

What Is the *True "Gospel"*?

Just What Do You Mean, the "Kingdom of God"?

Is the "Kingdom of God" the Church? Just what is the true gospel message Jesus Christ brought? Is it about a future kingdom which shall be set up on this earth? Or is it here, now? Is the "Church" the Kingdom of God?

William F. Dankenbring

What is the true gospel -- that is, "good news" -- that Jesus Christ brought to planet earth? What is the gospel all about? Why do we call it the "gospel," anyway? And why do so many different churches teach so many different "gospels"?

The *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary* states of the word "gospel," that it comes from the Old English word *godspell*, meaning "good" (*gods*) and "tale" or "talk" (*spell*). It is literally the good talk or good spoken word.

The dictionary says, further, this word means "the good news concerning Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation."

But Just What IS the "Gospel"?

It is very important that we know, and understand this! The apostle Paul warned us strongly, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth *another Jesus*, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, *or ANOTHER GOSPEL*, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (II Cor.11:3-4).

This warning is meant to alert us to the fact that there are FALSE GOSPELS, masquerading as the true gospel of Christ, but they are satanic counterfeits!

Paul also warned the Galatians, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ UNTO ANOTHER GOSPEL: Which is not [really] another [totally]; but there be some that trouble you, and would *pervert the gospel* of Christ" (Gal.1:6-7). Paul went on, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other gospel* unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I

now again, if any man preach *any other gospel* unto you than that ye have received, let him be ACCURSED" (Gal.1:8-9).

Strong words, those!

How, then, can we recognize the TRUE gospel?

The True Gospel Explained!

Jesus Christ Himself gave the answer. He told the crowds listening to Him, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me*" (John 5:39).

What do the Scriptures say? What is the true gospel? How does the BIBLE identify it?

We read in the book of Mark, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, *preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD*, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the *kingdom of God* is at hand: repent ye, and *believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:14-15).

And in the book of Matthew, we read, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and *preaching the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matt.4:23).

Notice again! Matthew tells us, "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching *the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing every sickness, and every disease among the people" (Matt.9:35).

How clear! The TRUE gospel is the "gospel" or "good news" of the kingdom of God! This clearly is the good news that a future kingdom -- a future government -- called the kingdom or realm of God Himself -- is coming. The Jewish people refer to it often as the "Messianic kingdom," or the "Kingdom of the Messiah." It is the good news that God himself is going to establish HIS kingdom and government upon the earth!

This is the message of the entire Bible! This same gospel was preached by the early apostles and the early Church. We read in the book of Acts that Philip, the evangelist, preached this very same gospel. Notice! "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. . . . But when they believed Philip preaching the *things concerning the kingdom of God*, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women" (Acts 8:5, 12).

When Paul came to the city of Ephesus, he "went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of about three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the *kingdom of God*" (Acts 19:8). Later, when he was about to depart from Ephesus, Paul reminded them, "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone *preaching the kingdom of God*, shall see my face no more" (Acts 20:25).

And finally, while in Rome, Paul also preached the same message -- the same gospel! We read, "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified *the kingdom of God*, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23).

Luke continues, "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came unto him, *PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD*, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him" (Acts 28:30-31).

Isn't it plain that the TRUE gospel is the "gospel of the Kingdom of God"?

But just what does preaching this gospel involve? What is included in this message about God's coming Kingdom?

The Kingdom of God Defined

Just what is the "Kingdom of God"?

Many Old Testament prophets define it for us. They preached about it constantly. Daniel was inspired to write about the future empires of the earth, culminating in the establishment of a kingdom ruled by ten kings, represented by the ten toes of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (see Dan.2:1-43). Daniel declared, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand *for ever*" (v.44).

In Daniel 7 we read more about this coming divine Kingdom! Daniel records, "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan.7:13-14).

Clearly, this is a LITERAL KINGDOM which shall be set up on this earth! Notice! It will have a KING (the Messiah). It will rule over people (its subjects -- the population of planet earth). It will rule over a territory -- the earth itself, where the nations and languages exist.

But who will help the Messiah -- Christ Himself -- rule over this "Kingdom"?

Daniel goes on: "But the SAINTS of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (verse 18). The leaders, the rulers, of this kingdom, will be the SAINTS, made immortal!

The apostle John tells us further, that the saints -- the redeemed -- shall sing a song to

God, in the future, saying, "[Thou -- the Lamb of God] has made us unto our God *kings and priests: and we shall REIGN ON THE EARTH*" (Revelation 5:10).

The saints will rule the earth, under Christ, as His priestly kings, teaching the nations the ways, laws, and truths of God. John writes also: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the *nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken in shivers: even as I received of my Father*" (Rev.2:26-27).

And how will the saints rule? How will they govern the earth?

Notice! Isaiah prophesied of this coming Kingdom: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the LAW, and the WORD of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations . . . Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Four Elements of Every Kingdom

In order to have a "kingdom," there of course must be a "king." Jesus Christ -- Yeshua the Messiah -- will be that King! John records in the book of Revelation, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness doth he judge and make war. . . . And he was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. . . . And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev.19:11-16).

There must also be subjects -- the people of planet earth --every nation under heaven! (Micah 4:1-4).

There must be a territory -- which will be the earth itself! "And the LORD shall be king over all the EARTH" (Zechariah 14:9).

And there must be a system of Government -- a system of laws, whereby the nations will be governed and judged. Those laws will be the teachings of the Scriptures -- the covenantal laws God has made available to mankind -- the Torah (teachings) of Scripture! "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth . . . And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isaiah 11:4-5).

God says through Jeremiah, "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith the LORD, I will put MY LAW in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD:

for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jer.31:33-34).

The TRUE gospel message, then, includes the TRUTH about the divine King, Jesus Christ, and the price He paid for our salvation -- dying for our sins on the cross (John 3:16; I Cor.5:7; II Cor.5:21). It includes the way of salvation -- believing on Christ as personal Saviour, repenting of sin, and being baptized, and receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), which God gives to them that OBEY Him (Acts 5:32).

The TRUE gospel message also includes the TRUTH about the second coming of Christ, to establish His Kingdom in the earth, and the TRUTH about who will be in that Kingdom, who will be its subjects, and the eternal, indivisible, immutable LAWS of that Kingdom -- the judgments, statutes, and commandments of Almighty God!

Isn't that plain?

The Church Is NOT the Kingdom!

When Jesus was about to return to heaven, they asked Him pointedly, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the KINGDOM to Israel?" (Acts 1:6) Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. BUT you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (verses 7-8).

It is the Church's commission to preach the gospel to every person possible. That is what we are to be doing UP UNTIL the Kingdom of God arrives, when Christ Himself returns! How clear, however, that the Church is NOT the Kingdom! That Kingdom will come when Christ returns (Rev.11:15-18).

We are living in the interim time BEFORE the Kingdom of God is restored. "He [Jesus] must remain in heaven UNTIL THE TIME COMES for God to restore EVERYTHING, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets" (Acts 3:21). One of the things He will "restore" is the Kingdom of God on this earth!

Jesus Himself gave us a parable explaining this truth. Notice!

"While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the Kingdom of God was going to appear at once [at that time]. He said: 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. "Put this money to work," he said, "until I come back." But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, "We don't want this man to be our king." He was made king, however, and returned home.

"Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. The first one came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned ten more." "Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. "Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities." The

second came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned five more." His master said, "You take charge of five cities." Then another servant came and said, "Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow."

"His master replied, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?" Then he said to those standing by, "Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas." "Sir," they said, "he already has ten!" He replied, "I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them -- bring them here and kill them in front of me"" (Luke 19:11-27).

Notice! Jesus went to Heaven to RECEIVE the Kingdom -- to be CROWNED as our King! Meanwhile, while He sojourns in Heaven, the Church has a DUTY to perform, BEFORE He returns with the Kingdom of God! That duty is to multiply our talents, use our energies, to preach the gospel everywhere -- to bear witness to the TRUTH! That is YOUR duty; that is MY duty; that is the duty of EVERYONE of us who are members of the spiritual "body of Christ," His spiritual CHURCH!

The Church is NOT the Kingdom; rather, the Church PREACHES the KINGDOM!

It is the *MESSENGER OF THE KINGDOM!*

But those "apostates" who do not serve Christ in truth, who bury their "mina" and do not DO the "Work" of God, who do not busily engage themselves to produce FRUIT or "profit" for the KINGDOM of God, through abiding in Christ and USING His Spirit daily in their lives, they will suffer the fate of the wicked and slothful servant who accomplished nothing for God, who just "sat on" his mina and pouted. They will lose their lives in the lake of fire, and be consumed to smoke, ashes and dust! (Mal.4:1-2).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Before Joseph Tkach took over the reins of the Worldwide Church of God, in January 1986, the teaching of the Church was that the Kingdom of God will be set up on this earth by Jesus Christ when He returns (Dan.2:40-44; 7:27; Acts 1:6-7; 3:19-21; II Thess.1:7-10; Luke 19:12-27; Rev.2:26-27, 5:10; 20:4). Herbert Armstrong wrote,

"When Christ comes, he is coming as KING of kings, ruling the whole earth (Rev. 19:11-16); and HIS KINGDOM -- *the KINGDOM OF GOD* -- said Daniel, is to CONSUME all these worldly kingdoms. . . This is THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It is the END of present governments . . . They then shall *become* the kingdoms -- the GOVERNMENTS -- of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, then KING of kings over the entire earth. This makes completely PLAIN the fact that the KINGDOM OF GOD is a literal GOVERNMENT. Even as the Chaldean Empire was a KINGDOM -- even as the Roman Empire was a KINGDOM -- so the KINGDOM OF GOD is a government. It is to take over the GOVERNMENT of the NATIONS of the world" (*Mystery of the*

Ages, p.303).

Herbert W. Armstrong clearly taught that the Kingdom of God is NOT yet on the earth, and that it will NOT be established on this planet UNTIL Jesus Christ returns in power and glory! What could be plainer?

However, *AFTER TKACH* took over the Church, the "new theology" of the "New" Worldwide Church of God repudiated in a very significant manner the truth that the Kingdom of God is still future -- and that Christ will bring it when He comes. Notice the exact words of Joseph Tkach:

". . . we must not think that the Kingdom of God is something that is only in the future . . . Yes, *THE CHURCH IS*, in a special sense, even *NOW* *THE KINGDOM OF GOD*" (WWN, May 13, 1991, emphasis mine).

Is the "Church" the Kingdom of God? Joseph Tkach says it is. That's what the Roman Catholic Church has been teaching for over a thousand five hundred years. The Catholic Church claims that it is the kingdom of God on the earth and that all human governments must submit to its authority. It is ruling "in place of Christ." Joseph Tkach has now adopted this Roman Catholic theology and made it his own.

Is the Church the "Kingdom"? The apostle Paul wrote:

"Now this I say, brethren, that FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD; neither doeth corruption inherit incorruption" (I Cor.15:50).

Joseph Tkach and his underlings have abandoned the TRUTH of God, and changed the truth into a "lie" -- the lie of Satan that the Church is the Kingdom of God! Herbert Armstrong rejected this statement.

The old lesson 2 of the Ambassador Correspondence Course, copyrighted in 1955 and 1965, entitled "Here's Good News . . . The Message Sent from Heaven," plainly stated:

"The Church is NOT the Kingdom

"Certainly the *most deeply rooted concept* is the ASSUMPTION that the CHURCHES TODAY CONSTITUTE THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and that Jesus Christ CAME the second time through the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Since Jesus declared in the gospel that He would return to rule, it is taught that Jesus committed to the apostles and their successors the right to rule and judge the nations.

"From this concept developed the practice in the Middle Ages of church rule over nations, of imposing the ecclesiastical will on the temporal rulers of this earth. THIS MADE THE CHURCH -- which called itself the kingdom of God -- a PART OF THIS WORLD, a part of this system of human rule. It OVERLOOKS the fact that Jesus said: 'My Kingdom is not of this world' -- this system (John 18:36).

"This is the age of mortal human rule guided by the influence of Satan (Luke 4:5-6).

Jesus' Kingdom is *NOT* OF THIS AGE. It is of the World Tomorrow -- 'the world to come' (Heb.2:5). . . .

"Never did Christ command His apostles to RULE THE NATIONS of this world. Instead, He COMMANDED THEM to witness and preach the gospel! . . . Christ did not return to found the Kingdom in the days of the apostles. Instead, He ordered the gospel preached to prepare the world for His return -- His INTERVENTION in human affairs and to rule this world for 1000 years! (Rev.20:4)" (pages 10-11, emphasis theirs).

The change in teaching some will perhaps claim is a subtle distinction. They may point out that the Church is God's Church and therefore He rules it, and that the members of the Church have the Spirit of God. They will claim, therefore, that in a sense the Church "is" the Kingdom of God, since it ostensibly has the government of GOD over it, whereas the government of Satan is over the world (II Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2).

This subtlety, however, misses the point that the leaders of the Church are NOT GOD -- they are HUMAN BEINGS, capable of SIN, capable of EVIL, capable of going ASTRAY! There is NO GUARANTEE that any human being will remain faithful to God till death.

On the other hand, the Kingdom of GOD will be ruled DIRECTLY BY *GOD HIMSELF*, and not by "human agents" in His stead, or for Him, or supposedly under His authority! GOD HIMSELF will rule the Kingdom of God !

Can we see the awesome difference?

The Church of God is most assuredly NOT the "Kingdom of God"! Rather, it is a "Church" -- that is, a group of "CALLED OUT ONES," as the Greek word *ecclesia*, which is translated "church" in our Bibles -- actually means, by definition! The "Kingdom of God" is not here, yet. Rather, we are expectantly, longingly, earnestly AWAITING its soon coming arrival!

Will the Real Worldwide Church of God *Please Stand Up?*

We are living in the WORST AGE OF APOSTASY that the world has ever seen! Today, even mainline denominations are endorsing homosexuality, lesbianism, and illicit sex as alternative life styles which are acceptable -- THINGS WHICH GOD HATES! Incredibly fast-moving doctrinal changes are occurring, especially in the Worldwide Church of God! Why? What does it all mean?

How quickly things change!

In a recent issue of *Watchman Expositor*, a Protestant, Evangelical newspaper which focuses on "exposing the cults," or those who disagree with mainstream Protestantism, the headline article was "What In the Worldwide Church of God Is Going On?" The authors document the many changes occurring rapid-fire in the Worldwide Church of God, and say to their own astonishment:

"Armstrong's greatest literary works, *The Incredible Human Potential*, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, *Mystery of the Ages* (said to be Armstrong's crowning achievement) and *The Missing Dimension in Sex* have since Armstrong's death been pulled from circulation and declared to contain doctrinal error by the current leadership of the Worldwide Church of God.

"The Worldwide Church is in such a rapid state of flux that their official member magazine *The Good News* for November-December 1990 supported traditional Worldwide doctrines of the Trinity and Godhead, but in less than a month these same teachings were declared 'officially obsolete' and the magazine discontinued" (*Watchman Expositor*, "Doctrinal Changes in the Worldwide Church of God," vol.8, no.5, 1991).

Michael A. Snyder, Assistant Director for Public Affairs for the Worldwide Church of God, told Watchman Fellowship that the Church is "reviewing" the teaching of British-Israelism, reworking its teachings on the goal of mankind and "no longer promulgates the statement that man can become 'God as God is God'" and states that "this is impossible for anyone to accomplish for a number of reasons." Says the *Expositor*:

"Incredibly, in the midst of this doctrinal turmoil, the Worldwide Church of God now considers it to be a 'misrepresentation' to quote its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, as a spokesman for the beliefs of its current membership" (*ibid.*).

"Officially Obsolete" Doctrines

What particularly irked the writers for the *Watchman Expositor* was the fact that they had just published a review of Worldwide Church of God doctrine, quoting the November/December 1990 *Good News* magazine regarding the Church's doctrine on the Holy Spirit and Trinity, when Michael Snyder wrote to them, saying,

". . . I must regretfully inform you that the recent profile of alleged Church beliefs in the *Watchman Expositor* is definitely not an accurate view of Church doctrine. . . .

". . . the material on the Holy Spirit that appeared in the November/December [1990] *Good News* was OFFICIALLY DECLARED

NULL AND VOID by the Church. Yet it was still quoted as being the authoritative Church position, which is not the case . . ." (*ibid.*).

Snyder went on to lament about the problem the Church faces in changing so many booklets and articles, saying, "I hope you can understand the serious logistical challenge we face in updating [??] more than 100 separate titles. That process is underway, but will take some time."

On the other hand, the *Expositor* felt "abused" and "misused" in a sense, because their February 1991 issue had quoted material from the recent November/December *Good News*, which had been published just three weeks before their own newspaper went to press! To their consternation and chagrin, they found out from Michael Snyder that even this "fresh" *Good News* article, just printed, was "officially declared null and void by the Church"!

Yes, one wonders -- WHAT IS really GOING ON in the Worldwide Church of God?

Could Herbert W. Armstrong have been so wrong so often about so many things which he taught for so many years -- *so suddenly*?

Or is there *another explanation* for the massive overhaul and unilateral changes being performed with such incredible speed and urgency?

The Greatest Apostasy of All Time

The apostle Paul foretold, "The Spirit clearly says that IN LATER TIMES SOME WILL ABANDON THE FAITH and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron" (I Tim.4:1-2). Paul also warned Timothy, "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths" (II Tim.4:3-4).

The GREAT END-TIME APOSTASY HAS BEGUN, AND GROWN, AND IS NOW PROCEEDING AT FULL WARP SPEED! It is time we WAKE UP to what is really happening all around us, and to the Worldwide Church of God! It's time to SNAP OUT of it!

"Obituary of the Church"?

Oh how I wish I could literally SHAKE some of you -- including some of you dear, old-time, long-time friends! *What's the matter with you?* Why can't you see the plain truth? How has the Devil besmirched your vision, and clouded your brain, and atrophied your mental capacities?

What's happened to you?

Paul instructed Timothy that such times would come. He warned, "And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will *COME TO THEIR SENSES* and *ESCAPE from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will*" (II Tim.2:24-26).

The Worldwide Church of God, and every other apostatizing Church of this era and time, has fallen victim to God's warning and condemnation in Titus 1:16 -- "They profess that they know God, but in **WORKS THEY DENY HIM**, being *abominable*, and **DISOBEDIENT**, and unto every good work *reprobate*" (Titus 1:16).

The apostle John warns us, in plain words that we must "**CONTEND** for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3). He writes, "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; **SNATCH OTHERS FROM THE FIRE AND SAVE THEM**; to others show mercy, mixed with fear -- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh" (Jude 20-23).

People sometimes ask me, "Why do you write so much about the Worldwide Church of God?" One person accused *Prophecy Flash* of being "The Obituary" of the Worldwide Church of God. Some reason, "If it is a **DEAD** Church, then why bother with it? Why not just forget it, and go on about your own business?"

But I cannot remain silent. For thirty years I fellowshiped with people who, like me, believed in the Word and commandments of God. Our understanding may not have been perfect in every point. We were wrong on some things, as God has shown me. But we were sincere; our hearts were right. We were sincerely serving God, and going through countless trials and tests, while God built our faith and trust in Him.

But now I see the very Church of God becoming splintered and split, riven with false doctrines, riddled with **NEW** doctrinal **ERROR**, and repudiating the very proven truths that God used to **BUILD HIS WORK** in these end times, before it began straying off the path!

How can I remain silent? I **YEARN** for my friends and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus to **REPENT!** My heart yearns for them to come to their senses, and to admit their lukewarmness and their guilt, before God, and to **EARNESTLY REPENT** before it is too late! Many of my former dear friends, I fear, will soon be suddenly cast -- violently hurled -- straight into the fire of the Great Tribulation!

God's Command to His Watchmen

Could I remain silent, and uncaring, at such a time? Could I just fold up my tent and steal away quietly, and leave them to their "mess." God forbid! **GOD FORBID!** Rather, as Jeremiah wrote, "His word is in my heart like a **FIRE**, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary

of holding it in; indeed, I cannot" (Jer.20:9).

Rather, as Micah says, "But as for me, I AM FILLED WITH POWER, WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, and with justice and with might, to *DECLARE* to Jacob his *transgression*, to Israel his SIN" (Micah 3:8). I cannot keep silent about these things. I dare not keep silent. Then God would hold me responsible for NOT WARNING His people!

Should I simply ignore the antics and perversions of doctrine in the Worldwide Church of God, Church of God, International, and others? Is that the "Christian" thing to do? Some say that I am guilty of "fault-finding" and have a "critical" attitude which is not "Christian."

Is this true? Am I just a "nit picker"? Am I guilty of gossip and "fault-finding"? Shouldn't I just "drop the subject," and let them "live in peace," as it were, and quit discussing the volatile events that are occurring?

Is *that* all there is to it?

"Cry ALOUD, Spare Not"

The blood of God's people cries out for vengeance, retribution, justice and vindication, and exoneration. Those who have been bitterly mistreated, misjudged, falsely disfellowshipped, and stripped of their families, their possessions, and now even stripped of the truth of God, CRY OUT!

God commands me, "SHOUT IT ALOUD, *do not hold back*. Raise your voice like a *TRUMPET*. Declare to my people their REBELLION and to the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa.58:1).

Those brothers and sisters who are being severely misled and deceived are headed straight for the greatest time of suffering this world has ever seen or experienced. Oh how I would like to save some -- as many as possible. Oh how I would like to -- as my wife puts it -- "jerk a knot in their tails!" God's Word says, "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, *and those who lead many to righteousness*, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). Proverbs says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Prov.11:30).

No, I won't leave this matter alone, because I desire to SAVE as many people as I possibly can, from the jaws of destruction, from the burning fiery Tribulation, and from the smoldering, simmering Lake of Fire which lies on ahead!

How could I possibly "hold back"?