent meditation of His Word, and occasional fasting, so that if God decides to **separate** the two church eras you will know which way to go. It shouldn't be long now. May God be with you and may you be close to Him so that you can FOLLOW HIM in the direction that He would like for you to go!

The End?

I was thinking about ending this booklet with that last sentence but all of a sudden a few more thoughts came to mind. Now I am going to be very specific and in some

areas perhaps a little speculative.

It Won't Be Long

I personally feel that things are getting so bad in the church that it won't be long at all before God steps in and does something about the situation that the Worldwide Church of God presently finds itself in. As a matter of fact I wouldn't be surprised at all if something extremely big happens in the church as early as 1993! Perhaps this will be the year that the church is either cleaned up or split up by God.

Why 1993? Primarily because the church is drifting down hill so fast I can't possibly imagine it continuing much longer than that. But who knows, God does call on the Philadelphians in Rev. 3:10 to endure patiently. Perhaps we still have to endure yet a little longer.

Seven-Year Cycles

But there are some other reasons that would certainly make 1993 a good year for God to intervene. In the recent history of the church 1972 proved to be a very big year. This was the year that many in the church felt would be the time when the church would flee for the place of safety, but it wasn't to be. As a result there was a great let down in the church when this did not occur, which played a big part in the church getting off the track and becoming very liberal with the standards and teachings of Jesus Christ. God allowed this to go on for about seven years, until in January of 1979 God allowed the state of California to take over the church in order to wake us up.

Then God gave the church another seven year time period - this time to clean itself up and to get back on

track. And get back on track we did! But this period of incredible GROWTH tragically came to an end in January of 1986 with the death of Herbert W. Armstrong.

Perhaps once again God has given the church another seven year time cycle. If so, it will come to an end in 1993!

We Must Be Close to God!

Whenever God decides to act (be it in 1993 or later) we certainly must be close to Him so that we can follow His guidance and move in the direction that He wants us to go.

As mentioned earlier in this booklet the church could possibly be cleaned up by the present leaders in the church repenting and turning to God, or by them being removed from office by God and being replaced by loyal ministers who have not drifted from Him. Though it is unlikely to end this way, it is still possible, since all things are possible for God. And if it ended this way (the church being cleaned up as opposed to God separating the two church eras) it would definitely seem to be best for the many brethren in the church who seem to have good intentions but unfortunately are being led astray. So please pray fervently and often (that if it's God's will) that this is the way things will work out.

Philadelphians to Separate?

But if God does indeed decide to separate the two church eras like in the 1930's when He separated the Philadelphia era from the Sardis era (which by the way were joined together for about seven years: 1927-1934), almost surely *some* of the evangelists and top ministers in the church (who have not polluted themselves with the

FALSE PROTESTANT TEACHINGS that the church has embraced in the last few years, and who have proven themselves over the years to be loyal to God and His way of life), almost surely *they will be separated by God from the Laodicean era*. Men such as Roderick Meredith, Raymond McNair, Dibar Apartian, Leroy Neff, Richard Ames, and Gerald Waterhouse. Of course I don't the hearts and minds of all of these men (perhaps some of them are NOT zealously following God), but I think it is fair to say that several of them are and will indeed be SEPARATED by God from the present leaders of the church.

Roderick Meredith to Lead Them?

Perhaps not a single one of these men has produced better fruit than that of Mr. Meredith. So who knows, perhaps God will choose him to be the eventual leader of the Philadelphia era. The meaning of his name certainly fits. Roderick means "famous ruler", and Meredith means "protector from the sea". Considering that the beast that is mentioned in the book of Revelation comes up out of the sea it would definitely be fitting if God were to use Mr. Meredith to lead the Philadelphians to the place of safety, where they would be protected from the sea (the beast)! The meaning of his name perhaps could also be applied to Revelation 12:15 where Satan spews water out of his mouth like a great flood in hopes of destroying the Philadelphians as they flee to the place of safety. Could God be waiting to use Mr. Meredith to lead the devoted and obedient members of God's church to the place of safety? Time will tell!

Who Are the Two Witnesses?

How about the two witnesses? Well, if you let the

Bible interpret itself by following the directions given in Isaiah 28:9 and 10, you will clearly see that one of the two witnesses will come from the Philadelphia era and the other one will come from the Laodicean era of the church. Why? Because that is what the Bible says! That is if you believe the Bible and if you also realize that if $A=B$ and $B=C$, then A must = C . Here is the proof: Revelation 1:20 states that the seven lampstands are the seven churches, and Revelation 11:3-4 says that the two witnesses are the two lampstands. Therefore, if the lampstands represent the church eras, and if the two witnesses represent two of the lampstands, then the two witnesses represent two of the church eras - presumably the last two - the Philadelphia and Laodicean eras of the church!

So if you let the Bible interpret itself (as opposed to trying to fit or more appropriately twist the Scriptures into your own preconceived ideas) then the Bible strongly indicates that one of the two witnesses will come from the Philadelphia era and the other one will come from the Laodicean era. Of course the witness who is to come from the Laodicean era will have repented by then, else God would not be able to use him for such an important mission.

So who are the two witnesses? I have no idea! Perhaps it will be someone *like* Mr. Meredith. Someone who is zealous for God and courageous - not being afraid to speak up for the truth, and yet at the same time very humble. Once again - time will tell!

Follow God's Lead!

Finally, in conclusion, stay close to God and don't take things into your own hands. If you patiently and

humbly wait for God then He will guide you in the direction that He wants you to go when the time comes. But be alert and stay awake! By being watchful and praying always you will indeed be spared from the terrible times just ahead of us now (Luke 21:36). May God bless you and be with you! **Hold fast to the truth and do the will of God!**

