Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

Here is irrefutable evidence that identifies the ONE TRUE CHURCH—the church Jesus said He WOULD build!

by Roderick C. Meredith

Can you really prove to yourself, and to others who may be willing to learn, that you are in God’s church? Can you show—step by step—how totally different God’s church is from all others, and why it is different?

God commands Christians to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

This church—God’s church—is doing that. Through God’s calling you have been led to realize that the message you hear on “The World Tomorrow” broadcast, and the articles you read in The Plain Truth are the very work of God—that they are the direct instruments of the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth.

And now, through the articles in The Good News magazine, and perhaps after attending some of the annual festivals, you have come to realize that this is not only God’s work—but also His Church—THE VERY CHURCH JESUS SAID HE WOULD BUILD (Mar. 16:18).

But we know there are many churches which claim to be the true church—the church Jesus built. In past articles, we have already shown you absolute proof that God’s church began on the day of Pentecost, June 18, 31 A.D.—not on some other date which groups of men pretending to be God’s church have concocted contrary to the scriptural revelation. And we have set forth the historical evidence which reveals that God’s church has continued from the time of Christ until now, and that it has always remained faithful to the basic teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

Vital Knowledge

Now you are about to read seven basic truths which identify God’s church and set it apart from all others. No other people on earth have ALL SEVEN—or, for that matter, even three—of these fundamental principles, except God’s church, our church.

Some smaller churches and sects do seem to have more of the truth than the great denominations. But none has more than one or two of these seven fundamentals correct—and even these points they usually twist or distort because they fail to understand their relation to God’s plan as a whole.

Study these seven principles carefully. They will help you recognize God’s people wherever you may find them—in church history, or in different individuals or groups you may hear about or come in contact with.

Most important, this knowledge should cause you to understand as never before the GREAT GULF that exists between God’s church and all others—that this is not just “another church” or a “new idea”—but the very church Jesus built!

Knowing these principles will help you prove this to others who may be sincerely trying to find God’s truth!

Jesus said that in the end time, our time, “There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, IF it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Mat. 24:24).

It is the solemn duty of God’s called ministers to feed His sheep, the “elect,” with the spiritual “meat” they need so they may grow to spiritual maturity, and remain not deceived. And it is your responsibility to study, and prove these truths so that you may never be deceived in this time when the Devil himself is stirred against God’s people and is trying in every possible way to deceive or mislead them.

So STUDY these points carefully!

1) God Is Ruler

The first point which God’s church recognizes as no other is that God is supreme RULER of the universe, the world,
His church, and our individual lives here and now.

In Daniel’s time, God abased the great king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, by causing him to become insane and to dwell with wild beasts,” till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will” (Dan. 5:21).

In Acts 17:16-31, we read the account of how Paul spoke of God to the heathen philosophers at Athens. He told them that God: “Hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation” (verse 26). Here we find it is God who determines the times of a peoples greatness, and He sets the bounds of their territory.

Throughout the Bible, it is revealed that God’s purpose stands—He alone rules supreme. And if man wishes to continue living, he must learn to obey that rule!

No matter what the atheists, the doubtors, the modernists, and those who follow man’s traditions think, we in God’s church must both learn and live this truth first of all.

Rules Church

The rule of God also operates in His church. While men have concocted every imaginable type of church government, the Bible sets forth the true form clearly.

God’s government is always from the top down. Jesus Christ is the living head of the church. Paul was inspired to write that God, “gave him (Christ) to be the head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22). And again, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church” (Eph. 5:23).

In I Cor. 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11 we find listed the offices God has set in His church. In Ephesians, the account is more complete in regard to the offices of authority in the church. We read: “And he (Christ) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the body of Christ.”

We find in the New Testament examples that the prophets had no authority to rule the church or direct the work of others in the ministry—unless they also held an administrative office in the church.

Offices of Authority

So that means that the officers of authority in God’s form of church government are: First, apostles, whom we find are directly chosen of God for that office and who are in authority over all lesser offices in God’s church. They are responsible to Christ—the living, active head of the church—for instructing, correcting, and directing the church, and for organizing and supervising the carrying out of the gospel ministry of the church.

Secondly, there are evangelists, who are appointed and trained by the apostles, whose authority they are under. In the New Testament church, they were usually younger men such as Timothy and Titus, and would often accompany and assist the apostles in their ministry—sometimes being sent on a mission alone or stationed in one place temporarily as a presiding pastor over other local pastors and elders.

Third, there are pastors, who preside over and preach to local congregations. They are under the authority of the evangelists and may be appointed by them.

Fourth, there are teachers, who are non-preaching elders under the authority of the pastors, but who may preside over and direct and teach the local congregations if there is no preaching minister available. These would usually be lay members of the congregation, but are nevertheless in an office of authority in God’s church and have their share of responsibility in directing, edifying, and protecting God’s church—the “little flock.”

The term “elder” is usually applied to this last class of non-preaching ministers, but it is also a general term applied to any of the four principal administrative offices mentioned above. Even the apostle Peter was “also an elder” (I Pet. 5:1).

Besides these administrative offices there are various “helps” and “governments” (or governors) mentioned in I Cor. 12. These would include deacons and deaconesses, and many others who serve in the work of the gospel—perhaps without any specific title—but nonetheless laying up for themselves great “treasure” in heaven.

As explained in previous articles in The Good News, the apostles, evangelists, and elders have been given authority by Christ to rule His church. They are given authority to “bind” or “loose”—applying God’s laws—not human reason—to specific cases within the church. Occasionally, as in the council mentioned in Acts 15, they must make a binding decision regarding some particular point which may not be clearly and specifically explained in the Bible.

In all these matters, they are to seek God’s guidance and seek His will. Christ has “set in office, and He is responsible to guide them in ruling His church.

This is God’s government in His church, and all who are truly converted will obey that government. But it is all to be administered in love, and for the edification and spiritual perfection of all concerned.

Denominations of men have “congregational,” “episcopal,” and many other human devised forms of church government. But they will not have God’s form.

This thing of government and obedience is vital to God. It is the very basis of God’s plan in preparing us for His kingdom. And He will guide us only if we do things His way.

No other church on earth has God’s form of church government! No other church is really ruled by God and belongs to Him!

God Rules Our Lives

Many people acknowledge, at least in theory, that God is over-all Ruler of the world and of His church. But they have not yet fully learned that if we are ever to be "saved"—born into God’s kingdom, He must literally rule our individual, personal lives.

Jesus Christ said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). Jesus magnified that Word and showed how we are to live even by the spirit or intent of God’s Word.

God’s church is composed of those individuals “which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:17).

God repeats this same principle in Rev. 14:12: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

A real Christian will obey God’s commandments and he will have the very faith—"Jesus—he will have Christ living His life in him through the Holy Spirit. And remember: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). So He will be keeping the same weekly and annual Sabbaths, observing the same kind of sealings, totally surrendered life that He did nearly two thousand years ago when He trod this earth in human flesh.

A truly converted person will obey even the least of the commandments, for as Jesus said: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Mat. 5:19).

Such a Christian will seek to glorify God in everything—in the way he walks, talks, dresses, in the manner he does his work, in the way he sits down, stands up, closes a door. In every thought, word, and action he will seek to do it as Jesus would—praying for His guidance constantly, and earnestly studying God’s Word to find more instruction, correct (Please continue on page 4)
I have just arrived from London with news that ought to startle you! In London I expected to hear the languages of many lands uttered on street corners and in hotel lobbies. For there are always travelers from India, Africa, Arabia and the European continent—not to mention the American with his accent!

But the most important tongue I heard was that of the German. It is astounding to realize the influence of German traders and commercial agents abroad—in England as elsewhere. And to think that only ten years have elapsed since World War II ended.

The "Forgotten" Germans

It seems that in Western dealings with the German nation there are always the "forgotten" Germans. They are forgotten because of a peculiar blindness which afflicts our way of thinking. This blindness has produced two fundamental errors.

Our first error developed during the past World War. Almost everyone ended up hating all Germans. It became a racial matter quite different from our present attitude toward Russia—which is to distinguish between the communist party and the Russian people. Nearly everyone wanted to forget the minority of "good" Germans—those who did not agree with Hitler—those who did not join the Nazi Party even under duress. Those were the "forgotten" Germans!

But everything is changed now—there is a new class of "forgotten" Germans—the Nazi businessmen abroad. And this leads us to our second error.

Blind hatred breeds ignorance—it breeds an unwillingness to face reality. Millions hated "good" Germans and "bad" Germans alike. Then the reality dawned! The millions became conscious that they shouldn't have hated as they did. How were they to rectify their mistake? By facing reality? Not at all!

But by trusting all Germans—the "bad" as well as the "good." This is our second error and it will prove our undoing!

"Ex-Nazis" Become Businessmen Abroad

In Britain, as elsewhere, the people have tried hard to forget the stern realities of the past. Almost universally the people are being swayed by American influence into following the mistaken concept that the last war reformed the minds and hearts of Germans everywhere.

The die-hard Nazis are taking advantage of this attitude.

The British equivalent of the American F.B.I.—Scotland Yard—and provincial detectives have uncovered mountains of evidence of secret Nazi gatherings in Great Britain. Many of these secret meetings have been held in such important cities as Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, according to published reports.

Those in attendance are mainly German students, who have been granted opportunities to study in Britain, and German girls, who work in hospitals, private homes, or as teachers. Though these young people were too young to join the Nazi Party in the height of its power, they provide excellent material for Nazi indoctrination.

The leader of these Nazi cells now being organized is a 40-year-old German who poses as a commercial traveler. When questioned by newsmen he bluntly denied that he was a Nazi—or that he spoke German or had ever been to Germany. He resided in England during the last war—just in case Hitler would lose. His attempts to revive the defunct Nazi regime are obvious. He is in contact, through a woman companion, with Otto Strasser, former leader of the German "Strasser Party," a segment within the Hitler Party, and with Wolfgang Sarg, present leader of the Nazi Revivalist Party.

When questioned by William Blackley, of the Sunday Chronicle, about his connections, he said: "The Germans are our good friends. Britain has agreements with Germany that prove it. The Communists are the menace. Why should I direct a Nazi Party in Britain while we have such a brotherhood with the German nation?"

German Efficiency Provokes Admiration

Together with Germany's "peace" offensive, German efficiency has inspired mighty admiration abroad—from both British and American onlookers. And the die-hard Nazis are taking advantage of this influence too. Rather than being antagonized by competition, our people are being induced to expand German economy as a means of protection against Communist aggression.

As Mr. A. V. Sellwood recently wrote: "Let us face it, they"—by that he meant the Germans—"they work far harder than the average Briton. They are efficient too. . . . There can be no stopping the Germans in their march towards prosperity through sheer determination, skill, and resourcefulness. The whole world will feel their competition."

"And with this revival of German industrial might there may develop the old ambition to be a great military power once again."

He continues: "I do know that those old enemies must now be treated as friends—however much doubt there may be in our hearts of the wisdom of it."

"Whether we like it or not, we have to trust the Germans. There is no alternative."

This is the typical British and American attitude. It is a grave mistake.

We never really corrected our first mistake—our failure to distinguish between good and bad. And so we are making the same mistake again—failing to distinguish between the bad and the good, humanly speaking.

We do not want to face the reality that, underneath the surface, Nazism lies sprouting in the hearts of millions: and that many German businessmen are foreign agents.

The Hand of the Catholic Church in Politics

Whenever we speak of a Nazi revival, we do not mean the same kind of Nazism that was totally defeated ten years ago. That form of fascism cannot be revived again. Instead, we see the form of a different Nazism emerging, a form guided by the hand of the Papacy.

For example, the German Secret Service is trailing the underground Nazi organizations and has dispersed several attempts at reviving the party politically. Behind this Secret Service move is the

(Please continue on next page)
Nazi Underground Plots

(Continued from page 3)

influence of the Vatican. The Church learned through the last war not to let a political party master the State completely. The Church hereafter intends to remain supreme by balancing off the State and the common people. This struggle is now taking place in Argentina, where the Church does not intend to let Perón run the country single-handed. The Vatican will force the Argentine dictator to come to terms and sign a concordat granting the Church special privileges. The Church will see to it that Nazism will never again rise to power.

Don't think the Nazis in Argentina are oblivious to what is occurring in Argentina. The Church is testing its strength in this way the wind is blowing. When they see the Church has the power to uproot dictators, they will know that their only hope is through an alliance with the Vatican on the Church's terms.

This is what you must watch!

The Nazi underground will employ its economic, military and political power only at the Catholic Church. What is coming might be aptly described as the last revival of political Catholicism with its dreaded INQUESTION!

Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

(Continued from page 2)

tion, and proof for ourselves.

Yes, there are religious bodies who observe the Sabbath, or who observe the proper mode of baptism, or who believe in this or that other point of truth.

But there is only one church whose real members must be willing to go all the way for God—who are willing to do anything that God commands in His Word—and who are willing to grow continually in truth and obey it.

This church is God's church, and—I hope—your church. It alone is totally ruled by God.

(2) The Three Signs

There are three identifying signs that point to God's true church. Certain denominations may possess one, or in rare cases two, of these signs. But only God's church has them all. Taken together, they constitute the second proof of God's church.

The best-known of these signs is the weekly Sabbath. In Mark 2:27-28, Jesus said: "The sabbath was made for man—all mankind—and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Then the sabbath is the "Lord's day"—the day He is Lord of. Jesus said so!

After all, Jesus Christ actually created the Sabbath! For we read in John 1:3: "All things were made by him" (the Word who became Christ).

When Christ, who was the "Lord" of the Old Testament (I Cor. 10:4), called Israel to be His chosen people, He gave them the Sabbath as an identifying sign to keep them in everlasting remembrance of Him as their Creator and God. Although Israel continually broke the Sabbath and most of the world in the so-called "Christian" era has refused to keep it, Jesus did keep it setting us an example (Luke 4:16). The apostles and the early true church kept it, and it is now an identifying sign for spiritual Israelites (Gal. 3:29 and 6:16).

Some churches observe the Sabbath who are not God's churches—even the orthodox, Christ-rejecting Jews still keep it. But we automatically know that any church which does not keep the Sabbath cannot be God's church! It is rejecting the principal identifying sign of God.

The second sign is the keeping of the annual Sabbaths or Holy Days of God. These began to be instituted before the Old Covenant was ever made with Israel (Exodus 12 and 13). They were later (Please continue on page 6)
Correct ME!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Do you like to be told you're wrong about something? Chances are, you don't. Most human beings do not like to be told they're wrong! Possibly you've heard it said that one of the most difficult things for a human being to do is to admit that he's been wrong. A truer statement was never made!

To the complacent “man on the street” with the self-satisfied “this is the way I look at it” idea, it never occurs to him that perhaps there is something terribly wrong with him! Has this thought ever occurred to you? Most of us can readily see the mistakes of others, and that fact is hardly necessary to repeat—because we all know it! We're anxious to change, but—to the “average” person engulfed in his own ways, there has never occurred to him that perhaps there is something terribly wrong about something. Stop and ask yourself: “I'm terribly upset—I believe I've been wrong about my beliefs, and I think I've made a mistake in most of my opinions.” Have you? I doubt it!

God's Word Corrects

Most of us are “uplifted” by the minister that will stand in front of the group and tell us how wrong the rest of the world is. But are we willing to shake the minister's hand that will stand in the pulpit and shout at us that we’re wrong?

Many people express it this way: “Church should be an enjoyable period of relaxation and rest from our daily existence—a change. We want the minister to help us with our problems, to give us that feeling of ‘goodness’ that helps us carry on through the week to come.” But is that the Bible definition of a Church service? Let's investigate open-mindedly, and find out!

In II Timothy 3:16 we see that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. We must all agree on that statement! But what of the rest of the verse? Read it! “... and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Yes, all scripture is PROFITABLE for correction and reproof!

How many of us tuck our Bibles under our arms as a weapon against all humanity except ourselves? How many of us really know how to study our Bibles? Do you know there is a definite, clearly stated PLAN of Bible-study revealed in God’s word? The Bible itself tells us how to study it!

Be Willing to CHANGE

We all would like to be called “sons” by our Almighty Heavenly Father, wouldn’t we? God has revealed the way whereby we may be His sons through the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 55, vs. 6, 7 and 8, where the Almighty clearly tells us that we must forsake our own ways and our own thoughts! Then, after forsaking our own ways, or, in other words, after repenting, or changing from the old way, God will forgive us of our past sins, and through His own freely given GIFT will empower us with His Holy Spirit, and begin dealing with us as His own SONS! (I John 3:1). After this giving up of our own selves and our own human thoughts, ideas and customs, God will begin treating us as His very own children.

Sounds easy, doesn’t it? All we have to do is forsake our own way! But what then? Goal achieved?

Listen!

*After* this begettal as a very child of God, we are told then “... My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him” (Hebrews 12:5). But what is this? After we are made the very SONS of GOD, He is going to CHASTISE US! This wonderful twelfth chapter of Hebrews continues to tell us: “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

Do you want this scourging? Apparently not many today do—or admitting we are wrong would be one of the EASIEST things to do! To continue reading in Hebrews, “... If ye endure chastening, God dealteth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”

How plain! Read for yourself these meaningful words in your own Bible, and see how God deals with His own children!

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Yes, exercised thereby! (I remember it was not too many years ago that the kind of chastening I received from my fleshly father was literal exercise!) And so should our chastisement from our Heavenly Father become constant exercise!

Be Truly Wise

Consider the definition of a wise man given by Solomon in Prov. 15:31. “The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.” So a person with wisdom is one who accepts and does not reject—REPROOF. The great wisdom of Solomon directed him by God's divine inspiration to write: “A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke” (Prov. 13:1). However, judgments are reserved for scorners (Prov. 19:29), and the Bible definition of a scorner is “one who will not hear reproof.” So are we scorners, or the very children of God?

God's command to His ministers is to CRY ALOUD, spare not, lift up your voice and show my people their sins! (Isa. 58:1). The Apostle Paul, exhorting Timothy in the faith said: “Preach the word... reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). And again, the Apostle Paul told Titus to rebuke sharply, and to rebuke with authority! (Titus 1:13; 2:15).

And if God’s ministers are speaking with authority, and to rebuke sharply, and to rebuke with authority! (Titus 1:13; 2:15). And if God's ministers are speaking with God's authority, using His true word, which Paul described as being sharper than a two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12), their words will not comfort the people, and the word of God will be used profitably!

David was a man after God’s own heart. But God doesn't judge by the outward appearance, as does man, but God looks on the heart (I Sam. 16:7). David sinned, as do all men, but his heart was right, and he always repented bitterly. Surely if all scripture is written by direct inspiration of God and is profitable for instruction, then we can find instruction from the manner in which David
prayed. David had the thing people seem to lack today! He actually asked for righteous reproof! (Psalm 141: 5). David considered it a kindness if he received correction. How utterly unlike today's "man on the street" David must have been!

The prophet Jeremiah actually asked God for correction when he said: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing!"

FOR RIGHTEOUS REPROOF! (Psalm 141: 5). Have you been using your Bible profitably? Have you been on your knees before God asking to be shown you're wrong? Have you opened your Bible, eagerly searching for a mirror to evaluate your mistakes? Could it be that you have been wrong about something?

Why take chances? Let's all open our Bibles and say to God earnestly: "Correct me!"

Seven PROOFS of the Church of God

(Continued from page 4)

commanded to be kept FOREVER (Lev. 23:21, 31, 41).

Jesus kept the annual sabbaths, setting us an example. The New Testament church began on one of them—the day of Pentecost. And the early Christian church continued to observe them during the apostles' lives (Acts 20:6, 16; I Cor. 5:8).

These seven annual sabbaths picture the great plan of God and keep us continually in remembrance of it. The churches have lost sight of that plan because they have rejected God's annual sabbaths. But God's true church has always kept these days—and they help identify it as the very church of God.

The Correct Name

The third special sign which points to God's true church is the name. In Jesus' last prayer for His disciples, He said, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me." (John 17:11).

God's people were to be kept in the name of God. All the way through the New Testament, the true church is called by God's name—"the church of God."

Paul told the Ephesian elders: "Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20: 28). And the official title by which Paul addressed the church was: "the church of God which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1), or "the churches of God which in Judæa are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14).

Thus we see that the correct Bible name is: "the church of"—which belongs to and is ruled by—"God."

As Mr. Armstrong has explained, the present church has been incorporated as "The Radio Church of God" for very good and scriptural reasons. The present membership and work of the church in our time is not primarily "at Corinth" or "at Passadena" or "at Gladiwater." Its membership is scattered and mostly reached by radio—the principal medium used in getting out the gospel.

So in our modern day of mechanization, the church is more correctly designated by the medium it employs to reach people than by any particular location. Also, there are several different churches which happen to know this particular truth, and are called "church of God." So to prevent confusion, it is better that we are called "The Radio Church of God."

The name of God is sometimes wrongly appropriated—just as is the name of Jesus Christ. But whether false churches use it or not, scripture shows that it must be applied to God's true church: the church of God.

(3) Truth About Pagan Doctrines

God's church has always understood the truth about the many pagan doctrines that were injected into the professing Christian church during the age of the so-called early church fathers and, later, during the middle ages.

God's people know that man does not have an immortal soul—that God told Adam: "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). They know that God says: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Eze. 18:4 and 18:20).

The real people of God have never believed in the nightmarish kind of "hellfire" doctrine so often taught today. They know that the soul will die—not be tortured forever and ever. And that "the wages—or reward—of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Neither do the true children of God believe in "going to heaven"—God's throne—where Jesus clearly stated: "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he which came down from heaven, even the Son of man" (John 3:13). And again: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5).

In the Bible, and in the history of God's true church, we find that God's people have always realized the pagan idolatry and symbolism connected with the observance of Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, Halloween, etc. His people have obeyed God's command: "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10: 2).

As before mentioned, there are many churches which have—at least in part—one or two of these seven basic principles correct. This particular point about pagan doctrines is understood by several well-known denominations and sects. Yet even here we find the principle of misguided human reason at work. They have taken—as did Adam and Eve—of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—a bad mixture.

So although understanding these pagan doctrines in principle, some of these churches try to "work things out" so that they can go to heaven—even if only for a while. Or they find some excuse to have Christmas trees in their homes even though God says, "No!"

The point to remember is that every church or religious body—even the heathen in the African jungles—has some truth in its teachings. But is invariably mixed with a greater proportion of error.

Only God's church has these seven basic principles really straight. And there are undoubtedly many minor details and technicalities which we still need to learn.

But God's people are always distinguished by their willingness to grow into new truth, and to obey it as soon as it is proved.

(4) God's Power

In Mark 16:17-18, Jesus Christ stated: "These signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils (or demons); they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

The very power of the Creator is to follow—and witness to—His true church.

Throughout the book of Acts, there is abundant testimony that these signs did follow the early church of God. And in church history, we find evidence that they continued to do so.

Notice that these signs were not said to follow every believer, but to follow them—collectively—as a body. They are to follow the body of Christ—the true church.
The Bible interprets the Bible. And in the scriptural account of these signs, we find that they were usually carried out through the ministers—usually third apostles, and sometimes evangelists, elders, or deacons. Study this point in the book of Acts and you will soon see that God always worked through His ministers—not the average lay member of the congregation.

Of course God did use some women (Acts 21:9) to prophecy, or foretell future events as did Agabus (verse 11). This of course does not contradict the scriptures which forbid Christ himself “could there do no mighty signs” (Mark 6:5). And speaking of tongues or languages when this is necessary in our work, and we can see that it was exercised only in certain situations in the New Testament church.

But the Bible accounts of healing, of casting out demons, and of accidentally handling a serpent (“Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”)—all were accomplished through God’s called ministers.

When among faithless people, Jesus Christ himself “could there do no mighty work” (Mark 6:5). And speaking of our day, Jesus asks doubtfully, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

But even in this day of little faith, the signs Jesus mentioned are following God’s true church!

Scores are being healed, and demons have been cast out! Jesus didn’t brag and boast about His miracles like some of the “fake healers” of our day. How ever, we do find that the apostles would sometimes inform the converted brethren of how mightily God was working—so that all might rejoice (Acts 14:27; 15:12).

So we plan to show you brethren in future issues of the Good News how mightily God is working in His church today.

There are many fakes and pretenders, but only the true church—the very body of Christ—has the very power of Almighty God working in and through it. And let us realize how much closer to God we need to get through diligent study and earnest prayer and fasting that we might be worthy of exercising the spiritual gifts of God in far greater measure than we are now.

(5) Health Laws

This world is sick—through and through. The simple reason is that the people of the world are constantly breaking the physical laws God has set in motion which govern our bodies.

God’s children, through His word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can, above all other people, have a really true and balanced understanding of these laws of health. And through God’s power, they can have the will to obey them. And this true understanding and attitude constitute the fifth proof of God’s true church, and its great difference from all others.

God’s church understands the law of clean and unclean meats—and knows that this law was in existence at the very beginning—and involves the very nature of the meat and of our stomachs. Remember that even back before the flood, God told Noah to take into the ark seven pairs of the “clean” animals (the extra pairs undoubtedly for food) and only one pair of the “unclean.”

Knowing that we are to “live by every word of God,” we can discern from countless Bible passages the correct principles involving our diet and health.

With God’s guidance, we will not become health food “fanatics” or go to a wrong extreme in any health measure. But we will have an increased awareness of the value of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. We will learn the tremendous value of radiant health in our Christian lives.

We will learn to eat natural foods as God caused them to grow. We’ll learn to exercise, to breathe, to sleep, to do everything—even have our babies—naturally, the way God intended when He set in motion His physical laws.

With God’s Word as the sound-minded basis of our physical lives, we will glorify God in our bodies.

There are many vegetarians, exercise “friends,” health food “addicts,” and others whose ideas are totally unbalanced and contrary to scripture and in many cases contrary to the example of Jesus Christ himself, but the sensible, balanced, and right approach to health is one which only God’s true church has straight.

(6) Prophecy

You have often heard it said that fully one third of your Bible is prophetic. The sixth proof of God’s church is that it ALONE really understands Bible prophecy and the revealed future.

This may sound like a boastful statement! But hundreds of you brethren were first interested in the truth because you became interested in Mr. Armstrong’s explanations of Bible prophecy. Many of you “checked-up” to see if what he said was true.

And you found it was! I have met hundreds of our listeners from one end of this nation to the other—and many more in Europe. They all say practically the same thing: “We have never in our lives heard anyone make the prophecies as plain and clear as Mr. Armstrong does.”

WHY is this?

WHY don’t the denominations accept that tremendous key to prophecy—the truth of Israel’s identity? Why can’t they understand the book of Revelation?

WHY is it that no one else really understands and can prove what Bible prophecy says?

The answer is simple.

The Bible says: “A good understanding have all they that DO his commandments” (Psalm 111:10). And again: “The Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that OBEY him” (Acts 5:32).

The churches of this Satan-deceived world have rejected the laws and commandments of God. Therefore, He will not give them His Holy Spirit. They have cut themselves off from a “good understanding” and the spiritual mind that can come only through God’s Spirit.

The proof of prophecy is perhaps more readily seen than any other. It is becoming abundantly plain that this church—God’s church—is the only instrument that God is using to warn this world of His coming judgments—and to show why and how.

Every week God’s church—through Mr. Armstrong’s voice—is THUNDERING that warning around the world.” He that hath an ear, let him hear.”

(7) True Spirituality

The seventh proof which sets God’s true church apart from all others is its understanding and practice of—true spirituality.

The reason is simple. The members of God’s church are led by God’s Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the very nature and character of God. It is Christ living His life within us (Gal. 2:20). And He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus said: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). Again: “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Mat. 5:6).

The apostle Peter instructed us: “GROW in grace, and in the knowledge

**NOTICE!**

Due to his many added burdens of the TV production, Mr. Armstrong’s article explaining the “make-up” problem will not appear until the next issue.
the Word of God. They will accept His Spirit to guide them. Therefore, these seven principles mentioned herein will be rejected by most of you brethren may realize. 

The ANSWER is that they are unwillingly to change—unwilling to be corrected by the Word of God. They will not permit the Holy Spirit to guide them. Therefore, they CANNOT be God's churches composed of His begotten children. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). And: "For if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). Also, God's church knows that true spirituality is a WAY OF LIFE. Throughout the book of Acts, Christianity is called "this way" or "that way" (Acts 18:25-26; 19:9, 23; etc.). We are instructed: "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

God's church ALONE has demonstrated its willingness to recapture that faith—that way of life which involves the days we observe, the food we eat, the way we dress, the way we walk, speak, write—EVERYTHING.

Yes, everything must be totally surrendered to God's will. That doesn't mean following human "do's" and "don'ts" and other ideas which may "seem" right to men (Pro. 14:12), but diligently studying the Bible instructions and living examples to prove what God's way really is and following it—whether it conflicts with denominational teachings or not.

Lastly, God's true church understands the purpose God has in giving us His Word, His laws, His way of life. For our members understand the great DESTINY that is ours if we overcome.

God's people ALONE understand the real PURPOSE being worked out here below—that God is reproducing Himself. We understand the literal meaning of the statement that Christ became "the firstborn of MANY brethren" (Rom. 8:29). We know that we are to be literally born of God just as he was.

Understanding Our Calling

Yes, above all people on earth, we know that the great purpose in the trials and tests of character building that God puts us through is that Jesus' prayer might be answered, when He prayed, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE as we are...and the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be ONE, even as we (God and Christ) are ONE" (John 17:11, 22).

We are to be born into the very family of God—and to be god—just as Jesus Christ!

Understanding true spirituality and its tremendous PURPOSE should give all of us a zeal for overcoming that no other people have.

And knowing these SEVEN PROOFS of God's true church should help us realize more than ever the great GULF that lies between God's church and the many churches of this world—with their inevitable mixture of good and evil, truth and error.

We may be eternally thankful that God has called us out of this deceived world and put us in His church, the very body of Jesus Christ.

We may well reflect on the incident recorded in John 6:66-68. Jesus had been giving His followers some spiritual "meat"—and it was more than some of them wanted to obey. "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life!"

Christ is now working through His body—His church. It alone is fully yielded to the instruction and correction of His Word. It alone is ruled by Him. It alone has His true MESSAGE—the words of eternal life.

Where else might we go?