

Running with ENDURNACE FOR LIFE

By Alton B. Don Billingsley

Speaking to His disciples, Jesus Christ said: “Enter by the Narrow Gate, for WIDE is the Gate and Broad is the Way that leads to destruction, and there are MANY who go in by it. Because Narrow is the Gate and DIFFICULT is the Way Which Leads TO LIFE, and there are FEW who find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

Will There Be FEW Saved?

A serious question was presented to Jesus Christ regarding His coming back to this earth and whether only a few might be accepted by Him to be saved:

Luke 13:22-23

vs.22-23 As He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem, then one said to Him, “. . . Lord, are there FEW who are saved? And He said to them,

v.24 “Strive to enter (on God’s terms) through the Narrow Gate, for MANY, I say to you, will seek to ENTER and will NOT be able!”



When considering the few remaining years before the demise of this country, Britain, and other nations of Israel (as it appears to be in 2026, Jeremiah 30:5-7), and shortly before that—the departure of the Elect people of God going to the place of protection, from the very worst of world problems (Mathew 24:21-22) while considering where God’s true people, the Elect, might be at the time—this should be the uppermost question in the minds of all.

Are *YOU* of the FEW?

This is a very serious question for each One to address! In view of the worst of times to soon confront God's true people, each true member must realize there is a very rough and trying road ahead that will severely TEST each one's relationship with God.

Strenuous effort mentally and spiritually in mind and heart must continually be made to be counted among the FEW who will be accepted as the Bride of Jesus Christ upon His return to this earth (*Luke 21:36*).

Jesus Christ also made known there will be the very strong deceptions to avoid (*Matthew 24:23-25*); families will deliver their own family members to the court system to be prosecuted for their religious beliefs (*Matthew 10:21-22*)!

And behind it all will be Satan the devil swaying people to do these things to God's People with the effort of trying to discourage them so much (*I John 5:19*), they will give up their calling from God and their hope to be in the 1st Resurrection.

The Many Who Fell by the Wayside

God's people should take a lesson from what Satan the devil did to the MANY who were once of us. Though it has only been about 23 years ago, it becomes easy to forget the many thousands of members who were also members of the Worldwide Church of God who fell by the wayside due to *strong deception* from Satan's use of apostate leadership.

The terrible things Satan has been able to do to God's Church from its very beginning to where the Church now is should be remembered! Rather, they are hardly ever thought about—let alone comparing them with the recent past and then the present; God's people should learn from them.

The Apostle Paul was led by God to speak not only of his time, when the majority of those who were members fell away (*II Timothy 1:15*), but also speaking of this end-time that has bought about the *falling away* that took place in the recent past (*cf. II Thessalonians 2:1-3*).

I Timothy 4:1-2

vs.1-2 "Now the Spirit explicitly (margin) says that in latter times SOME will depart (Greek: *apOstatize*—departing from the teachings of the Apostle) **from the FAITH** (*cf. Jude 3*), giving HEED to deceiving (Greek: *seducing—as did the Serpent with Eve*) **spirits and doctrines of demons** (entering the Church via men marked out for this falling away and condemnation, *Jude 4*),

speaking lies in hypocrisy (against the apostle, God's laws and true doctrinal teachings), having their own conscience seared with a hot iron (no remorse)."

People's Eyes and Ears Opened to the Truth

In the beginning of the calling of the 113, 000 members, they had the Power of Spiritual Darkness removed from their minds, as did the true people of God, as Scripture makes known:

Colossians 1:13

v.13 "He has delivered us from the Power of Darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love (meaning the Church of God)."

As the result the overall majority believed and obeyed the laws and teachings taught by God's apostle just as the true and faithful people do today. Men and women began trusting God for their healing – a few even unto death without being healed. Others were miraculously healed and blessed in many other ways as well.

They sacrificed to pay all three tithes, gave up their jobs rather than disobey God's Sabbath and Holy Days. People who also looked forward to going to the Place of Safety during this coming time of the very worst of troubles to come upon mankind.

The Falling Away and Darkness Came for Them

Sadly, the day and year in time came when Satan the Devil, the Serpent of old, was able to DECEIVE them by his use of an unconverted man who had been appointed Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, during the last month of his life (*January 1986*).

Mr. Armstrong believed this man would keep all of the teachings intact. It did not happen! Diametric changes began almost immediately from what he had taught, rulings and doctrines.

With the major doctrinal teachings, it took *Eight Years, a little at a time through those years, subtly and cunningly*, to **deceive** the membership into believing those teachings were wrong!

Mr. Tkach also taught all the commandments of God were no longer necessary to obey with the claim they were all under the Old Covenant and the Church is now under the New Covenant. They eagerly accepted it! However, from Genesis to Revelation reveals the fallacy of that satanic teaching.

An Obvious Parallel

A parallel is that of Lucifer requiring *many years* to deceive one-third of the angels to follow him in seeking to overthrow God and His angels. He eventually led them to believe they did not have to obey God and His government and rule over them.

While overshadowing the throne of God, Lucifer had been taught and trained in the way of government before the earth had been created and he practiced it on earth. After the creation of the earth he was the anointed one by God to be its King and Ruler—a super-super cherub angel.

Letting his greatness overwhelm him, he told the angels in his realm: “Follow me and we will rule the universe and the heavens after overthrowing God and the WORD from Their ruling throne in heaven.”

Though one-third of them did follow Lucifer, and furiously fought to try and overthrow God, they were defeated leaving the planet earth and the heavens in terrible wreckage.

This is essentially what the Apostate Pastor General did in the early part of his 9th year, 1995, when he destroyed the WWCG, leaving it in total wreckage. To accomplish this, he taught the rejection of the true God, His government, and His rule over them! Then he replaced them with *the god of this world (Satan himself, II Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31)*, with his diabolical satanic teachings.

Spiritual Darkness Overpowered Them

The members having been misled and deceived by the apostate Pastor General were once again overpowered by spiritual darkness that covered their minds and hearts and they eagerly followed him.

Similar to the Pied Piper who led the children into the forest and there slew them, these members followed the Pastor General into what will be soon the **Great Tribulation**. They will then suffer horrible deaths similar to what the millions of Jews experienced during WWII at the hands of Adolph Hitler and his Nazis.

Vengeance Belongs to God

The Apostle Paul wrote that God exacts vengeance with terrible sufferings and death for those who reject Him, His laws, and His teachings.

Hebrews 10:30-31

v.30-31 “For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The LORD will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Jesus Christ exacted vengeance by killing the apostate Pastor General by bringing upon him a personal kind of the **Great Tribulation!** He was afflicted with horrible torturous sufferings from bone cancer! And witnesses say this is the way he died—*age 68*.

The LORD God has also killed others in past ages. He killed Herod (*Acts 12:21*); after 5 days of torture he died in the 54th year of his life! Herod the Great and Antiochus Epiphanes died of the same disease (*Josephus and Clarke Commentary*).

Except for possibly a few from among those many thousands God might yet draw to Him (*John 6:44*), all of them who will yet be living will perish during this soon-coming terrible time.

The Remaining Membership of the Worldwide Church

Satan the Serpent had other plans already in mind for the remaining members of the WWCG who would not totally accept the rejection of all of God’s teachings. He knew there would be those who would not agree that God’s laws were done away.

Being the prince of the power of the air (*Ephesians 2:2*), the spirit that now works in the minds of the disobedient, he then put thoughts into the minds of the former high-ranking unconverted ministers from the WWCG to develop their own churches. Then he would sway the remaining membership to follow their lead.

Like the serpent of old in the Garden of Eden, he would influence them into believing they would still be observing the same teachings as had been taught by Mr. Armstrong.

Little did they realize it was Satan who was leading these ministers to have their own agenda in mind! An agenda—that would continue to reject God’s Apostle and some of the true teachings that had been restored within God’s Church.

Satan knew some of the ministers of the larger churches had been tainted into believing a few of the teachings of *Baal* as having taught by Mr. Tkach. And he would use them to deceive their membership into believing them. And they gullibly followed them.

Their day of God's judgment will also come with vengeance— so says God (*Hebrews 10:30-31*), just as it has with others in past times.

The Early Development of the Corporate Churches

The corporate Churches began their development with the Philadelphia Church of God in 1989, the Global Church of God in 1992. The United Church of God began in mid-1995.

Shortly after 1995 other groups developed. Some large and others small over the following years. The approximate count of the churches that split off from the former Worldwide Church of God, and later splits from the larger churches, accelerated over time and is estimated to be 700, more or less—a historical duality of the past (*cf. I Kings 18:19*).

Like the Protestant churches, each one had *differences* in beliefs and teachings from the others otherwise there would not be that many—and, conceivably, all would be of one church, but this is not the case—all of them are under *the power of spiritual darkness with their individual beliefs and teachings seeking their own individual recognition*.

An Erroneous Belief

Each of these groups, large or small, believe it is the right one and will be the one to be numbered *AMONG THE FEW TO BE SAVED!* However, based upon what Jesus Christ said—to be among the FEW to be saved, each one has to be *identified* by having a relationship with God and by being led by His Holy Spirit of Truth:

Romans 8:14

v.14 “For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Also, each one has to be obedient to the government of God while walking within His laws and doctrinal teachings:

Acts 5:29-32

vs.29-32 “. . .we ought to obey God rather than men . . . and we are witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit Whom God has given to those who OBEY Him.”

The Promised Elijah of the End-Time

Knowing the end from the beginning (*Isaiah 46:9-10; 42:9*), Jesus Christ knew the House of Joseph and other tribes of Israel would reject Him and His way of life in this end-time (*Hosea 8:14*).

The parallel matches that of ancient Israel. The LORD raised up Elijah to restore the true identity of God and His laws (*I Kings 17:1*). And he was used by Him to do it (*I Kings 18:36-39*).

The same commission was given to the promised Elijah to carry out before the close of this age – to restore the true identity of God and His Holy Laws from the worship of *Baalism* that has enveloped the House of Joseph and the other tribes of Israel.

And through an ancient prophet, the LORD made known He would raise up a special man who would be in the spirit and power of Elijah (*Luke 1:17*); and he would be used mightily by Him to fulfill his commission:

Malachi 4:4-6

v.s.4-6 “Remember the LAW of Moses My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, even the statutes and judgments. Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”

In addition to the laws of God, the Elijah of the end-time was to RESTORE all of the doctrinal teachings within His one and only Church:

Matthew 17:10-11

vs.10-11 “And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed Elijah is coming first and will RESTORE all things.”

Not to the many churches, but the One True Church that Jesus Christ built in 31 A.D., those true teachings would be restored as made known by Him to His disciples:

Matthew 16:18-19

v.18 “And I also say to you, that you are Peter (Greek, petros, little rock), and on this ROCK (Greek, Petra - huge rock, cf. *I Corinthians 10:4*) I will build My Church and the gates of hades will not prevail against it.”

Jesus Christ said His Church would also endure regardless of Satan's efforts to destroy it with those teachings intact. He further established His government within His Church:

v.19 “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven (*the Church of God in embryo*), and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Other Scriptures reveal the governing keys were also given to the leading ministers over time and to a lesser degree the pastors in local churches when there was a need to keep unity and harmony within His Church (*Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 16:17-18, etc.*).

The Many Denied Entrance

Jesus Christ also made known one has to strive (*Greek: as in agony*) to enter through the Narrow Gate of true beliefs and teachings as are the true and faithful scattered sheep of His flock are now doing.

There is no evidence of this taking place with the known corporate and fragmented churches. Rather, they appear to be contented like the Laodiceans as if tomorrow is many years away.

Jesus Christ said the MANY will not be able to enter, only the very FEW will be accepted by Him and be given refuge from the soon-coming ***Great Tribulation***.

One Must Be Born Again

Jesus Christ made known to Nicodemus one has to experience a new birth to see and enter the Kingdom of God:

John 3:3-8

v.3 “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again (from above – as Christ descends to this earth and gives a shout to wake up the dead in Christ, I Thessalonians 4:16), he cannot SEE the Kingdom of God (it is invisible to the human eye). . . .



vs.6-7 “That which is Born of the Flesh is flesh, and that which is Born of the SPIRIT is Spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘you must be born again.’

v.8 “The wind blows where it wishes, and you Hear the Sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is EVERYONE who is BORN of the SPIRIT.”

Even though these Scriptures are abundantly clear, many of the ministers and their churches erroneously believe they are already born again. As it was said years ago, they need to use “*the hat-pin test*,” to see if they feel pain and bleed by using it! If so, the proof is they are still human.

Preach and Support the Work of God

During those years, the ministry was used by Jesus Christ to pastor local churches and to support the Work of God of preaching the Gospel, being proclaimed by God’s apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the commission that was given to him in this end-time to carry primarily to the House of Joseph and other nations of Israel, and then the nations of this world. And for the most part they did support it:

Matthew 24:14

v.14“And the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a WITNESS to all nations, and then the end will come.”

And for the most part they did support the work of the Gospel and also the Ezekiel warning message that was to be proclaimed:

Ezekiel 33:1-9

vs.1-2 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,

vs.3-4 “When he SEES the sword coming upon the land, if he BLOWS and WARNS the people, then whoever HEARS the sound of the trumpet and does NOT take Warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.



vs.5-6 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did NOT take warning, his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will SAVE his life. But IF the watchman SEES the sword coming and does NOT blow the trumpet, and the people are NOT warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; BUT his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

v.7 “So you son of man (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong): I have made you A WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore, you shall hear a word from Me and WARN them (and he did from the beginning of his ministry, 1934, to the final days of his life)”

v.8 “When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do NOT speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his BLOOD I will require at your hand. Nevertheless, IF you warn the wicked to TURN from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul.”

Both messages were to go to the world! And Christ had called and chosen Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to take the Gospel and the Ezekiel Warning to the nations of this world. And for the most part the ministry under him did fulfill their responsibilities in supporting him.

Historical Duality of the Giving of God's Holy Spirit

The following is very necessary for the needed understanding of the years of the Worldwide Church of God during the life of Mr. Armstrong and where the large membership is today.

One must view this in light of historical duality that connects with Moses and ancient Israel. God raised up Moses to deliver His chosen people Israel out from the bondage of Egypt (Exodus 3:6-9).



The LORD's purpose for His having called Moses and Israel was essential for their becoming the *Center-Piece* of His Master Plan for the ultimate salvation for all mankind in time to come.

From that beginning time, the Angel of the LORD appeared in the cloud and fire above them to guide them to the promised land.

Later, Israel was to become His wife. The LORD'S Proposal of marriage to Israel (*Exodus 19:3-8*); and their acceptance of the covenant of marriage (*Exodus 24:3-7*).

The Angel of the LORD being above them sent His Holy Spirit to be within the encampment of Israel as the following Scriptures makes known:

Isaiah 63:7-13

v.7 “I will mention the loving kindnesses of the LORD and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has bestowed upon us (Israel), and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed upon them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His loving kindnesses.”

v.8 “For He said, ‘Surely, they are My people, children who will not lie.’” So He became their Savior (and husband, *Exodus 19:3-8; 24:3-8*). In all their affliction He was afflicted (Soncino Commentary: GOD himself, so to speak, participates in the sufferings of His people – in the Hebrew, in all their adversity He was no adversary); and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity, He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.

v.9 “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit (that was in their midst), so He turned against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.

v.11 Then he (Israel) remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying, “Where is He who brought them up out of the Sea with the shepherd of His flock (Moses)?

v.11 “Where is He who put His Holy Spirit WITHIN them (Jewish Trans. — “in their MIDST”), who led them by the right hand of Moses (as was Mr. Armstrong used with the WWCG) with His glorious arm?”

Jesus Christ also Placed His Holy Spirit within the Worldwide Church of God

To fulfill His promise of preaching the Gospel and sounding the Ezekiel warning message with ample time for the witness to cover the House of Joseph and other nations of Israel, it became necessary to raise up a special man, Mr. Hebert W. Armstrong, to fulfill the commission of both of them (*Malachi 4:4-6*).



Knowing he had to have support to fulfill his commission, Jesus Christ began drawing men and women from out of this world of darkness and bringing them into the encampment of the Worldwide Church of God where He had placed His Holy Spirit for the needed understanding of His true teachings and supporting them with tithes and special offerings.

Unlike the Lord being over Israel in the cloud and fire, people were drawn into the Churches of God from the beginning of God's Church in 34 A.D. as can be understood by reading the writings of each Church era:

Revelation 1:10-13, 20

vs.10-11 I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, and what you see write in a book, and send it to the Seven Churches, which are in Asia, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, to Laodicea.

vs.12-13 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke to me. And having turned I saw Seven Golden Lampstands. And in the MIDST of the Seven Golden Lampstands, On like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

v.16 He had in His right hand Seven Stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

v.20 “The Mystery of the Seven Stars which you saw in My right hand, and the Seven Golden Lampstands: The Seven Stars are the angels (messengers-apostles) of the Seven Churches, and the Seven Lampstands which you saw are the Seven Churches.”

The Philadelphia Church of God Era

During the closing era of this age, Jesus Christ drew many thousands of people from the darkness of this world to support His work that He was using Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to do as a witness to the House of Joseph and the other tribes of Israel. There was a need for colleges and local churches.

To fulfill the need for faculty within the three colleges and pastors to be over local churches, Jesus Christ placed His Holy Spirit in the minds of the leadership of both to fulfill those needs.

It needs to be stressed the Holy Spirit was not from the Holy Father to beget them (*John 6:44*), but only from Jesus Christ for His use of them as it was with ancient Israel, *to be in their minds, but not within their hearts* (*cf. II Thessalonians 2:10*). No real difference between them.

He did exactly the same with the ministry and the membership as he did with ancient Israel during those years. They believed the teachings and obeyed them; however, the love for those teachings did not reach into their hearts (*cf. II Thessalonians 2:10*).

The Power of Spiritual Darkness

The ministry and membership were used by Jesus Christ until Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong died (*January 16, 1986*). It was at that time Jesus Christ lifted His Holy Spirit from them.

With God's Holy Spirit no longer in their midst, and Satan the devil now in control, he began using the very willing apostate Pastor General and his Administration to



Joseph W. Tkach Sr. and his son, Joe Tkach Jr. had come (*Colossians 1:13*).

begin pointing out exaggerated and lying faults of Mr. Armstrong together with the beginning of subtle and cunning changes with the doctrinal teachings (*Ephesians 6:12*).

However, it still required time for Satan to bring his objective to turn the membership full circle to the modern name of Protestantism, which is none other than Baalism of old.

After eight years the objective was accomplished! Then *the power of spiritual darkness* descended fully upon the former ministers and membership. They *returned* to the worship of *Baalism* from which they

The Falling Away

A personal example: The following conversation clearly reveals why the thousands of members who were drawn by Jesus Christ into the WWCG to remain faithful while supporting the Work of God during the life-time years of Mr. Armstrong, and then walking away from those beliefs they so faithfully lived and practiced during those years.

Then to see the astonishing turn-about, the about-face, when virtually all of them left under the leadership of the Pastor General who replaced him—*illustrating the deceptive POWER of Spiritual Darkness* – as the following conversation makes known:

One Sabbath, early 1995, an elder asked me, as the pastor of the Modesto, California Church, "Mr. Billingsley what do you think of these new teachings?" In reply, I asked, "What do you think of them?" He said, "I think they are great! Then I said, Mr. _____ many disproved these teachings in the beginning." With utter sincerity reflected on his face, he said, "I thought I did too." Later, he returned to the Lutheran Church.

The Few Clung Faithfully to the Fullness of the Truth

Not everyone was deceived! A historical duality of the early Church follows through with the recent time of 1994-1995:

Acts 8:1

v.1 . . . At that time a great persecution arose against the Church (as it did with the Tkach regime persecuting the FEW who remained faithful) which was at Jerusalem; and they were all SCATTERED throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria . . . (cf. Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23).

The Scattered Members

From what the Apostle Paul wrote there are approximately 7,000 members, true and faithful elders and members (*Romans 11:4-7*), that are scattered within the Tribes of Israel (*Revelation 7:2-8*), and some few possibly in Gentile countries; all however are of the Philadelphia Church of God Era (*Revelation 3:7-13*).

Among these scattered members, Jesus Christ is using this small Congregation, faithful flock, to yet support the Work He is presently doing in taking His Gospel to the world along with the Ezekiel warning message, www.cog-ff.com. At the same time continuing to use His late apostle to do it, though dead, via of his Recorded Works.

Acknowledgment of the Truth

In just a very few short years all of the many thousands who were once of the Worldwide Church of God, during the lifetime of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, will come to realize he was indeed used by Jesus Christ to teach about the demise of this country, and other tribes of Israel, then seeing it has come to virtual reality!

For they will then see the very powerful Revived Holy Roman Empire now on stage and threatening (*Revelation 13:3-4*)! At the same time, they will be seeing the helplessness of this country to defend itself with women at the helm steering the nation (*Isaiah 3:12; Nahum 3:12-13*).

In addition, they will begin seeing the severity of the famine and disease epidemics taking hold with millions of people beginning to die and the **Great Tribulation** before them (*Ezekiel 5:12; 6:11-14*). Then they will know what they had heard from God's late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, was the truth, but now too late!

Crying Out for Acceptance

Then they will urgently cry out for acceptance by Jesus Christ to go to the Place of Safety during this coming time of great crisis—while seeking for acceptance by Him to be in the 1st Resurrection with all the other saints. He will then say to them—

Luke 13:25-27

v. 25 “When once the Master of the House (Church of God) has risen up (to lead His True Elect to the Place of Safety, possibly early 2026 or 2025) and (then) SHUT the Door (behind them—as did the LORD closed the door to the Ark), and you begin to stand out-side and Knock at the Door (cf. Revelation 3:20), saying, ‘Lord, Lord (an anguished cry), OPEN for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do NOT know you, where you are from.’”

v.26 “Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your Presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from, depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity!”

True Before January 16, 1986

What the ministry and the members said was true before the death of Mr. Armstrong. This was at the time when the ministry of the former Worldwide Church of God, having come from other churches and different walks of life, were drawn by Jesus Christ to attend one of the three Ambassador Colleges.

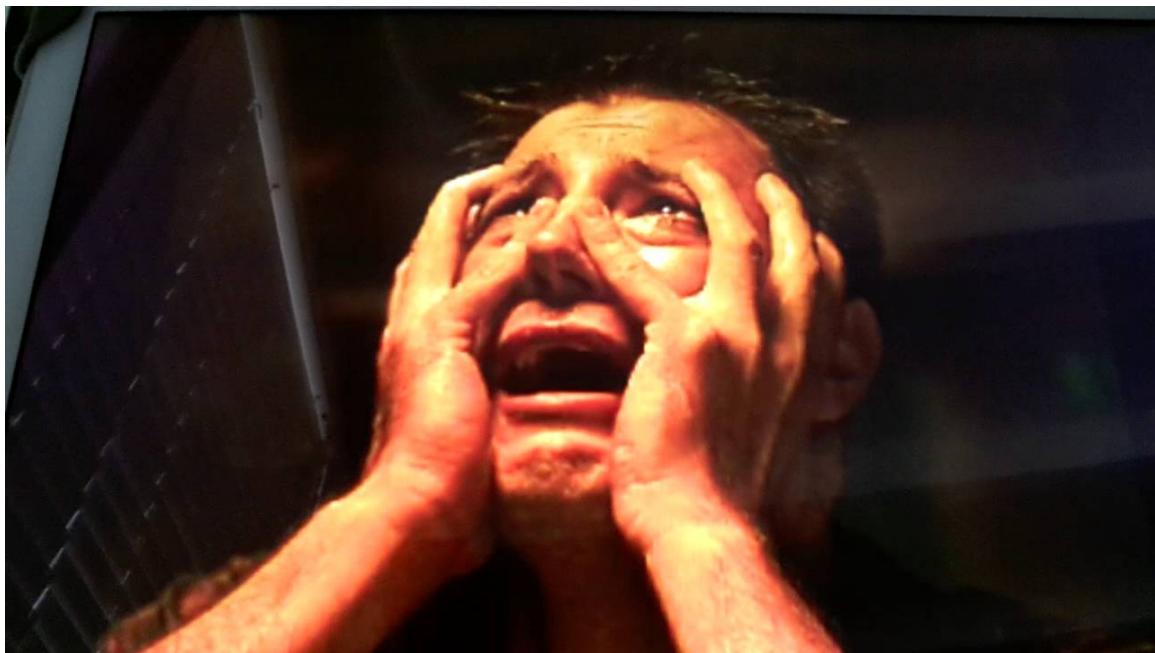
They were taught the laws and doctrinal teachings of God under the direction of God's late apostle.

The ministry then taught those laws and teachings to the congregations they were assigned and pastored. They observed the Passover and all of the Holy Days under the direction of Mr. Armstrong. They were used in some cases by Jesus Christ to cast out demons as well as laying on of hands for the sick and many were healed by Christ as the result (*James 5:14*).

However due to their sinful acceptance of one or more, or all of the teachings of the Catholic and Protestant teachings as personified by Jezebel (*cf. Revelation 2:20-23*), and having their own churches belonging to Baal (*cf. Revelation 2:14*), they were no longer recognized by Jesus Christ. Their anguished cries will not be answered by Christ.

Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth

What will be the future of all of these MANY thousands of people? For the most part, Scripture reveals they will be resurrected during the GWTJ. Possibly some few in the 3rd Resurrection (*II Peter 2:1-9, 15; Hebrews 6:4-8*).



Upon discovering they will have been resurrected back to life in their former physical bodies, the members and ministry will become very angry for not having been accepted by God to have been protected during the Great Tribulation, and for not being in the 1st resurrection.

Luke 13:28

v.28 “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (*anger*), when you SEE Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God (*manifesting themselves. cf. Isaiah 30:20-21*) and yourselves [having been] thrust out.”

Again, this will take place during the GWTJ as made known by the Apostle John in the vision he foresaw of the future:

Revelation 20:11-12

vs.11-12“And I saw a great white throne and Him who SAT on it (*to judge*) from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away and there was no place found for them (later, after the end of the GWTJ, *II Peter 3:10-13; not the old, but only the new heavens and new earth, Isaiah 65:17*).

v.12 “**A**nd I saw the dead small and great STANDING (during the GWTJ, as prisoners do in the human courts with the verdict to be made known by the judge) before God, and Books were opened (The Holy Bible – all 66 books in it, KJV).

v.12 “**A**nd another Book was OPENED, which is the Book of life. And the dead (resurrected back to human life) were JUDGED (as God’s Church is now being judged, I Peter 4:17), according to their works (during their lifetime in the 100-year period of time, Isaiah 65:20), by the things that were written in the books (cf. John 12:38).”

Are YOU one of the FEW? – or—of the MANY?

A most serious and meaningful question that all of us need to ask ourselves? Will you and I be among the FEW to be in the 1st Resurrection? —or among the MANY to come up in the 2nd Resurrection? Time will tell which one by what we will do with ourselves in view of God’s teachings during the remainder of our lives.

The following Scripture will be a heart-breaking one for the MANY.

Matthew 25:11

v.11 “**A**fterward the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, Lord, OPEN to us.” But He answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.”

These Are WARNING Scriptures

It should be realized and understood by each one, these Scriptures were spoken and written IN ADVANCE AS WARNINGS to those who neglected to take heed to themselves now—tomorrow could be too late!

For in that future time, they will serve as A WITNESS against any and all who neglected to apply those Scriptural WARNINGS to themselves individually rather than applying them to others.

Scripture tells each one of God’s true people to continue looking deep inside their mind and heart to see where each one fits in view of their relationship with God and His true teachings—

II Corinthians 13:5

v.5 “**E**xamine yourselves as to whether you are in the FAITH (not having drifted away, Hebrews 2:1-3)). TEST yourselves. Do you NOT KNOW

yourselfs that Jesus Christ IS IN YOU (John 14:23)? —unless you are disqualified (Jesus Christ no longer there).”

The continued self-examination process can make the difference if followed through and making the needed corrections.

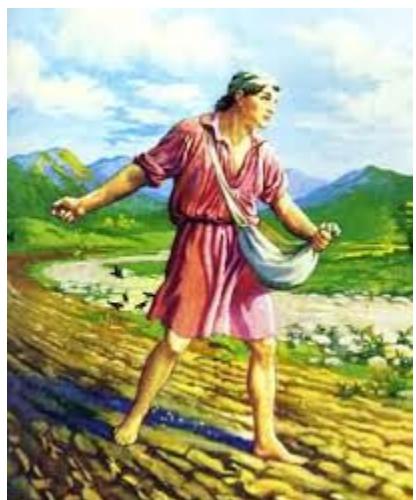
Areas That Have Need for Spiritual Health

Consider some of the areas that have been deadly traps for many in past times and could also entrap God’s people. To avoid them one has to be circumspect, very careful in order to escape them.

To begin taking a searching look for them while undergoing a personal evaluation, consider the following parables:

The Sower of the Seed

Jesus Christ taught many needed lessons *via* of His parables that apply to all of mankind. Though they were hidden from understanding of the unconverted, He opened the minds of His true people to understand them (*Matthew 13:10-17*).



The following teachings from the parables need to be seriously considered regarding the many things that can trap the true people of God unless there is awareness and control with serious thought and prayer.

Matthew 13:3-7

vs.3-4 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, a sower went out to sow (the Word of God—Gospel—teachings). And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and ate them up.

vs.5-6 “Some fell on the stony places (shallow – no in depth love for God, His truth and His Work); where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had NO DEPTH of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched (Trials and Tests), because they had NO ROOT they withered away.

v.7 “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and CHOKED them.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

Matthew 13:18-22

vs.18-19 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the Wicked One comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

vs.20-21 “But he who received the seed on STONY PLACES, this is he who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy. Yet he has NO ROOT in himself, but endures only for a while. For when Tribulation or Persecution arises BECAUSE of the Word, immediately he stumbles (*they lacked depth or purpose or capacity to grow spiritually by which to strengthen themselves to meet and overcome the obstacles*)

v.22 “Now he who received seed among the THORNS is he who HEARS the Word, AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD (*I John 2:15-17, the desire to look like the world-not to appear different; James 3:3-6,*) and the Deceitfulness of Riches CHOKE the Word (*obstructing access to God*), and he becomes UNFRUITFUL (*to support the Work of God*).”

Cares of Personal Appearance

Another deceptive trap that connects with the CARES of this world comes down to our personal appearance. There are the Scriptures that warn His people in this connection as well. It should be realized the CARES of this world covers all areas including the personal appearance of both men and women.

Problems with Men

This connects with men who by the inherit nature within them have a lot of ego to suppress and when they do not it is easily seen by others. Men by nature want to be important and be recognized for whatever their skills and achievements might be seen or used by others.

And with those accomplishments, it becomes easy to begin thinking too highly of themselves as did Job.

The Desire of Women in Their Personal Appearance

Women want to be pretty as can be seen on the networks of Fox and other News channels as well. And they will do anything to attract attention to themselves—showing their legs up to almost their thighs, low-neck dresses that expose from a

little to most of their breasts. The wearing of light to heavy makeup, dyed or tinted hair, with paint on their eye-lids as did Jezebel (*II Kings 9:30*).

And this has traveled from that time in ancient history to this present time—and sadly—some women in God's Church have been deluded into wanting to look like Jezebel with their desire to appear attractive.

God wants a natural look with His soon-to-be bride, looking like ladies with purity and modesty, as the Apostle Peter wrote:

I Peter 3:1-5

vs.1-2 “Wives, likewise be submissive to your own husbands (within the Lord, cf. Ephesians 6:1), that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct (pure, modest, decent, virtuous, free from immorality—see Ephesians 5:27) accompanied by fear (reverent fear of God).

vs.3-4 “Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair (elaborate hairstyles), wearing gold (Exp. Com: thin gold plates buckled in plaited hair), or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (not taking over and dominating conversations—example: Sarah inside the tent listening while Abraham talked with the LORD, Genesis 18:10), which is very precious in the sight of God.

v.5 “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.”

A Clarifying Explanation

There are other Scriptures that adds clarification to what the Apostle Peter in brief wrote. They make known it is not wrong for women to wear jewelry and fine clothing (*Rebecca to be wife of Isaac, Genesis 24:31; Exodus 3:22*).

But as the Apostle Peter wrote they should be worn in moderation and in good taste. Also, the wearing of them should not take away from the person—rather blend in with the person.

Upon seeing the woman one should not be attracted by what she is wearing, but rather see the woman instead, yet dressed beautifully and in good taste.

The Ruling Against Makeup

It is in this context of Scriptural writings, Jesus Christ led Mr. Armstrong to make the ruling against the wearing of makeup in 1955. Though he received a lot of flak from a few of the top ministers and some women he remained firm for he knew this ruling came from Jesus Christ and it was bound in heaven (*Matthew 16:19; 18:16*).

Later in 1974, Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Wayne Cole approached Mr. Armstrong as he was departing on a flight to an international part of the world, saying they had found proof in the Bible the wearing of makeup was permissible.

Taking their word for it and without looking in depth to what they found at the time, he relaxed his ruling against it in that same year. After some few years, he was led by Christ to see the error of these men. He then knew the original ruling had to be restored; and he did (1981).

It remained intact until the apostate pastor general who replaced him— wanting to find favor and popularity with the women did away with the ruling. As it was said afterwards, “There was dancing in the streets by the overjoyed women!” *But not with God!*

True and Faithful Women in God’s Church

Hopefully, there is no lust in the women of God’s Church for the use of it as it was with the MANY who left with the Apostate Pastor General (*lust is coveting Romans 7.7*). Afterwards, Christ killed the man for rejecting His apostle, nullifying the rulings, and teaching the laws of God were no longer necessary to obey, along with destroying the doctrinal teachings and replacing them with the teachings of Baalism.

The ruling against the wearing of makeup covered all areas of the use of it except for the use of a foundation to cover unsightly blemishes on the face. The ruling also covered the dyeing and tinting of hair, eye shadow, liners, etc., all areas – leaving nothing out. I know for I was there at the time when the ruling was made.

This is still being seen to a small degree in this little flock. Jesus Christ is also seeing it and He looks on it with disfavor. One should know a person’s heart cannot be right with God while being disobedient to what He led His Apostle to rule against it.

Unless there is a turn around with repentance, this can come to be a real problem during a time of great need. Remember, Satan the devil knows our weaknesses and

he will take advantage of them as he did in lying to Eve and she obeyed him—as women are doing today.

Please know God wants a natural look with woman and men.

In another writing I will write about the hair – of both men and women. This is also very important regarding the personal appearance of God's people—being a light and living example to all others as the bride to be of Jesus Christ (*Revelation 19:5-9*).

UNI-SEX APPEARANCE

Another key area came to light regarding personal appearance. Having been led by Jesus Christ to focus on a particular statute of God it was determined a change had to be made regarding the dress-wear of women; it reads:



Deuteronomy 22:5

v.5 A woman shall NOT wear anything that pertains (*Dictionary.com*: “to have reference or relate” - whatsoever) **to a man, NOR shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are AN ABOMINATION to the LORD your God.**

Distinction of genders in apparel; distinction

is based on God's creation, Genesis 1:26-27.

Abomination= Anything that excites disgust, hatred, or loathing. Any detestable act or practice 2. Strong aversion or loathing

Satan the Serpent of old Influencing the Feminists

During the 1960s the fashion industry under the influence of Satan the Devil, began designing clothing that would blend the sexes. And virtually all women began wearing the newly designed clothing. It made them feel comfortable and

relaxed not realizing the god of this world was taking away much of their femininity and charm.

Satan had a long range objective in mind by influencing the many vocal feminists to seek equality with men. This was followed by the fashion industry to develop the UNISEX clothing as the following quotes make known:

Man of Steel and Velvet, by Aubrey P. Andelin, Page 37, “There is a worldwide trend to do away with the traditional male and female roles and achieve equality between the sexes. The goal is to eliminate any difference in responsibility so that they can share all duties together! . . . There is a total rejection of traditional male and female roles with the claim ‘They are no longer useful in society.’

“Known as ‘Women’s Lib,’ this movement, initiated by a group of women who have become dissatisfied with the woman’s traditional role in the home, is attempting to reshape the thinking of both sexes.” End of quotes

The Gloating of the Devil

The devil has largely accomplished his objective! This was a beginning stride forward to what we are now seeing in society—women wearing their pants have taken over virtually all aspects of authority in all areas. And men have not only acquiesced, but are applauding this takeover from their rightful place in office and in the home and have taken the back seat of the bus.

Satan is presently using another deceptive tool to further his cause for the downfall of this country. Women are claiming harassment from men in high places in government from years ago to the present!

It is working very well! Important men are now toppling from their offices in Congress and from important positions in other areas! This is leading to the woman in her pantsuit who will replace President Trump in 2020. Satan is gloating!

The Church of God Faithful Flock

The true women of in God’s Church came to understand His law, and made the needed changes. This was a great move forward on their part in obedience to God when the women in this little flock came to realize it was wrong for wearing clothes that were designed and patterned after men’s clothing, unisex—both to look alike—often leaving some in wonderment – *asking was that a man or a woman I saw?*

They came to realize Jesus Christ wants a definite distinction between women and men (*Deuteronomy 22:5*). He wants a woman to be a woman in every aspect and

a man to be a man—not a sissy and looking like one—as seen sometimes in England and in Scotland.

Watch and Pray Always

Jesus Christ also warned of the danger of the cares of this world engulfing His chosen people toward the closing part of His human life:

Luke 21:34-35

vs.34-35 “But TAKE HEED to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing (*margin: dissipation*), drunkenness, and CARES of this life, and that Day come upon you unexpectedly, for it will come as A SNARE on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

v.35 “WATCH therefore, and PRAY ALWAYS that you may be counted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that shall come to pass, and STAND before the Son of Man.”

The Laodicean Church Era

Consider the Laodicean Church Era—*Self-righteous—need nothing—wealth*, no real dependence on God: They will be vomited out of the mouth of Jesus Christ (*Revelation 3:14-22*). Though it is not wrong to have a lot of money, Jesus Christ warned of the danger it can bring with it unless there is wisdom used to balance it.

The problem with wealth is that it will buy anything therefore taking away a need to pray for the necessities of life. Some may be able to handle it and can keep a right balance, others may not. Each one must examine oneself. Jesus Christ spoke of this regarding the entrance to His soon-coming Kingdom.

Matthew 19:23-29

v.23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is harder for a rich man to ENTER the Kingdom of Heaven. And again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God . . .

Luke 12:15,26

v.12, 26 And He said to them, “Take heed of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses . . . So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

The time will soon come when all of the wealth of everyone that has been accumulated will be wiped out from all Bank Accounts as it took place in the 1930s. Economists continually warn of the same thing happening today!

After the crash during the first 10 months of **1930**, **744 banks** failed – 10 times as many. In all, 9,000 **banks** failed during the decade of the 30s.

Please know, the time is coming when the same will be true in this and other nations of Israel—especially the House of Joseph. Then there will be the need of fervent prayer, asking God—

Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread (Luke 11:9-13).”

The Message of ‘Give vs Get’

The spirit of giving vs get was not only a message for the nations of the world, but it is also for all of God’s people as well. Each and every true Christian must have a spirit of giving in their hearts? Some do and this has been recognized. Love is an outgoing concern for others, as Jesus said:

Jesus Christ said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35).

Early years, the Church had a few people who were very poor living in Pasadena. Often times the poor would hear a knock on the door to their homes. They would open it and not find anyone there. Instead they would find a bag or more of groceries on their door step.

The spirit of considering the poor by giving when needed will always be there with in the Church (*John 12:8*). God makes known the blessings do come when being charitable:

Ecclesiastes 11:1

v.1 “Cast your bread (*sowing the seed*) upon the waters, for you will find it (*the harvest*) after many days.

Proverbs 19:17

v.17 “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He pays back what he has given.”

Luke 6:38

v.38 “Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will He put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

The Work of God

During his lifetime ministry, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong continually emphasized the need of God's work going to this world as a witness. And in his sermons, Bible studies, Radio and Telecasts, along with letters to the membership, he stressed the fact this is a major reason for the membership to have been called is to SUPPORT the Work, with their prayers, tithes and special offerings.

Question for this flock? What about the Work of God that has been given to the Church of God, Faithful Flock to support? Is our pocketbook along with our heart in it? Always the reserves are on the edge, sometimes more than other times. Do we look to others to provide the need without giving from our own funds? Remember the warning from the Apostle James:

James 2:14-17

vs.14-15 “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

vs.16-17 “And one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Remember, God is judging the hearts and minds of His people. No one wants to find the door to the place of safety closed to them, nor not being in the 1st Resurrection, as MANY will find out to their great sorrow:

Matthew 25:1, 6-13

v.1 Then the Kingdom of Heaven (God's Church) will be likened to 10 virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom

v.6 And at midnight a cry was heard: “Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him (preparatory to meeting Him when Christ returns) . . .

vs.11-13 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, OPEN to us!’ But He answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour on which the Son of Man is coming.”

The Coming of Jesus Christ

Please note—Christ did not say the year, but only the day or the hour. The reason being, God’s true people will come to know the year of the coming of Jesus Christ at a particular point in time in the next few years as will a few from the fragmented churches.

This will be revealed from understanding the count of the days from the time the sacrificial offerings will be taken away after having been started at the time of the construction of the new Temple in Jerusalem (*Daniel 12:11-12 – 1290 and 1335 days*).

They will be taken away by the Beast and his Military Forces occupying Jerusalem at the behest of the Pope who will have moved his throne from Rome to Jerusalem and will sit in the Holy of Holies proclaiming he is God (*II Thessalonians 2:1-4*), as will the Beast (*Daniel 11:45*).

The Salvation of the Elect will be at Risk

Brethren, this is very serious for each of God’s true people for time is fleeting! This little flock is in the process of being TESTED AND TRIED in one way or another and will continue as Scripture makes known (*Revelation 12:10-17*).

Satan the devil is coming at each member while knowing their weakness (*Genesis 3:7; Job 3:25*). This is with God’s permission as it was with Job (*Job 1:6-12*). He wants to know whether or not each one of His people will obey Him in all things while remaining faithful.

One should realize, trials and tests can come in different ways and forms, often the totally unexpected, and not always with Satan involved as Scripture makes known (*Job 5:7;14:1-2*).

At Times God Removes Himself

During some of the temptations that comes upon each one, God sometimes removes Himself to see what decisions will be made by the individual.

Remember, God withdrew from Eve to see what she would do and then Adam. Satan knew the inherit weakness of the woman of being trusting and naïve; he also

knew a man will do almost anything his wife will ask of him, while realizing it is wrong as did Adam! Both of them gave way to Satan's lies (*Genesis 3:1-13*).

The same thing took place with King Hezekiah of Judah, God withdrew Himself to see the decisions he would make without His being present.

II Chronicles 32:31

v.31 However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon (*II Kings 20:1-11*), God WITHDREW from him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

Some will Depart from the Faith

As many others have done in the past, very probably some of you, sooner or later, will leave us for one reason or another going the way with all of the others who have left us (*Matthew 13*.). This will be heart-breaking for the faithful and enduring people of God to see them leave while knowing the tragic decision being made by them and the awful fate that awaits them.

The early Church experienced fiery trials even unto death! Though this Church Era has been promised protection from a martyr's death (*Revelation 3:10; 12:14*), there will be greater trials ahead that will be trying to the very heart and soul of each one in this end-time as well—as it was in the early Church:

I Peter 4:12

v.12 “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.”

The Apostle Paul wrote of the trials as well:

Acts 14:21-22

vs.21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through **MANY TRIBULATIONS enter the Kingdom of God.”**

The Judgment of God

The judgment of God is now upon His one and only true Church:

I Peter 4:17

v.17 “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the House of God . . .”

The trials of judgment throughout life can often be very difficult and trying to the heart and soul. Through them all each one must endure while looking at the everlasting riches of the reward just ahead as did Abraham (*Hebrews 11:10*). Now only a few short years away, then never to experience the problems of the flesh any longer.

With the background in mind of all the faithful who endured terrible trials, while some of them experienced horrible deaths, the Apostle Paul wrote:

Hebrews 12:1-3

v.1 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

v.2 “Looking unto Jesus (*Hebrews 11:27-28*), the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the stake (tree, cf. *I Peter 2:4*), despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

v.3 “Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners (*the ultimate in every way even to a horrible beating and an extremely painful death on the tree for six long torturous hours*), LEST you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”

Endurance to the Finish Line

The Apostle Paul sometimes used the Olympics of his time to enable one to better understand the calling and the vital need to endure to the end:

I Corinthians 11:24-27

vs.24-25 “Do you not know that those who RUN (*in the races*) all run, but one receives the PRIZE? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things (*deprives himself of anything that would hinder him*). Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

v.26 “Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty (doubts he would not cross the finish line, but with positive thoughts with Christ’s continued help he would win the race). Thus I fight (like the boxers in training); not as one who beats (flailing) the air.



v.27 “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, LEST, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (by the judges and thrown out of the race).

Further, Jesus Christ adds:

Matthew 24:13

v.13 But he who endures to the end (of the calling and the race for life) shall be saved (to be among the FEW to be saved).

God’s True Church—It should be realized by those who know and believe the teachings of God’s Holy Bible, Scripture reveals God has only ONE CHURCH (*Matthew 16:18*)! And in His Church are only those whom God has selectively called and added to it (*John 6:44; Ephesians 4:1-16*); a little, little, Church (Greek: *a double diminutive, Experimental Commentary, Luke 12:32; Matthew 7:13-14*) And in God’s true Church the fullness of His true teachings are believed and taught by His true and faithful ministers (*Revelation 3:7-13*).