

The Good News

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Are You Just WAITING IT OUT?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

RECENTLY I received a letter from a girl, 21 years of age, who has problems I believe to be common to many of you.

This girl found herself totally isolated—without friends or companions—because of the TRUTH of God. She was afraid of what people would think and say if they learned about her religion. They would think her “fanatical”—would ridicule her.

She had been taught as a child by her mother about the second coming of Christ, and the end of this world. She had been led to expect it immediately, but now, since listening to The WORLD TOMORROW, and reading The PLAIN TRUTH, she realizes it may yet be a few years before Christ comes. Now, she faces the problem of “waiting it out,” until Jesus appears.

It just occurred to me that many of you face the same problems, and that the letter I sent her might help many of you, too. So here it is:

An Open Letter

“Perhaps I can help you. Two or three points stick out in your letter. At first your letter sounded like that of an introvert, but as I proceeded I sensed that you are permitting FEAR to grip you and isolate you. I see indications of fear of people and their opinions, and fear of God—I mean a fear different from the normal true fear of The Eternal we ought to feel.

“You say, ‘I am completely alone in my faith’—which is normal enough and true of hundreds of God’s people—then, ‘I have confided in no one, for . . . they would merely think I had become indoctrinated with some fanatical theory.’ You indicate that the so-called better educated, intelligent people scorn the truth in ridicule, which I gather you fear. True, most so-called better educated people have been indoctrinated with the godless fable of the evolutionary concept, and inoculated with the assumption that all religion is superstition—but this is only ignorance and folklore in itself, and I have many highly educated people in my radio audience, tho the percentage may be small. Personally, I do not fear the opinions of these pseudo-educated, for I know they are merely laymen, and ignorant of TRUTH.

“You continue, ‘I would be laughed at and ridiculed, but I do not believe any amount of brainwashing could make me lose my grip on what I now believe.’ Don’t be AFRAID of the truth you believe. Don’t be afraid of ridicule or of people. You say, ‘How can I alone observe’ what God commands. My dear girl, Mrs. Armstrong and I had to do this for years—hundreds are doing it now—and you can, IF you eradicate that FEAR, and replace it with FAITH, and HOPE and JOY in the truth! You ask, ‘Will I be condemned if I do not observe them to the letter, tho I do not reject them?’

First, don’t be in terror of God. He won’t condemn you—but you could condemn yourself. Remember God LOVES you. His way is RIGHT *for you*. And remember, too, ‘Not the hearers, but the DOERS of the law shall be justified.’ God commands His ways because they are BEST *for us*. To accept them mentally, but reject them in doing, is to reject THE WAY to happiness and eternal life. Try to find JOY in God’s better ways. Quit FEARING people and their opinions and ridicule, which will not come to the extent you imagine anyway.”

Only One GOAL

“There’s only one GOAL in life that can be satisfying and result in ultimate success—to ATTAIN TO THE RESURRECTION IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. We are mere temporary mortals, now. You need to have patience and tolerance toward people—real love toward them, even the supposedly highly educated—not FEAR of them. Now, to attain the supreme GOAL, you have to GO TO WORK AT IT. You have to become a busy, enthusiastic DOER, not merely a hearer of God’s truth. You need to put your heart, your enthusiasm, your whole life into it. You indicate you have been just *waiting* for Christ’s coming—waiting it out. Meanwhile life is burdensome, full of weighty problems, upset by fears. ‘This isolation,’ you say, ‘is not pleasant.’

“I remember, when I was eight years old, being taken to church and just hav-

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 scattered abroad, and
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 at Ambassador College*

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ing to sit there for hours, with no program, no activity, nothing to do—just SIT, waiting the old century out, and the new century in—just waiting it out! That was almost 55 years ago, and the unpleasant ordeal of it lingers still as a most unpleasant aftertaste. Just to wait out something is stark boredom. YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO, young lady—why not find it, and get so busy with it—so wrapped up in it—you have no time for all this dread, fear, and unhappy state you've permitted your mind to drift into?

"That job is dual—building a godlike CHARACTER, overcoming SELF, growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ, on the one hand, and contributing YOUR PART in the closing WORK OF GOD, the greatest, most wonderful, most important activity on earth, on the other. Perhaps your only part, for now, in God's work is your constant prayers and your tithes and offerings. But even that is a most important part—far more, I realize, than our co-workers know! We are having our part in CHANGING the world. Tho I know the world pays little real heed to the Message from God right now, yet when God supernaturally moves to shake this earth, as people have heard me proclaim in advance, *then* they will turn, by the hundreds of thousands, to God and His ways! We are doing the job now of plowing up the ground, sowing the seed. God will cause the seed to sprout forth, and produce an abundant harvest, *after* our labors are over! It's the greatest job on earth. We ought to be THRILLED with it, filled with JOY in being part of it—so INTENT on our

happy job that the ridicule and scorn of the ignorant in this world, coming from those whom we really love and serve, and yet must endure and tolerate, never ruffles us at all. We love them enough to suffer their misconstructions, for their sakes."

Keep Mind Off SELF

"Next, your mind is too much on YOURSELF. Get your mind on your job in this world—our calling to carry on God's mission PREPARING THE WAY for God's great supernatural intervention and SAVING this world—and the realization that, while our labors, NOW do not bring forth visible evidence of the changed and happy world to come, nevertheless this is OUR PART IN IT, *for now*, and later we shall rejoice to overflowing, when we behold THE WORLD TOMORROW, beaming and shining in happiness and joy and righteousness, and then look back and realize we actually had a part in PREPARING THE WAY for this HAPPY World Tomorrow, bursting into glad and glorious song and exultation!

"Finally, of course we cannot actually fellowship this world, socially, but must withdraw from it in that respect. Nevertheless, tho not OF this world we live in it, and must serve it in God's work, and can be all wrapped up in the joy of so doing, tho isolated in companionship and fellowship. Our fellowship is with CHRIST. Now this means you cannot date, nor marry, any outside God's truth, but only one who is converted, as a begotten son of God.

That should solve your fears of being married to an unbeliever. If you already were so married, before your conversion, then you should live with the unbelieving husband if possible—but a

child of God is commanded NOT to be unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6).

"Happiness is a state of mind—not a matter of other people, or their fellowship, their ridicule, or their praise. Happiness comes from the knowledge, the Spirit, and obedience of God—and from being SO BUSY in it—SO ENGROSSED in this glorious interest and activity, and in Bible study and prayer, that we have no time to become despondent, bored, unhappy."

How to Solve Your Problem

"I believe it would be best for you, for the coming year at least, to go ahead and enroll in the Teachers' college near you. Also to enroll for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, and make Bible study an active, busy, happy occupation. We have been forced to curtail enrollment in Ambassador College for this year, and our quota is filled. If you were to come to Pasadena, you would be thrown with a growing family of young people who know and believe the truth. Frankly, strange tho it may seem, I do not believe that is best for you right now. You have a problem—to overcome this fear of the world, and the marking-time waiting-for-the-Lord attitude which has made you unhappy. At Ambassador you would have no opportunity to overcome it or fight it off—the problem would be removed entirely. I think it's better for you, will strengthen you and develop you more, to fight out this battle and win the victory over it. A year at Teachers' college will be of great benefit, if you should later come to Ambassador, for we shall need teachers in the future.

"Meanwhile, perhaps you can start attending regular church services at the Tabernacle near Gladewater. It is 8 miles west of Gladewater on Highway 80. Our private driveway back to the Tabernacle grounds is marked by a sign 'PRIVATE GROUNDS—RADIO CHURCH OF GOD TABERNACLE,' and is beside the restaurant and cabins at that place. . . . The Feast of Tabernacles will be held there beginning sunset October 11th, and ending sunset October 19—8 days. Mrs. Armstrong and I return from Europe just in time for this, arriving from New York at Gladewater the morning of the 11th, and I should like to have a talk with you then. Be sure to look up Mrs. Armstrong, or Ted Armstrong, tell them who you are, and they will get you into my room there.

"Just forget SELF, give your life wholly to GOD for Him to USE, lose yourself in the activity of the DOING, trust God, ask Him for wisdom and guidance, rely on Him, and all your problems will be solved."

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO ALL OF EUROPE:

RADIO LUXEMBOURG — 23:30
 Mondays, Greenwich time.

TO ASIA AND AFRICA: RADIO
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ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTINENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:
 XEG—1050 on dial, every night,
 8:30 P.M. Central Std. time.
 Other stations at usual time.

AN OPEN LETTER

to our newly begotten brethren recently baptized

by Herbert W. Armstrong

GREETINGS! newly baptized Brethren in Christ Jesus:

There is joy and rejoicing among the angels in heaven over your repentance and having been begotten to a lively hope as *children of God* thru Jesus Christ our Lord!

And there is new joy in the hearts of ALL our true brethren and co-workers in Christ over your recent conversion from the desires and will of the flesh and the ways and customs of the world, to the government of God in your life now, that you may have reward in His Kingdom at the coming of Christ, in the World Tomorrow!

You will Meet Trials

You have entered upon a new life—a life of great happiness and joy—a life to continue FOREVER—yet, in this present evil world it will not be an easy life.

As a matter of fact you have left behind the “easy way”—the popular, broad road that leads to destruction. You have passed the cross-roads and turned off onto the narrow, rutty, bumpy, rocky and HARD and DIFFICULT road which very few people in this world ever are willing to enter—but which leads to SUCCESS, to USEFULNESS, to HAPPINESS, JOY, and ETERNAL LIFE.

It leads to rewards—not of idleness and ease, but to usefulness and service and accomplishment and success—so great that I know your mind can't possibly grasp it, now. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE!

It won't come easy! All your temptations, trials, persecutions and hardships will come from *other people*—or from the devil—or from the consequences of sin, which means violations of God's laws and ways. You must remember you still have to live in a world organized and living in disregard of God's laws—a world governed by the sway of Satan, and according to the impulses of pride and vanity, the lusts of the flesh, and the greed and tempers of human nature. If you were still OF this

world, the world would love its own. But because you have renounced this world and its ways, and are no longer OF it, the world will hate you, persecute you, turn against you, even as it hated and persecuted your Saviour before you.

Why You Must Suffer

“My PEACE I give unto you . . . that my JOY might remain in you, *and that your joy might be full,*” said Jesus. “These things have I spoken unto you that *in me* ye might have PEACE. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

You will meet many afflictions—trials, tests, troubles—even more than before. But, if you trust in Him, the Eternal will deliver you out of them ALL (Psalm 34:19). ALL who will live Godly in Jesus Christ shall suffer persecution. (II Tim. 3:12).

But WHY? Because God has called you to surrender your life to HIM—to GIVE your life into HIS HANDS—that He may transform you into a perfect, holy, righteous CHARACTER. God is CREATOR! And now, with your consent, according to your own free will, you have placed yourself in His Hands to CHANGE you—to CREATE out of you the Supreme Masterpiece of all His Creation!

And CHARACTER means SELF-DIRECTION WITH GOD'S HELP INTO GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. You'll find it is a new and different way of life from the way you have lived up to now. It means SELF-DENIAL! It means SELF-DISCIPLINE!

It means resisting all that is evil or wrong in your nature. It means *breaking up wrong habits*—rooting them out of your life—and instilling into your life NEW habits—and *making these newer right ways fixed HABIT*.

This is not easy. It takes WILL POWER. It requires DETERMINATION.

Besides all this, God will permit trials and tests to come upon you—severe problems. He will permit CIRCUMSTANCES to drive you to HIM for HELP—for deliverance! You may soon think no one in the world is troubled like you are. You will begin to wonder why you have greater trouble to face than anyone else on earth—not realizing that all other real Christians are going thru the same tests! Perhaps closest relatives will turn against you, probably because of the Word of God—the TRUTH you have embraced and started to live.

But, if you learn the lesson of FAITH—and if you have PATIENCE—you may KNOW that you will be delivered out of every trouble that comes up. God has PROMISED to deliver you from every trial—if you obey and trust Him. You see, you are now His very own child—actually begotten of Him just as much as you were begotten of your human father. When God gave you the precious gift of His Holy Spirit—placed His Spirit within you to renew your mind, give you a sounder, more understanding mind, fill you with His love; faith, patience, power, goodness—His own character, in short, you became an actual begotten SON—or daughter—of GOD. Not merely a creature or being He created—but His very own child, actually begotten of Him by His seed, so to speak—His SPIRIT, entering within you. He is now *your FATHER!* Not figuratively, but actually—REALLY!

Now you can go to Him just as any child can go to his father, for counsel and advice, for wisdom, for direction, for HELP in any time of need. Would a good human father deny his own child any good thing the child might really need? Neither will your heavenly Father

COMING NEXT ISSUE!

The concluding installment of Mr. Armstrong's series on the meaning of the annual festivals.

deny you anything that is really for your good. If a human father heard the screams of his child, ran and found his child imprisoned in a burning building, would he break inside and rescue his child from danger? Your heavenly Father has given you His written PROMISE to deliver you from every danger, trouble, or trial—if you call on Him, obey Him and RELY on Him!

Since you are now a real begotten child of God—now one of the FAMILY of God, which is His true Church—you are one of His heirs. Angels are not sons, but servants. And a servant is not an heir like a son. You are now a co-heir with Christ, to inherit, with Him, ALL THINGS—eternal life, this earth as an everlasting possession, eternal happiness and joy!

But we are now only heirs—only begotten sons. And just as it was necessary for us to grow physically from the time we were begotten in our mothers' wombs until we developed ready to be born, finally separated from the dependence on the mother for nourishment and sustenance, and coming into individual and separate existence, so the begotten spiritual infant must grow and develop spiritually, being fed the spiritual food, the Word of God, by the Mother of us all, the true Church, until, at the coming of Christ we shall be CHANGED, finally BORN of God, to have eternal life inherent in ourselves, and to be actual INHERITORS and POSSESSORS of the wonderful Kingdom of God!

In order to GROW in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord (II Peter 3:18), in order to develop spiritually and overcome, and have perfected in you the

CHARACTER of God ready to be fully BORN of God, you must do two things daily without fail!

You must not only read, but eagerly, earnestly STUDY the Word of God to learn how to live—you must live according to God's teachings in His Bible—you must make it your guide for everything you do. In this way, God talks to you!

But you must also talk to Him! You must go to a private place, alone with God, and have long talks with Him—yes, EVERY DAY! Unburden your heart to Him. Take all your problems, your interests, your plans, your troubles to Him. Talk over everything with Him, continually. Then, even when going about your work—when walking down the street—when driving your car, or wherever you are or whatever you do, talk with God as you work, or as you drive or walk along. Go to a private place, and kneel in prayer (on both knees) as often as you can, and at least once every day. But talk with God often

in between. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

Keep close to Him. You can't afford to be without the SECURITY of His constant guidance and protection.

God's Vacation Plan

(Continued from page 6)

dant life. He kept God's annual festivals from His youth (Luke 2:41-42), and He rejoiced in them as God directs. This is certainly the kind of vacation Jesus took. And it is the happiest possible solution to your vacation problem.

As most of you know, God's annual festivals are now held at our large Tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas. The location there is beautiful, the climate is ideal, and Gladewater is located in the very center of our heaviest listening area for the broadcast.

Make your plans now to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year which begins at sunset, October 11, and lasts for eight days. Write us for information immediately. It is an experience you will never forget!

God in His infinite wisdom knew that His children should congregate with instruction and Christian fellowship. That is why God BLESSED us by giving us His annual festivals! We should appreciate this love God has lavished on us by saving the tithe that He commands for His holy days.

Then, let's be there!

God has made your presence possible IF you do your part! Are you willing?

HOLY DAY CALENDAR FOR 1954

Festival of Trumpets, Tuesday, September 28.

Day of Atonement, fast day, Thursday, October 7.

Festival of Tabernacles, begins sunset, Monday, October 11, ends sunset, Tuesday, October 19.

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