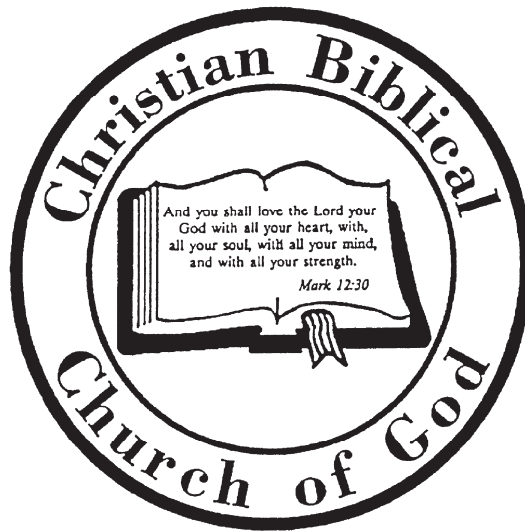


# Remaining Steadfast—

*Why Christian Biblical Church of God?*



## Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

[www.truthofgod.org](http://www.truthofgod.org)

[www.churchathome.org](http://www.churchathome.org)

[www.afaithfulversion.org](http://www.afaithfulversion.org)

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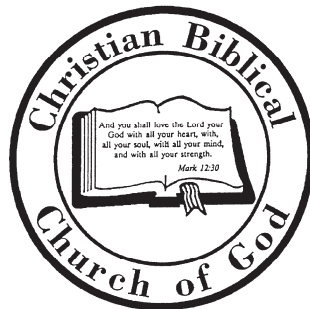
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HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

## Remaining Steadfast

Series of 6 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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Signature

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Date

☐ Repentance and Resignation

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Invisible Idol/Visible Man I

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Invisible Idol/Visible Man II

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Invisible Idol/Visible Man III

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The Rest of the Story I

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The Rest of the Story II

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

# **Remaining Steadfast**

## ***Contents***

### **Transcript Book**

	PAGE
Repentance and Resignation .....	1 – 11
Invisible Idol/Visible Man I .....	12 – 25
Invisible Idol/Visible Man II .....	26 – 39
Invisible Idol/Visible Man III.....	40 – 46
The Rest of the Story I .....	47 – 53
The Rest of the Story II .....	54 - 65

### **Compact Disc**

*[When included]*

Tracks 1 & 2	Repentance and Resignation
Tracks 3 & 4	Invisible Idol/Visible Man I
Tracks 5 & 6	Invisible Idol/Visible Man II
Track 7	Invisible Idol/Visible Man III
Track 8	The Rest of the Story I
Tracks 9 & 10	The Rest of the Story II



# Remaining Steadfast

## *Foreword*

This sermon transcript book addresses the history of the Christian Biblical Church of God (CBCG). Along with an in-depth analysis of the unique governmental structure of this Church of God versus churches in the world there are various admonitions for the person who is trying to have a relationship with Jesus Christ in their lives. Also covered is how a political hierarchy caused one of the larger Churches of God in recent history, the Worldwide Church of God, to collapse. This information is provided by Mr. Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty-years, who was a graduate of Ambassador College and a minister of the Worldwide Church of God for many years. There are six sermon transcripts that will inform the reader of how a church congregation should seek a relationship with God and how to maintain such a relationship. The reader, upon completing this book, will know what destroys church congregations and the spiritual attitudes that Satan uses to cut a church ministry and church members off from access to God.

The first transcript, “Repentance and Resignation,” gives insight into what purpose God has for allowing the world to be so evil. Admonitions are as follow:

- Satan’s plan is to cause evil things, calamitous things, and confusion among people to occur so that Satan can offer the solution to the problems. The solution is a person that follows Satan and that person will lead the people into sin.
- The people of God, when trouble is in their lives, need to avoid becoming focused on the problems and instead focus in on God’s solutions.
- The people who seek a relationship with God have got to want God’s way more than anything else in their world. The end of the way of flesh is nothing, and people need to keep that in mind.
- If people indeed love God, then they will not love the way of the flesh.
- God will allow in people’s lives anything that they decide to do.
- People who claim to be representing God, who claim to be preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, indeed need to uphold the name of Jesus Christ. Anyone who claims to be preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the name of Jesus Christ is not used, are not preachers sent by Jesus Christ.

The second transcript, “Invisible Idol/Visible Man I,” focuses upon what happens when people set themselves to serve what is called church authority held by men in a church hierarchy rather than study and do God’s Word, and are going to wind up being deceived. They will wind up enriching men and will wind up serving the will of men instead of the Will of God. Other admonitions that are given:

- In God’s Church, just as in the former temple in Jerusalem, when sin, corruption, and politicians acquire leadership positions, the results will be the oppression of God’s people. You can know that God will judge.
- When church-members give up their personal will to a visible man, who is sitting at the top of a hierarchy built to serve him, they are bowing to an invisible idol in their minds.

- When a church has a visible man to serve and obey in their lives it is much like a monarchy. When the man is righteous the congregation does right. But when the man is not righteous, then the congregation does wrong.
- If people wish to have God in their lives, to be close to God, then they are not to want a man to tell them what to do in their lives, when to do it, how to do it, and where to go.

The third transcript, “Invisible Idol/Visible Man II,” gives more insight into the problems that people encounter when they wish to follow God in their lives but want a man to look to rule their lives. Important points that are noted are:

- There are many false teachers who cleverly take the Words of God and re-manipulate them so that the people that are seeking God, give themselves over to serving them.
- God’s Voice, the Voice of God, is contained in the Bible. Seek God’s Will in your life through the Bible.
- Those who would be with God in their lives must recognize those who stealthily introduce destructive heresies and avoid those false teachers. Their destructive heresies may look authoritative, but these teachings are not in the Bible.
- The person at the head of a church who puts the authority of men between those seeking God and God, worship themselves. They are their own idol. Their characteristics include always talking about themselves, me and mine conversations, always defending their approach to problems in their lives, and they feel the need to make things appear grander than they are.

The fourth transcript, “Invisible Idol/Visible Man III,” speaks more of the Babylonian system of the hierarchical structure. Some other admonitions that are given are:

- At the end of the age the entire world will function through lies. Governments will operate by lies. Economies will operate by lies. Religions will operate by lies. The truth is that when people do not love the Truth of God they will believe and accept lies.
- The Laodicean Church is going to be scattered because they are addicted to things that are not of God. They need to return to God’s teachings.

The fifth transcript, “The Rest of the Story I,” is concerned with things that happened in the Worldwide Church of God while Herbert W. Armstrong was still in control of it. Some of the main admonitions given are:

- The message of “give and get” is not the Gospel of Christ.
- God uses people, and God will raise up the least of anyone to do what God wants.
- God is the One Who is going to exalt those He wants to exalt.
- People who exalt themselves before God, and then tell God to recognize them, are going to have to answer for it.

The last transcript, “The Rest of the Story II,” is a history of the Christian Biblical Church of God. It also has examples that illustrate the effects of wrong attitudes in the Worldwide Church of God in Fred Coulter’s life and the lives of church members. Some of the things learned during his ministry are also mentioned. Also mentioned are some history of the teachings of the Old Testament annual Sabbaths and the teaching about Ephraim and Manasseh in prophecy.

- In 1917 Dugger and Dodd were both aware of the teachings that the Old Testament Annual Sabbaths were to be kept and the prophecy of Ephraim and Manasseh being Great Britain and the United States of America.



- In 1931 Herbert W. Armstrong began teaching that the Old Testament Annual Sabbaths were to be kept. He also taught that Ephraim, son of Joseph, was the beginning of the nation of Great Britain. And he affirmed that Manasseh, son of Joseph, was the beginning of the people that became the United States of America.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie and Prentice Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

# Repentance and Resignation

Day of Atonement—1979

Fred R. Coulter

This is the significance of the times in which we're in: This is this morning's paper—my wife pointed this out to me this morning—there are three significant articles:

## Bitterness Marks The End Of The Panama Canal Zone:

In an unmistakably funeral mood, their eyes misty, throats tightened by nostalgia and bitterness, the Americans who have long operated the Panama Canal, Sunday marked the demise of the Canal Zone. At midnight Panama recovered jurisdiction over the 533 square mile strip for the first time in 76 years. And the American enclave, as well as an entire way of life, came to an end.

It's true to the prophecy that God said He would break *the pride of our power*. That has been broken long ago. We are now in the process of becoming the tail, and no longer the head. And to re-emphasize that:

## Events Clarify Cuban Stance

And we have enemies right at our door. Our leaders, in their weakness, have agreed to keep them.

## Pope Visits Irish Holy Spot

How many here have been following the travels of the pope? You watch. As I saw last year when he was coronated as pope, I knew that this man was going to be—just by looking at him, by seeing him, by just feeling the momentous events that were taking place—that Satan had gotten permission to put the man there that he wanted to bring the Catholic Church to the fore.

That is why Satan has created confusion, debauchery, liberalism, drugs, dope, sex, war, terrorism, so that he could raise his man to the scene and say what the pope is saying.

I think it's very significant that we find out what he said. I think it's very significant that on this Day of Atonement, as we're all gathered to be *at-one* with God, the pope lands in Boston. Let me read a little bit of what he has said here. It knocks Ireland.

Pope John Paul II took his peace pilgrimage...

I hope you saw where the two million Irish were out there. And they were singing, 'John Paul! John Paul! John Paul! John Paul!' In English that is momentous as it is an Italian: Viva Papa! Viva Papa!

...and there he gave a forceful denunciation of terrorism and said, "Murder is murder, no matter what the motives or the ends."

Of course, you know Satan is able to quote Scripture in a true and proper place.

And so the pontiff called on Northern Ireland to end the conflict, this great wound now afflicting our people. And he appealed to the Virgin Mary to cure and heal it.

We are seeing the momentous events taking place. Maybe we are right now at that point of Rev. 6 where the first seal is opened and the first horse, a white horse, symbolizing righteousness. And sitting on it he goes forth conquering and to conquer.

Now you see Satan's plan: that he has deprived the world, brought it to it's knees in the swill and the sickness of moral depravity, and then to raise up his leader as a 'minister of righteousness'; and the world is going to go after him. That means we have a grave responsibility and commission from God.

As we're here on the Day of Atonement, and we're fasting, and we're here to say goodbye—which is not easy—and the circumstances are not pleasant. As someone remarked to me—to the room, to the time, to the Sabbath and the Holy Day—Act Two, Scene Two.

Being able to say goodbye, realizing that the calling of God into His service, there are opportunities and areas of responsibilities. As I look back—of course, whenever we look back we have to look forward, too—I've been here four years and four months. You know and I know that these have been very difficult years in the entire Church, difficult years in the world and difficult years in your own lives. Through all of the trauma—and the trials and the blessings—realize that the ultimate end purpose is that God creates in us:

- His love
- His character
- His righteousness
- His goodness

And there's one thing that I realize:

- a ministry is not a job
- a ministry is not a salary
- *a ministry is a calling and a service*

- ✓ for God's heritage
- ✓ for God's flock
- ✓ for God's people

—because **they are His!**

I've had a lot of people ask me—because I've had to endure personally quite a few things: help all of you with your problems, your trials, the births, the deaths, the sickness, your ups, your downs, your aches, your pains, your joys, your sorrows—'Well, how can you do that?' I said many times:

1. there's something greater than all of us, *and that's God*
2. we need not focus in on the problems, but *focus in on the solution*

Sometimes the solution is more painful than the problem; but sometimes the result will be better. And only with God's Spirit and His mercy and love, and staying close to God's Word are we able in this age and this time, in these circumstances, to stay close to God.

I think this Day of Atonement where we're fasting, we're staying close to God, and we need to keep that always in mind that that's why God has us do this once a year. As long as we are human beings, and as long as we breathe, there are bound to be difficulties. There are bound to be problems.

I've striven in the ministry that I have been called to—as other ministers have been called to in God's work and church—to faithfully teach and preach God's Word; to faithfully serve God and His Word, whether for my own personal good or my own personal hurt. With the difficulties that have been within the Church and the changes that have been within the Church, it has presented a very difficult situation, indeed. I always tried to be honest, open, truthful and forthright. I hope anybody that has opinions to the otherwise would reconsider.

Yet, the greatest blessing is God's Spirit, my wife and family and serving the people in God's Church. Since being here in Monterey, God has blessed us tremendously, *spiritually and materially*. But as we look at the spiritual treasure that God wants us to have, my wife and I fully count—as what this day picture—that any physical thing for the sake of the true service of God can be left wherever it may be. God has given me opportunities in this area of service in the Church. God has given me an opportunity to write *A Harmony of the Gospels*, which I hope fully represents the Truth of the life of Christ, as best as could be expounded with God's Spirit, with the knowledge of the doctrines that we have and understand that come out of the Bible.

God has blessed me with an opportunity for some experience in the area of radio, a little

smattering of television, and I'm thankful for those opportunities, and realize they don't come all the time. When I talked to Mr. Armstrong about it—after having been accused very vociferously and in a very negative way concerning it—he said he was very glad I had the time. He was very glad that I was able to do it, and he was 100% for me in that situation.

Being here today—the day, the time—when we as people fast is really not the important thing as far as the physical is concerned, because there is a meaning to the Day of Atonement, in attitude and heart, that's very important.

God says in Lev. 23 that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month you shall have a Sabbath, and you shall afflict your souls. That means *fasting, humbling, yielding to God*, as the day in which no one does any work or labor. It is a day that if a person is not right with God *he is cut off!* So, let's focus in on our heart, our mind and our attitude.

Why did God choose fasting, anyway? Have you ever wondered? I think through the time we've been here in

- serving all of you
- praying for each other
- praying for the work
- praying for Mr. Armstrong
- praying for God's intervention in healing

that this church, as inspired by God's Spirit, has developed an attitude of prayer and fasting. I think it would be absolutely true to say that I hope before God that we have done the best we can in it.

Why does God have us fast? *Because when you don't eat and drink, you know there's something missing!* God has us fast because we won't die with one-day fasting. That's why He doesn't have the Feast of 'Hold Your Breath.' But what is really food and drink? There's a spiritual symbolism and significance and meaning to it. *Food and drink are the essentials of life!* When we don't eat and when we don't drink—when we fast—we're *acknowledging to God that everything we have comes from Him*, everything physical that there is:

- the air
- the water
- the food
- our homes
- whatever possessions we have

It also teaches us another very vital lesson: *there is something missing that we cannot obtain physically:*

- there is no food you can eat
- there is no drink you can drink
- there is nothing in this physical environment

That is going to fill that void, because *that void can only be filled spiritually! That void can only be sustained by God!*

Yet, the desire is there, and as you see the world in this coming year flocking after the false prophet, flocking and searching after the answers for life, they think that in the man of the pope they will find it, only to be disillusioned to find that the end is the same hypocritical thing that it has always been and will lead into the Great Tribulation.

That's why God is going to let so many millions die and suffer. He in His love will resurrect them because they have been deceived. But all humankind is going to learn the lesson that the things that they need are not obtainable physically, *but spiritually*, and that's where it counts. The biggest undefined need is that everybody wants to be needed, wanted and loved; regardless of whether he is young or old, rich or poor, or, as the Bible says, 'free or bond.' This world will soon be in the bondage of spiritual Egypt and *mentally controlled*.

This day, in our attitude toward God on a day of fasting, God is telling us that ***we need Him:***

- His way
- His mercy
- His love

*He is telling us also that*

- He needs us

—because without us, God's plan cannot be finished. Without accomplishing the good work that He has started in us, there will be no rulers for the Kingdom of God in the world tomorrow. That rule is going to be a rule of love, yet, a rule of strength.

The whole purpose in your life, in a sense, can be personified in this day: to be *at-one*. I think the greatest significance of it is that ***Satan is going to be put away!*** It has a greater significance for us, too, because after the resurrection and the coming of Jesus Christ and being born into His Kingdom, that means that we, brethren, who qualify for the first resurrection, will forever be without sin; and we will forever be with God.

That's why ***we have to come to want God's way more than anything in this world,*** more than any desire that there is; especially for us because *we know*.

- How does God look at it?
- What is God looking for when we fast?
- Is it just a ritual where we go through?

And say, 'Okay let's see, from sundown to sundown I'm going to fast, and I can hardly stand the day, because I really would rather eat; I'd really rather have a big bunch of food. I have a headache because

I missed my cup of coffee this morning'; whatever. What does God look at? *God is concerned in the attitude, because there's something that happens when a man realizes that he is insignificant!*

I think lots of times that we could look at that negatively, but let's look at it positively, and the good that can come.

Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool. Where, then, *is* the house that you build for Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?'"

God is telling us that on this Day of Atonement He is not interested in physical things. God can create a physical universe by thinking and it's there. God can reproduce worlds, suns and galaxies and they are there; but they're empty, they're hollow, they're missing something. They're missing the Family of God.

That's why God says, v 2: "'For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,' says the LORD. 'But to this one I will look...'" This is what is important; this is the attitude we need to have for this day:

"...to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word" (v 2)—willing to follow *God's Word*, and willing to follow *God's way*, regardless of the consequences. I say that the near future is going to prove us whether we mean it or not.

Isaiah 58:3: "*They say*, 'Why have we fasted, and You do not see? ...' We're not going to force God to do something that God is not going to do.

"...Why have we afflicted our soul and You take no knowledge?" Behold, in the day of your fast you pursue your business and exploit all your workers. Behold, you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness..." (vs 3-4). That's the opposite attitude that Christ wants. That's the opposite attitude that God wants—isn't it?

Let's see the attitude God wants us to have. We know we're all going to have trials and difficulties. I don't know, it just seems as that in those that one trial prepares us for the next. How many have found that to be true? *Yes it does!*

Psalms 34:1: "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall always be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and **delivered me from all my fears**. They looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard, and saved him out

of all his troubles” (vs 1-6). When they come there’s a good psalm to turn to.

Verse 7: “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. **O taste and see that the LORD is good...**” (vs 7-8). That’s why we have this Day of Atonement.

Jesus said, ‘He who comes to Me must eat My flesh and drink My blood’; because Christianity is not a ‘religion,’ *it is a way of life!* The things that we do are not ritualistic; they’re meaningful in the spirit; they’re meaningful in our lives and our eternal destiny. That’s why he says, **“O taste and see that the LORD is good...”**

“...blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. O fear the LORD, all you saints, for there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but **those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.** Come, hearken to me, you children; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man that desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and **do good; seek peace and pursue it.** The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth” (vs 8-16).

But there’s one thing that God always does: *He lets the wicked prosper!* He lets them think that they have won. We will see that repeated in the world scene with the events that are coming. He lets them think that they have won, but *then He cuts them off!*

Verse 17: “The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit” (vs 17-18). That’s the whole purpose of the attitude for the Feast of Atonement. That’s why it’s called a Feast day, though it’s an affliction day. We afflict ourselves physically, but *we feast spiritually.* We see the physical things, and yet, *evaluate the spiritual consequences!*

As the day of oneness with God and drawing close to Him, it will also signify that time to the world when they will have the same opportunity; when Satan the devil will not be there. You won’t have to walk down the streets and see the sick, the lame, the blind, the halted, the smog, the dirt and the filth. You won’t have to read about murder, rape, accidents, plane crashes or kidnappings. It won’t be! And it can’t happen until the world is at-one with God. It never has been, but that day is coming.

Verse 19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous... [yes, in this time] ...but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

God shows what kind of fast that He looks to, what kind of attitude that we need to have. It is certainly true! At this Feast of Tabernacles—that’s approaching—we need to approach it with fasting and with prayer.

Joel 2:12: “‘Therefore, even now,’ says the LORD, **‘turn to Me with all your heart...’**” That’s what God is interested in. He wants your heart; He wants your mind! That’s why you have the physical body that you have. You have it for a spiritual and eternal reason. But this physical body is going to pass away, and this physical body is going to be gone! I saw a woman that I hadn’t seen in years, and she just made a remark, ‘Well, we all change—don’t we?’ We do.

I think with the Day of Atonement, and we focus in on that the physical things will never succeed, we all realize that *we have no control over:* birth, aging, taxes, or death—

- whether you’re happy
  - whether you’re miserable
  - whether you’re rich
  - whether you’re poor
  - whether you’re a man
  - whether you’re a woman
- that is true!

That’s why with this Day of Atonement God says *He wants us to* “...‘turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.’ Yes, rend your heart and not your garments, and **return to the LORD your God...**” (vs 12-13). That’s what we need to do. That’s what it is concerned about. That’s the only way we can be *at-one* with God. God doesn’t need the physical things. He can make those. The earth is His footstool, and yet, the world powers struggle over it:

- to control it
- to fight and war over it
- to have it
- to use it
- to abuse it
- to manipulate
- to control
- to deceive
- to own
- to possess
- to only have it and die

You read the history of every great leader in this world and they have died, and many of them ignominious deaths. Why? *Because the flesh profits nothing!*

That's why when God has called us and we have His Spirit He is concerned about our hearts and our minds. He doesn't want the tearing of garments. He doesn't want physical ritual. And even as He told the Pharisees, 'that even though they blew the trumpets, and even though they sounded the alarm when they put in their amount into the treasury, *that the heart was more important than the amount!* So, God wants your heart and turn to Him.

"...for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil. Who knows *if* He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind Him..." (vs 13-14).

That's why it's a good time to re-evaluate everything that you thought you had stood for as a Christian, everything you thought God has called you for. A good time to look at the life of Jesus Christ and evaluate:

- what He did
- what He said
- what His attitude was
- how He conducted His life
- what that has for us in meaning for this day

Now, it could very well be, but it doesn't say that this temptation and fasting was on or near the Day of Atonement; but it could very well be. This day of fasting for us, the lessons out of Luke 4, are very important because

- it tells us the attitude that Jesus Christ had
- it tells us the attitude that we need to have
- it tells us the attitude that can only come from God

We can only furnish part of it. God has to furnish the other half of that with His Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:1: "And Jesus, filled with *the* Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness *for* forty days to be tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing in those days; and after they had come to an end, He hungered" (vs 1-2). **Forty days!**

Now, you can just imagine what kind of shape He was in physically. You can just imagine how much weight He lost. You can just imagine how gaunt and thin and miserable that Jesus was as a human being, because the Son of God was going to have no pride in the flesh. That's why He met Satan in this condition.

Verse 3: "Then the devil said to Him, 'If You are *the* Son of God, command that this stone become bread.' But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God"' (vs 3-4) That's the meaning of this day when it says, ***taste and see that the Lord is***

***good.***' God's Word is more important, God's Spirit is more important than physical life.

That is why in this age of materialism, as we kaleidoscope down in the vortex of all of the prophecies that are rapidly shooting out in front of us, it's going to end in the martyrdom of Christians. It's going to end in the martyrdom of Christians who are rich and increased with goods and naked and blind. ***If they love God, they can't love the flesh!*** Man shall not live by bread only—food alone—but by every Word of God.

Verse 5: "Then the devil led Him up into a high mountain *and* showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time" Just like on a great panoramic screen:

- every nation
  - every people
  - every kindred
  - every tongue
  - every civilization
  - all the powers
  - all the troops
  - all of the mechanisms
  - all of the beauty
  - all of the gold
  - all of the wealth
  - all of the buildings
- everything!

Verse 6: "And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this authority, and the glory of them *all*; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I desire.'"

Jesus was tested to see if He would *sell the salvation of the world* for the control of it. Maybe the devil even told Him, 'I know You're the Son of Man, but if You worship me, You can rule now. I will let You rule the world, but You must worship me as God.'

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written, "You..."' Now, that is not talking to Satan, because Satan is never going to worship God. He's quoting the Scripture where the Scripture says *you* to mankind. As a human being He was quoting the Scripture to Himself, saying, '*God says you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.*' He was saying and rebuking Satan in a straightforward way, that '*you are not God.*'

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written, "You shall worship *the* Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.'" Then he led Him to Jerusalem and set Him upon the edge of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from

here; for it is written..."—chapter, verse, Scripture; I got it right here; it says, "...“He shall give His angels charge concerning You to keep You; and in *their* hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.” But Jesus answered *and* said to him, ‘It is *clearly* stated, **“You shall not tempt the Lord your God.”**’ Now, when the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from Him for a time” (vs 8-13).

I imagine when that was over, the account in Matthew says that angels came and ministered to Him, that He was so weak, physically, that He could barely raise His hands; He could barely stand on His own two feet. I imagine if we go back to Ps. 84 we could get a good idea of what Jesus was thinking about at that time. Maybe this is what He was thinking about. Maybe this is what He had on His mind.

I know one thing in the experience of being a minister, in serving people here in Monterey and the other congregations I have been, that when the time of deprivation, sorrow, sadness, sickness, disease, pain and misery strike, that is the time when people really look forward to the things of the Kingdom of God, when they really look forward to those spiritual things of God.

I imagine how Jesus was then. I imagine Jesus could look down and see how thin He was and how weak He was, and I imagine His hands were trembling and His mouth was thick and tight and almost filled with, like it was, with cotton or sand.

Psalm 84:1: “How lovely are Your tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!” How pleasant they are, God! How right they are, God!

Verse 2: “My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God” (v 2). He knew what was important, and He knew what was right, and He knew what was good.

Verse 3: “Yea, even the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah.” (vs 3-4). Blessed shall it be:

- when we are in God’s house
- when we are in God’s kingdom
- when we are there with Jesus Christ and God the Father

Verse 5: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; Your ways are in their hearts.”

Psalm 15:1: “LORD, who shall dwell in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell upon Your Holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works

righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change it... [his word is his bond; he means what he says] ...he who has not put out his money at usury, nor has he taken a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things... [the right things] ...shall never be moved,” (vs 1-5).

Psalm 63 is always one of my favorite psalms. It’s always the best way in the attitude to ensure that you will stay right with God, you will be right with God.

Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.”

Just picture yourself in the heat of a desert, having gone through all the mirages of the invisible lakes that are on the desert, and maybe you’re about ready to die. Maybe you need some water, whatever it may be. Then you think maybe it’s going come to an end. And you think, ‘O God! What a tremendous thing it would be to be with You, and my flesh cries out for You!’

Verse 2: “See Your power and Your glory— as I have seen You in the sanctuary. Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips when I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore, in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows hard after You...” (vs 2-8).

That’s the way it needs to be in our life, brethren, that our souls, our hearts, our minds, our being follow hard after God.

- don’t let this world or anything detract you
- don’t let anything detour you
- don’t let anything hold you back from following after God hard

“...Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life to destroy it shall go into the depths of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a serving for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory, but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped” (vs 8-11).

Let’s carry on what Jesus said. One of the beatitudes that we need to have, one of the things that we need to really understand, one of the things

that we need to realize in the best and proper way, and this day epitomizes and pictures more than anything else.

Matthew 5:3: “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit...” That means that spiritually before God they are right. They come to God and say, ‘Yes, God, I know that in the flesh I’m nothing. I know that of my own self, my own mind, my own heart, that I am capable of doing nothing in serving You, in doing Your will and doing Your ways.’ And that we understand it comes from God.

“...for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled” (vs 3-6). And that’s the meaning of this day.

- Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness?
- Do you hunger and thirst after those things that are right and good?
- Have you set your heart and your mind and your course in this life and in your Christian life that God has called you into, to do that, to seek that?

God says you will be filled. It’s after righteousness:

- righteousness is *doing right*
- righteousness is *doing good*
- righteousness is *serving God* with a right heart, mind, attitude and spirit

or

- Do we end up like the world?
- fighting?
- striving?
- backbiting?
- bickering?

I guarantee you, *spiritual murder* is worse than physical. The righteousness that can only come from God, and that only God can fill, that only God, with His Spirit, can put into the void to make us see and understand His Word, and live by it. He gave the Constitution for Christian living in Matthew 5-7. Upon which, brethren, I submit that none of us at any time, or any station, ***have the right or the authority to change it!***

Let’s see what the biggest missing ingredient is that God has to give, Mark 12:28 “And one of the scribes who had come up *to Him*, after hearing them reasoning together *and* perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, ‘**Which is the first commandment of all?**’ Then Jesus answered him, ‘*The first of all the commandments is, “Hear, O Israel ...”*’ (vs 28-29). You can put your name there, because this is what Jesus is telling us.

- *if there’s any one thing* that is going to please God
- *if there’s any one thing* that is going to put you in right standing with God
- *if there’s any one thing* that is of the most paramount importance in our life to achieve, it is this:

Verse 30: ““And you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is the* first commandment.” This is the primary commandment. Because on that:

- *if you love God* then you don’t love your own life unto death
- *if you love God*, you can have the faith to face the future
- *if you love God* then He will be with you

Verse 31: “And *the* second *is* like this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’....” I think that there are an awful lot of us from time-to-time who come to the point of hatred for our neighbors, *because we hate ourselves.*

(go to the next track)

We hate ourselves because we don’t love God. That doesn’t mean to turn around like the world and say, ‘The only way you can love your neighbor is love yourself.’ *No!* The only way you can love your neighbor ***is to love God first***, and then your neighbor as yourself. It’s the only way it’s going to be.

And that’s the biggest missing ingredient that only God can give us, because God is love. He doesn’t *have* love; ***He is love!*** ***We can only possess what God gives us!*** Therefore, it has to come from God, and that’s why we fast and pray; that’s why we yield to God. Let’s see what this Christian way of life and this attitude of being at one with God, and serving God, and being close to Him, should lead us to do, and how we ought to conduct our lives, and how we ought to conduct ourselves.

Romans 12:1: “I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice...”—because the flesh doesn’t count. It’s only a vehicle to achieve the righteousness that God wants. It’s only a physical vehicle and mechanism through which God’s Spirit can work, that we may develop the character and the heart, mind and attitude of God. “...to present your bodies a ***living*** sacrifice...” The root word there is ‘zoae,’ which means *zealous, active*; implicating *dedicated*, because the word *zealot* comes from the same root.

“...Holy *and* well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service. **Do not conform yourselves**



**to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind** in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God” (vs 1-2).

There’s something else we have to do—there are many instructions here in Rom. 12, but we won’t go through the whole thing—Paul says, 9: “*Let love be without hypocrisy [dissimulation]...*” The most dissimulating show of love that has been recorded in the world’s history: ***the kiss of Judas!***

“...abhorring that which is evil *and* cleaving to that which is good” (v 9). There has to be a fight! There has to be a struggle! There has to be a war! It is a *spiritual war*, and it is a *mental battle*, and it is that something that needs to be worked on all the time.

Let’s see how God wants us to be. God doesn’t want us to be as part of this society, as part of this world. What does God say about the friendship of this world? *If you are a friend of the world you are an enemy of God!* He says, ‘Woe unto you when men speak well of you for so did they of the false prophets.’

Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering... [an atonement] ...and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor” (vs 1-2). Let’s not let the stench of the *dung of sin* interfere with that offering.

Verse 3: “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming; but instead, thanksgiving For this you know...” (vs 3-5).

- God is saying in His love
- God is saying in His Truth
- God is saying, inspired through the Apostle Paul:

—to those who thought they stand—***‘Take heed for those of you who think you stand, lest you fall!’***

And he said this, v 5: “For this you know, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous *person*, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words; for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not be joint partakers with them. For you were once darkness; but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, (because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and Truth); proving what is well pleasing to the Lord; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose

*them*; for it is shameful even to mention the things being done by them in secret” (vs 5-12).

As we see the world, like a comet, streaking towards its destruction, God says, Isaiah 58:1 we are to: ***“Cry aloud, do not spare, lift up your voice like a ram’s horn...”*** Part of the very love of God is to warn of the sin that is there. Part of the righteousness of God is to reveal the evil that is there. The hardest thing that’s going to be, brethren, is to stand up and tell the world that the pope is of the devil! They won’t believe us!

“...and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (v 1). Since we’ve come out of the world, brethren, we are affected by the world, and those things affect us, and those things affect ***the spiritual temple*** of God.

Jeremiah 7:1: “The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, “Hear the Word of the LORD, all Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.”’ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...” (vs 1-3). I think maybe as we’re going to the Feast, and maybe as we’re evaluating our lives in these times in which we live, ***let’s think about these words:***

- to us
- to our lives individually
- to our lives collectively
- to our purposes
- to our goals
- for our representation of God

God says, “...‘Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in lying words, saying, “The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD *are* these” (vs 3-4).

All you have to do is read the history of the Church of God. All you have to do is realize and know and understand that God has told us—as Christians, as those that He has called—that our choices are the things that count. I’ve often heard a lot of people ask:

- Why does God allow this?
- Why does God allow that?
- Why does God allow the other things?
- *If there weren’t free moral agency, then God wouldn’t allow it!*
- What will God allow?
- *Anything but the destruction of the earth!*
- What will God allow in your life? *Anything you decide to do!*  
✓ that’s why it has to be *right and good*

- ✓ that is why there has to be *repentance*
- ✓ that is why God says that we need to *amend our ways*

The last people on earth that need to be saying, 'We're the people of God! We're the people of God! We're the people of God!' should be us; to say how good and righteous we are.

Verse 5: "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor." Resolve the issues that come. Bring forth the difficulties to the light.

Verse 6: "*If* you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your hurt; then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever. Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know; and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'?" (vs 5-10).

- Shall we brethren, really?
- Can it really be so?
- Can it really be true?

The greatest hypocrisy that can ever be is that if we end up like the rest of the world. Jesus didn't say that the Pharisees were wrong for having the Scripture. He did not say that they weren't there in authority. But He did say, '**Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees**'—didn't He?

- that is put there that *we may learn*
- that is put there that *we may understand*
- that is put there that *we may learn not to do those same things*

1-Timothy 6:1: "Let as many slaves as are under the yoke of *servitude* esteem their own masters worthy of all respect, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine be not blasphemed. Do not let those who have believing masters despise *them* because they are brethren; rather, let them serve *them even better*, because they are believing and beloved who are being helped by the good service. **These things teach and exhort**" (vs 1-2)—all the things leading up there, all through 1-Tim. 1-5: **"...These things teach and exhort."**

And what did he say? What were some of the things that he said to the minister? Let's see some of those things.

1-Timothy 4:6: "If you are teaching these

things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ, being nourished by the words of the faith and of the good doctrines that you have closely followed. But refuse profane and old wives' fables; rather, exercise yourself unto Godliness" (vs 6-7). Then he says that bodily exercise profits a little, but that which is spiritual is best.

Verse 10: "Now, it is for this *reason that* we are laboring, and we are personally suffering reproach because we have hope in *the* living God, Who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who are believers. **These things command and teach**" (vs 10-11). There are certain things *we have to command and teach*. He also told them in 2-Tim. 3 that there are times when you have to say things that may not necessarily be pleasant. And there is a time to say them, there's a season to say them, and there is a way to say them.

2-Timothy 4:1: "I charge you, therefore... [to Timothy, a minister] ...in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be urgent in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine. **For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine**; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of teachers*, having ears itching to hear *what satisfies their cravings*" (vs 1-3). You know, brethren, that could happen within the Church as well as without.

Verse 5: "But *as for* you, be vigilant in all things, endure hardships, do *the* work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry."

He told them in 1-Timothy 6:3: "If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

You see, brethren, the truth is we're not an Old Testament Church. The truth is that we are to follow and live by every Word of God; we're to live by the words of Jesus Christ. The truth is, when Jesus said, that if you be sued, 'give them your cloak.' The truth is, 'agree with your adversary' while you're in the way with him. **Those are the wholesome words of Jesus Christ!** The truth is that we are to 'obey the magistrates and be subject to the powers to be,' whether for good or whether for evil. Paul said that of a dictatorial government, where there were no constitutional rights:

- as we sow, *so shall we reap*
- as we live, *so shall we die*

If we are not dedicated—individually and collectively—at all times and in every place to uphold the sacred and Holy name of Jesus Christ and

uphold what God stands for, ***God Himself shall have His judgment upon us; God Himself shall tell us.***

There does need to come to time when there has to be ***a crying aloud and sparing not.*** And there does have to come a time when there has to be a *public evaluation of our sins as a group, and each of us individually.*

- not for condemnation
- not for judgment
- not for vanity
- not for vain-talking
- not for hellfire and brimstone

***But in love and strength and concern that we all make it into the Kingdom of God; and that we can eternally love each other, and we can eternally be right with Him!***

Verse 3: “If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to Godliness, he is proud...”—the Greek there is *puffed up*: unconverted; filled with leaven.

“...and knows nothing. Rather, he has a morbid attraction to questions and disputes over words, from which come envy, arguments, blasphemy, wicked suspicions, vain reasonings of men who have been corrupted in *their* minds and *are* destitute of the truth—*men* who believe that gain is Godliness. **From such withdraw yourself**” (vs 4-5).

When I first got the call Friday morning from Mr. Luker about what had transpired, and about what had gone forward, I’ve since had a long time to really think about and pray about the things that have transpired, from the first encounter—before the Sabbath before Pentecost—and the one this week. I’ve had to examine my life and my heart before God Almighty.

I had to make sure that I love God more than anything there is, because Jesus Christ said, ‘*He who seeks to save his life shall lose it!*’ And on the Day of Atonement I think it’s very fitting that we understand *we’re not going to save ourselves by physical means!*

As the circumstances and events have occurred in my life, at this point in my life I would have the greatest need to hold on to something physical. I would find the greatest reasons to compromise the Truth of God to survive. When I got that call Friday morning I was very upset. I was not mad, I was not angry. *I was very disappointed!* In praying about it I determined that if it were God’s will that I transfer, I would go, and go willingly.

But I got a call later in the afternoon stating that the most unthinkable had happened. That showed me ***I could no longer continue with the Worldwide Church of God*** in a conscientious way when I heard that Stanley Rader was ordained as an evangelist, when Mr. Armstrong said he never would: Rader:

- who had taken God’s name in vain publicly on national television
- who has taken to himself the vengeance of God
- who is, in vengeance, out to do in everyone who will not agree with him

I feel, brethren, that the sacred tithe money and offerings that you send in to God, to be used on the projects initiated and suggested by Mr. Rader are an ***effrontery and blasphemous*** before God, of which I suggest you read *Quest Magazine*.

I am sure that true to God’s Word that as a church and as a work—and I’m not saying this in condemnation—I’m saying pray for them, brethren, because they need your prayers.

- I’m not saying this because I want to hold on to something physical that I possess
- I’m not saying this because I want to be uncooperative and not transfer
- I’m not saying this to be dramatic and tell you to follow me

But I’m saying this because ***the worst evil that could ever happen is that God’s Church be deceived from within!***

A man, who in my judgment with the Spirit of God—though I know it is not my final judgment to make, but we shall know them by their fruits—has been placed into one of the highest offices in the Church, and we may find ourselves in very desperate trouble.

I do know that there are sins in high places, that, as the Apostle Paul has said, are ***‘so despicable they are unrepeatable.’*** And that unless these are repented of, *and our parts in agreeing with it*, we shall all be vomited out of the mouth of God.

I hope and pray that there is someone in Pasadena today standing in the pulpit, ***calling God’s people to repentance, to amend their ways!*** And to use the ***resources and power and manpower and money that God has given into the hands of the Church to preach the name of Jesus Christ around the world!*** And we’d better sound religious! And we better uphold the name of Jesus Christ! *Because our foe is Satan the devil*, and if we try and preach the salvation of God without the name of Jesus Christ, that is another gospel that is being preached that Christ didn’t send!

If we fall victim to that, Satan's coup de gras within has taken place! ***Evil, fear, terror, wretchedness, suspicion, doubt, lack of love and hatred will all come!***

To which, brethren, I'm very sorry. My heart, my mind and my attitude go out for Mr. Armstrong personally. I've been with him; I've talked with him; I also know the circumstances involved; and I also understand, and I also know, true to what God says, ***unless there is the kind of repentance***, which I thought was coming a year ago in January, a year ago in June, when he said to sell *Quest*, and that Mr. Rader was no longer going to have any power in the Church, at which time Mr. Rader threatened to *sue* Mr. Armstrong. Of which, I submit, that if I had threatened to sue Mr. Armstrong how long do think I would have lasted, let alone be ordained as an evangelist?

You have seen your brothers and your sisters, and fellow ministers and deacons become ***prey to the devourer from within and from without!***

It's time that we come to God in prayer, in fasting, and yielding to Him, that God Almighty would save His people; that God Almighty would turn us to serve Him with all our heart, mind, soul and being, and that ***we quit deceiving ourselves!***

Just like God allowed with Job, it went on, and it went on, and it went on. I imagine Job said, 'How long, God?' ***Till he had his mind opened! Till he could understand what was right before God!*** God gives a warning! I submit to you, brethren, every one of us in the Worldwide Church of God fit into Rev. 3:14 on. God Almighty says that we are to ***repent***—every one of us: me, you, all the way up the line!

Revelation 3:15: "I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot..." Almost double-spirited, double-minded; one standard for the people, one conduct for others; the equal and the more equal.

"...I would that you be *either* cold or hot" (v 15). We ought to be on fire, brethren! Let me tell you, I called an author of one of the articles here, which is a lot of first level witchcraft practice of burning their relatives and letting their children run the ashes through their fingers, and wish the spirit well on its travel to the other side; and initiate his son into the mysteries.

I called this man; he lives in Berkeley. He is an atheist genetic Jew, who believes in Eastern Maharishiism. When we first got the *Human Potential Magazine* with Mr. Armstrong's article in it, this was presented to us as the thing that it would be. The switch came later, that advertises Christmas,

takes the name of God in vain, and ***uses the tithe money of God!*** I'm sorry, brethren!

Verse 16: "So then, because you are lukewarm... [half in the world, half in the church, not zealous for God] ...and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and you do not understand that **you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked**" (vs 16-17).

And you know, brethren, I don't know any minister that has been happy. We have all been *miserable!* I come before you to repent of my part. I come before you not to say I'm perfect or I am free of sin, but I come before you ***to warn you***, as a minister of God, that ***unless we all repent collectively as a church, that the devices of Satan have been set in motion that's going to destroy it and tear it apart!***

Verse 17: "For you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich; and white garments so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to **anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see**" (vs. 17-18)—instead of being deceived.

And may we all say together, 'God, put our sins under the blood of Jesus Christ, that the blood of Jesus Christ *forgive us for our wretchedness*; that the blood of Jesus Christ *forgive us for becoming wicked, and evil, and vile; that we may see*. God, we know You love us. God, we know You have called us.'

Verse 18: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich; and white garments so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed, and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see"—because, brethren, ***God will expose us to the world and we shall be ugly, sinful, despicable, wretched!*** And they will look at us and say, 'You represent God?'

Verse 19: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." (vs 19-20). It's true, and Mr. Armstrong is right, the coming of Christ is soon. But we'd better be about *God's business and God's way*, to serve God. If not, He will not say to us, 'Well done good and faithful servant.' He will say, ***'Cast him into the Lake of Fire, because he was unprofitable.'***

So, brethren, I appreciate your prayers. I love you. I love God's Church, and I love Mr. Armstrong. I don't say these things in any way in vindictiveness. I know after I step down from here I will be marked, disfellowshipped, branded and discredited. I understand that. But ***I count it, brethren, to be cast out of the Church of God for telling the truth, an honor!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in It's Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 66:1-2
- 2) Isaiah 58:3-4
- 3) Psalm 34:1-19
- 4) Joel 2:12-14
- 5) Luke 4:1-6, 8-13
- 6) Psalm 84:1-5
- 7) Psalm 15:1-5
- 8) Psalm 63:1-11
- 9) Matthew 5:3-6
- 10) Mark 12:28-31
- 11) Romans 12:1-2, 9
- 12) Ephesians 5:1-12
- 13) Isaiah 58:1
- 14) Jeremiah 7:1-10
- 15) 1 Timothy 6:1-2
- 16) 1 Timothy 4:6-7, 10-11
- 17) 2 Timothy 4:1-3, 5
- 18) 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- 19) Revelation 3:15-20

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Leviticus 23
- 1 Timothy 1-5
- 2 Timothy 3
- Revelation 3:14

Also referenced: Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels*

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# Invisible Idol/Visible Man I

Fred R. Coulter

As you will see, this sermon will help answer a lot of questions as to what is happening to the Church of God today, and in particular what is happening to the Worldwide Church of God and all those other churches that have split off from the Worldwide Church of God. There's definitely a lesson for us. There's definitely the hand of God now being exercised in Pasadena, California, and Tyler, Texas, in destroying the Worldwide Church of God. **And there is a reason!**

That reason is *the invisible idol, the visible man!* Let's understand that the *invisible idol* is something you setup in your mind. We know we're not to bow down to idols that are made, graven or carved to serve them; we realize that. But God wants us to understand that there is a more deadly idol: **the invisible idol**, which everyone has been bowing down to. So, God's hand of correction is upon the Church of God very heavy and very hard and very difficult. It's not going to leave anyone untouched! Everyone is going to have to understand what it is that's going on, know the reasons why it's going on, and then what each one of any of the brethren or ministers need to do in order to get their lives squared around from this kind of thing. It takes two to tango!

Ezekiel 14:1: "And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts...' (vs 1-3).

- What is the idol that was set up in their hearts?
- Set up in the hearts of the brethren?
- Set up in the hearts of the ministry?
- Which God is going to cut asunder and absolutely destroy?
  - ✓ It is an idol that cuts you off from God!
  - ✓ It is an idol that breeds sin and corruption!

That idol is **the idol of church authority and hierarchy!** We will see in the Bible how God clearly told ancient Israel that when they wanted a king *they rejected God*. The king became the *visible man* and the authority became the *invisible idol!*

"...these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces...." (v 3). This kind of hierarchy and tyrannical authority is strictly forbidden by Jesus Christ, and that it leads to all the things that are here in Ezek. 14.

"...Should I at all be inquired of by them?" (v 3). Someone has these idols in their mind. If someone says, 'The minister said so'; and some have even said, 'If the minister is 99% wrong and the members are 99% right, God is going to uphold the minister, because he is the 'man of God.'

- That is an *idol!*
- That is a *lie!*
- That is a *stumbling block!*
- That is *sin!*

Verse 4: "Therefore, speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD...' These are the words of God, and we need to let them sink deep within our heart so that we understand what God is telling us, and how we can come out from under this tyrannical oppression.

"...Every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols" (v 4).

That's exactly what God is doing to the Worldwide Church of God. They had a hierarchal authority, the ministers in charge were oppressors, and we will see exactly how that has happened. Everyone would bow down to this idol, so God says that if you come before Him and you've got these idols in your mind, then you have them in your heart' and it's going to cause you to sin and you're going to have a great deal of problem, and He's going to answer you directly. We're going to see that that is exactly what God is doing to the Worldwide Church of God; He's answering it directly.

We need to learn the lesson: When God had the temple in Jerusalem, that's where He placed His name. When there's sin, corruption, politics and oppression of the brethren, just like we're going to see the oppression of the citizens of Israel, God will destroy, and that's what He's doing! Just as He destroyed Jerusalem, He is destroying Pasadena, California, and Tyler, Texas, and will subsequently have many sharp words to say against anyone who dares to *re-create* the idol!

God says He's going to do this, v 5: "So that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart... [God is going to judge us according to our own ways] ...because they have deserted Me for their idols—all of them."

What is this *invisible idol/visible man* say today? *It's all right that you work on the Sabbath!*

*You don't need to keep the Holy Days! Go have all the shrimp in the world that you want!* As a matter of fact, you don't need the Bible; you don't even need baptism. He's taking them in their own craft and destroying them.

Verse 6: "Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "**Repent...**"'" That's what this sermon is, a call to repentance

- for all of those who have participated in this
- for all the ministers who have given themselves over to it
- for all of those who sit in the seat of authority and abuse it

He says: "...and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations" (v 6). Have there not been a lot of abominations done in the name of God, in the Church of God? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 7: "For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger who lives in Israel, who separates himself from Me..." We're talking about a personal, individual relationship between the person and God. He's talking to every one of us in particularly.

"...and sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to a prophet to ask of him concerning Me; I the LORD will answer him Myself.... [let's see what God's warning is]: ...And **I will set My face against that man**, and I will make him for a sign and for a proverb. And **I will cut him off from the midst of My people**; and you shall know that I *am* the LORD" (vs 7-8).

Let's think about this in relationship to the *invisible idol*, but we have the *visible man* who proclaims himself to be someone very important. Everyone bows down to his edicts. Instead of worshiping God, we end up worshiping a man. They say they don't, but they're only deceiving themselves, because they don't realize the effects of the *invisible idol*. They see the *visible man*!

God is going to answer everyone. He's going to answer the one who puts himself in that position. He's going to answer everyone else who loves it that way, and accepts that kind of thing, because God doesn't want it. He says, 'Every man separates himself. God is going to answer him to his face, and "...make him for a sign and for a proverb. And I will cut him off from the midst of My people..."

- What do think is happening to Pasadena? *They are closing down everything!*
- Is it not a sign and a proverb? *Yes, it is!*

- What is happening to all the ministers who held that authority and exercised that authority, used that authority?
- Used that *visible idol* over the people? *They're going to have all their paychecks cut off!*
- What is going to happen to Pasadena? *It's going to be gone!*
- What is going to happen to name Worldwide Church of God? *It'll be a footnote in history!*

They will change the name! Because of the *invisible idol* and the *visible man* who exercised the authority of the *invisible idol*!

Verse 9: "And the prophet, if he is deceived, and he speaks a word..." Have we not had deceitful doctrines come along now?

"...I the LORD have deceived that prophet..." (v 9). Why? *Because they're not taking the counsel of God!* They're not looking into the Word of God to understand the Truth! They're looking into the Word of God to break the commandments and laws of God! To turn the people back to sin! So, God has deceived them!

Have you heard some of the sermons coming out of these churches, where they still have the *invisible idol* and *visible man*? *Deception! Lies!* That includes Philadelphia Church of God, Global/Living Church of God, and any other Church of God that still retains the *invisible idol* and has the *visible man*. Understand that God is not going to let them go unpunished.

"...And I will stretch out My hand upon him and will destroy him from the midst of My people Israel. And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeks unto him. So that the house of Israel... [the Church of God] ...may never again go astray from Me, nor be defiled again with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people, and I may be their God,' says the Lord GOD." (vs 9-11).

That's not what God wants in the Church of God. It is structured on completely the wrong and fallacious structure. Let's see what God wants it to be. There have been some people who have slanderously said of me, and the Christian Biblical Church of God, that we don't believe in any organization, in any structure. *Yes, we do!* We want to do it the way God wants it. We have learned our lesson! We have been burned! We have gone through the valley of death so to speak. God does not want that kind of structure, and we're going to see exactly what that kind of structure it is, and exactly what that kind of structure does. But first

we need to understand what is that God wants from us.

Exodus 19:4: “‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought **you** unto Myself. Now, therefore, if **you**... [individuals] ...will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (vs 4-6).

Then God gave the Law, and immediately after the giving of the Ten Commandments, the people began to insulate themselves from God. That’s not what God wants us to do in the Church of God today. He does not want us to insulate ourselves from Him, He wants to come and dwell in us.

Exodus 20:18, after the giving of the Ten Commandments: “And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. And when the people saw, they trembled and stood afar off. And they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear. But let not God speak with us, lest we die’” (vs 18-19). So, they gave themselves a little insulation from God.

I’m here to tell you that the wrong structure in church government, and the wrong authority by the ministry has put the ministry between the people and God, and has given the insulation. And it goes one step further. Let’s see how God wanted everything to be.

Let me mention that you cannot go to Exo. 18 where Israel was organized in such a way that when they were marching and camped with the captains of 10s, 50s and 100s; God did not organize the nation that way. That was only for the time that they were in the wilderness, and that they were being guided by God directly. Everything was so close, encamped, so you had to have that kind of organization. That’s not how to organize a church. God did not give that for the Church. God never even kept that with the children of Israel at all.

In Judges 2:6 we have a very interesting lesson for us. We’re going to see that part of the punishment for wanting to insulate yourself from God, and wanting to have a different kind of government than what God wants you to have leads to sin.

God set it up with the elders running Israel. You had Joshua and then the elders. Let’s see what happened here. You don’t find captains of 1000s, captains of 10s and so forth. That is reserved for only army-type situations.

Judges 2:6: “And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel left, each man to his inheritance, to possess the land. And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua...” (vs 6-7). We’re going to see that when you follow the *visible man*, and you still have this *invisible idol* in your mind, as long as the man is righteous then the people obey. But when the man is not righteous, the people disobey.

“...and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD that He did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being a hundred and ten years old. And they buried him on the border of his inheritance... [v 10]: ...And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor even the works which He had done for Israel” (vs 7-10).

We’re seeing that same thing happen in the Church today. We are seeing a great division between those who knew God’s way when it was taught properly, but now have suffered from the oppression of the *invisible idol/visible man*. They are still trying to retain that which is right, but there’s another generation that is coming up within the Churches of God that are going to do exactly what the children of Israel did here.

As soon as you realize how corrupt that it is, people throw up their hands and say, ‘This can’t be right,’ and walk back into the world. Or the whole church—part of the punishment and deception that is coming—for its punishment is being dragged back into the world: doctrinally, spiritually, morally, and every other way. That’s exactly what happened to the children of Israel.

Verse 11: “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim.” That’s exactly what’s happening with all these new doctrines coming down. It’s nothing more than modern-day Baalism and Ashtorothism. It’s going back to:

- Sunday-worship
- Christmas-worship
- Easter-worship

**That is old ancient Baalism!** That’s exactly what it is! What happens when you do that?

Verse 12: “And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt. And they followed other gods, even the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked the LORD to anger.” God is angry with the Church of God today! His correction is coming; it’s already at hand; it’s well enforced and coming way down the road to where we are going to see the Worldwide Church of



God completely destroyed *for the sins of its invisible idol and the visible man!*

Verse 13: “And they forsook the LORD and served Baal and Ashtaroth.” Just go through all the book of Judges, and it says again and again that the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord—every generation—until you come clear to the end of the book of Judges, and this sounds like a solution. It is a solution, but it is the *wrong* solution!

Judges 21:25: “In those days *there was* no king in Israel. Every man did *what was* right in his own eyes.” The solution is not the king. The solution is individual repentance and everyone returning back to God. The king actually cuts people off from God!

Let’s see what happens and how things progressed and occurred. This is when the people came and said to Samuel, ‘We don’t want you, your sons are corrupt. We want a king.’

1-Samuel 8:4: “And all the elders of Israel gathered themselves and came to Samuel to Ramah. And *they* said to him, ‘Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like **all the nations.**’” (vs 4-5). I want you to understand *all the nations*. Jesus has something to say about that in the New Testament in relationship to the Church, and in relationship to the Church leaders beginning with the apostles.

Verse 6: “But the thing was evil in the eyes of Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ And Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Hearken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.**’” (vs 6-7). Now they have the *visible man*, but they also have the *invisible idol!* They don’t want God ruling over them!

And that’s exactly what is happening in the Church of God today. There are people who want God to rule over them, but they have been so used to the *invisible idol* and the *visible man* that they are at a loss as to what to do. They don’t know how to recover themselves out of this.

The truth is that the monarchy in Israel and Judah was a step removed from God. Whenever you have that same kind of authority within a Church of God, based upon a monarchy or a monarchical or hierarchical system, it is a step away from God. It leads to all kinds of sins and corruption, as we will see with the children of Israel and their kingship.

- If you want to do wrong, God will let you do wrong!
- If you want to have the wrong government, and you submit to it, God will let you do it!
- If you want to exercise the wrong kind of

government, God will let you do it!

Your own sins will find you out and it’s going to collapse under its own corruption! Is not the Worldwide Church of God collapsing in its own corruption, and now in its own doctrinal error, going back into the world? *Yes, because they didn’t seek to please God; they sought to please the world!*

“...**they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.** According to all the works, which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even until this day—*works* with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they do also to you. And now hearken to their voice. Only, you shall surely protest solemnly to them, and show them the kind of king who shall reign over them.’ And Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked a king of him. And he said, ‘This will be the manner of the king who shall reign over you. He shall take your sons and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and his horsemen. And they shall run before his chariots. And *he* will appoint commanders over thousands, and commanders over fifties... [organize it in a militaristic way] ...and some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and make his weapons of war and weapons for his chariots. And he will take your daughters *to be* perfumers and cooks and bakers. And he will take your fields and your vineyards and your olive-yards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants” (vs 7-14).

- Did that not happen in the Church of God?
- Did they not take the tithe and oppress the people?
  - ✓ tyrannize them?
  - ✓ steal from them?
  - ✓ build mansion?
  - ✓ build castles?

—and give them to the ‘princes’—the high-ranking ministers within the Church; and paid them salaries of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

- Did they not live like kings?
- Did they not have great, huge palatial houses to live in?
- Did they not say that they deserved all of this?

Verse 15: “And he will take a tenth of your seed... [they had another tithe added onto them] ...and of your vineyards, and give *it* to his officers and to his servants. And he will take your male slaves and your slave-girls, and your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put *them* to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep, and you shall be his servants. And you shall cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and **the LORD will not answer you in**

**that day**” (vs 15-18).

There are a lot of people saying, ‘We’re praying to God that He’s going to straighten this out in Pasadena.’ God is not hearing! God is not answering! Neither will He! It is so evil and repugnant that God is going to destroy it. You cannot save it. There’s a Biblical principle in the New Testament: *You cannot put new wine into old wineskins!* You can’t put the Truth of God back into that corrupt and evil way.

Verse 19: “But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, ‘No, but we will have a king over us. And we shall be, also we, like all the nations, so that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.’ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Hearken to their voice, and make them a king.’ And Samuel said to the men of Israel, ‘Every man go to his city’” (vs 19-22).

When it came time to appoint the king, 1-Samuel 10:17: “And Samuel called the people together to the LORD to Mizpeh. And he said to the children of Israel, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel, “I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms of those who oppressed you”’ (vs 10-18). Think about that in relationship to your life.

- God called you!
- God forgave your sins!
- God lifted you up out from it!

Then what happened? *You went and put yourself under the authority of men who oppressed you!*

Verse 19: “And **you have this day rejected your God...**” How can you take a system that has rejected God and use that as the authority within the Church? How can you take a monarchical and hierarchical system and say that you have God’s structure when you don’t even know the truth that the monarchical and hierarchical structure is rejecting God?

- That’s why it was doomed to destruction!
- That is why that God is actually fighting against the Worldwide Church of God!
  - ✓ God is going to fight against Global Church of God<sup>[transcriber’s note: Global was split and became Living Church of God]</sup>
  - ✓ God is going to fight against Philadelphia Church of God

And any other Church of God that bears the name of God that will not conform to the words of Jesus Christ and teach the Truth of the New Testament and the Truth of church government within the Church of God. God does not want this kind of thing.

Verse 19: “And **you have this day rejected your God** Who Himself saved you out of all your calamities and your tribulations. And you have said to Him, ‘But set a king over us.’....” And a lot of you brethren gave up your will to the *visible man*, because you were willing to bow to the *invisible idol* of that authority. Many of the brethren checked their brains in at the door when they came to Sabbath services. ‘Whatever the minister says...’ That’s what they were saying here.

“...And now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands” (v 19). Then Saul was setup as king. Was he a failure? *Yes, Saul was a failure!*

Verse 25: “Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book **and laid it up before the LORD**. And Samuel sent all the people away, each to his house.” Let’s see what Samuel wrote, which we find in Deut. 17, which was later edited in by Ezra when he canonized the Bible.

If they wanted that system, God still gave a checkpoint, Deuteronomy 17:14: “When you come to the land, which the LORD your God gives you, and shall possess it and shall live in it and shall say, “I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me.” That’s precisely what they asked for.

Verse 15: “You shall surely set a king over you, whom the LORD your God shall choose. You shall set a king over you from among your brethren. You may not set a stranger over you who is not your brother.” But he gives some instructions to the king:

Verse 16: “Only he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, so as to multiply horses because the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ Nor shall he multiply wives to himself, so that his heart does not turn away. Nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold to himself” (vs 16-17).

You need to ask: How come all of those in the hierarchy, the high-level ministers, were paid such heavy salaries? They accumulated to themselves silver and gold. God says that if you’re going to have a monarchical system, you’re not to do that, because you will get lifted up over your brethren.

Verse 18: “And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom...” We have one man who calls himself the ‘presiding evangelist’ today. Isn’t that something? Over what? Is he a king? *No!* God does not like the monarchical/hierarchical system. We’re going to see what God did with it.

“...he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book... [He personally hand-wrote the book

of the Law] ...from that which is in the custody of the priests the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them so that his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren..." (vs 18-20).

God was even saying with the monarchical system, 'I still do not want the hierarchy of high-ranking people lording it over the children of Israel.' But when you have a king, he has absolute authority. When you have someone who has absolute authority, what do you have? *Evil and corruption and every sin that comes along, because they're easily deceived and they're an easy target for Satan the devil!*

"...and that he does not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, to the end that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the midst of Israel" (v 20). The exact opposite of that happened!

Let's look at the life of David for a real good instruction. Let's see how David started out. Very instructive for us because the Worldwide Church of God started out pretty much this way: humble, small beginning, not lifted up in arrogance and vanity, not calling themselves the one and the only, not calling its leader 'the great only apostle of God on the earth.' They started out very much like David: the least, the forgotten.

So, when Samuel was sent to find out who the next king would be after Saul had failed, God sent him to the house of Jesse, and here's what we have. He wanted to find the one whom God was going to appoint.

1-Samuel 16:6: "And it came to pass as they came in, he saw Eliab... [the eldest son of Jesse] ...and said, 'Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his face, nor on his height because **I have refused him**, for *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart'" (vs 6-7). Samuel made all of Jesse's sons pass by twice, and God said, 'No, this is not the one.'

Samuel looked at Jesse and said, 'Do you have another son?' *Oh, yeah! I've got this little son David out there tending the sheep!* Samuel told him to bring him in. When Jesse brought David in:

Verse 12: "And he sent and brought him in. And he *was* ruddy with beautiful countenance and good form. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day

forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah" (vs 12-13).

What happened when David was still small in his own eyes? *Just exactly what it was with Saul!* He was successful. Then God was with David:

- He destroyed all the enemies round about
- He set David in his kingdom
- He brought together all of the 12 tribes

So that we would have the full 12 tribes of the children of Israel, God gave David rest from all of his enemies round about. He had consolidated David's power and now he was king.

Now he was ready for corruption! Everyone who sits in a monarchical position and let's all of that authority go to his head and will not humbly yield to the Word of God and submit to the Word of God, and live by it, and he exalts himself over the brethren, he's going to corrupt himself. They can be corrupted:

- because of the sin of sex
- because of the lust of money
- because of the lust of power

When the king is sitting there—the minister sits there and makes himself the 'presiding evangelist,' or whatever he may be, and he takes to himself the absolute authority of God to himself—he's sitting in the seat of God. God does not want that! God will not have that *invisible idol* sitting in the seat of God in the form of a *visible man!*

We know what happened with David; he got all entangled with Bathsheba, committed adultery with her, killed Uriah the Hittite, her husband, and then thought he could get away with it, because he had this authority. He lied to himself! He lied to the people!

Have we not had that within the Church of God? *Yes!* We've had the very top leaders lie to us over and over and over again! What has happened? *It got more corrupt and more corrupt!* God had to finally say, 'This is enough!' Then a big vomit-session takes place; a big correction-session takes place. But they still did not learn; just like David.

We know that God sent Nathan the prophet, 2-Samuel 12:7: "And Nathan said to David, 'You *are* the man!' ...."

We're going to read the judgment against David, but I also want you to think of this as judgment against the Worldwide Church of God.

"...Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom, and

gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if that *was* too little, I would have given to you such and such *things* besides” (vs 7-8).

God would have given anything, but, v 9: “Why have you despised the Word of the LORD to do evil in His sight?....” We’re going to see that some of the most important Scriptures in the New Testament have been rejected, neglected and despised! God’s judgment came upon the Church of God!

“...You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the children of Ammon” (v 9).

Yes, and God is doing that to the Church of God. You just take those words and apply them to the Church, where they took authority to themselves, they took the money, they took the license, they took the greed—all of this—and just built their own little empire!

Verse 10: “Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house...” There are some who have split away from Worldwide, and the sword is still in their house, because they haven’t repented.

Verse 11: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun, for you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun” (vs 11-12).

Jesus Christ said, ‘That which is spoken in secret will be shouted from the housetop!’

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Well, you know what happened to David. He finally repented. God was still with him; He didn’t reject him. Then he was given all the plans to build the temple. He was told that he couldn’t build it, but Solomon, his son, would.

Solomon was visited by God twice, appeared to him in a dream; spoke to him. Solomon when asked said, ‘I don’t want wealth, just give me wisdom so that I can judge Your people.’ What happened, after he built the temple and God gave him all wealth and riches and everything, he became so corrupt! He became one of the most wicked kings! Let’s see what he did.

1-Kings 11:1: “And King Solomon loved many foreign women, even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites; of the nations which the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not go in to them, and they shall not go in to you; **surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.**’ *But*

**Solomon clung to these in love.** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. And **his wives turned away his heart**” (vs 1-3).

All the power and corruption in Worldwide Church of God turned away the heart of Herbert W. Armstrong, Garner Ted Armstrong and all the leading evangelists from serving God, one way or the other. They got all wrapped up in their own authority and own little thing, having politics and fighting back and forth. Then they did evil!

Let’s see what happened with monarchy. What did Solomon do? Verse 5: “for Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites; and Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not *go* fully after the LORD like his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill, which *is* before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise he did for all his foreign wives, and burned incense and sacrificed to their gods” (vs 5-8).

So, he literally filled Jerusalem with all kinds of pagan temples, shrines, offerings and incense places. You know what happened. God rejected Solomon and He split off the ten tribes of Israel. Rehoboam came along and thought he was a great important person and said, ‘If you think that the thigh of my father was heavy, wait until I lay my little finger upon you.’ That caused the split of the kingdom.

So, Jeroboam started out with the kingdom of the north, and God promised him if he would keep ‘My commandments and walk in My ways, I will build you a dynasty just like I did for David.’ But Jeroboam didn’t! What did he do? *He set up the visible idol!* He made two calves—put one in Bethel and one in Dan—and told the children of Israel that ‘these are your gods which brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ He made the people to sin because of his corruption!

Whenever you have monarchy, you rise and fall with the king. Isa. 1 is very instructive for us. The nations of Israel and Judah got corrupt and they both went into captivity. Why? *Because they initially rejected God; they wanted a king!* They didn’t want God to rule in their lives. *No!* They wanted someone else to rule in their lives, then they could turn around and blame God! Isn’t that what has happened in the Church today? *Absolutely!*

Isaiah 1:2: “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken, ‘I have reared and brought up children, but they have rebelled against Me. The ox knows his owner, and the donkey

his master's crib; *but* Israel does not know *Me*; My people do not understand'" (vs 2-3). They don't know God, and God called them to *know* Him.

Verse 4: "Ah, sinful nation, a people burdened *with* iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD; they have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger; they have gone away backward." Isn't that what's happened to the Worldwide Church of God today? Going backward, right straight into the world? Do you know why God has rejected them?

It really doesn't matter when you understand the truth of it. If you have the right Sabbath Day and pollute it, it doesn't matter to God. If you have the right Holy Days and pollute them, God is not going to bless you. God gets sick of it!

Verse 10: "Hear the Word of the LORD, rulers of Sodom; give ear to the Law of our God, people of Gomorrah. 'To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?' says the LORD. 'I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I do not delight in *the blood of* bulls, or of lambs, or of he-goats. When you come to appear before Me, who has required this at your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more vain sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me—new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies; **I cannot endure iniquity along with the solemn assembly!** Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me; I am weary to bear *them*'" (vs 10-14).

Why? *Because it was used for their own corrupt, political, manipulative purposes!* And to bring in every false doctrine under the sun! God says, 'I'm weary of it!'

Verse 15: "And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; yea, when you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood." God says the solution is to *repent!*

Verse 16: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek judgment..." That's what God expects all of those in the Church of God to do:

- to seek Him
- to seek judgment
- to seek the right kind of church government

Now let's see how God, through Christ, strictly forbids all of this kind of thing.

"...reprove the oppressor. Judge the orphan; plead for the widow" (v 17). When you get back into that system. When you have a church government

that is tyrannical and dictatorial, and exercises authority, what are you doing? *You are oppressing the brethren!* God says that if you're willing and repent, it will be well!

Let's understand the very command that Jesus Christ gave, and we're going to see that this is most profound.

Matthew 20:25: "But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, 'You know that the rulers of the nations...'" What did Israel want? *They wanted a king just like the Gentiles!*

"...exercise lordship over them, and the great ones exercise authority over them" (v 25). We have two classes of rulers:

1. the king
2. the great ones, or religious leaders

Simon Magus was called 'a great one.' In other words, someone like the pope. It's interesting that the Greek for *exercising authority* is 'katakuriuo'—*to rule down* or *to overlord*. The ones who exercise authority it is 'kataxousia'—*to exercise authority downward*: no one can go up; no one can question, no one can find the truth, because of the authority.

Jesus said, 'You know how they do it—a very strict command—v 26: "However, **it shall not be this way among you**; but **whoever would become great among you, let him be your servant**; and whoever would be first among you, let him be your slave... [then He points to His own ministry and His own life]: ...just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life *as* a ransom for many" (vs 26-28).

That's really very profound for us to understand. God does not want ministers ruling over church brethren! He says that ***it shall not be so!*** Did we not see what happens when you have a kingship? When you have a hierarchy? *Yes! It's not good! It's not right!*

What is it that God wants for us? It's repeated in Mark and Luke; we're going to see that Luke also shows that we're not to have any politicking going on.

Luke 22:25<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: "And He said to them, 'The kings of the nations lord over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called **benefactors.**'"

- Good people!
- This is right!
- We're doing this to benefit you!
- This kind of government from the top down!

And I will never ever forget hearing in my own ears

that 'if the Catholics have anything right, it's government from the top down.' No one thought to ask:

- Why would the Church of God use the government of Satan the devil to run His Church?
- Did it not produce the same fruits?
- *The government of the devil!*
- Did it not cause misery, mayhem, depression and oppression?
- Did it not cause every sickness under the sun?

Look at what's happening to the Churches of God; just look at it; He says, 'It won't be!'

Then the other account in the book of Luke shows the mother of James and John came up and said, 'Lord, I want to ask you a favor. Jesus said, 'What is it?' She said, 'My two sons sit on Your right hand and Your left hand.' And Jesus said, 'Woman, it's not Mine to give, and you don't know what you're asking.'

That's very good lesson! God doesn't want all kinds of politics going on. We're either going to agree by the Spirit of God and the love of God, or we're not going to agree at all. ***'Two cannot walk together unless they be agreed!'*** You're not going to walk with God unless you agree with *His way!* That's very clear and very true.

How is that God wants the government to be in His Church? *He wants it to be that it begins with you as an individual person!*

- God the Father has called you, *the minister didn't*
- God the Father has given you His Holy Spirit, *the minister didn't*
- God the Father has begotten you with His Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ is the sacrifice for your sins, *not the ministry*

What has He called you to? *To fellowship directly with God the Father and Jesus Christ!*

As a matter of fact, it says, 'Christ in you is the hope of glory' (Col. 1:27). God wants—as He has always wanted—the direct connection between the individual and Him. This is the kind of rule and authority that God wants, first starting with the individual, and let Christ rule in you; let Christ lead and direct your life the way He wants.

Let's understand something very clearly here. We need to go back and understand what Paul said concerning himself and Apollos. He said, 'Who is Paul and who is Apollos but ministers by whom you have believed?' Did he not say that 'only on the foundation of Jesus Christ can you build, and you're

going to build gold, silver and precious stones; or wood hay and stubble.

Frankly, there are a lot of people who have built wood, hay and stubble! Why? *Because they look to a man! They accepted the rule of a minister in their lives that God never intended!* To exercise that authority means:

- to bring into submission
- to subdue
- to conqueror
- to tyrannize

That's the way the Worldwide Church of God was run in many, many instances!

But here Paul says, 2-Corinthians 1:24: "Not that we exercise lordship over your faith..." Dominion does not mean the ministry has lordship over your faith. ***The ministers do not have lordship over the faith of the brethren!*** Did you know that? *Christ is the Lord! Christ in us is the beginning of the government of God!* Do the ministers exercise lordship over the brethren? *No!*

"...but because we are working with you *to increase* your joy. For you stand by faith" (v 24).

- not ministerial authority
- not hierarchy
- not taking and falsely superimposing upon the verses in Eph. 4
- not superimposing the modern corporation, chairman of the board, CEO, all the vice-presidents and everything

—where you have this vertical kind of hierarchy. NO! We're going to see that God hates it; God says that He's fighting against it, and that's exactly what happened in Pasadena.

Heb. 13 is where some ministers turn to when they say, 'Obey those who have the rule over you.' Well, that's not the correct translation.

Hebrews 13:7: "Remember your leaders who have spoken the Word of God to you... [Remember those who are your guides, or who are shepherding you] ...considering the outcome of *their* conduct; *and imitate their faith.*" Which means that if they don't follow Christ, you don't have to follow them.

Today I'm not going to say 'follow me as I follow Christ'; I'm going to say that ***you have the Word of God, follow Christ!*** The minister is not to exalt himself over the brethren. He is to be their teacher. He is to be one who oversees, not overlords! That's exactly what Peter taught:

- not to be lords over
- not to be looking after money

*but to serve the flock of God!*

Peter says to the elders, 1-Peter 5:2<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: “Feed the flock of God *that is* among you, exercising oversight...”

- to see that everything is run properly
- to encourage and teach with love and understanding

“...not by compulsion, but willingly; not in fondness of dishonest gain...” (v 2). Not for money! How many of the brethren have been merchandized. ‘Yes, send us your first, second and third tithe, and the tithe of the tithe, and offerings beyond that. You are here specifically to pay, to make this hierarchical machine run. Yes, you are to pray and obey, and to stay and let us oppress you.’ **NO!** That’s not the Church of God. That is a counterfeit kind of government.

“...but *with an eager attitude*; not as exercising lordship over *your* possessions” (vs 2-3). May all of us as God’s ministers understand that all the brethren are the *people of God!* He’s called them and they belong to Him!

“...but *by* being examples to the flock of God” (v 3). That’s what Peter taught. Here is the foundation of the government of God within the Church of God.

- *if* all the ministers are teaching the brethren
- *if* we are all focused in on doing exactly what the Apostle Paul teaches us
- *if* we all get off our stinking high-horses and just put aside the authority and just put it down
- *if* we just be what God wants us to be
  - ✓ to serve and feed the flock of God
  - ✓ to uplift them with His love
  - ✓ to encourage them with His Spirit
  - ✓ to point them always to God the Father and Jesus Christ

That is the first step in the government of God.

And with this attitude, Philippians 2:1: “Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit...”—which is the Spirit of Christ and the Father in us! That’s how we have our fellowship. How many times, because of the hierarchical/monarchical authoritarian government has Sabbath and Holy Days been an absolute dirge and pain because there was not the fellowship of the Spirit?

“...if any *deep* inner affections and compassions, fulfill my joy, that you be of the same mind... [having the mind of Christ] ...having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing” (vs 1-2).

I tell you something very true: *If this is*

*done, and if this is taught, and if every one of the brethren and ministers are focusing in on this as the whole goal of their lives, guess what? There’s hardly any need for authority!* You really don’t need it, because the authority of Christ rules! Then you can have the oversight taken in a proper way, so that it’s going to bring happiness, joy and the love of God.

Verse 3: “*Let nothing be done through contention or vainglory...*” Worldwide was run on strife and vainglory.

- Who is the greatest?
- Who has the office?
- Who is going to be promoted?
- Who is the evangelist?
- Who is the pastor?
- Who is the deacon?
- Who are the ‘Little Lord Fauntleroy’s’ running all over the place with their little dictatorial authority?

Oh yes, in their *vainglory* strutting around! ‘I am the apostle on the earth.’ ***Let it sink in!*** Because of pride, arrogance, vanity and robbery Worldwide Church of God *ceases to exist!*

Don’t anyone come around and say, ‘I wonder why this is happening?’ God has done to the Worldwide Church of God—and any other Church of God that won’t learn the lesson—what He did to Jerusalem! *He destroyed it!* It was all run on *vainglory*. Here’s what it needs to be:

“...but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not *only* after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others. **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus**” (vs 3-5). That is the beginning of authority in the Church of God; Jesus Christ Who is the Head. ***Let’s this mind be in you!*** That’s what it is.

Then Paul tells all that Jesus did to become a human being. Now, here’s how the Church grows and overcomes:

Verse 12: “So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God Who works in you both to will and to do according to *His* good pleasure” (vs 12-13).

When you have a hierarchy that cuts off God from you, because you’re having a form of government within the Church that rejects God, Christ can’t work in you the way that it ought to be.

Let’s see what happens when this kind of love is lost. Then we will see what happens to the Church of God when they get so close to this world

that they bring in the organizational system and structure of this world, and bring in the reigning king—a monarchy/hierarchy type of structure—into the Church.

### Church at Ephesus:

They worked hard and tried all of those who were false apostles and found them to be liars. Listen, every minister who hears this, you're going to be tested:

- Are you teaching the Truth?
- or
- Are you preaching lies?
  - Are you preaching yourself and your own interpretation of the Scriptures?
- or
- Do you love God that you would not dare do that?

We're going to cover this a little bit more, but I know that those who justify a hierarchy twist and turn the Scriptures so they can justify their own positions.

Revelation 2:4: "Nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works; for if *you do* not, I will come to you quickly; and I will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent. But this you have: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate" (vs 4-6).

### Church at Pergamos:

There are some tremendous lessons for us to learn, and then we will see how that came about.

Verse 12: "And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos, write: 'These things says He Who has the sharp two-edged sword.'" God shows that if you go against Him, He's going to correct you.

Verse 13: "I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*; but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith... [that was only temporarily] ...even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you because you have there *those* who hold the teaching of Balaam..." (vs 13-14). That's what happened to the Worldwide Church of God; they taught people to sin, and that is the doctrine of Balaam.

"...who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication" (v 14). That is exactly what happened. They committed

fornication with the world to find out what their doctrines were, and what their theology was, and incorporated that right into the Church of God and said that it's okay to sin. ***God never said that it was okay to sin!*** Headline! Is it a sin to work on the Sabbath?

- Answer by the minister, 'no'!
- Answer by God: '*You shall not do any work!*'

God's answer is true! That's the doctrine of Balaam!

Verse 15: "Moreover, you also have *those* who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, ***which thing I hate.***" What is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans? The doctrine means *teaching*. Who are the Nicolaitans? 'Nikao' means *to conquer*, and 'laos' means *the people*. These are the conquerors of the people, the overlords of the people, the kingship of the Gentiles brought into the Church of God; Satan's system of control over the Church of God.

God says that He *hates it!* Why? *Because it cuts people off from God!* It puts the ministry and the hierarchy between the people and God, and cuts them off! The ministry then exercises authority, which God never gave them. To have dominion over their faith, which God never gave them the dominion. To exercise that lordship and God says that He *hates it!*

Now let's read what happened to Worldwide, v 16: "Repent! For if *you do* not repent, I will come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth." All of those Churches who have split off from the Worldwide Church of God and retain the same doctrine of the Nicolaitans and their church government, you better *hear and fear*, because unless you repent of that and turn the brethren back to God the way that they should be, God is going to fight against you. Believe me, your tenure is going to be a whole lot shorter than Worldwide Church of God was. You can count on that.

Once you have the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, what does that do? *That opens the door to exactly what happened in Worldwide Church of God!* It can be infiltrated, subverted, corrupted from within. Why? *Because they have replaced the authority of Christ ruling in their lives with the authority of the hierarchy of the ministry!*

Please know that that is ***the great invisible idol!*** Nothing, *nothing*, ***nothing*** should ever replace the Lordship of Christ in your life! Please understand that! When you get this hierarchy, here's what happens:

2-Peter 2:1: "But there were also false prophets among the people..." Didn't we read that at



the beginning in Ezek. 14? *Yes!*

“...as indeed there will be false teachers among you, who will stealthily introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And **many** people will follow *as authoritative* their destructive ways...” (vs 1-2). Isn’t that happening? How many in the Churches of God are standing for Truth? Standing for Christ? *or* Do they still want a king to rule over them? To rule over their faith?

“...and because of them, the way of the Truth will be blasphemed” (v 2).

- Isn’t that what has happened?
- Haven’t the commandments of God been deprecated and thrown away?
- Haven’t the laws of God been scoffed at?
- Haven’t the covenants of God been just thrown aside?
- Hasn’t the Word of God been cast to the ground because they speak evil of the way of Truth?

*Absolutely!*

Verse 3: “Also, through insatiable greed they will with enticing messages... [hypocritical, calculated words to extract money from the brethren] ...exploit you for gain...”—make merchandise of you. Did that not happen? *Yes, it did!* Is God taking it away? *Yes, He is!* The income of the Worldwide Church of God is down 50%<sup>[as of the 1994]</sup> They are closing offices, laying off hundreds and hundreds of people, and God’s presence was withdrawn from them! They merchandized the people.

“...for whom the judgment of old is in *full* force, and their destruction is *ever* watching” (v 3). It is upon them!

When I saw these things coming to fruition in Worldwide Church of God and I resigned in 1979, I was labeled as rebellious and against God. *Not so!* It’s better to love God, keep His commandments, let Christ dwell in you and rule in you, stand alone if you have to, than to stay in the crowd that goes the broad way and to destruction! Is that not true? *Yes!*

Peter shows that God didn’t even spare the angels that sinned, and Sodom and Gomorrah.

Verse 9: “*The* Lord knows *how* to rescue *the* Godly out of temptation, and to reserve *the* unrighteous to *the* day of judgment to be punished; but particularly those who walk after *the* flesh...” (vs 9-10). Carnal, monarchical, hierarchical, merchandizing government!

I’m going to have much more to say about that, because there are still some Churches of God that are doing that.

- The brethren need to be warned!
- The brethren need to know!
- These men need to be called to repentance!

The error that caused the collapse of Worldwide Church of God should not be repeated and perpetuated. Yet, they say, ‘We’re building on the foundation of Herbert W. Armstrong.’ It better be on Christ or it’s going nowhere!

Verse 10: “But particularly those who walk after *the* flesh in corrupting lust, and hold in utter contempt *the* lordship of *God*...” They despised the lordship of Christ.

- They don’t trust Christ!
- They don’t trust the Spirit of God!
- They don’t trust the Spirit of God in the brethren!

*The brethren must be:*

- manipulated
- controlled

*told*

- where to go
- what to do
- when to do it
- how to do it

That is not God’s way! ***That is a tyrannical reign of terror upon the people of God!*** If you have suffered that and willingly submitted to it in your church experience, then you likewise need to repent of it. You have wanted and allowed a man to rule over you.

- let Christ rule over you
- let Him lead you
- let Him guide you

Don’t put yourself in a position where Christ is going to fight you, where Christ is going to have to come with a sword in His mouth and cut you asunder!

- repent while there is still time
- repent while there is still hope
- change
- come out from underneath it

➤ Don’t let any minister come and tell you, in the name of God, that you can’t read, study and search out the Truth.

➤ Don’t every let them come and tell you that if you have trouble with a minister you have trouble with God.

***Nonsense!*** What if the minister is sinning and *he’s* in trouble with God?

Let's see something very important we need to understand. All of this has to come from God. I believe, brethren and ministers, that

- *if* we let Christ live in us
- *if* we yield to God and learn of His love
- *if* we begin to build that within our lives

then God will show us how to arrange the organization that pleasing to Him:

- to where the brethren can grow
- to where the Church can grow
- to where there can be deep and profound love and faith

Ephesians 4:1: "Therefore, I, the prisoner of *the* Lord, am exhorting you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called with all humility and meekness..." (vs 1-2). Does this not sound like Philip. 2? *Yes!*

- not with authority
- not with lordship
- not with a hierarchy
- not with the ministers who are in control

"...with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love..." (v 2). That has to be from God. The whole basis of the Church of God should be to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. That's the way it should be!

Verse 3: "Being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, even as you were also called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, Who *is* over all, and through all, and in you all. **But grace was given to each one of us...** [all the brethren, all the ministry, if we're yielding to God in the right way] **...according to the measure of the gift of Christ**" (vs 3-7).

- *if* we have this foundation
- *if* we have this kind of building on the foundation of Christ
  - ✓ God will bless us
  - ✓ God will be with us
  - ✓ God will grant us understanding of His Truth
  - ✓ God will give us His blessings that we need—the *spiritual blessings*

Verse 11: "And He gave some as apostles, and some prophets..." This is not in a hierarchical function, please understand that; this is in a function of a job to do. All of the government of God within the Church should be task oriented. What is the job to be done? Then we organize to accomplish the task.

We don't put in an organization and hierarchy to have a structure and then go do a job. First of all, you find out what the task is. In services and for church the task is to promote the peace of God, the love of the brethren and to learn of His Word. Then whatever structure we need with the elders and deacons it can be done. It can be done in peace, love, harmony and understanding.

"...and some evangelists..." (v 11). Remember, Paul told Timothy, an elder, do the work of an evangelist. He didn't say he was an evangelist. He said *do the work of* an evangelist. So, an evangelist is a function. It is not an office.

"...and some, pastors and teachers" (v 3). These are not offices, these are functions. If you're prophesying, you're a prophet; if you cease prophesying and you're pastoring, you're a pastor. If you're teaching, you're a teacher. You don't hold some great office. Yes, there's ordination into the eldership, that is correct, but in that it is according to the gifts of God, that God gives.

Here's the whole focus of it, not to build a hierarchy, not to have lands, not to have buildings, not to have great riches and wealth and be notorious in the world:

Verse 12: "**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.**" Uplifting, teaching; not the downward of the over lordship and the downward authority. **No!**

Verse 13: "Until **we all...** [he included himself; he didn't exalt himself above the brethren] ...come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ." That's the whole purpose of it.

***Quit bowing down to the invisible idol and following the visible man!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in It's Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ezekiel 14:1-11
- 2) Exodus 19:4-6
- 3) Exodus 20:18-19
- 4) Judges 2:6-13
- 5) Judges 21:25
- 6) 1 Samuel 8:4-22
- 7) 1 Samuel 10:18-19, 25
- 8) Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- 9) 1 Samuel 16:6-7, 12-13
- 10) 2 Samuel 12:7-12
- 11) 1 Kings 11:1-3, 6-8

- 12) Isaiah 1:1-4, 10-17
- 13) Matthew 20:25-28
- 14) Luke 22:25
- 15) 2 Corinthians 1:24
- 16) Hebrews 13:7
- 17) 1 Peter 5:2-3
- 18) Philippians 2:1-5, 12-13
- 19) Revelation 2:4-6, 12-15
- 20) 2 Peter 2:1-3, 9-10
- 21) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 18
- Colossians 1:27

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## Invisible Idol/Visible Man II The Addictor & the Addictee

Fred R. Coulter

Here we are 21 months later doing #2 in this series. Let's analyze and see what happened to the Church of God and why we are in the condition we are. Then let's see how all of this developed and I think you will be amazed. I'm going to give some excerpts from the book *Toxic Faith—Experiencing Healing from Painful Spiritual Abuse* by Stephen Arteburn & Jack Felton, or understanding and overcoming 'religious' addiction. It's quite a good book. The only problem with this book that I see is that they give a psychological solution and they do not allow very much of a total commitment toward God. They say that one should not give up family or anything like this to serve God.

Well, we know that's against the words of Christ. But this is going to give us some very good insights into what has happened. You will be able to identify a lot of these things as we go along.

What I'm also going to do is I'm going to read some things from *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire. I'm going to read some things concerning the pope and the hierarchy out of this, and I think you are going to be stunned as to some of the things that they say, and that you actually believed some of the very same words coming down from the pulpit of the church you may have attended.

Let's see about the Church that is called *the flock*. Let's see about the sheep and the shepherd. Let's understand what Christ is doing; what is happening to the Church and how did it ever get this way in the first place. Let's understand something very clearly. This is not the first time that things like this have happened, nor is it going to be the last time. We hope there won't be too many more times like this, because I'm sure we're getting down closer to the end of the age and the return of Christ.

John 10:1: "Truly, truly... [or amen, amen] ...I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold through the door..." There is a proper and a right way, which is defined

- by the Word of God
- by sound doctrine
- as God leads us by His Holy Spirit into all Truth

If you don't go that way, "...but climbs up some other way, that one is a thief and a robber" (v 1). We're going to see that is exactly what applies to many of the 'religious' people today.

Verse 2: "But the one who enters through

the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice..." (vs 2-3). This is what is happening with all the scattering that is taking place within the Churches of God today. God wants to know: **Do you hear His voice?** As we've covered many times, the whole purpose of God in the calling and covenants that we have is to **obey the voice of God!** He wants to know: **Are you going to hear His voice?**

The voice of Christ is contained in the Bible. You have to follow the Word of Christ and what He says and properly do it. We've already experience that there are a lot of teachers out there who cleverly take the Words of God and re-manipulate them in a way that is not correct, and they are some of the slickest thieves and robbers, because they are coming close to the door, but they are going in another door.

"...and **he calls his own sheep by name...** [you can go to Rev. and find that we are going to receive a new name; God knows you] ...and leads them out" (v 3). God is going to lead us in everything that we do. God is doing that constantly.

Verse 4: "When he brings the sheep out, he goes before them... [we are to follow Christ] ...and the sheep follow him because **they know his voice.**" That's the #1 test today!

- Do you know the voice of Christ?
- or
- Are you listening to the voice of a man?
  - Do You know the voice of Christ?
- or
- Are you just following a leader?
  - Do you know the voice of Christ?
- or
- Are you stuck in an organization?
  - What is it?

Verse 5: "But they will never follow a stranger..." That's going to have a bearing on some of the things that we'll talk about later. That's why we are here and they are there. If we're going to follow a stranger, we're not going to be where the strangers have taken over the Churches of God.

"...for they will flee from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. Therefore, Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**'" (vs 5-7). Remember that He said on the

Passover night, 'I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life.'

Verse 8: "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers..." Beginning with Cain, Lamech and all those on that side of the Flood. Then on this side of the Flood we have Nimrod, beginning with him, and all the various 'religions' coming down through time. They're all "...thieves and robbers..."

"...but **the sheep did not hear them**" (v 8). That's why when you get this mixture of the religions of the world and the Churches of God, we are not to stand for it; we're not to put up with it.

But if you're one of the addicted, one of the addictees, or one of the enablers, you will put up with it. You will wonder what's going on, but you will just sort of passively sit there and do nothing. That's why we need to get our mind back on Christ.

Verse 9: "**I am the door**.... [Christ is the only way, the only door] ...If anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and shall find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy...." (vs 9-10). That's what's happening, as we'll see later in some of the prophecies, in the Churches of God; the flock of God.

- They are *being killed spiritually!*
- They are *being stolen spiritually!*
- They are *being destroyed!*

Part of what we're doing today is to lay out the knowledge for you so that you can stop being killed, you can stop being stolen from, and you can stop being destroyed.

Jesus said, "...I have come so that they may have life, and may have *it* more abundantly" (v 10). That means not only now, but not just necessarily in the physical things. You can be rich in physical things, but you can be penurious in spiritual things. All the physical things that you have are going to do you no good!

- they won't save you in the day of trouble
- they won't lift you out from your sorrow and difficulty
- they can't give you the Spirit of God or any such thing

We need to understand that. The way that we have life more abundantly is with the Spirit of God and the love of God, and understanding His Word and living the way that pleases God. Then we have life more abundantly.

Verse 11: "I am the good Shepherd. The

good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Everything that needs to be done in feeding the sheep is for them, so that they can

- grow in grace and knowledge
- grow in the Truth and love of God
- have that relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ

Anything short of that, is not going to serve the people, the brethren, nor are they going to grow in grace and knowledge as they ought to.

This also has to do with the whole thing concerning Christ, His crucifixion, the way He lived, how He conducted His life. Everything that He did was for the Church and for the salvation of mankind.

Verse 12: "But the one who is a hireling, and who is not *the* shepherd..." We've had a lot of hirelings, and they all graduated from 'Hireling University' and all were sent out to be the 'Little Lord Fauntleroy's' and dictators. We're going to see how that happened.

"...whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep, and flees. And the wolf seizes the sheep and scatters them" (v 12). That is exactly what is happening to the Church today.

I'll guarantee you something else, it's going to continue and continue relentlessly until you seek and find God! You can be guaranteed of that! Christ has called you; you have the Spirit of Christ; He is not going to let you be because He's going to lead you to salvation. All of these things that you're going through and all the trouble and trauma is to teach you so that you learn, that you know, and also to reach down and save you from the disasters that are coming.

Verse 13: "Now, the hireling flees... [Why?] ...because he is a hireling..." One minister was reputed to saying, 'The first church that offers me \$36,000 a year—I'm gone!' It has nothing to do with

- the love of God
- the Truth of God
- the faith of God
- caring for the sheep

No, he goes, "...and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good Shepherd, and **I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine**" (vs 13-14). This is where we need to start.

Compare Ezek. 34 with Jer. 25. We're going to see that there are two kinds of problems that evolve. There are the soft, easy-going sheep who are just meandering away, and they love to have

everything so. They're the ones who tell the preachers, 'Preach to us smooth things. Preach to us good things. Preach to us what we want to hear, because we have itching ears and we want to hear something new, strange and different.'

And there is this kind here, that come and sit before and they have their Bibles and the Word of God, they know what the Truth is:

Ezekiel 33:30: "And you, son of man, the children of your people are still talking about you by the walls, and in the doors of the houses, and speaking to one another, each man to his brother, saying, 'I pray you, come and hear what is the word, which comes forth from the LORD.' And they come to you as the people come, and they sit before you *as* My people, and they hear your words. But they will not do them..." (vs 30-31). So, you have a lot of people who are just 'religious glad-handers' who are there because it's a place to go and it makes them comfortable. But as far as operating that way in their lives, they don't do them.

"...For with their mouth they show much love..." (v 31). Yes, they're kind; they're sweet; they're gentle as far as human beings go and to one another. They show a lot of love, but this just covers up their carnality.

"...*but* their heart goes after their covetousness. And lo, you *are* to them as a singer of love songs *with* a beautiful voice, and able to play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. And when this comes to pass; (**behold, it will come**) then they shall know that a prophet has been among them" (vs 31-33). Ezekiel was speaking of himself.

Let's look at the state of the Church today. We need to ask: Why is it that way? *and* What is God trying to do? This all ties together. Ezek. 34 is a result of Ezek. 14. What is the most important commandment of all? ***You shall have no other gods before Me!*** And from that commandment comes, '***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.***'

Here is the behavior that too many people have going on today, Ezekiel 14:1: "And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts..." (vs 1-3). That's what it is!

Ask yourself: What is my idol, in my heart, that has cut me off from God? *Only you can answer that!*

"...and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I at all be inquired of by them?" (v 3). Idolatry cuts you off from God.

We're going to see that there are *invisible idols*, and behavior and response to this behavior is exactly what God is talking about, because there are idols in the heart. These are not crosses and crucifixes and statues of men or animals, birds or anything like that.

Verse 4: "Therefore, speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Every man of the house of Israel... [***every one***; we are spiritual Israel] ...who sets up his idols ***in his heart***..." People can't see it, but you know it. Remember God knows all the hearts and the thoughts. ***We can never fool God!*** We can always fool some people.

"...and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet..." (v 4). He wants to know, 'What is the Word of the Lord today?'

"...I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols, so that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart because they have deserted Me ***for their idols***—all of them. Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Repent and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations'" (vs 4-6).

That's what God wants. That's why all of this is going on. One of the things that is true: When you are miserable, wretched, naked, poor, blind and correction comes, then you begin turning to God.

Let's see what happens, because not only are we talking about every man, but we are talking about the leaders, the shepherds, and we're going to talk about the response to those leaders and shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:1: "And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds... [John 10—the hireling shepherd] ...'Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?'" (vs 1-2). Remember what Jesus asked Peter three times:

Peter, son of Jonah, do you love Me? *Jesus said, 'Feed My lambs! Feed My sheep! Feed My flock!'* It's very important; that's why He went through and did that with Peter.

Here's what we have experienced and seen, v 3: "You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool..." They have fleeced the flock; merchandized the flock with many different schemes and many different ways. One of the most important things that sheep can produce is wool; so they are taking their wool, what the sheep are producing and are using it for themselves, rather than reaching out to help other sheep; ***rather than reaching out and doing what***

**God wants!** They take it and use it for themselves.

“...you kill the fat ones, *but you do not feed the flock*. You have not made the weak strong...” (vs 3-4). As a matter of fact, they went so far as to say the stripes of Jesus Christ have nothing to do with physical healing. That, brethren, was an absolute lie and the undoing of one of the biggest Churches of God.

“...nor have you healed the sick, nor have you bound up the broken. You have not brought again those that were driven away...” (v 4)—all those people disfellowshipped:

- Where are they now?
- Where have they gone?
- What are they doing?

God knows where they are if they have the Spirit of God! They were driven away!

“...nor have you sought that which was lost; but you have ruled them with force and with cruelty” (v 4). Right now, as I said 21 months ago, the leaders of the Philadelphia Church of God<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>, the Global Church of God/Living Church of God have not repented of their sins, and they are exercising their authority over the brethren with force and with cruelty. I said back then, because the Word of God is true, that desperate and terrible things are going to happen, and they are! They are happening right today, because they have defied the Word of God, they have abused the flock of God. This applies not only to those churches, but we are going to see that is going to happen to the whole world on such a grand scale, that what we have experienced within the Churches of God is just ‘training class.’ I think you’re going to be absolutely surprised!

Verse 5: “And they were scattered for lack of a shepherd....” A lot of them have that today. Where have all the evangelists gone? All the ones that we knew, what are they doing? *They’re either serving themselves, or they don’t believe the Truth any longer!* What were they doing when they were in the Church of God?

“...And they became food to all the beasts of the field...” (v 5). Let out there to let all the demons to get hold of them.

“...when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains...” (vs 5-6). That’s what we have today, people going here and there trying to find the Truth of God. Is the Truth of God anywhere? Is there anybody who preaches the Truth of God? *There are those who do!*

So, they’re wandering around “...and upon every high hill. Yea, My flock was scattered upon all

the face of the earth...” (v 6). That’s true! We have brethren from all around the world that we are helping. As we have said, from the experiences we have gone through, we have nicknamed our self, kind of in jest, but it is really in truth: *The Recycled, No Hassle, Last Resort Church of God!* Somewhere there has got to be the people of God, that love God and want to serve God.

You try this church for a while and that doesn’t work; then you try that church for a while and that doesn’t work. You listen to this preacher for a while and that preacher and that doesn’t work. You’re out here all wandering around and not knowing what to do.

**Seek God! Seek Christ!** That’s what it has to be! So, all the hirelings graduating from ‘Hireling University’; “...and none searched nor sought for them.”

Verse 7: “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the Word of the LORD, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD...” When God says, ‘I live’ we all better hear and fear.

“...Surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food to every beast of the field because *there was* no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search *for* My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock.’ Therefore, O shepherds, hear the Word of the LORD” (vs 7-9).

There’s time enough to repent. God says to ‘repent and return to Me’ (Ezek. 14). Not only can the sheep, who have wandered, repent; but also the shepherds who have not done what God wants, they can repent. But you have to acknowledge what you have done! It’s not just changing the name of the church from a WCG to UCG. You have to change the heart. There has to be repentance. If not, know this; this is going to happen:

Verse 10: “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, **I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their** hand...’” God is going to. All of those of you who are the hirelings, you’d better stop and think about what you’ve done. Even though you may or may not have a paycheck, ***God is going to require it from you;*** anyone who is a shepherd. That’s why James said, ‘Brethren, not many of you should decide to become teachers, because know that we should receive the sterner judgment.’

“...and cause them to cease from feeding the flock. Nor shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for **I will deliver My flock** from their mouth that they may not be food for them.’ For thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out’” (vs 10-11).

Brethren, that's what we need to do today.

That's why we do the things that we do. That's why when you first get in touch with us, we send you a Care package. When you get that, you think whoa, what is this? *This is an answer that God wants us to give to you:*

- that you can know that God loves you
- that you can know that there is a way out
- that you can understand that there have been brethren who have been faithfully serving and loving God, and are providing this for you to help you
- then you in turn help others

That's the reason why we do it, so you know that ***someone loves you; God loves you; God's Word is true***; God hasn't gone anywhere.

All this nonsense that you've gone through, now you need to begin to be healed, get your wounds healed and get out of this mess. That's part of it. Christ said that He's going ***to search His sheep and seek them out!***

Verse 12: "As a shepherd seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his scattered sheep..." Christ is out there doing that right now. That's why we have said through the years: numbers don't count, dollars don't count. Nothing counts except what God does and what God sends. What God does, we serve, help, love, educate and re-establish them to God. That's what it has to be. We've had enough of organizations. We've had enough of all these false idols. ***You need to be re-established to God!***

"...so I will seek out My sheep and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.... [God is not done] ...And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land and feed them on the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the places of the land where people live" (vs 12-13). This blends right on over into the Millennium; this overlaps into physical Israel as well as the Church.

Verse 14: "I will feed them in a good pasture... [that's what Christ said: 'I am the good Shepherd...'] ...and their fold shall be upon the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture they shall feed upon the mountains of Israel. ***I will feed My flock, and I will cause them to lie down,***' says the Lord GOD" (vs 14-15).

Then this blends into David the king. What is the Church called? *The Tabernacle of David!* So, all of this blends all in together.

Now let's see some of the tactics that have

been used. This is important for us to know, understand and realize. Every one of us must:

- know the Word of God
- prove those teachers, whomever they are
- test them and try them against the Word of God

Deceptions are so clever now! Deceptions going out and some preaching going out is such a mixture of Truth and error that only those who truly are exercising the Spirit of God will be able to discern. So, you have to make sure that you are close to God. You have to make sure that your relationship is between you and God the Father and Jesus Christ. Then you will know. You have to listen very carefully. You have to read very carefully.

I have some things that I'm studying by one of the most clever deceptions that has taken place within the Church of God today. I will be fully prepared to cover that. We are to test them spiritually. We are to test them by the Scriptures.

Anyone who says that we all ought to accept everyone's differences and get along together. ***No way!*** That is a message from Satan the devil! Christ said that *He* is the Way; *He* is the Truth; *He* the Life!

There's a difference between being merciful, tolerant and understanding of sinners. But you don't take that same mercy and tolerance and say that it's okay to believe one way or the other: 'you believe in the 14<sup>th</sup>/I believe in the 15<sup>th</sup> Passover. Let's just overlook the difference and get along.' Did Christ say that to the Pharisees? Did He say that 'I know you're well-intentioned'? ***NO!*** It is Truth and it is doctrine; doctrine based upon the Truth. There is no lie coming of the Truth. So, we have to know.

2-Corinthians 4:2—Paul is talking of himself and his ministry: "For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness... [with guilelessness, to take and to steal] ...nor **handling the Word of God deceitfully...**"

I want to mention, brethren, that's the biggest sin of all the hirelings; they handle the Word of God deceitfully to justify everything that they do!

- Can you discern when the Word of God is being handled deceitfully?

*Or because the Word of God is read to you:*

- Do you sit there and purr as it goes along?
- Are you a 'yes' head-nodder that anytime you hear any of the Word of God you shake your head 'yes, yes, yes' and you don't know that it's being handled deceitfully and put together improperly and wrong conclusions are being made?



Remember, Satan the devil even quoted Scripture totally accurately. It's how it's applied; that's what's important. We all have to be responsible to understanding and being able to discern it.

- some of you have been so addicted in the system
- some of you have been so victimized by the system
- some of you have been such enablers to those over you

*that it's hard for you to understand!* If we can help you understand, we'll be glad to. But you first of all need to spot where the Word of God is being handled deceitfully.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy that he should rightly or straightly cut and divide the Word of God; putting it together with 'precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little, there a little' and put it together rightly. If not, then it's being handled deceitfully.

"...but by manifestation of the Truth... [make it revealed, make it known, to point it out, to show it] ...we are commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God. But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing" (vs 2-3). Brethren, let's hope that there are very few lost sheep. If we can help them:

- help their wounds be healed
- help their emotions be healed
- help their spiritual lives be healed

we need to do that so they're not lost.

Here's what happens when you reach a certain point of straying away from God's way, then Satan is there like a roaring lion, and he loves sheep; he loves to devour them.

Verse 4: "In whom the god of this age has blinded the minds..." What did God say to the Laodiceans? *You are blind!* Why are they blind? *Because of all of the circumstances around them;* all of the lies and the improper putting together of the Scriptures! ***The deceitful handling of the Word of God by the hirelings!*** When the trouble comes:

- Where are they?
- Where are you?
- Where are you going?
- Are you going to end up being prey?

When you give up your own free agency, which God gave you, and you turn it over to someone else, or you don't exercise it, then you have made that decision yourself, and God is going to hold you responsible. You can always say, 'The minister over there...' But always remember what

happened when Adam said—when they were caught in their sin—*the wife!* And Eve said *the serpent!* But that didn't turn back the judgment of God—did it? *No!* So, you can't blame anybody else.

The only way you're going to turn back the judgment of God is to repent. Otherwise, Satan is going to blind you.

"...of those who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves..." (vs 4-5). We're going to see that's one of the most addictive things that has ever been done; a man preaching himself, using the name of Christ and not preaching Christ.

"...but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (v 5). To serve the brethren! To help them!

Let's see that there are some desperate times that come along. Here is what has to happen; this is a responsibility given to all of those who are truly the ministers and elders of God:

- to serve the flock
- to guard the Truth
- to uphold the doctrines of Christ

Titus 1:9: "Holding steadfastly to the faithful Word..." God's Word is faithful and Jesus said that ***'not one word would fail.'*** As a matter of fact, what did He say? ***Heaven and earth may pass away, but My words shall not pass away!*** So it is a *faithful* Word.

"...according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ*, so that he may be able both to encourage with **sound doctrine**..." (v 9). Sound doctrine is 'rightly dividing the Word of Truth.'

- understanding the Truth
- studying the Truth
- knowing the Truth
- applying the Truth
- thinking with the Truth
- knowing what to look for

If you do that then you will be able to see the deceit.

"...and to convict those who are gainsayers.... [there are a lot of gainsayers out there] ...For there are many rebellious and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the* circumcision party" (vs 9-10). That applied to the Jews back then, but now it applies to those hiring ministers within the various Churches of God. They sound good, they look good, they are smooth; but do you hear their message? There's only one message, and that comes from God!

Verse 11: **"Whose mouths must be**

**stopped...**” That’s a command that we are to do. The way we do it gives a testimony against them, and a witness from the Word of God so that people can know and understand the choices they need to make and stop their mouths. God will stop them if we do our part!

But if we sit alone and just say all is lovey-dovey, everything is wonderful and fine, then disaster is going to happen; it’s just around the corner. Notice what they do:

“...who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain” (v 11). Yes, merchandizing the brethren! Taking their fleece and giving the wool to themselves; eating the fat for their own. People love it! Some people love to be merchandized, because they think that the more that they give, the more they have *spiritual standing* before God. Well, that’s not so!

2-Peter 2:1: “But there were also false prophets among the people, as indeed there will be false teachers among you, who will **stealthily** introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many people will follow *as authoritative* their destructive ways... [Isn’t that true?] ...and because of them, the way of the Truth will be blasphemed” (vs 1-2). Saying:

- you don’t need to keep the Sabbath
- you don’t need to keep the Holy Days
- you can eat unclean meats
- you can keep Christmas & Easter
- you can go to church on Sunday
- after all it’s all fine
- Christ delivered us from all of these things

It’s a nice smooth message, but it is, according to the Word of God, speaking evil of the Truth. God said, ‘If you will turn away your foot from My Holy Day—referring to the Sabbath—and will not do your business and will not do your pleasure, but will do My pleasure’ God delights in the Sabbath Day, God wants to fellowship with you on the Sabbath Day. He’s not there on Sunday; He’s not there on Easter or Christmas.

What you’re doing in accepting that, you’re accepting the doctrine of Balaam to eat things sacrificed to idols, because all of these idols move from the *invisible* to the *visible* when you go from Sabbath and Holy Days to Sunday and Christmas and Easter and all of that.

Verse 3: “Also, through insatiable greed they will with enticing messages... [plain statements, deceitful statements; spin control] ... exploit you for gain; for whom the judgment of old

is in *full* force, and their destruction is *ever* watching.”

I want you to understand something very important: If you think that you’re greater than God and the Word of God, and that judgment is not coming upon you:

Verse 4: “For if God did not spare *the* angels who sinned...” We’re less than angels, so if God didn’t spare them, how much less is He going to spare us?

Acts 8—Simon Magus—some of these same tactics have come into the Churches of God today and are causing all kinds of troubles and difficulties. Here we have

- the *visible man*
- the ways, means and tactics on how he got there
- all of the things of self-worship of the leader

*And Satan is right there to stir it up!*

(go to the next track)

Let’s see the tactics of Simon Magus, Acts 8:9: “But *there was* a certain man named Simon, who had from earlier times been practicing sorcery in the city...” Using satanic means and methods of controlling people. We’re seeing that on a vast scale today. That has been used in the Churches of God today. For those of you have heard, seen or read about the Jesuit Agenda for the Seventh Day Adventist Church; that is called ‘neurological linguistic programming.’ It’s on television everyday. It’s on the news everyday. It’s in the presidential conferences everyday. It’s in every book. And it’s coming right from the pulpits of the Churches of God.

“...and astounding... [programmed, used, manipulated, directed] ...the nation of Samaria, proclaiming himself to be **some great one**” (v 9)—pride and vanity! What does the Bible say about those who call themselves ‘great.’ *Man at his very best is altogether vanity!* When we see about the pope, he gives himself out as the ‘greatest one’; using the same tactics, by the way, too.

Verse 10: “To him they had all given heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God.’ Now, they were giving heed to him because *he* had for a long time bewitched them with sorceries” (vs 10-11).

When the *true* Gospel came and people were going away from Simon Magus, he said, ‘I believe’ and Philip made the mistake of baptizing him and the news got back to Jerusalem, they sent Peter and John down there to find out what was happening,

because they knew Simon Magus. You know the rest of the story. Simon Magus was refused after he tried to merchandize John and Peter. Peter told him to take his money and ‘go to hell.’

Verse 22: “Repent, therefore, of this your wickedness, and beseech God, if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.”

Acts 13:6: “And when they had gone through the island as far as Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-jesus”—which means the son of Jesus.

What did he do? *He went around deceiving!* Notice what Paul said, v 9: “But Saul, who *was* also called Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his eyes on him, *and* said...” (vs 9-10)—‘Let’s all just get along; let’s find our common ground. You have your differences and I have my differences, and you accept me and I accept you; and we’ll all be wonderful, nice people together.’ **NO!** He didn’t say that!

“And said, ‘O full of all guile and all craftiness, *you* son of the devil *and* enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the straight ways of *the* Lord?’” Twisting and turning the Scriptures and deceitfully handling them to get his own way.

Verse 11: “And now behold, *the* hand of the Lord *is* upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.’....” (vs 10-11). God made him blind! I think that there are a lot of people going to church where there are an awful lot of blind leaders. Jesus said, ‘If the blind lead the blind, they’re both going to fall into the ditch!’ That’s what’s happening in the Churches of God.

Now let’s look at some things from this book: *Toxic Faith*. I have re-named it ‘Addictive Faith,’ because it’s not *true faith* in God. It is using the name of God, but it’s not the true faith of God.

For anyone who is a teacher, a preacher, and anyone who listens to them, are you ready to try this test, because this is the judgment that’s going to be. None of us are going to escape the judgment of God. We shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ and the minister is going to give an account for you. **NO! You’re going to give an account for yourself!** and **The minister is going to give an account for himself! Everyone is going to have to account for himself!**

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven.” You must be **doing and practicing the will of the Father** Who is in heaven!

Verse 22: “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you....’” (vs 22-23).

How do you know God? *Paul said that ‘he who loves God is known of God.’* So, the many don’t have the love of God. John wrote, ‘He that says *I know Him* and keeps not My commandments is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.’ John also wrote that ‘if you know not Christ, you love not.’ All of these addictive ‘religions’ are void of love. They have a pseudo love or a false love, but do not have the true love of God. Hence:

- they do not have the true hope
- they do not have the true faith

Out of this book I’m going to read to you; I’ve adjusted some of the things that are written here, to apply to us directly in the Churches of God.

*Toxic Faith—Understanding and Overcoming Addiction* by Stephen Arteburn & Jack Felton

Ten Rules of a Toxic-Faith System—pg 223:

1. The leader must be in control of every aspect at all times.

*We’ve seen that happen—haven’t we? That’s called government from the top down!*

2. When problems arise, immediately find a guilty party to blame

*The leaders:*

3. Don’t make mistakes

*The pope is infallible; and if they do, God will correct them!* Here is the way it’s been said: ‘God appointed them and they’re there because God put them there, and don’t you think, brethren, that God is able to correct them?’ Therefore, you don’t do anything, but passively sit back.

4. Never point out the reality of a situation

*In other words, don’t criticize even though it’s true.*

5. Never express your feelings unless they are positive

Everything is good/good, better/better; wonderful/wonderful. Even when the Worldwide Church of God was going into a direct tailspin into oblivion, what were the leaders saying? *The great growth in Christ!*

6. Don’t ask questions, especially if they are tough ones

Translated: *Don’t rock the boat!*

7. Don’t do anything outside your role

*Put another way: Stay in your box! Have you not heard these things? You're to stay in your box.*

8. Don't trust anyone

*Who is not in good standing with the hierarchy! They must have the approval of the hierarchy!*

9. Nothing is more important than giving money to the organization

*Pray, pay, stay and obey! PBSO! Members are not brethren in Christ; they are tithe-payers!*

10. At all cost, keep up the image of the organization or family and its leader, and its hierarchy. It's all based on pride; respecter of persons!

What I want to do is read to you some pages that I have right from *My Catholic Faith*. Let's start right out with the pope, because this is the biggest organization on earth that practices these things. Have we not been told, 'If there's any one thing that the Catholics have right, it's government from the top down'—the hierarchy?

from: *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire:

pg 27: Thus when men arose and attack some of the truth about Christianity...

Always start out with a true premise, then you switch it.

The church clearly defined the Truth so that no one could be misled. This was tradition working in the church and now we have manmade legalistic rules called "tradition."

Tradition comes in the church even today. When the holy father defines a dogma of faith, he is not creating a new truth, but he is making clear a truth that was contained in the deposit of faith given us by Christ Jesus. And so, tradition is a living force in the church. Without it, the truths contained in the Bible could not possibly be understood.

Because you would find out that they are totally wrong. Have we not found the same thing within the Church of God? Has there not been a tradition built? Has there not been things put there as barriers to keep the truth from coming? *Yes!*

Notice the powers of the pope; this is amazing. I want you to listen very carefully to these words:

#### The Powers of the Pope

What are the chief powers of the Pope?

I want you to think about the coming one-world, global religion. I want you to think about these ten

things that we read on the rule of faith. I want you to apply them to the Catholic Church; I want you to apply them to whatever church you desire to apply it to that has a hierarchical system, and you will see that they fit. That's why the Jesuits like to infiltrate organizations that have hierarchies, because they can sit there and wait for years, and then bring on all their destructive powers.

The Pope has supreme and complete power...

Very important for us to understand; that's why I'm beginning with the pope, but let's also understand that it happened in the Churches of God. Let's also understand that it happened when one man exalted himself to be 'God's only apostle on earth.' Exact same thing!

Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came *and* spoke to them, saying, '**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'" The pope has usurped the authority of Christ.

...and jurisdiction to decide questions of faith and morals and to arrange the discipline of the universal Church.

1. The power of the Pope *extends* over every single church...

Does not say *Catholic!*

...every single bishop and pastor, every one of the faithful.

You apply this to the ecumenical movement that's taking place. Apply this to the bringing of all religions together. I think you're going to see that this is greater than any of us have ever imagined.

2. The Pope is the supreme *judge*; to him belongs the last appeal in all cases.

The Pope is the "teacher of all Christians"...

Notice that he didn't say *Catholic!*

...the "chief shepherd of the shepherds and their flocks.".... The word "Pope" is derived from the Latin term *papa*, which means "Father."

Even that snuck into the church—didn't it? *Yes, it did!* It's called *the Peter principle*.

Matthew 23:8: "But you are not to be called Rabbi; for one is your Master, the Christ, and all of you are brethren. Also, do not call *anyone* on the earth your Father... [in a religious sense] ...for one is your Father, Who *is* in heaven. Neither be called Master..." (vs 8-10). We were in a church where it was 'Mr. This/Mr. That—and it means master. Jesus said, 'Don't do it.' So, what did we do? *We did it!*

“...for one is your Master, the Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled...” (vs 10-12). That’s happening; we’ve seen it happen and it’s going to happen again. The greatest abasement of all is going to happen when the false prophet and the beast are cast into the Lake of Fire.

“...and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted” (v 12).

3. The Pope is *independent* of every temporal sovereign and of every spiritual power. He is responsible to God.

Have you heard that before of the leaders? *Yes!*

What is the temporal power of the Pope?  
The temporal power of the Pope is his power to rule an independent state as sovereign...

He wants the whole world!

...free and independent from other earthly sovereigns.

The vastness of the Church and the greatness of its responsibilities towards its millions of members require that it should be able to communicate with them unhampered by any national government, free of foreign interference.

So they can do their dirty work wherever they desire.

He has *precedence* of jurisdiction and honor over all other bishops.

The Bishop of Rome’s jurisdiction extends over all Christendom....

That means all Protestants!

...He is first in both authority and honor.

He enjoys the exclusive *titles* of: Pope, Sovereign Pontiff, Roman Pontiff, Holy Father, His Holiness, Vicar of Christ, Father of Christendom. But he calls himself the “Servant of the Servants of God.”

Which is an ideological mask, much like those who say they have a ‘servant ministry’ but they rule with an iron fist!

Because of the words of Our Lord to Peter: “Blessed at thou”...

Notice how they twist the Scriptures and deceitfully use it. They took that one phrase out:

...we address the Pope *Beatissime Pater* (Most Holy Father). The office is called the See...

Whenever you have ‘See’ that goes back to the old pagan ‘seers.’

...of Peter, Holy See, or Apostolic See, or the Chair of Peter. The Pope is called from his see, the Pope of Rome, and the Catholic Church under him is often called the Roman Catholic Church.

How about the hierarchy? *There is a hierarchy!* All ten of the rules of an ‘addicted’ faith applies to the Roman Catholic Church. What did they do?

*Toxic Faith*, pg 223:

1. The leader at all times must have control of [everything] every aspect at all times.

*The pope is!*

2. When problems arise, immediately find a guilty party to blame.

*The Inquisition!*

3. [The leaders] don’t make mistakes

*They’re infallible!*

4. Never point out the reality of a situation

*You never criticize the pope!*

5. Never express your feelings unless they are positive.

*You must bow down and kiss his ring or his foot!*

6. Don’t ask questions, especially if they are the tough ones!

*By the way, what has the Bank of the Pope done recently with its money?*

7. Don’t do anything outside your role!

*Stay in your box, you’re to be ruled by the pope!*

8. Don’t trust anyone!

*Only the pope or the hierarchy, unless they’re in good standing with the hierarchy!*

9. Nothing is more important than giving money to the organization!

*The wealthiest organization on earth!*

10. At all cost, keep up the image of the organization and [its leaders and hierarchy] or family.

*We’re going to see that’s exactly what the Catholic Church has done! That’s exactly what every dictatorial hierarchy always does!*

Be it in the political sense, in the church sense; and it’s happened in the Church of God. Part of the problem was—and is—that many of you were addicted to it; many of you were enablers of it; many of you were part of it—called *co-conspirators!*

*Toxic Faith* by Stephen Arterburn & Jack Felton: (from pg. 159): (points are paraphrased)

The hierarchy of the *invisible idol*, the addictive faith characteristics:

1) Special claims about special ability and knowledge

I was born to this job. God called me from the womb.

- 2) Always trust the leaders even when they are openly wrong

Where they have been told from the pulpit, if this leader is 95% wrong and he is 5% right, and you are 95% correct and he is 5% wrong, God will uphold the leader. **NO!** If He did then God would be against truth. Is God ever against truth? **NO! He's the Author of truth!**

- 3) Everyone must submit to the leader as a sign of faith and acceptance.

They do that with the pope—don't they? *They kiss his ring!* Yes, they do! Everyone has to bow down to the pope. There are other ways that it's been done in the Church of God: from the pulpit, the name of the man may be mentioned more than Christ.

- 4) Dictatorial and authoritarian leader
- 5) An us vs them mentality

Brethren, we're the only true church on the face of the earth, and anybody not in this church is not going to be in the Kingdom of God. So, God promptly turns around and just the opposite. God is God! No man is going to tell God what to do!

- 6) It is punitive and fearful in nature and creates fear
- 7) Overwhelming service and activity oriented

You have this club, that club and the other club. You have this group, that group and the other group. You have your time totally consumed by serving the Church. It's designed that way. The Mormons do it; other churches do it; Catholics do it; Churches of God do it. They keep you so busy you don't have any time to pray, but you better pay, and you sure enough better obey and stay.

- 8) The followers are in pain and abused
- 9) Closed communication

One way, top down communication; you never, ever, ever reach the top. Low and behold you better never question or you're gone!

- 10) Legalism

They have their own set of rules; just like the Catholics have their traditions.

- 11) No objectivity or accountability
- 12) Labeling and accusing and pigeonholing

That's how they do. Rather than face the truth, 'Well, you're in a bad attitude.' or 'You should never ask that, you're just a lay-member. Who are

you to ask?' or 'You're a troublemaker; you're stirring up difficulties.' Have you heard that?

### The Addicted Leader

The addicted leader has many, many characteristics. Most of all it is self-idol. He is a self-worshiper. ***The self-idol of the leader!*** Or as one woman wrote: *the most worshipful ramrod, to get his way!* He sits at the top and everyone better do deference.

The Characteristics of the Leader—the Persecutor—comes against those who want to know the Truth. These are all relevant to what we've experienced. pg 182:

- Is extremely self-centered  
Always has to talk about I, me and mine!
- Frequently defends his own problems
- Feels the need to embellish the truth and make things appear more grand than they really are

I will never forget 1972, the first week in January, and all of you old-timers remember that; 1972 was when we were to flee. We had that all worked out with 19-year time-cycles and everything. That was reality. When the first week of January came and we were all to flee to go to a place of safety, we were all sitting in the gymnasium at that time in Pasadena and we heard the great, wonderful news. The first week in January we didn't flee, but we got advertisements in the *Reader's Digest!* Making them more grand than they really are.

- Feels the need to be in control [always]
- Seeks power and control

A key word of these kinds of addictive leaders is power, ***power, power!***

- Speaks boldly about sinful behavior, even when involved in the same behavior

Speaks boldly against it while still doing it! I'm going to shock a lot of you, but it is the truth: Garner Ted Armstrong was caught, infamously, trying to attack and seduce a masseuse; and by the way, they have it on tape and it's gone all around the world. Years before at Ambassador College when GTA had his offices over the library, he had his consorts come up on Sabbath morning and have their illicit sexual affairs Sabbath morning, and he would go down Sabbath afternoon and preach!

***That is the truth!*** I talked to the brother-in-law of one of the women that did that for two years. ***Speaks boldly about sinful behavior even when involved in the same behavior!***

- Projects own wrongs onto other people

The brethren are always at fault! Putting a guilt-trip on the people! Finding fault:

- ✓ you're not praying
- ✓ you're not studying
- ✓ you're not giving enough
- ✓ you're not obeying

I remember how many times that we get messages that would come down:

- ✓ the Church isn't praying
- ✓ the Church isn't studying
- ✓ the Church isn't fasting
- ✓ the income is down

- Sees things in terms of very black and white
- Believes people are extremely wonderful or bad, usually depending on the amount of support offered to the persecutor [leader]

Of course they have to have the praise, flattery and everything that goes with it.

- Has an attitude of superiority

That's the opposite of what Jesus Christ said.

Matthew 20:20: "Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, worshipping Him and asking a certain thing from Him. And He said to her, 'What do you desire?' She said to Him, 'Grant that these my two sons may sit one at Your right hand and one at *Your left hand* in Your kingdom.' But Jesus answered *and* said, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and to be baptized *with* the baptism that I am baptized *with*?' They said to Him, 'We are able.' And He said to them, 'You shall indeed drink of My cup, and shall be baptized *with* the baptism that I am baptized *with*; but to sit at My right hand and at My left *hand* is not Mine to give, but *shall be given to those* for whom it has been prepared by My Father.'" (vs 20-23).

Verse 25: "But Jesus called them to *Him and* said, 'You know that the rulers of the nations exercise lordship over them, and the great ones exercise authority over them.' Rule them with a rod of iron!

And they that exercise authority upon them are called *benefactors* (Luke 22)

Verse 26: "However, it shall not be this way among you; but whoever would become great among you, let him be your servant." Just the opposite! We all went along with this one way or the other—didn't we? *Yes, we did!*

- Appears very angry with those involved in sin

*No compassion! No love!* I think what you're going to see in all of this is that since they don't truly know God, then they're not loving God, so therefore, all of these things happened.

- Often is motivated by greed
- Fears sexual inadequacy
- Was probably born into an abusive or neglectful home that appeared wonderful to those outside the family
- [He] feels [he is] owed something

*Because of his own self-importance*

• Feels persecuted  
*when faced with the truth*

- Lives in a false world where person is convinced he...is right  
*even when he knows he is wrong*

Now we're getting into very unusual behavior and we've seen that, too.

- Usually possesses special talents
- Contorts God's Word to fit his own belief

Always finds a way to twist the Scriptures to justify it. We've seen that, and they're still doing it today.

- Surrounds himself with people who are insecure and easily swayed

*Especially the second level of the hierarchy*

- Manipulates others by using guilt, shame and remorse
- Blames others for [his] own failure
- Attempts [always] to make others accept full responsibility for own mistakes

*But not his!*

- Feels disappointment in God, self and others  
when things don't go the way he wants

- Usually [is always] impressed with material goods and wealth and those who own them

A minister even made a comment that only those men who are successful, wealthy businessmen should be ordained as elders.

- Is very angry
- Has compulsions in several areas

*Actions, alcohol or drugs—that could be medication, because medication is a drug.*

- Possesses an observable compulsion...that appears admirable to the world

- Possesses a hidden compulsion that would disgust most people if it were known
- Places great value on performance, *especially those working for him*
- Deeply resents having to perform *when he has to do the Truth*
- Is not involved in any accountable relationships  
*If they turn bad on him, cut them off, even if it's your own son!*
- Has no intimate relationships
- When in a bind will ask for forgiveness and appear sincere doing so  
*How many times over and over again?*
- Fears not measuring up or losing image  
*By all means protect the image of the leader and organization and hierarchy!*
- Fears that if no longer able to perform for the masses, will be useless to God

Then the next category, which goes along with this; and all of us know this: The Role of the Co-conspirator to uphold the addictive leader. Here is the prime enabler, called *the co-conspirator*. I call him the *sycophant*—someone who is fawnily coming around stroking, to help that person secure his position, and to make himself needed by the leader, called *the ultimate team-player!*

pgs 183-184—The Role of the Co-conspirator

For every persecutor [addictive leader] exists at least one co-conspirator who manipulates, plots and plans to keep the persecutor [addictive leader] in power and position....

I can think of a name! I can think of several names! One who is an accountant, one who was right there side-by-side with Herbert W. Armstrong. *Yes, indeed!*

...The persecutor [addictive leader] and co-conspirator work as a unit; they operate as one. Both are addicted to religion as a means by which they feel accepted and significant....

In large organizations, [there is usually] more than one co-conspirator exists. Several co-conspirators work together to form a team of yes-men and yes-women who will do anything to perfect and defend the persecutor [or the addictive leader]....

*That is called a Board or Council of Elders! Sound familiar?*

...They feed into the persecutor's [addicted leader's] ego... [they draw from him and feed him—both] ...and further blind him...  
*From his faults and reality and so forth.*

...When conflict arises, they usually find a way to agree with the persecutor [addictive leader] and support his or her position....  
*It's called spin control.*

...They are loyal and a supportive of the persecutor [addictive leader] in every way. If it were not for them, the persecutor's [addictive leader's] empire would fall quickly.  
*Does that sound familiar? We've all experienced that!*

In a toxic-faith system, these are the most dangerous followers. They are as driven and misguided as the persecutor, and because they are close to power, people trust them....  
*Their faith in the persecutor is the reason so*

...many will continue to support that person when trouble, rumor or admission of wrong surfaces  
*Sounds like I'm reading contemporary church history!*

The primary role of the co-conspirator is to make the persecutor look good. The co-conspirator is the caretaker of the entire system and also has the especially important task of being the caretaker of the persecutor's image. If the persecutor lacks compassion, the co-conspirator will supply it. He or she make sure that the persecutor is identified... [by the family or minister or followers] ...as compassionate. When the persecutor praises... [gives adulation] ...the co-conspirator, usually... [results in making] ...the persecutor look good by covering up or compensating for some major flaw [in the persecutor's character or image].

*Again, spin control!* What happens when they do this—and they do an especially good job—they get a gigantic bonus!

In a typical crisis, the co-conspirator comes to the rescue of the persecutor, thus gaining special favor in the latter's eyes [the persecutor]....

The role has been played out many, many times in the past few years as ministry scandals have surfaced.

What is seen publicly often goes on privately in the family of the persecutor also.



*Forgiveness!*

The co-conspirator is told that the persecutor [persecuting minister or the addictive minister] endured relentless persecution. There are admissions of working too hard and burnout....

*That ought to ring a lot of bells in your past memory.*

...Perhaps there is this slight hint that if those around the persecutor had been more helpful, the disaster could have been averted... [would never have happened].

Have we not heard that before? *If all of these women wouldn't have come around I wouldn't have committed adultery!* If all of you men would have handled this more discreetly, this wouldn't have happened. 'I'm just burned out; I have to go to Colorado and recover.'

Sound familiar? *Yes, indeed!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 10:1-14
- 2) Ezekiel 33:30-33
- 3) Ezekiel 14:1-6
- 4) Ezekiel 34:1-15
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:2-5
- 6) Titus 1:9-11
- 7) 2 Peter 2:1-4
- 8) Acts 8:9-11, 22
- 9) Acts 13:6, 9-11
- 10) Matthew 7:21-23
- 11) Matthew 28:18
- 12) Matthew 23:8-12
- 13) Matthew 20:20-23, 25-26

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Jeremiah 25
- John 10
- Luke 22

Also referenced: Books:

- *Toxic Faith—Experiencing Healing from Painful Spiritual Abuse* by Stephen Arterburn & Jack Felton (amazon.com)
- *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire

FRC:bo  
Transcribed: 4-28-14

## Invisible Idol/Visible Man III Toxic, Addictive Faith

Fred R. Coulter

Let's talk about the levels of the hierarchy as it comes down through any organization. It's talking about not just the Church, but we can see it in the governments that we have today. We can see this in the churches we have today. We can see this in the economy and banking system we have today. In other words, what we are talking about is a Babylonian system of the hierarchical structure. That's way Satan can most effectively use these.

Maybe this will help you understand why God is scattering the Church, to completely undo the hierarchical system, so that, hopefully, He can lead His brethren, people and ministers into understanding the right and proper kind of organization.

I will read to you from *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire and then we'll look at the first level of hierarchy in the book *Toxic Faith—Experiencing Healing from Painful Spiritual Abuse* by Stephen Arteburn & Jack Felton.

from: *My Catholic Faith*

The Hierarchy—Who are the members of the hierarchy? The hierarchy... [or ruling powers] ...of the church are the Supreme Pontiff, Cardinals, patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, prelates or abbots, apostolic administrators, vicars, apostolic prefects and ecclesiastical superiors.

The hierarchy is the orderly disposition of the ranks and orders of the clergy with ordinary jurisdiction. The teaching of the church, the ruling body, an army of leaders under its head the Vicar of Christ, having care and control of the holy sacred things of the church.

What they don't want to tell you is that they feel the whole world is theirs.

Members of the hierarchy come in two different ways: by power of orders and power of jurisdictions.

Let's understand something: *a hierarchy system by nature is political, the pullers and the pushers*. A hierarchy by nature must be run by politics, because if you are down here, in order to get up here in the hierarchy, you must curry favor of the one above you, or you won't get there. Then when you get there, you must curry the favor of the one above you at that point so you can get there and on

up the line. Let's see how this works in the Churches of God, or how it works in the addictive faith system.

Here are characteristics of the co-conspirator who I call the sycophant or the first level of enablers, or the addicted/addictee enabler. This person is addicted to the power; as an addictee he must feed off the power of the leader, and he's an enabler. This is the whole thing combined.

### Characteristics of the Co-Conspirator [Sycophant] pg 189:

- Assumes the role of the ultimate team player
- Shows total dedication to the persecutor [leader and organization]

As I read all of these, it ought to see a lot of bells off in your mind.

- Always finds a way to support the position of the persecutor [addictive leader]
- Feeds the persecutor's [leader's] ego  
*Pushing him higher and then pulling himself up*
- Is addicted to the power granted by the persecutor [leader]  
*Using his name with great authority*

- Keeps things going within the toxic-faith system
- Ensures that everything is taken care of responsibly
- Typically is a small person who feels big when in on the action

Witness: Goebbels the propaganda Minister for Adolf Hitler. Witness: Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the order of the Jesuits to uphold. He is the perfect epitome of the sycophant who upholds the power.

Not only that, the sycophant has a code of the cadaver obedience, which means that you are to your superiors as a dead body meant to be used in any way the superior decides. If the superior says that black is white, it is white. If he says that that white is black, it is black. You do anything, regardless of scruples, regardless of whether he disobeys the laws and commands of God. Furthermore, all of them have been programmed to behave that way.

When you rise in the hierarchy and become a chief sycophant, then you have also programmed

your mind do that. That's another problem we have with some of the Churches of God, because the sycophants get out there and try and start their own churches when they don't know what to do. Just look around and see it. It's true of any organization.

- Willingly deceives to maintain the persecutor's power

—because he's maintaining his. *Willingly deceives!*  
Have we been deceived by things coming out that we have read? *Yes!*

The chief sycophant:

- Is good at lying

*Great spin control!* All I ask you to do is watch your Sunday morning news programs and look at all the sycophants there, especially George Stephanopoulos! *Spin control!*

- Enjoys being rewarded for willingness to distort the truth

*With bonuses, rank and higher positions*

- Ties personal feelings of value to another person rather than to God

*That is the key!* That is how the hierarchy continues. You look to the person instead of God. All the hierarchy does is close off your relationship with God. Then it does its dirty work.

- Protects sense of self-worth [image] by protecting the persecutor

*If he goes, I go!*

- Appears unassuming and grateful to be number two in the organization

—*or on the Board of yes-men!*

- Enjoys material things

—*that high salaries brings!*

- Is sincerely deluded
- Feels weak
- Lacks the strong charisma and leadership abilities of the persecutor [leader]

*That's why he's a sycophant!*

- Feels extremely inadequate
- Works as a single unit with the addictive leader/persecutor

*Your thoughts are my thought!*

- Lives to be appreciated and recognized by the persecutor [addictive leader]

*Just sits there in sermons waiting for his name to be dropped!*

- Needs to feel safe in work and relationships
- Is viewed by outsiders as trustworthy, conscientious, competent, mature and reliable

### The Role of the Enabler

The role of the enabler varies from that of the co-conspirator; though the co-conspirator is an enabler.

While the co-conspirator is actively involved in the delusion and connives to keep the persecutor [addictive leader] in power,

The enabler is not as active in the deception; it is a passive role that allows, rather than promotes; in other words is victimized. So, this is the body of brethren, who are now no longer brethren, but are tithe-payers!

pg. 194—The only hope for enablers is reality.

That's what's happening the Church of God today. God is bringing you right smack in front of the true mirror of reality.

They must face the reality that the system continues in large part due to the [enabling] support they offer the system and the persecutor [addictive leader]. Enablers must admit that they are playing out an unhealthy role that has trapped them in a system doomed to failure.

- Is it failing?
- Is it coming to an end?
- Is the Catholic Church going to fail?
- Are the governments of this world going to fail?
- *Yes! Every bit of it!*

Hope comes from ending the charade; so you must take off the scales of deception that have been covering your eyes; quit playing the silly game of *pray, pay, stay and obey!* Quit staying in your box! Connect with Christ and God the Father, and quit being the victim of men.

pg 195—Characteristic of the Enabler

- Allows victimization rather than promotes it.

*Sits there and passively takes it!*

- Supports victimization with silence.

*After all, the leaders are right!*

- Is dedicated to not rocking the boat.

—*because they may not get to a place of safety!*

- Does not trust God enough to allow family turmoil or destruction of a ministry
- Appears powerless.
- Receives praise for sainthood in being able to survive under severe persecution

*That is you are intimidated and put in fear every Sabbath!*

- Can be perceived by co-conspirators as the enemy or a threat to the co-conspirators position

*—if they get out of their box!*

- Allows the persecutor [addictive leader] to live in denial
- Covers up the harm done to the family or the organization.
- Eases the persecutor's [addictive leader's] pain

*By being always loyal!*

- Outwardly appears loving and supportive of the persecutor [leader]
- [At times] Inwardly is angry at living an unfulfilled life

*You are cutting off the Spirit of God when you do that, and you are not loving God; you don't know God.*

There you are wondering what to do, and you're trapped in passive inactivity because of fear and intimidation! If you do anything, sure enough, it's going to be your fault! *Wrong! Not true!*

- As a persecutor begins to lose credibility, will start to develop other skills, such as obtain a degree in counseling...

*Sound familiar to a lot of second and third level ministers? Yes, indeed!*

- ...knowing the system and the family may fall apart
- Feels very little self-worth
- Becomes a caretaker of the persecutor [leader]
- Is addicted to the persecutor and the system
- Has the primary goal of maintaining peace and the status quo
- Has great difficulty thinking for oneself

You ought not do anything important unless you counsel with the minister first. After all, 'the mind is deceitful above all things,' and who is to know whether you can think properly or not. Check with the minister—right? In other way of saying it is when you come to Church, check your brain at the door the first time you come and never pick it up again thereafter!

- Goes along with group consensus
- Acts to survive
- Feels extremely responsible

*Yes, I must tithe more, pay more, and more activities. I must be addicted! I have to go to this*

*club. I've got to go to this activity. I don't have time to pray, God, but these activities are wonderful!*

- If the ministry fails, blames self
- Neglects personal needs for the sake of the ministry...

*How many people have neglected taking care of their bodies, their teeth, their eyes, their children and their house?*

- Never stops hope things will change
- Somehow God will work it out!*

I remember looking into the eyes of an elder who told me that, and I said, 'You have the Spirit of God and God expects you to exercise your responsibilities! He finally got the point and did.

- Never stops fearing what will happen if things do change

### Characteristics of the Victim

He is manipulated and exploited. They believe the spin-control. They believe everything that is put out. They believe all the lies at the first level that the chief sycophant puts out.

- Make tremendous sacrifices out of a...desire to serve God...

*—and is intimidated through fear.*

- Wants to feel a valuable part of something important

*—The Work! That's the idol!*

Listen, brethren, I want to tell you something very clearly. If the work of God is in you, and you are His workmanship, then you're developing the character of God. God is going to destroy every other work on the face of the earth! He's destroyed Worldwide, He's destroyed Church of God International (CGI), He's destroyed Global/Living Church of God, and He's going to destroy United Church of God—they are focusing on a work, rather than God, and that is their idol!

God isn't going to bring any new people into such confusion and wretchedness when He's in the process of destroying it. We've all got to return to God and change and repent and get back right with God! Then God can add new ones.

We've got to get our brains unscrambled and get our lives straightened around, and we have to come to the love of God, the knowledge of God, the hope of God and get rid of all of this stupidity that the hierarchy and men have foisted upon us with this toxic/addictive faith.

- Looks for someone to make salvation easy

*If I stay here, I'm going to be saved!*  
It's like the Titanic, 'this won't sink!' **Never challenge God!**

- Often experiences loneliness
- Actually believes money and effort will buy favor with God

Some people who tithe, give great money, and then they expect a blessing and when they don't get it, they say, 'Well, God, I did this...' *Yeah, but you weren't serving God! You were serving your idol of tithing!* You'll never be blessed in that. Serve God, then tithe, then you'll be blessed.

- Willingly sacrifices time, money and self for a cause considered to be of God
- Is easily manipulated by persecutor [addictive leader] and co-conspirators [chief sycophants]
- Is spiritually molested [and abused] by toxic-faith leaders [and the sycophants]...
- Feels victimized when truth about toxic-faith ministry [addictive faith ministry] is revealed

*That couldn't be true! It is!*

- Often abandons spiritual journey upon discovery of abuse by an exploitative leader...

*Give up the faith, and that's exactly what Satan wants you to do!*

- Is often threatened by co-conspirators and persecutors [addictive leaders and sycophants] to keep the victimization a secret
- Bears the pain of existing in a world of lies and deception

*—passively hoping that God will work it out!*

- Sometimes leaves one toxic-faith [addictive faith] system and moves to another

*We've seen that time and time again!*

- Frequently is very emotional in the practice of faith.
- Becomes isolated and lonely once he or she is disillusioned about a ministry or family

Now then, there's a pecking order, just like with a flock of chickens, there's a pecking order. Just like with a pack of wolves, there's a pecking order. You must always cow-down to the chief wolf.

pg 206—Toxic [Addictive] Faith Pecking Order

The toxic [addictive faith] system has its own pecking order and uses certain toxic [addictive] roles for keeping that pecking order in place.

- The apostle
- The evangelist
- The pastors
- The preaching elders
- The local elders
- The local, local elders
- The deacons
- The super-deacons
- The deaconesses

At one time they had armbands: Deacon! My that was wonderful! That begins the pecking order!

- The religious addictive persecutor is bound by the fear of giving up the power-and-prestige position, lest he or she has to face failure and insignificance

*So, they claim, 'I was born to this.'*

- The religious co-conspirator [chief sycophant] is bound to the system to have a purpose in life and to avoid the fear of letting the persecutor [chief addictive leader] down
- The religious enabler is bound by fear of ridicule and shame

*What will people say if I leave this church, after all I told them it was the one and the only—didn't we?*

- The victim of religious abuse is bound to follow and blindly believe

*If they say so, it's true!*

- The outcast is bound by the desire to let the truth be known and to be free from the toxic [addictive] system
- The roles, except for that of the outcast, are driven by the fear of not belonging to the toxic [addictive] faith family [system]. The only thing more fearful than not belonging to the family of the toxic [addictive] family [of faith] is the fear of not belonging to anything at all

*Isn't that so?*

- Though astute in business and other affairs, naively practices a blind faith  
*—in following the addictive leader/persecutor!*

- Refuses to doubt questionable activities; instead rationalizes why exploitative things would be necessary for the ministry's survival

Key, #1 thing to always remember:

- ***You do not cause spiritual accomplishment by carnal, physical means! Never!***
- ***You do not enhance the Truth by lying! Never!***
- ***You do not support someone when they are not supportable! Never!***
- ***That's how you stop the cycle!***

- The more money given to the ministry, the greater the resolve to protect and defend it
- Gives untold hours to develop the ministry and then sacrifices further in attempts to fix it
- Sacrifices a wonderful family for the sake of a toxic [addictive] leader
- Often has a martyr complex
- May be seduced into a sexual relationship to meet "special" needs of the minister.
- Is reluctant to stop the victimization for fear of looking foolish

—held captive by shame and guilt!

- Often is involved with the toxic [addictive] faith ministry out of a desire to be or look important
- Willingly pays a high price for acceptance

—even at the expense of personal morals!

#### pg 203—Characteristics of the Outcast

Now, here we are; we're the outcasts! This is what we need to do. I'll tell you one thing that is always true: ***If you are a true outcast by nature, you will never be political!*** Where we are right now; not addicted to the toxic faith syndrome:

- Is not a religious addict

—but has true faith

- Does not possess an addictive faith

—to the addictive leader or organization; always pointing to Christ!

- Willingly stands alone
- Stands up for what is right and true
- Is willing to be rejected by others in the toxic [addictive] faith system
- Can discern right from wrong
- Commits to leaders having integrity

—rather than those who are building on their egos!

- Refuses to be victimized by false teaching and lack of integrity
- Speaks out for the Truth
- Usually loses a job within a toxic [addictive] organization over concern for it

- Suffers rejection by friends after challenging the leadership of those in toxic [addictive] faith system

- Often is treated as a leper

*Yes, they are disfellowshipped, don't anyone ever talk to them. If you see them in the store, turn and go the other way!*

- Is begged by others in the toxic [addictive] faith system to support the persecutor [leader]

*Oh, come back and support him! Why are you saying these things?*

- Endures shame for actions
- Refuses to respect or be manipulated by those in the toxic [addictive] faith system
- Sees the truth and acts on it even if it produces great personal pain
- Interprets reality for self
- Is motivated to protect people from spiritual fraud
- Is very dedicated to God and the people who seek a relationship with Him

That, brethren, is the reason why we are where we are; the very reason and principle why the Christian Biblical Church of God does what it does, and we do what we do, and I do what I do. We need to understand that we can all come out from underneath this if we truly and really seek the things that God wants us to do.

- we have to admit that we have been addicted
- we have to admit that we admired pride and were respecters of persons and political promotions
- all of these things that went on in the name of Christ
- we have to admit that we need to re-establish a relationship with Jesus Christ and God the Father

{note study paper at CBCG.org}

This is so true! Everything that I have read we have lived through. Everything that I have read we have seen, been visited upon, watched it happen. The reason that it can happen is because we're living in an age that is just that way. We're living in an age where the whole world functions that way.

- The government operates by lies!
- The economy operates by lies!
- The 'religions' operate by lies!

Every one of them do it, and it's going to build and build until you come to the great lie that's going to deceive the whole world. ***If you don't love the Truth you are going to believe a lie!***

- the Truth is not compromise
- the Truth may make you stand alone
- the Truth is going to divide

Christ is scattering to see who loves the Truth, and who doesn't love the Truth! You need to be ready to face those things. You need to be ready to admit this. Everyone is beating up on the Laodiceans, but this is not meant to beat up on them; this is meant to give a message to encourage them to repent and return to God.

Revelation 3:15: "I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot..." You've been entrapped in this political system and the hierarchy. You've been addicted to these things that are wrong!

"...I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth" (vs 15-16). The Greek means *I am about to vomit you out!* That's what's happening, the vomiting has been taking place and it's going to continue, *and continue, and continue* until all of this is regurgitated out of the Body of Christ.

Verse 17: "For you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'..."

- have been blinded by all these things that have come along
- have been addicted
- have been an enabler
- have been a sycophant
- have been a co-conspirator
- whatever your role has been*
  - have stayed in your box
  - have passively accepted all of these things
- God is calling you to repentance!
- God is calling you to get rid of your
  - ✓ idolatry
  - ✓ pride

—**and return to Him with all you're heart!** That's what God wants; it has to come to an end, and let it be with every one of us. Let us all say:

- Let it end with me, *today!*
- Let it stop with me, *today!*
- Let it no more be done, *today!*
- Let me never be a sycophant, *today!*
- Let me never be victimized again, *today!*
- Let me never again be an enabler, *today!*
- Let me never believe the lies again, *today!*

Then return to God, instead of talking back to God and making every excuse and "...have need of nothing..."

"...and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire..." (vs 17-18). It isn't going to be easy! When this whole satanic system comes upon the whole world—to try the whole world—if you think what you've gone through is tough, you'd better gird up the loins of your mind, heart and spirit, because it's going to get a whole lot tougher. If you can't endure what has been going on here and can't come out of this, *may God help you down the road!* He's doing this so you *may be rich, truly rich in Christ*—with His grace, love, hope, and to be there at the resurrection!

"...so that you may be rich; and white garments so that you may be clothed..." (v 18)—that you may be there at the marriage of the Lamb and be part of the bride, dressed in white and clean!

"...and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see" (v 18)—because you've allowed all of this to deceive you! You've allowed all of this to take away your spiritual vision and reality, and you have settled for all of the putridness of this system!

Verse 19: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten...." That's what's happening. God is going to rebuke, chasten, scatter and just absolutely keep this up until there is repentance ***because He loves you!*** He wants you! That's why He called you!

"...Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock...." (vs 19-20). Right now Christ is standing there knocking at the door of your mind!

- Will you take away the locks of deception?
- Will you take those things that have caused your mind to be a steel trapdoor, sealed shut in the blindness of your own deception and victimization and sycophantism; following an addictive leader instead of following Christ in love and Truth?
- Are you?
- Are you going to open the door?
- ***He's knocking!***

"...If anyone hears My voice..." (v 20). Remember: ***He who has an ear to hear!***

***Let him hear!*** Will you hear?

"...and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To the one who overcomes... [God calls you to overcome all of this] ...will I give *authority* to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne. **The one who has an**

**ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**" (vs 20-22). Brethren, repent of all of this addictive, false faith.

- Do not ever again apply it to a man!
- Do not ever again apply it to an organization!
- Do not ever again be there to pray, pay, stay and obey, and be exploited!
- Do not ever again be held down by intimidation and fear and be blamed for everything under the sun, which is not true!

You repent of that and come from underneath it and return to God!

1-John 1 is the fellowship that it needs to be. This is the only solution, brethren. You've got to come out and love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being, and get rid of all of this nonsense and stupidity that Satan has foisted off upon the Churches of God.

1-John 1:1: "That which was from *the* beginning..." We need to go right back to that which came at the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"...that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes, that which we observed for ourselves and our own hands handled, concerning the Word of life" (v 1). They saw Christ! They had the Truth emblazoned in their heart and mind to write these things for us, so that we can understand what God wants from us. This is great! This is not attacking a person! This is not putting anyone down! This is calling you back to God!

Verse 2: "(And the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life... [that's what God wants to give you; that's what your whole calling is all about; to give you eternal life] ...which was with the Father, and was manifested to us); that which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—*is* with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ" (vs 2-3).

Brethren, let that be what it needs to be! Repent and come back to God, understand the circumstances that have been, and have that true fellowship with God. As Christ said, "***He that has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.***"

- 1 John 1:1-3

Also referenced: Books:

- *Toxic Faith—Experiencing Healing from Painful Spiritual Abuse* by Stephen Arteburn & Jack Felton
- *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire

FRC:bo  
Transcribed: 4-28-14

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- Revelation 3:15-22



## The Rest of the Story I

Fred R. Coulter

Going through this I'm not trying to up-build myself. I'm just trying to tell you what got me where I am. You can probably tell me your story; what got you where you are. I'm not trying to be egotistical or vain about it, but having been demonized by so many people, because I left before Herbert Armstrong died, so I'm a bad, bad boy!

This will help answer that question. We had the big flap concerning the Passover in 1975, guess who brought that on—the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Passover? *Lester Grabbe and Robert Kuhn*. I still have that study paper, all marked up. If you want to see the original study paper with my reaction all marked up, write me and I'll send you a copy.

I was stuck in a position that I either had to find a place in the Scripture that defined *between the two evenings* in relationship to sunset, or I would have to admit that what they wrote was true. I found out that God's Word says that *between the two evenings* means just after sunset until dark.

Then things started building up more and more. Herbert Armstrong would go on these trips overseas. In the ministerial bulletins that would come out, he would talk about his trips. Please understand that Herbert Armstrong, under the coercion and heavy hand of Stan Rader, changed the Gospel

- from Jesus Christ to *give and get*
- from the visible return of Christ to *the unseen hand from nowhere*

—which are Masonic doctrines!

Also, it is documented that Stan Rader made Herbert Armstrong, for the sake of getting in to see the world leaders, a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree honorary Mason, which Mr. Armstrong said, 'That doesn't mean anything, it opens doors.' So therefore, all of the gifts that were given were Masonic gifts: lions, obelisks, all of these things in Steuben Crystal, and so forth. That's how he got in.

Preaching the gospel of *give and get* is not the Gospel of Christ. One of his best friends—this is leading up to my resignation {note Repentance & Resignation—Day7 of Atonement 1979}—was the king of Thailand. Do you know who the king of Thailand is? *He is the head of the Buddha religion on the civil side!* Every spring his duty is to re-dress the Buddha statue with new clothes. I could not see the Apostle Paul sitting next to the king of Thailand as his 'best friend' and not telling him about Jesus Christ and that he ought to lead the nation in repentance and destroy all of these idols!

The money they were spending was unreal! And Goto and the seven Japanese sons; and Stan Rader who is 'more than my own son'—talk about being controlled—was baptized in a bathtub in Hong Kong.

They had a lot of unrest with the brethren because there were a lot of brethren who didn't like this going overseas and spending all this money. Everywhere Armstrong went, the leader would die. It was unreal! It was almost like the 'kiss of death' if Herbert Armstrong comes to visit you; you can be guaranteed of a coup or death—one of the two—which do you want? Try Emperor Haile Selassie!

There are also indications from people, that drugs were being brought into the U.S. through that plane. Why do you think they had so many visits to Thailand? Of course, we're going to teach them—I'll be a little cynical here—to grow vegetables instead of opium. They helped fund that, too, through AICF, by the way. What they didn't tell you was that they were still growing opium.

I know of one man who walked into the plane in Los Angeles, while it was there, to meet Herbert Armstrong, and there he found a briefcase stuffed full of 100-dollar bills. He walked out of the airplane and resigned, never heard from again. Those things were going on!

Now we come to the time that Herbert Armstrong puts Ted Armstrong out for the final time. I said, 'Okay, there's hope!' Armstrong said that he would never ordain Stanley Rader; he was going to get rid of *Quest Magazine*. Can you imagine the money they spent for *Quest Magazine*, to advertise Christmas and hard liquor. And the one that I mentioned in my resignation sermon (1979) was by a Jew who was really a first-level witch. I called him and talked to him on the phone. He lived in Berkley, Cal. Here was God's tithe money being used for *Quest Magazine*. He said he would sell it, but that was Stan Rader's baby, and you don't go against Stan Rader!

Think of this; we're coming up to the time of the lawsuit. A lot of unrest in the Church. Evangelists being 'oblique aberask' here and there—which means *a transfer with great fanfare of an improvement*, which is a dead-end transfer to get rid of you.

- Rod Meredith was gone!
- Ted Armstrong was gone!
- Raymond McNair!
- no leader!
- Hermon Hoeh was the only one there!

Now it's ripe to move. Herbert Armstrong in Tucson, AZ, suffering from congestive heart failure, on constant medication with a doctor there all the time; and with Ramona holding him prisoner in the house. *True!* Here comes a lawsuit. The one who advised the lawsuit was Robert Kuhn. By the way, most people don't know, Robert Kuhn and Stan Rader spoke every night over the phone to each other for up to 2-3 hours. They were the ones who were bringing about all these personnel changes, to put their personnel in place. They were the ones to facilitate the infiltration of the Church. We can look back and see now that it was their job to destroy the Worldwide Church of God.

- Confuse it with doctrine!
- Confuse it with changing of personnel!
- Spend the money and deplete the Gospel!
- Stop the *Plain Truth* from preaching the Gospel!
- Distribute millions of them so it becomes inconsequential!
- Have another magazine for the brethren called *The Good News!*

*That's canceled!*

- Have another one where we put the doctrinal things in: *Tomorrow's World!*

*That's canceled!*

Get the picture? All of those things were going on. Now comes time for the lawsuit. Robert Kuhn was the one who advised the people to give a special way of suing the Church. Go to the Attorney General of the state of California, and use the law concerning charitable organizations. So, he did. It was sent to LA to the Superior Court. Deukmejian was running for governor and he needed the Jewish vote in Southern California.

- Guess where Stan Rader came from? *Southern California!*
- Where was he educated? *Loyola University! University of Southern California!*

He received a medal from the pope, too, by the way; you don't get that unless you've done special service for the pope. Perfect man to come in and infiltrate: a Jew, but not religious. A Mason, but also Jesuit trained. This thing was for the plucking!

What happens? Deukmejian sends it down to the Superior Court in Los Angeles, to a Jewish judge, a Jewish prosecuting attorney and with a Jewish receiver. Here they come, marching into the Administration Building to take over the Church, because of malfeasance of money.

I later discovered, because when that happened and I heard that there was the sit-in, I went down—drove down every week, Monday thru Thursday or Tuesday thru Friday. I knew everything

that was going on. But I look back on it now and I see that this must have been Stan Rader's move to take over the Church. He came in and when the lawsuit took place he got rid of Wayne C. Cole, the last evangelist that could have helped Herbert Armstrong; he tried to, but got canned.

I think Rader expected Herbert Armstrong to die of a heart attack in Tucson, and there Rader was in his white suit to rescue the Church. Thus he effectively killed Worldwide! But I think in the dark moments of that time that Herbert Armstrong did some repenting. God gave him life and he did not die! So, Stan Rader had to be the defender.

You can imagine this: A Jewish receiver, a Jewish prosecutor, a Jewish judge and a Jewish defender. I'd have to say he did a pretty good job in defending, but I did discover—because I knew people in the financial area and I got my hands on some financial material and it was exposed to me because I've had accounting—double expending.

- Budget for Herbert Armstrong, Pastor General overseas activity: \$12-million
- Budget for AICF, 12 chapters: \$1-million each

Got the picture? Draw down the money, go overseas, draw down the money and send the equivalent amount wherever you want to. I would have to say that I deduced that, but the money was going somewhere, and I knew that.

So, I was explaining this to the Church every week when I would come back. At Pentecost I was stirring up a storm. They sent Norman Smith and Dennis Luker up to 'take care Fred Coulter' and transfer him out. Steve Martin—who had been in Monterey previously—wanted to get out of Pasadena and the mess there, so he personally appealed to Herbert Armstrong so he could come and take Monterey. They came to move me and transfer me.

So, I said, 'Okay, what have I done wrong?' They couldn't find anything wrong. What doctrines of my preaching that are wrong? They couldn't find anything wrong. 'Well then, what's the need to transfer me? The brethren love me. I'm doing a good job. I've been here four years.' So, they couldn't transfer me.

I said, 'I want to talk to Herbert Armstrong.' I've talked to him in the past. They said they would work it out. At that time, Rod Meredith was back in charge—which was a political move by Stan Rader to control the ministers—of the ministry. Everything was held in abeyance with transferring out until Delores and I could go down to see Herbert Armstrong.

We flew to Pasadena first, and we were in Rod Meredith's office. He made motions to me—

finger on the lips, shhhh, pointing to the ceiling—waving to us to come out into the hall. We got out there and he said, ‘Be careful what you say, it’s bugged.’ Can you imagine in God’s Church, bugging the offices? Brethren, think what it was like!

Of course, all of you are out here in the field in total oblivion, lied to right and left by every minister and every bulletin that came out. You never new the truth about anything! They figured I was against Mr. Armstrong because I wasn’t for the sit-ins and for the sureties. When it came time to do the surety, I didn’t know that I had a spy right on the front row who was reporting everything in.

So, we get to go to Tucson and see Herbert Armstrong. He’s very nice and he’s very cordial and warm, and we just sat down and he looked me right in the eye and he says, ‘Fred, all I need you to do is help me defend the Church. Will you do that?’ I said, ‘Certainly, I will!’ Of course, defend it for what is right! Also, in my mind, that was to defend the Truth!

They hadn’t made up their mind on the transfer, so what they did, they sent Steve Martin up every Sabbath from Pasadena and he and I would bring split-sermons. I gave a series on the *fall of Jerusalem* out of the Scriptures and *Josephus*. Of course, the parallels as to what was going on in Pasadena were so evident that only a dunce couldn’t figure it out.

The brethren knew what was going on! So, while this was going on, we had another ministerial conference local and Dennis Adams from San Francisco was in the process of resigning. At this meeting, because they knew what the pressure was on me here in Monterey, and why doesn’t Steve Martin take San Francisco? It relieved all the pressure for the moment.

Pentecost at that time was Act 1, Scene 1. Listen to *Repentance and Resignation—Atonement 1979—#1* in this series. They weren’t done with me, yet. Come just before the Day of Atonement 1979, Herbert Armstrong had not repented, he had not sold *Quest Magazine*, he had not gotten rid of the people he said he would get rid of, and Wednesday/Thursday of that week here comes Leroy Neff and Dennis Luke, again, to get me to transfer. Again, I was very resistant!

I said, ‘Tell me why.’ *Blah, Blah this!* ‘Is it a sin against God? Have I done anything wrong?’ *No! But, you just need to transfer, you cause too much trouble up here!* I hadn’t caused any trouble! I got home after that meeting and I had a call from Stan Surhotski—one who was on the inside in Pasadena—and he told me, ‘You will never believe

what happened today.’ I said, ‘What’s that?’ He said, Herbert Armstrong secretly ordained Joseph Tkach, Ellis LaRavia and Stan Rader as evangelists over at his home.’

I hung up the phone and I said to Delores, ‘That’s it!’ To ordain Stan Rader as an evangelist is the worst thing that could ever happen to this Church. That’s when I talked it over with my wife and made up my mind to resign. I went back on Friday to Leroy Neff and Dennis Luker—and by that time Ron Reedy was on his way up, not there yet—and I gave them an indication that I would transfer and put down all my resistance.

I said I want’ going to fight it anymore, so I would be willing t transfer. I said that I had one request, ‘I’d like to give a farewell sermon.’ *Is that all?* ‘Yes.’ *Well, you can do that on Atonement.* I said, ‘Okay, that will be fine.’

For that sermon all I did was just pray about it and write down the Scriptures. The only one who knew that I was going to resign was Delores, Chuck Barrett and Art Makarow. I called him and talked to him and asked him what he thought. That’s how I resigned from Worldwide Church of God.

Like I said in the resignation sermon: I loved Mr. Armstrong, I had nothing against him. But in looking back it—I hadn’t listened to that sermon for years—someone said one day that I ought to listen to the resignation sermon because everything I said there came true. I had forgotten what I had said.

When I was giving the sermon, I just had the Scriptures listed down and just asked God to inspire me. Leroy Neff and Ron Reedy were right down there in the audience. I just kept praying, ‘God, don’t let them come up and take me down.’ Just inspire me with what you want me to say.’ I was happy to see that years later that Herbert Armstrong did repent, and he did get rid of Stan Rader.

We started out with a group of 17, and then we formed the Biblical Church of God, and it soon grew to five congregations and 250 people. We had a magazine called *Bible Answers*. We organized it much in the way that they organized United Church of God, with committees here, there and everywhere.

That lasted until about 1983. Through the years I kept tabs on things that were going on in Pasadena, and one of my friends—Bob Ellsworth—had a condominium on the top floor right across from where you watch the Rose Parade. We had some brethren in Los Angeles, and I would go down there about once a month. I’d stay at his place and we had four brethren that we met there in LA.

I kept track on things that were going on in Pasadena. Years later I found out how Mr. Armstrong finally got rid of Stan Rader. It was

Aaron Dean who was trying to tell Armstrong what Rader and Ramona were doing, keeping him captive there in Tucson, and what was going on.

Finally, some ministers were able to get together and convince Mr. Armstrong that he ought to get rid of Stanley Rader. They had a super-secret meeting that no one knew but those who were to come. The way I know is because the deacon who was in charge of that meeting is now attending with us. He gave me these details.

They had two limousines and they dressed up a man to look like Herbert Armstrong and he went in one limousine, Herbert Armstrong went in another limousine and they came in a roundabout way up to the Loma D. Armstrong center, and they had cut a tree down, so when that vehicle got in there they dropped the stump over it. They had security men all around it. Stan Rader couldn't get a whiff of what was going on. They got in there and they showed Herbert Armstrong the things that Stan Rader was doing.

Let's back up and tell some facts about how Stan Rader would control Herbert Armstrong. Remember, he filled the vacuum when Loma Armstrong died. Rader took him overseas, away from the Church, kept him away from everybody. Every time something would go wrong, Stan Rader would threaten to resign, and would rant and rave at Herbert Armstrong, just intimidate him: 'Oh, Stan, don't resign. Think it over.' He'd give him a resignation letter and walk out. He'd come back in a couple of days and Herbert Armstrong would give him back the resignation letter. Rader would keep it.

This happened many times during the years, and just before this meeting he did it again, giving Herbert Armstrong the letter of resignation. After the meeting, I suppose Stan Rader wanted to get his resignation letter back and Herbert Armstrong said, 'No! I'm going to accept your resignation this time.' That's how he got rid of Stan Rader. He had to negotiate a settlement with all the sins and things that had gone on, you had to do something. That's how Stan Rader was gotten rid of.

Then, I think, Herbert Armstrong was able to repent. I think his repentance is reflected in the things he did in the last two years he was there in Pasadena when he wrote the *18 Things Restored*. This was his repentance. All during that time remember what he would say? *Brethren, you just don't get it!* And you didn't! He couldn't tell you lest he expose himself and everything that he had done and what went wrong.

I think he was personally repenting to God and God was granting him repentance, and he was able to do the very best that he could do. I do know a

woman who was his personal confidant during that time, whom I talked to personally, who he kept saying, 'When I die I don't know who is going to take over.'

- What about Dr. Hoeh? *You can't trust him! That's true!*
- What about Raymond McNair? *He's just a.... you know!*
- Rod Meredith is too hardhearted!

That's why when I did the *Invisible Idol/Visible Man* #1 {#2 this series}—I talked to Rod Meredith on the phone back in 1988 and I knew then that God would never give him the Church. Before it happened, I said he would never get the Church.

But the reason Rod Meredith didn't leave the Church when Herbert Armstrong died was because he was waiting for God to give it to him. He told other people when they ask why he waited so long to leave, was because he was waiting to be assured there would be 10,000 people. You can be assured, and I can say before God, *the judgment day cometh! And that right swift! Shawshank Redemption!*

I believe that Herbert Armstrong repented and will be in the Kingdom of God. I loved Mr. Armstrong and I'm glad he repented, I'm glad he was able to get rid of Stan Rader. But the only one that was left to take over the Church—and this woman told Herbert Armstrong when he asked who is going to succeed him—was Joseph Tkach because 'he was always there for you during all of this trouble,' said the woman who was there with Armstrong. He said, 'Yes, you're right.'

That's how the Church—Worldwide Church of God—was destroyed! Subsequently, most of you know what happened from there.

Maybe that tells you a little bit about me, a little bit about the circumstance how we got where we are today. Through it all, I think we've all learned a lesson. *We're not going to tell God what to do!* We're not going to succeed by numbers, by might or political ecumenism!

- We all better repent!
- We all better yield to God!
- We all better know we have nothing we didn't receive!
- We all better get right with Christ!

This whole thing teaches us, if nothing else, if we haven't learned the lesson of Jerusalem, God could care less about physical things!

I remember looking back and we were all excited—weren't we? Remember when we were going to build a house for God? It got sidetracked

and it was turned into a Masonic Temple. Did you know that? Of course, Mr. Armstrong didn't know. All the money that we sent into pay for it was used for something else. We borrowed \$10-million to do it. David Jon Hill bragged, 'Hey, we're going to Petra in a few years and we won't have to pay the loan.'

It seems to me that whenever you read in the Bible about Solomon and the temple he built for God, did he get in trouble? Here's why:

Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool. Where, then, *is* the house that you build for Me?....'"

- What are you going to build for God?
- What are you going to do for God?
- What is any man going to do for God?

God uses people, and God will raise up the least of anyone to do what he wants. But who's going to do some great work for God?

"...And where *is* the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,' says the LORD. 'But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word'" (vs 1-2). That's what God wants with all of us! What did He tell Amos when he asked: What shall a man do? *Walk humbly before your God and do what is right!* That's what God wants!

God is the One Who is going to exalt us. We're not going to exalt ourselves and tell God to recognize it. Think of the effrontery of the things that were said in the Worldwide Church of God, to God:

- We are the two witnesses! ***Who appointed you?***
- We are Ezekiel's watchman on the wall! ***Who put you there?***
- I am God's only apostle on earth! ***Who appointed you?***

Think of all the fighting and everything that went on.

Verse 3: "He who kills an ox *is as if* he killed a man..." That's what they were doing; killing brethren and ministers right and left—*spiritually speaking, of course!*

"...he who sacrifices a lamb *is as if* he broke a dog's neck; he who offers a grain offering *is as if* he offered swine's blood; he who burns incense *is as if* he blessed an idol..." (v 3).

- he man became an idol
- the office became an idol
- the college became an idol

- the temple became an idol
- both campuses became idols

God took them away!

"...Yea, they have chosen their own ways... [instead of God's ways] ...and their soul delights in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions..." (vs 3-4). Eventually it's going to happen!

God chose Joseph Tkach's delusion and he died on the Sabbath; the day that he desecrated and hated. And on the very day that he died, I was on the campus in Pasadena walking. I didn't know that he was in the hospital on his last. One of the guards came down—of course, he didn't know me—and we talked for a minute, and I said, 'I'm just strolling here on the Sabbath, how is Mr. Tkach?' He said, 'He's recovering.' I said, 'I wish him well.'

I walked down past the student center, down to the lower gardens where Delores and I were married and graduated—*all of it gone!* I walked around and saw all the buildings: decaying, unkempt and falling apart. It reminded me of these verses. God doesn't need that, but look what we could have done if we would have stuck with the Word of God instead of our own devices.

Verse 4: "I also will choose their delusions..." I could also add here: *He who has an ear, let him hear!* What is your delusion? *God will grant it to you!*

"...and I will bring their fears upon them..." (v 4). I am here to tell you that there is no minister that is going to get any permanent retirement, because they trusted in their mind; they trusted in the lies; and they preached false doctrine to preserve a retirement. Which those who are retired were only on discretionary assistance, and it's going to come to an end! They better repent!

There's still hope; ***as long as there is life there is hope!*** They can return to God! God can forgive them; they haven't done anything worse than Manasseh did, so they can repent. But they better get their lives right. All of us better!

"...because when I called, no one answered; when I spoke, they did not hear.... [They had the Word of God right in front of them] ...But they did evil before My eyes and chose *that* in which I did not delight" (v 4).

In Herbert Armstrong's final repentance, he told Joseph Tkach, 'Don't go overseas; God didn't open those doors; we kicked them in with money!' They laid out \$500,000 to get into China. And it is not true that if you warn the leader that it is his responsibility to warn his people. Where in the

Scriptures do you find that? *No place, with the exception of the king of the city of Nineveh!* But he repented!

Verse 5 is talking about us: “Hear the Word of the LORD, you who tremble at His Word, ‘Your brethren who hated you...’” I know what that’s like. You know what that is like? You know all the demonizing that they have done to you, as well as they have done to me, and have done to many other people; because we resisted their:

- tyranny
- hierarchy
- lies
- hypocrisies
- adulteries
- thieveries
- all the rottenness

*that went on in the name of Christ!* If Christ went into the temple and chased them out! Should we shut our mouths to preserve our own necks? *No! He who seeks to save his life is going to lose his life!*

“...who cast you out for My name’s sake...” (v 5). I resigned, but they disfellowshipped me for speaking the truth in the name of Christ. Many others have been put out in the name of Christ.

They “...said, ‘Let the LORD be glorified.’ But He will appear to your joy and they will be ashamed” (v 5). That’s what the Church is going through.

We just all need to admit and be honest. One of the worst sins we ever did was say that we’re the ‘Philadelphia’ Church of God. I mean, spare us with all that hypocrisy, politics, money, wealth and all of that.

Listen! Let’s understand something: *Nobody is going to tell God who a Philadelphian is! God is!* But I think we can all admit that we’re Laodiceans. Let’s be honest! We’re all Laodiceans! We better be about repenting and stop doing all the things that led to all of this.

If there’s any message that can get out to any of the brethren anywhere, that is:

- Repent!
- Open your eyes!
- Stop your stupidity!
- Quit going after *false* ministers and *false* doctrines! Quit feeding your lust for *new* things!

Go back to the old thing and repent! That’s what needs to be for the Church of God. There’s not going to be any political restoration. Brian Knoll has written *How God will Restore the Power to the*

*Church!* Working for Robert Kuhn, Knoll says, ‘We need to discover our Jewish roots.’

Get a life! *Christ!* Beginning with John the Baptist, the umbilical cord to Judaism was irrevocably separated.

That’s what the Jews want us to do. Listen, they may have the Old Testament, but they have rejected Christ! They cannot teach us anything. Any of the brethren that go after Messianic Jews—though there may be some who are converted—are going after the traditions of men.

Get your nose in the Bible and study what is here. One of the things that we have to beware of is *beware of the doctrine of the scribes and Pharisees, which is hypocrisy!*

I thought when I read that article by Brian Knolls: *another attempt at forcing God to do something of the physical action.* We’re not going to get God to do anything because of the physical things that we do. The physical things are only the result of what we do spiritually, and they better be right physical things.

Revelation 3:14: “And to the angel of the Church of *the* Laodiceans, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginner of the creation of God. I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot...” (vs 1-2). Doesn’t that describe what’s going on today? I get letters all the time. This Church of God and that Church of God is boring. You hear the terms:

- *don’t rock the boat*; perfectly Laodicean
- *get along to go along*; perfect Laodicean

Did Christ *get along and go along* with the scribes and Pharisees? *NO!* He said, ‘You’re hypocrites!’ Read Matt. 23 to yourself as personal correction. Maybe that’s a place to start.

“... I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth” (vs 15-16). You were in the Body of Christ, but I’m going to vomit you out, and you’re not going to be a part of the Body of Christ unless you repent.

There are going to be people going into the Lake of Fire! We have to do like Jude; we have to reach out to them and say, ‘Beware! Look out!’

Verse 17: “For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’...” We’ll work it out our way; we know how to do it.

I remember that one man told me that the reason he transferred down to Pasadena was because that was where the action is. Boy, he climbed right up the political ladder with his nose as brown as could be. He latter on got spewed out! “...have need of

nothing... [Listen, we need God every day! We need God every minute!] ...and you do not understand that you are wretched... [Weren't we wretched?] ...and miserable..." (v 17). Weren't we miserable?

Remember when all of these things were going on and how you were miserable, rotten and felt bad, betrayed, beaten upon? I went through that twice! The second time was worse than the first. The exit from Worldwide was gracious. I know what it's like.

"...and poor, and blind, and naked" (v 17). That's why we have to go to God and say, 'God, open our eyes! God, give us understanding! God, help us to think!

Verse 18: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich; and white garments so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent" (vs 18-19).

If you repent, Christ will come back in, because He says, v 20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone **hears My voice** ..." Does that not go right back to Gen. 3? Everywhere in the Old Testament: *hearken unto My voice!* In the New Testament: *these sayings of Mine!*

"...and opens the door... [the door of His mind through repentance] ...I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (v 20). That's what it needs to be with the people of God. All this mickey-mousing around and one-upmanship with one or the other...

Listen, if we don't all return to Christ in love, truth and understanding, *it's over!* Christ joys in using repentance. We can be just like the prodigal son and come home, but we better be zealous! We better never, ever be satisfied with anything ever again. What we do today, *fine*. But what Christ has us do tomorrow, *do*; and that's done, *fine*. We realize that

- everything that we have *God has given us*
- everything we do, we ask God to *help us and bless us*

He will give every one of us a 'thorn in the flesh' just like He did with Paul:

- so that we don't get exalted
- so that we don't ever again repeat the mistakes of Worldwide
- so that we don't ever again get lukewarm

Whatever your weakness is, *you know*. My weaknesses, *I know*. **God knows!** But the grace of God covers all of it, brethren. We better be about the business of God, of loving and serving each other, and knowing the Word of God and making it known.

If God is going to use us—which He may—and if He doesn't, that doesn't bother me one whit! Whomever God chooses to use for whatever He wants, let Him use them. I'm happy for them.

I wish there were 10,000 ministers who would preach the Truth and stick to the Truth. I've been accused of thinking that I'm the only one who knows the Truth. **NO! That's not true!** Christ is the One Who knows the Truth and we go to Him! He'll give it to us. But everybody—ministers and brethren—*get off your political high horse!* God is going to judge you now. Peter said, 'Judgment is on the house of God.'

At least that gives you enough understanding of where I'm coming from. So, if someone says, 'I know Fred Coulter, he was always difficult to deal with and I know him, that he resigned before Herbert Armstrong died.' Well, it's better to give a witness while a person is living—don't you think?

The only thing I can say is that when I resigned I asked God to inspire me. If everything happened that I said that day came true, that's only because God inspired me to say it's true; though I'm very sorry that it all happened.

Just like Jeremiah, he had to give the message, but he was very sorry that he had to do it. It's just like a coroner. Ever watch Discovery Channel with the forensic experts? Somebody has to deal with the corpse—don't they? Somebody has to tell them—don't they? If that's my job and it's the dirty work that God has given me to do, then that's okay. If people don't like me, that's okay. I'm used to that.

Even if you don't like me, *love God!* That's what you need to do. Maybe with that then, at least you can care for me.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 66:1-5
- 2) Revelation 3:14-20

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 23
- Genesis 3

Also referenced: Sermons:

- *Repentance & Resignation*
- *Invisible Idol/Visible Man #1*

FRC:bo  
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## The Rest of the Story II

Fred R. Coulter

What we need to do is realize that God sees the whole picture. For us to see the whole picture as God sees it, we need to draw close to God and learn from the lessons that we go through. The lessons that you go through and the trials that you experience are not the ones that you thought of in your mind, that you kind of have a preplanned battle document ready to fight it. You can say in your mind, 'Well, if this trial comes, I'm prepared for this trial.' That's not the one you will get.

When we left Worldwide, we started Biblical Church of God and that lasted three years. The constitution and bylaws that we developed with that one was almost like United Church of God—when I saw United's—it was *deja vu*! A committee here, a committee there, a committee everywhere. What I had to learn—and this is how I learned that God doesn't want a hierarchy—was that committees with carnal men only create multiple power bases.

That got so bad and hateful that we had to leave. Our exit from Worldwide was very pleasant, compared to the exit from Biblical, which was hateful, mean and nasty! To have someone you consider a close friend turn on you...

Like the psalm on page 28 in the hymnal—'was not a foe that did deride, but friend and my guide.' His words were smooth and butter and his knife slipped in under the fifth rib. It was a very disillusioning time. Age 49, four kids, no income, no vacation, no severance, no nothing! I won't fill you in on all the details, but we started out a couple weeks later—and I didn't know what to do or where to go—and Esther Grisinger called me and I didn't want to talk to her or anybody. I was mean and nasty, but she was patient and persistent. She called back and said, 'Don't hang up!' She said that there were seven of us here and that they would like me to come up on Sabbath and bring us a Bible study. That's how Christian Biblical Church of God. Biblical didn't have very much Christianity in it.

The first lesson I learned was that you don't run down the road and say that this is the work of God and since it's the work of God, by the way, 'God, You better bless it because 'I say it's the work of God.' It took me a long time to really understand what God was doing, though I knew he was doing something. What it was I didn't know. I got so low that I remember just kind of driving around out north of Hollister, out in the country. Here's this little hill. I got out of the car and just climbed up to the top of the hill and got on my knees and asked God to 'heal my soul.'

You're so wounded with everything that takes place that you just don't feel as though you have any soul or heart left. That's all I could say. Tears streaming down and so forth, and God heard and answered that prayer.

It was some time later that I began to understand about a hierarchy. It wasn't until God put us through that trial. It was difficult on me, on my wife, on my children; they suffer, as well. But through that I've learned that you don't need a hierarchy. What you need is love and cooperation and structure only for what you need for the physical needs, and do what you need to do.

Then you can have peace and cooperation, because you're all loving each other and loving God. That way you're not striving as to who is in charge. If someone comes up with a good idea of doing things, do it. If someone has a question or something where they understand some Truth in the Bible and bring it out, if it's Truth, *it's Truth!* As I said through the years, fully 50% of my sermons have come from questions that the brethren have had.

We stayed at that seven for a long, long time. That's when I first began to sit down and teach. Because wouldn't it be stupid to stand up at a pulpit and browbeat seven people? That's when we decided that regardless of what happens, we're going to just keep our noses in the Bible and study the Word of God and let God do the calling and the adding. We had seven in the congregation and three on the mailing list and that was it.

I learned to do real estate loans. I had a job that I hated—being a loan broker—but I had to do, and I made pretty good money at it, and became quite proficient in it. I ended up learning so much that I always had to tell the title company how to run their business. That got me irritated as can be, but nevertheless... Then my other job was being a minister, which the world hates! So, when someone asked me, 'What do you do?' I said, 'I have two occupation that are despised: one is a loan broker and the other is a minister.'

But at age 49 with four kids, that's the only thing I could learn where I could make decent enough money. I started out as a loan officer and from Nov. to Aug. I earned \$1400. Then I got my Calif. CFL broker license, which is a consumer finance lender license, and from Aug. to Dec. I made \$14,000. There were times when I grossed \$110,000; something like that.



But it was all commission. I didn't get a thing until I closed the loan. It really became quite challenging. I'd have to get out and drive around, leave my rate sheets, talk to real estate people. They can always tell a new loan person walking in. They have their rate sheet in hand, 'Hello!' It's almost like a big sign: New Loan Broker in Town!

All the real estate agents—and they are snitty people indeed—throw you the worst crumbs to try and get a loan with defunct credit and defunct property, etc. Actually, I specialized in that! I made some pretty good money at it. Then I got in contact with a private investor in town; just by happenstance. I didn't know it but he was a big mucky-muck in town.

He keeps a pretty low profile because he builds and sells houses, and he had some money that he wanted to loan out and earn more than he could by just making a loan to someone without security, or having to take a second. So then, I began to specialize in construction loans, which are short-term loans. He would fund the money; we would put it into a trust account, they would earn interest on the trust account, and then we would draw down according to the construction schedule upon phase completion.

He would earn a point and I would earn a point, and I would get some fees, plus the inspection fees, then I would earn a point on the rollover to the final loan. This worked real well. He made lots of money; I make lots of money. I suppose that we funded pretty close to \$10-million worth of loans on a rollover basis. We would fund one and close it out with a permanent loan. Fund another one, and that worked quiet well.

But my heart was really never in it, though I could do it well. That's where God began teaching me a lot of things. I was not around anyone except the little congregation.

I would drive 60,000 miles a year just taking care of business, going to church and all that sort of thing. My mind would always be on the Scriptures. I remember one day driving down the road where I just felt really muddled! I remember just crying out to God, 'O God, I'm so stupid! I really got zonked in on this thing with Biblical and I let people take me down the garden path and I don't know how to think. Please help me to think; help me to understand.' God has helped me a great deal!

All the things that we went through in that has not only been of benefit to us, but a benefit to the people of God. Of course, in that condition, how many people would follow us? *Not very many!* So, we got our noses in the Bible and instead of every year getting up and repeating the same thing. Like in

Worldwide I had my stack of sermon notes that I would go through every four years.

We decided to just get our noses in the Bible and go through verse-by-verse and word-by-word, not have any set schedule, just stick with it until we're done. First thing we did was a series in Romans, which we lost the tapes, but we did a better series in Romans later.

Then we did the whole Gospel of John, verse-by-verse. It took us 2-1/2 years to do that. We had 26 sermons in the major part of it, then 26 sermons in the sub-series. That's where we have the series on grace, sanctification, Holiness and so forth.

It was during the series in John that I was studying the Greek. What I would do is every night when I would get home I would study the Greek. Dr. Dorothy said to study, study, study; memorize, memorize, memorize. Greek is very difficult. If I hadn't had German before, it would have been much harder for me to learn. But I had the equivalent of two years of Dr. Dorothy tutoring, and then I was on my own.

I would come home and study the Greek and when we went through the book of John... Let me explain to you:

John 5:24: "Truly, truly..." All through the book of John I would remind everyone that means *truly, truly*; because in the *King James* it says verily, verily.

"...I say to you, the one who **hears** My word, and **believes** Him Who sent Me has everlasting life..." (v 24). The 'eth' in the *King James* in the Greek it means it's a participle. I would always say that.

So, by the time we got done with the series on John, I was very tired of telling people the Greek says this, the Greek says that; so were the brethren! That's how ministers hold the intellectual edge over people, by making it sound very complicated. Well, 'I know the Greek, and all of you are a bunch of stupid lay people.'

So, we decided to go through a study of the seven general epistles. Instead of going through and telling you what the Greek says, I'll translate it. So, that was my first attempt at translating: James; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John and Jude. Now we've got the Seven General Epistles book, and we have many sermons to go with it.

As we got done with that I began translating in earnest the book of Romans. That's how the translation of the New Testament started out. It started out just to make it simple and easy for the brethren to understand; that's all. I haven't set

myself up to say, 'Fred, are you not important? Thou art a Greekist scholar!' Which some people have accused me of. Some people accuse me of being the only one who knows anything that's in the Bible. **NO!** God is the only One Who knows everything that's in the Bible.

What we know, *we know*, but there's a whole lot more for us to learn. But I tell you one thing, I'm not going to stand still for false doctrine! If it's really damaging, like what John Rittenbaugh did with Pentecost, I named the person. And some sensitive politicians say, 'You shouldn't name the person.'

Well, I did the sermon, I sent the booklet and the audio tape with a letter to John Rittenbaugh, and I said, 'John, I love you, I care for you, but in this you're just completely wrong! I'm sending this to you in time so that you can recover before Pentecost comes.' I also sent it to John Reed, one of his close associates.

Anyway, that's how I got started translating the New Testament. Then I thought, well, I will do the rest of the Epistles of Paul; then we were running low on *A Harmony of the Gospels* so I said that we needed a precise translation for the next edition rather than a paraphrase.

Lo and behold we were pretty close to doing the whole New Testament, so I said, 'Okay, why not do the whole New Testament.' Not that I think I'm a better scholar than anybody else and know more than they do. But all of these New Age Bible versions are just leading people astray. So, that's how it came about!

God has blessed us all with a lot of understanding. There is still so much there for us to learn. Anyway, that's the long and short of where we are today.

Question from audience: What are some of the things that I got myself in trouble with Pasadena? And why I was marked as such a miserable mean person?

It goes back quite a long ways. It wasn't that I was rebellious, it was that I thought that the Truth was over everybody. Is it? *or* Is it not? Is that a right thought? *or* A wrong thought?

When I came to Ambassador College I knew that I was going to be a minister in my own heart; although they said, 'Don't you dare think that you're going to be a minister.' Okay, if God doesn't want me to be, I won't be. But nevertheless, if God does then I will be.

I approached everything at Ambassador College—I went in 1961 and graduated in 1964; I

went three years, because I had 3-1/2 years of college before—and applied myself to the Scriptures and studied the Scriptures. I did something, which I very rarely even mention lest someone think I'm bragging—I'm not, I'm just going to state a fact. Herbert Armstrong said that he studied the Bible on his knees, so I thought that if I'm going to learn the Bible, I better study the Bible on my knees.

Where we were they had these prayer booths. When we were going to college a prayer booth were used all the time; all the students were praying. When I went back in 1972, they're all stuffed as storage bins.

Nevertheless, I found a prayer booth downstairs. To the right there was a furnace and three prayer booths. At the third prayer booth just up on the wall was an outlet. So, I got an extension cord and took my little table top desk lamp and I plugged it in and took it into the prayer booth with me and I studied. That's where I studied! What they said at the time was that your Bible study had nothing to do with your classes; that's separate. I was never political! Still not to this day and never will be! *Thank You, God!*

So, I did well in class. In my second year they didn't quite know what to do with me job wise, because I had studied German and was quite proficient in German at that time, so they thought maybe they could put me in the German work. But then Frank Schnee was there and whoever else, so that took care of that.

For work they put me up in letter-reading. I would always when someone wrote in for the first time, I would make sure they would get *Why Were You Born* and some other basic booklets to help them.

Meanwhile we took all the classes: the speech class, the Bible class, Dr. Hoeh's history class. The only way you learn in Dr. Hoeh's class is to sit up in the front row and look him right in the eyes so you can be alert and stay awake. Because if you sit in the back, all the dumb-dumbs sit in the back, and he knows it. They get straight Ds.

Carl and I would always sit up in the front of Dr. Hoeh's world history class, and he would make this long chart going through Compendium I, II and all of that. The students at that time were dedicated. They were praying and studying. There was a whole different spirit there until Mrs. Loma Armstrong died in 1967.

Anyway, it came senior year and, lo and behold, when they called out the assignments for ministerial assistants, my name came up and everyone was shocked when my name came up:

Fred Coulter to Eugene to assist Dale Hampton. *Gasp!*

I wasn't political; no one knew too much about me, except the different teachers and so forth. I went up there and I assisted Dale Hampton the best I could. He had a very unfortunate situation. He had a son that was a complete paraplegic. Nothing but just a bag of bones. Had to be diapered, fed; very sad, very tragic.

The assistants would mow the lawn and do all the errands and things like this. So, I did all of that, and I was very happy to do it. But I remember one real moment that I had was when I was helping Dale Hampton getting ready for the Feast. They couldn't take Ricky to the Feast, so they always left him with a woman who would watch over him. I remember that I had to pick him up and carry him out to the car. That was really quite an experience. Dale Hampton really had a burden with that. Unfortunately, he just became a complete alcoholic; very sad.

When they decided that I could go out and visit on my own, they sent me with Otis Cole, one of the sweetest men in the world. We would talk. He's a very, what you might say, shy and unassuming man. We became very close friends. He did almost all the talking once he got warmed up.

He told me about the 'old days' at the school in Jefferson where Mr. Armstrong started. He told me something else that really flabbergasted me: He said, that he was in the Church of God Seventh Day, born into it. His father was an elder in the Church of God Seventh Day, and that in 1917 his father brought to Dugger and Dodd the Truth of Israel and the Holy Days—ten years before Herbert Armstrong ever found out about the Church of God.

I also found out that Mrs. Rhemcorn was a member of the Church of God Seventh Day. So, there's a little fudging in the autobiography as you go along. But nevertheless, when Herbert Armstrong in 1931 brought up about Israel and the Holy Days, guess what? Dugger and Dodd had already been through it.

Then in January 1965 Delores and I got married, came back to Eugene, and then April for the Feast of Unleavened Bread—at that time we had the whole district thing where everyone would come into Portland—and Herbert Armstrong came in and stayed the whole week; he and his wife Loma. We had services every day, and they scheduled me to bring a sermonette. I brought a sermonette on 1-Chron. 28—serve God with a willing heart and keep His commandments. That's what David told Solomon. My wife—who was close friend of Loma—was sitting right there and Herbert was right

there and she says to Herbert, 'You better ordain that man.' I guess they already had plans to ordain me, because it was the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread in 1965 I was ordained by Herbert W. Armstrong, personally. I never really had any problems with Herbert W. Armstrong.

What they did is send me over to Boise to pastor in Boise. When Delores and I were married we packed up everything in our Fury III Plymouth four-door. We had the trunk and the backseat full. When we packed up to go to Boise we had the backseat, the trunk and a U-Haul trailer. So, we went on over to Boise. We relieved Fred Kellers over there. Fred Kellers has never liked me to this day, because I took over where he thought he should have stayed. I was ordained before him, even though he graduated the year before me. So, here's all this political stuff going on and I'm not even aware of it.

We get over to Boise and everything is going along fine, and lo and behold, one day here's a man who shows up for services that I never saw before. I go over and introduce myself and he introduces himself as Ray Beknight, minister of the Church of God Seventh Day.

This is the one that Herbert Armstrong knew personally. He said, 'Why don't you come by and visit me. I live in Napa.' I said I would be happy to. I came by to visit him one day and we're sitting there talking and then he starts against Herbert Armstrong and tells me how vain he was and so forth. When he got done I said, 'Well, isn't it a shame that God had to use Herbert Armstrong to preach the Truth about Israel and the Holy Days, because no one in the Church of God Seventh Day would?' Of course, I got up and left!

Well, when we went down to visit in Pasadena, Delores told Loma about it. So, Loma called Herbert, and here I'm around the campus taking pictures, because they just got the auditorium done and they were redoing some things, and I wanted take them back and show the slides to the brethren.

Here one of the guards comes up to me and say, 'You're wanted up in Herbert Armstrong's office right now.' What have I done? That's when his office was up in the old library. I get in the elevator and go up and see him, and he welcomes me with open arms, and he wanted me to tell him everything about Ray Beknight and the other Church of God Seventh Day ministers that I had run across. We sat there and talked for over two hours! It was a wonderful conversation; very delightful!

I never had anything against Herbert Armstrong. It was later when Stan Rader coerced him into doing. Lo and behold, I get down there and

David Jon Hill alights into me a couple of hours later and says, ‘What are you doing up in Herbert Armstrong’s office; you trying to gain something?’ That’s how the hierarchy always viewed me! I said, ‘Hey, I was invited up; what am I going to do?’

Our first child was a girl, born two months premature and died at nine month in our own arms. So, we know what it’s like to lose a child. They decided that it would be best for us to move out of the Boise area and go down to Salt Lake and hook Salt Lake up with Boise and I would fly every week.

Being in that remote geographical area, I had to run everything on my own. Carlton Smith was the District Superintendent, and he would come over when I first went to Boise once a month and then every other month, and then every six months and then once a year. He would say, ‘Hi, Fred, how’s everything?’ *Fine!* ‘Bye, Fred, see you next time.’

So, even though I was within the Worldwide Church of God, I was not highly connected to the hierarchy inasmuch as I was virtually operating on my own. But I was not in rebellion to the authority that was in the Church, nor did I put down Pasadena. I always upheld Pasadena.

But I was not the fanatic that I would mention Herbert Armstrong’s name as I scored in one sermon by David Albert in Pasadena years later—110 times in one sermon!

Anyway, we moved down to Salt Lake and I decided to do a series in Galatians. We were told that if you write up anything or if you find any “new Truth” write it up and send it in.

There’s a glaring contradiction here if you read it. And in talking to the Church of God Seventh Day ministers, I began to understand that Herbert Armstrong was preaching Galatians according to the Church of God Seventh Day understanding, which is basically this:

Galatians 3:19: “Why then the law?....”—meaning the law of sacrifices. This is the way it was understood: it was added because when Moses was on the mountain the children of Israel sinned. That’s not the correct meaning. You have a contradiction here:

Verse 14: “In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, *and* that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren (I am speaking from a human perspective), even when a man’s covenant has been ratified, no one nullifies *it*, or adds a codicil to it” (vs 14-15).

How can you have v 19 that it was added

when it says you can’t add to. There’s a distinct contradiction within three verses. So, I read on:

Verse 16: “Now, to Abraham and to his Seed were the promises spoken. He does not say, ‘and to *your* seeds,’ as of many; but as of one, ‘and to your Seed,’ which is Christ. Now this I say, *that the covenant* ratified beforehand by God to Christ cannot be annulled by the law... [meaning the whole Old Covenant] ...which was *given* four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make **the promise** of no effect” (vs 16-17). So, we’re talking about the promise, not law upon law. We are talking about promise and covenant.

Verse 18: “For if the inheritance *is* by law... [through the Old Covenant] ...*it is* no longer by promise. But God granted *it* to Abraham by promise. Why then the law?... [the whole Old Covenant; not just the law of sacrifices.] ...It was **placed alongside the promises**... [because you can’t add to it; but you can place it alongside] ...**for the purpose of defining transgressions, until the Seed should come** to whom *the* promise was made...” (vs 18-19).

So, I wrote that up and sent it in to Pasadena and guess whose hands it goes through? I did a very bad thing: I rented a Bulletin typewrite with big type so Herbert Armstrong could read it. Remember, he had the blood clot behind his eyes. It went into the hands of Roderick Meredith and Al Carosso! I didn’t know what their thought was. Not interested in Truth. I thought it went to Herbert Armstrong personally. I am sure that he would have embraced it! I’m sure he would have taught it! But they looked at it: Who is the upstart to correct Herbert Armstrong, God’s apostle? That’s right, and I didn’t know this. So, I’m marked and targeted!

Sometime later we had a woman dying of breast cancer. My wife saw her breast and it was black as coal. She was on her deathbed! We had the Church in Boise and Salt Lake fast, and I came back from Boise on Sunday. I remember we took Morgan Tubby, a deacon, and went up to anoint her. I remember walking in the house and you could smell death.

I walked in and here she is in pain, misery and agony and just skin and bones. At that point, I knew that either God had to heal her or she had to die. That was my prayer. I kneeled down and anointed her and said, ‘God, You know! If it is Your will to heal her, please do; if not let her die quickly and end the suffering.’ I got up and she started to improve right away! She also, with the help of the women, did a lot of things with herbs to purge the cancer out of her system, and in ten days she was up walking about and healed. She was completely healed and restored to health.

So, Rod Meredith down in Pasadena

schedules a visit to come out and see this rebellious Fred 'who would dare write something against Herbert Armstrong.' I didn't write it against him, I just followed their instructions that if there's something new you write it up and send it in.

He calls up and said this was just a regular field visit. Of course, I didn't know what he had in mind until just before the end of his visit. I said, 'How would you like us to have Spokesman's Club, dinner dance in Salt Lake and then a Bible study and Sabbath services and then go on up to Boise and you can preach there and have Spokesman's Club afterward with a dinner dance.' He said, 'Yeah, that will be fine.' I got it all setup.

He came out and we had the dinner dance and he got done with his evaluation, after hearing all the men speak, table topics and all the speeches and everything. He got up and said—and I know this galled him; at least he was honest in it—'This is the best Spokesman's Club I have ever seen, regardless of where I've gone in the whole United States. The questions were the most intelligent with the best answers I have ever heard.'

Then we get out there and he asked where's this Mrs. Beam that was healed of cancer? I showed him where she was, dancing with her husband. He goes over there and he's talking with her, and I guess he really didn't believe that she had cancer and she was completely healed.

How can Fred be so bad if all of this is coming out this way. He was stymied because he was expecting to find a rebellious congregation. We went up to Boise and found the same thing. He was flabbergasted.

Sunday morning after we come back to Salt Lake City, he has his overall evaluation for me and Delores. That's when I understood the purpose of his visit. We sit down and he has this stern look and he asks: Do you believe that Herbert Armstrong is God's apostle? I suppose that with the paper he didn't think that I did, because how dare I 'correct him.'

I didn't think I was correcting him, I thought I was bringing new Truth. He didn't say that, but this was kind of the thought I had in my mind. So, I said, 'Of course, I do!' He says, 'Well, this paper...

(go to the next track)

He was a gun-ho marine jet pilot who was vain, arrogant and considered himself God's gift to humanity. Especially the Church because there was no one like him. So, they sent him out to be a ministerial assistant for me.

Needless to say, he was very arrogant and presumed upon the brethren and everything. So, when I wrote up an evaluation—that's a summary of

many details; I could tell you a half-dozen instances with that—I put down that Carl Kilmner has a lot of ability, but until he gets rid of his vanity and arrogance and presuming upon the brethren that he should never be ordained as a minister.

Well, Pasadena had slotted him to be ordained to be a minister. Of course, I didn't know that. So, the next spring when he graduates, Richard Plashatte says that, 'Carl, come here, I want you to read something.' So, he hands him that evaluation. There is my 'enemy #1'! Of course, I didn't know this until years later.

Then I get a call from David Jon Hill and he says, 'There's a man who has been disfellowshipped from the Church in Phoenix and he's moving to Boise and he's threatening to sue the Church for \$50,000. I want you to straighten this out. I'm going to send you all the information. Be careful, this man is a notorious liar.'

So, I got the file. I put it on my desk and did nothing with it. The man, whose name was Bret Noland, called Jon Hill—because I hadn't contacted him; I hadn't heard from the minister, yet. So, Hill gave him my number and Noland called me. He says, 'I'm Bret Noland and I understand you are to help solve the problem on my disfellowshipment case.'

I was hoping to avoid it. I was hoping not to have to go through it. He said, 'Let's get together,' and I said, 'The only time I can get together is after the Day of Atonement. At that time we had Rand Millich up there as a local elder, assisting me in Boise. I said that we would meet at his house.'

I had all of this in mind: he was disfellowshipped, accused of adultery, he defrauded a widow, notorious liar; watch out for everything that he has to say, because nothing can possibly be true!

So, we get over there to Rand Millich's place and we sit down and he's telling me this horror story of what happened. The minister went around to his business contacts, ruined his business, went to the phone company and destroyed his credit.

I'm sitting there thinking that this is unreal! How am I going to know if this guy is telling the truth. I just sat there and listened. He said, 'I've had bleeding bowels over this.' BING! A light went on! If a man is a notorious, hardhearted liar, he surely would not have bleeding bowels.

I was praying, 'O God, help me to understand.' So, the idea came to me. This is the Day of Atonement. I looked him right in the eye and said, 'Today is the Day of Atonement. Are you fasting?' *He said, 'Of course!'* I said, 'Do you keep the Sabbath?' *Yes, every week at home!* I said to

myself that based on that I'm going to look at this thing thoroughly. I said, 'You have my word that when this Feast is over, I'll look into it.'

The long and short of it was that he did not commit adultery with a woman, but it was on the word of one person who saw him go into a house with a woman alone to give an estimate for a remodel job. And that he put an addition on a widow's home in Phoenix made of adobe brick, according to the plans that *she approved* and he gave all of his labor and a good portion of the material free. He put it on according to the plans. Mind you, with adobe brick! She said, 'I want the windows moved from this wall to this other wall.' He said that he couldn't do it.

He said, 'Do you realize that I would tear it down to the level of the sill and rebuild the whole thing and destroy half of the adobe brick to do it for you. I've already done it where I can't afford to do it.' So, he walked off and left it.

Therefore, Ron Reedy—the destroyer of the brethren—destroyed him; 'He's defrauded the brethren, he's committed adultery with a woman.' It was sent into Pasadena and guess who was the District Superintendent? *Al Carosso!* He took it up to Rod Meredith and guess who upheld it? *Rod Meredith!*

It came down when Vernon Hargrove was sent over there for the second tour and it went on up and came down with the second result. They upheld it three times. Here I get this package and I'm going through it. I talked to Ron Reedy, Vernon Hargrove and different people and said, 'How am I going to get my way through this thing.' I decided that what I was going to do is call a local contractor and had the dimensions of the addition that Noland was going to do, the materials and so forth. I said, 'I want you to give me the lowest possible price of an adobe addition this big and tell me what it would cost a square foot to do.' He said, \$17 a sq. ft.

I said, 'Do you think that a man who did it for \$5 a sq. ft. was defrauding a woman?' I explained about removing the windows and everything. He said, 'No!' I said, 'Would you redo the windows?' He said, 'No!' Especially if she refused to pay for it he would not do it. I said, 'Would you go off and leave it?' He said, 'Yes!'

He didn't sin against her. He didn't defraud her. She sinned him against him by changing the plans. I took that and put it aside. Then I decided that here are all these nice letters from deacons and local elders—you know, your obedient sycophant spies:

'We had Bret Noland and his wife over for dinner and he was rather cold and stiff.' Bret was no

idiot, he knew what was going on. So, I had to say, 'Everything that's a sin against God, I'm going to put over here, and everything that's not a sin against God I'm going to put over there. I read all of that and it was really eye-opening. All the stuff: the false accusation, the way that they railroaded this guy; to use the hierarchy to uphold a disfellowshipment and put up nothing over here against God. And everything over here that was foolishness and not a sin.

I called Jon Hill and said, 'I've solved the problem. He hasn't sinned against God.' He said, 'Good, call Bret and re-instate him and he can come to church.' So, I write up the report and send it in, and guess whose hands it goes to? *Al Carosso* and *Rod Meredith!* How dare he go against the authority! I didn't know that.

Al Carosso came out for a visit for Pentecost and he really kept his cool. He was slick! He said, 'Fred, we have a nice big promotion for you. You've been out here for seven years now. We have two big churches down in the Torrance area we would like you to pastor—Torrance and Santa Monica.' What could I say! I was literally 'a lamb led to the slaughter'!

We get on down there and guess who the replacement minister is? By design? *Carl Kilmner, with orders to find out everything about Fred Coulter; every dirty little thing he could dig up!* He couldn't, so he wrote up reports that I run everything by politics; and I'm not a politician! And that my wife was a dirty housekeeper because there were rings in the toilet. It was Salt Lake City water hardness at .55! All contrived!

But meanwhile I get on down to Pasadena and, lo and behold, I have an eye-opening experience. I find that Al Portune is in this corner of the fourth floor, Rod Meredith is in this corner of the fourth floor, Garner Ted Armstrong is in this corner of the fourth floor, and Herbert Armstrong is in this corner of the fourth floor. Stan Rader and all the different lieutenants with various allegiances are all in-between! I found out that Rod hated Ted and Ted hated Rod; they were contrary one to another, couldn't stand each other. Al Portune had his own agenda, Rader had his own agenda, and poor Herbert Armstrong was stuck off over here on the side.

Here at 'God's Headquarters,' where you would think love and truth would reign, we had *carnality, hatred, politics and intrigue!*

I got my dose of it. Al Carosso had a meeting every week. All the sycophants come up and sit around. I remember one man—Ben Chapman—very well. He would sit at the right hand of Al Carosso and he was just like the 'yes-man' for

the mafia! He would always ask those leading questions for 'brownie points.'

I'm always sitting down clear at the other end, because I don't want any part of it, which makes them believe that I'm as bad as they really think I am, because I'm not participating in any of it. I think it's stupid and I don't need it. What do you need a meeting every week for? Except to come around and polish the shoes of Al Carosso! I wouldn't do that! Or all the other infamous things you can say about it.

Little did I realize that they were working this case up against me in Salt Lake City. When I came to Torrance and Santa Monica we had a combined Bible study at the Los Angeles Civic Center and I was giving the series: *The Last Ten Days of Christ's Life*. Dave Brady—who was printer—came up to me and said, 'You've got to write a book!' *No, I can't write a book on that!* He said, 'Yeah!' *No, Mr. Meredith has taught the class for 20-years on the first year Bible, on the Gospels. He ought to write it, not me!* Then I come down in a couple of weeks to give another Bible study and 'you've got to write a book on it.' *No!*

Then one day I'm gassing up car at transportation and guess who comes in to gas up his car? *Carl Kilmner!*

I have to add one thing here: After we came down here to Pasadena, we took a vacation in the first year that Carl came up there, and I asked Al Carosso if I could come up for Pentecost, and he said yes. Later he denied it and said no, so he accused me of being rebellious. But when I got to Salt Lake City and they had combined services, all the brethren came to me and told me what a terrible thing that was happening with Carl Kilmner and how he just rode roughshod on them and just comes in and presumes things. Just to show you what happened. I ran both areas, Boise and Salt Lake. When I left they gave him just Salt Lake. They gave Terry Swaggart Boise. I ran that whole thing on \$395 expenses a month. Within four months after I was there, Carl Kilmner had it up to \$895 just in Salt Lake City. That shows you the presumptuousness that he had toward everything.

Anyway, I was visiting with the brethren and, lo and behold, they have a stage where they were meeting, and Carl Kilmner has the stage setup where he has the local elders up there and the main deacons up there, and he says, 'Fred, come on up here and eat.' He asked me three times to do it. I refused to do it! I stayed down there and talked to the brethren. That became a great sin!

Anyway, here I am down in transportation gassing up my car and here comes Carl Kilmner. I

said, 'Carl, what are you doing here?' He says, 'Haven't you heard of the meeting?' I said, 'What meeting?' He just let it go at that. I beat a path home and told Delores, and lo and behold, the phone rings. This is on a Friday. It's Al Carosso and he says, 'We have a meeting up here and I want you to come up.' I said, 'I'm not coming up unless Delores comes with me.' We both went there and we got ranted and raved at, and berated for everything under the sun. And especially about the Bret Noland thing, and the paper that I wrote.

They just excoriated us and we left shaking and trembling and in fear. Then the next Friday he called me to his office again. He said, 'Fred Coulter, you're living your life dangerously, and your ministry is in danger, and you're in deep trouble.' *Whoa!*

I walked home; we lived in So. Pasadena—and I was just ghost white, ashen gray and ghost white. I walk in the house and Delores says, 'What's the matter?' I told her, and we immediately began to fast and pray and called all my friends and asked them to fast and pray. I could see it was a terrible thing. They were coming on pretense to get me out of the ministry.

Al Carosso said, after all those things, 'Fred, I can't discuss it with you now, because I have to play racquetball.' That's when I walked home. I will call you Sunday. We fasted and prayed on Sabbath, 'O God, what is it? What's going on?' He didn't call Sunday or Monday morning, and I'm in the little office I had at home praying: 'O God, help me understand! What have I done? If I've done anything wrong, help me to know so I can repent and change. Please let me know what this is.'

Just like a voice came to me: Bret Noland! I said, 'That's it!' I reinstated a man who should never have been disfellowshipped. I told Delores and he didn't call all day Monday. We quit fasting after we got the answer. He didn't call Tuesday morning. Late Tuesday he called and said, 'Fred, I want you and Delores to meet me down at the Carriage Inn. We get in there and we're all nervous.'

That kind of intimidation is to put you in fear! He drove the nail home when we sat down to eat. He said, 'Fred Coulter, I want to tell you one thing. Dr. Zimmerman told me one time and I'm telling you the same thing, that what I have to say to you may not be right, but you better not open your mouth in one word!'

I said to myself, 'Whoa, I'm not saying anything!' He ranted and raved about all these things, but there was nothing that they could do to get me out of the ministry. Guess what happened? I'm sure not because of this, but because of many

other things leading up to it. This was on Tuesday, two days later on Thursday, Al Carosso resigned and went with Earnest Martin. Friday Rod Meredith was fired! There's an example of how God will deliver you.

That Sabbath I saw Dave Brady and I said, 'I'm writing the book!' That was my 'sanity project' when everything was going wrong in Pasadena. Remember this: Whenever anything goes wrong, get your mind on Christ!

They tried four times to kill the book! Dave Brady was so excited about it that he got me on KABC—Religion on the Line. That was from 9-12 and a call-in show. There's a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister whom I was for four weeks in a row, and Jewish rabbi. It didn't take long. Everybody was calling in and asking me questions, because I brought my Bible and sat down and opened it.

Ted Armstrong was just nervous. He had the radio department monitor that and take that if Fred Coulter said one word out of line he was going to summarily fired! I didn't know that until later.

Here I am on KABC—Religion on the Line. That presumptuous Fred Coulter! 'How dare he go on the radio without permission!' That's the way the hierarchy views it! It's like dealing with the hierarchy of the civil government.

Anyway, it turned out great! It was marvelous! It was quite an experience. I remember someone called up about the three days and three nights. I had just done that for *A Harmony of the Gospels* and I was just able to pour out the three days and three nights. A Jewish woman called up and she talk to Rabbi Franklin. She says, 'Rabbi Franklin, my 19-year-old grandson was killed in a car wreck and he was studying to be a doctor; he was the finest boy. Why did God allow it? Take away my grandson?'

He says, 'We all have to suffer.' You know, the typical Jewish thing. I said, 'Well, would you mind if answered something else for her?' *No!* I said, 'Even in your Scriptures, in Ezek. 37, I want to tell you that God says that your grandson is going to be resurrected, that you will see him, you will hold him, you will love him, you will kiss him, and God will restore him to you, and undo the evil of that tragedy.' She says, 'Rabbi Franklin, is that right?' What could he do, it's in Ezekiel.

When I was transferred from Pasadena—I'll just jump ahead, and after *A Harmony of the Gospels* was done—up to Monterey, I thought I had an idea for a radio program. I walked into a radio station and said, 'I've got an idea for a radio program—a call-in program—titled: Bible Answers to Your Questions.

I showed the man *A Harmony* and he says, 'Can you start Sunday?' This was on Thursday. I cleared it with Norman Smith who was the regional director. He said, 'Sure, go ahead.' I had a talk-radio program for two-and a half years in Monterey that I did every Sunday night.

Anyway, back to Pasadena and back to the inner-wars of the hierarchy: After Ted Armstrong was put out the first time and then re-instated for his philandering and so forth. That was all going on. Herbert Armstrong reinstated Ted. The whole thing was just a big sham. What Ted had done, if anybody disqualified himself from the ministry, surely he had. Of course, there was the standard for the peons and the more equal standard for the 'mucky-mucks.' Of course, they didn't have to suffer from these things.

Another little aside: When we first came down from Salt Lake to Pasadena, Bill Evans was in charge of the furnishing for the ministers. They had certain houses that they were renting out, and so forth, from the highway department where they had a planned freeway. They had already condemned and bought up the houses, but then was stopped by lawsuits and they would rent them out. We moved into one. He was in charge of the furnishing and furniture, so he was giving me a tour of some of the evangelists' homes.

He brought me into Al Portune's home, which they were refurnishing. He said, 'See these drapes, \$40,000 out of third tithe!' I didn't say a word, but had made up my mind right there—because they gave all the local pastors a checkbook to help the needy, and we had plenty of needy—every dollar I write they cannot spend. I was very generous in helping those who had need.

After I decided to do the book—I spent the time, and it took a year and a half to do it—a paraphrase of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> editions. During that time there were four attempts to kill the book. The first one was by Gruler Friburges, and he couldn't find any good reason why I couldn't do it.

The second one was by Lester Grabbe. He had me up in his office and we were about nine months away and I had just finished the paraphrased translation at that time. He says, 'Who do you think you are, Fred Coulter, writing this book. You're not a scholar. You know what Mr. Armstrong thinks about scholars—don't you?' I said, 'I'll tell you what, I'll make you a deal. This is going to be published in about nine months and I will give you the whole paraphrased translation I have.' I did. It cost \$120 to copy all the pages and give it to him. Never heard back from him. I said if there's



anything in there that's doctrinally incorrect, let me know, I'll be happy to change it.

Then the third time they tried to kill it—the fourth time was really not trying to kill it, but it was an acquiescence to it. After Rod Meredith was fired, David Antion was put in as Superintendent of the Ministry. His assistant was Les Stocker. Les was really a fine, fine man. I really liked him. But Ted Armstrong told David Antion to kill the book that Fred Coulter was doing.

So, Les got the job. He took me out to dinner at the Pepper Mill, had our niceties and our chat and everything and came back to the parking lot and he said, 'Ted Armstrong doesn't want you to do the book.' I said that I had a message for Ted Armstrong: I'm not sinning against God! I am not violating any contract, because I have signed no contract with the Church. It is going to be doctrinally correct.

And by this time I'm shouting because of all the things I've gone through. And I said 'You tell him that it's going to be published, and when it is, if I am disfellowshipped, he's going to have a hard time explaining to the brethren why I was disfellowshipped for writing a book that is true!'

I turned around and walked away! I was very sorry that that happened, because Les was really a nice man. The only problem was, he was doing his political duty.

Just before it was published—I borrowed \$22,000 of my own to do it—we had a small ministerial conference. David Antion was there, and during a break I was out leaning against a door. Only one or two ministers would talk to me, because I was 'non-person' in the hierarchy of the politically accepted.

He sidled up to me and he says, 'Fred, are you going to publish the book?' I said, 'You bet!' He said, 'When is it coming out?' I said, 'About two months.' He said, 'We have one request.' I said, 'What's that?' *Do not mention Worldwide Church of God or Ambassador College!* I said, 'You've got a deal!'

That's why in the dust jacket there's nothing about the Church or Ambassador College. So, I published the book. I had 10,000 published. Very interesting. We had a small house, and 10,000 books on pallets, delivered by a freight truck—a long one—requires a lot of room. I was down talking to John Egbert who was in charge of the press at that time, and I was telling him about it. He said, 'Fred, come here.'

I used to work in supplies, and they have these steel stanchions, shelves and you can put

pallets on there. He says, 'I tell you what, see that row on top over there.' *Yeah!* 'It's empty, isn't it? You have the truck deliver it here at 4:45 and I will get the forklift man and we will put them up there.'

So, sure enough, right under their nose, there they sat! When they came in I opened one pallet and took some boxes of books and autographed them and gave them to everybody in the press. They were all happy with them, and then I didn't want to charge the brethren a lot for it. It cost me something like \$2.22 per book. It was done by R.R. Donnelly in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where they make encyclopedias and everything.

By the way, during that time I also helped Bill Dankenbring start his Triumph Publishing. He ask me how to do it, who to contact, and that's how he got the book on the *Ten Laws of Radiant Health*.

At a Bible study one night someone said, 'Why don't we use Fred Coulter's *Harmony* in first-year Bible. You know how you write out a question and send it up. 'Well, Fred Coulter is not a scholar.' Boy, did he stir up a hornet's nest with that!

To make a long story short, there was a lot of back and forth and finally they acquiesced to sell it in the college bookstore. 'Why couldn't you sell it; you sell other books to people?'—finally got it in.

I think it was before I got it into the bookstore, I decided to give an autographed copy to Ted Armstrong. He had an assembly with the students and I knew he was in there and would come across from the auditorium to the Hall of Administration. I was waiting on the steps, and when I saw that he was coming out the door, I went back on the inside door and just waited for him. When he came in I said, 'Hi, Mr. Armstrong,' and reached out and shook his hand. I said, 'Here's an autographed copy of my book.' He said thank you very nervously and went on his way.

Needless to say, who was the next one to write a book? *Ted Armstrong!* The book was called *The Real Jesus* by Ted Armstrong.

Then Helen Stiles, Mr. Herbert Armstrong's secretary at that time, got a book and called me and said, 'You need to come and give a book to Mr. Armstrong.' I had already talked to him several times and he knew me, so she said to bring an autographed copy. I went to a photographer and had the etchings enlarged on white photographic paper and had them framed with a thin black frame with a nice glass front on them. I took those up with me.

The time for the appointment came and Mrs. Stiles let me in. Mr. Armstrong was very friendly. We sat and talked and reminisced a little bit about old times. I showed him the book, autographed it,

gave it to him, and he said, 'Oh, this is wonderful! This is nice!' We talked a little bit about that and then I brought up one of the pictures that I had. I said, 'Mr. Armstrong, here's a personal gift for you.' These were the etchings of the temple.

He came unglued with excitement! He was so happy to get those. He picked up the phone and said, 'Mrs. Stiles, get in here right away.' She comes in and he says, 'I want you to call Bob Smith, the interior decorator, and I want these hung in the Auditorium. There the four etchings, that very day, were hung in the Auditorium in the little alcove between the two classrooms on the lower floor. I'll bet they're still there to this day.'

I felt very much like Mordicai! When I left, I gave Mr. Armstrong a handshake and he gave me a big hug and I hugged him. He shook my hand again and said, 'You know, I wish more ministers would write books.' Thank you, God!

Then we had a ministerial conference in 1974, and there was a lot of trouble in the Church at that time. The black ministers were all up in arms, and at that conference they promised the black ministers that they would have a conference on black issues. One of the sessions would be on that. In my congregation in Torrance, 40% were black and 30% were black in Santa Monica; 30% were Hispanic and 40% were white.

We had no race problems where I was, because I don't think in racial terms. I think in terms of helping people who are in need, teach them what they need to know, give them advice that they need, because they're human beings like anybody else. Everybody needs help!

They failed to put it on the agenda, and that was because David Antion was relieved of being the Superintendent of Ministers and Wayne Cole was put in.

They hastily set one up and extended the ministerial conference a day. Boy, I tell you, when we walked in there, it was like walking into a NAACP meeting with George Bush doing the talking. Hostility you couldn't believe!

I said, 'O God, this is bad! I didn't know they had all these feelings and hatred.' It was spewing over like I had never heard before. I said, 'O God, deliver me out of this. How can I be delivered out of this mess?'

It came to me while I was sitting there listening, and I came up to Wayne Cole afterward. I didn't let him know a thing, but just said, 'Mr. Cole, I've been here now four years and it would be nice to share the smog with someone else. If it would be possible I would really like to come for a Sabbatical,

and it wouldn't cost you anything, because I live here right now. You wouldn't have to move me or anything.'

He said, 'I'll call you in a couple of days.' He called and said that I could go on a Sabbatical. David Antion was teaching classes and Dr. Martin was teaching classes, and Art Macarrow was teaching classes, and that's when I had Dr. Dorothy start a Greek class. I paid for it, guaranteed it. We started out with ten, and in eight weeks we were down to three. In ten weeks we were down just to me. I ended up with virtually private tutoring in the Greek. I had the time to really learn it and understand it. I got the equivalent of two years of college Greek within the one year.

All during the time they said, 'You older pastors can choose where you want to go in the church areas that are open. So, we get into the second semester and knew that San Jose was coming open. I knew that they were going to bring in Wayne Dunlap. So, I was a senior pastor among all of those that were there. At that time Dennis Pyle was one of the assistants in Church Administration and he is responsible for placing us. Well, they slated me to go to Minnesota. David had these bronchial problems at that time, and caught pneumonia real quickly, so we said we couldn't go there. They wanted to send me to Texas. I said I would have a hard time being accepted in Texas. How about Wheeling, West Virginia? I thought to myself, 'You really want to bury me—don't you?'

I looked Dennis Pyle right in the eye and said, 'You guys are a bunch of hypocrites! Political hypocrites! You tell us one thing, and I know that San Jose is open, and you tell me I have to go here and there. You want to bury me in Wheeling, WV. I'm going to hold you to your word. Either I get San Jose or I'm not transferring. I'm going to hold you to your word.'

He didn't like that. He was one of these young, smooth, get along/go along political climbers. Plus inbred into the family system like the Hammers. Anyway, I guess that kind of took them aback. What they did is get a hold of Rick Gipe in Monterey and said, 'Rick, we have a promotion for you. We have two churches here in So. California that we would like you to pastor. Monterey was 140 people.'

So, going from almost 800 to 140. They came and said, 'Fred, we can't give you San Jose, but how is Monterey?' I figured, 'Thank You God! Yes, I will take it.' That's how we got to Monterey. That's how we came to Hollister. We sold our house and had \$10,000 to put down on another house when we moved, and I would drive over from Hollister to Monterey. We bought 2-1/2 acres and the house had

two bedrooms. I put an addition on it when we were there.

In two and a half years we sold it for \$92,000; we had bought it for \$47,000. So, we built a house in town. Right about the time we were ready to build the house in town the word came down, 'Don't visit the brethren unless they ask you.' Hey, I could visit all the heads of house twice a month hands down, with no problem. Now you're telling me not to visit until they ask.

So, that's when we built our house, and I did 50% hands on. I'd get up and be up there at seven in the morning and work on the house, go visit from 2-8 at night. Anyway, if you hear that Fred Coulter lives in a mansion, according to some people's description we do. It's 4200 sq. ft. We bought it ourselves; it's our own money. We didn't use any church money. It cost us \$78,000 to build, including the land. We've got a 16,000 sq. ft. lot for \$13,000. We kept it up and improved it through the years. Today it's probably worth about \$800,000. But why sell it, because it would cost you that much to replace what you have, or even more.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) John 5:24
- 2) Galatians 3:19, 140-19

#### Also Referenced:

##### Books:

- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

##### Sermon Series:

- *General Epistles*
- *Epistles of Paul*

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