

## Vol. XI — No. 2

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# What is the PURPOSE Being Worked Out Here Below?

N O longer do news commentators, top military men and scientists say "if there is a World War III;"---now they speak only of when, and how it shall come!

Leading world scientists say frankly they are frightened!

With atomic bombs by thousands—with other newly-invented means of mass death and destruction said to be even more horrible than the atomic bomb—imaginationdefying weapons—an *ap palling* picture is presented which *onght* to make everyone SHUDDER!

No one thinks, now, that MEN swayed by passions or partisanship and greed, and with competitive national aspirations and interests to work for and protect, will be able to prevent the world-cataclysm which experts tell us may blast human life from this earth!

Gloomy picture? Yes, but it's REAL! It's the picture we have to FACE!

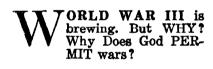
THIS is the world we shall have to LIVE IN—or DIE IN!

#### **WHY Does God Permit Such Horror?**

Is it any wonder so many people—if and when they do begin to think of the Almighty in this connection—ask: "WHY, if there is a God, does He permit war? WHY does God allow such unadulterated HELL on earth among men?

"Surely," they reason, "if God is good if He is LOVE—He would not wish people who are innocent victims to endure this indescribable anguish and if He is AL-MIGHTY, then He certainly could prevent it! Why doesn't He?

Of course that's a slightly unbalanced conception of God. It emphasizes His love, His tender mercy and compassion, and His power—but it overlooks God's righteousness



WHY did God permit the original sin? Was He unable to prevent what Satan did? Was Satan stronger than God—or is God responsible for the "Fall of Man?"

Is Redemption just a "repairing of the damage" done by Satan in the "Fall,"—is it all a superstition—or is • real PURPOSE being worked out here belw, and what is that PUR-POSE?

Here is perhaps the most frank, amazing, revealing article you ever read—an article of plain speaking which dares face and answer the question, "Did God create Evil?"—an article on the most important question of all life which will give you UNDERSTANDING.

and His wisdom; and it fails utterly of understanding God's great PURPOSE in putting human beings upon this earth!

But people have a right to the true answer!

War, of course, is not *caused* by the Almighty. It is caused by ambition and greed —by the wrong thinking and acting of men, swayed by human passions. It is the result of *evil*—of SIN. Still,—God permits it!

#### The PURPOSE Being Worked Out

Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill actually gave the answer when he said, regarding the war, before American Congress: "There is a PURPOSE being worked out here below." Of course he implied a HIGHER POWER, above, doing the working out! World War II was really a part of the working out of that PURPOSE! But man, it seems, fails to understand that PURPOSE!

Naturally, it has to do with the Plan of Redemption. But even that Plan is not very widely understood today, nor rightly preached!

WHY, let us ask, and understand, should man need any redemption?

The popular teaching is that one is "saved" at the time he accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Well, WHY is it, then, that God does not then and there remove him from this unhappy world of SUFFER-ING? Why not take him *immediately* to his happy reward? WHY, after he is "saved," must he *live on* in this life of suffering?

WHY is it, that once a man is converted, "many are the afflictions of the righteous," —"all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution,"—"it is thru much tribulation we must enter the Kingdom of God." WHY?

WHY, 1st) does God permit the world to suffer so much; and 2nd) WHY must even converted Christians go on suffering?

WHY is there such a thing as sin? We hear it came from the "original fall of man." Well, WHY the fall? WHY didn't God prevent that?

#### A Repairing of the Damage?

Let's dare frankly to examine the common teaching about that "Fall."

The common teaching, as believed and taught by most denominations, is that God created man *perfect* and *complete*, in the very image of God—and placed him in the beautiful Garden of Eden. It is believed that GOD'S CREATION WAS FINISHED COMPLETED! Everything was perfect.

And God was able to do all this, and to start our first parents out all right, when lo and behold! Satan succeeded in invading that peaceful and blessed retreat. He successfully overthrew the man. Satan succeeded in thwarting God's will—upsetting God's Plan for a happy and peaceful life for his perfected humans—alienating the man and woman from God—introducing the dreadful consequences of SIN—marring, wrecking, God's creative handiwork!

And now, according to this popular view, God's plans for a happy life and beautiful environment for His created humans was all disarranged! Now God had to commence all over again, and formulate a *new* Plan—a PLAN to repair the damage!

Redemption, then, is pictured as God's **PLAN** for *repairing the damage* caused by **Satan** in that "original Fall" of man!

And ever since, God has entered a furious CONTEST with Satan. For six thousand years, God has desperately been trying to redeem humanity—to save, and RESTORE mankind back to a condition as good as God had originally created him, before the "Fall."

### What's WRONG With This Picture?

That's the popular idea being widely preached today!

WHAT'S WRONG with that picture? When stated so plainly, we can see quite clearly something is wrong!

What are we going to do with the "fall of man?" If this popular teaching is correct, it makes Satan more powerful than God. It makes Satan able to wreck God's perfected creation, to thwart God's will.

And, after God in desperation has devised a Plan of Redemption, and spent some six thousand years trying to restore the original Edenic perfection, where does this picture leave us today? Why, with Satan winning the contest by a pitifully lopsided score! At least *balf* the people who populate this earth today *know nothing about Jesus Christ* —are blinded by false heathen religions! Only a very small percent of humanity could claim today to be "saved."

Can't we see that at every turn this belief presents Satan as more powerful than GOD? WHAT, then, IS THE REAL TRUTH?

# Could GOD Be Responsible?

Now if Satan did not succeed in thwarting God's will, wrecking God's perfected and completed Creation, then the only alternative is to say that it all happened according to God's will—exactly as God Himself originally planned!

But do we DARE make God Himself responsible?

We have but the two alternatives! Either Satan got in there *against* God's will, and in so doing proved himself mightier and more cunning than God—or else God Himself planned and permitted it all!

The answer is a text of Scripture most ministers never dare quote! In it God Almighty does not hesitate to take upon Himself this full responsibility!

Here it is—Isaiah 45-5,7: "I am the Eternal, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: . . I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the ETERNAL do all these things."

LET'S UNDERSTAND THAT!

#### The True ANSWER to These Questions

The real answer was brought out by Job. "If a man die, shall he live again," Job asked,—and *answered*: "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my *change* come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: *thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!*" (Job 14:14).

The latter part of his quotation, most often overlooked, is the key to this whole riddle! Read it again!

"Thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!"

STUDY THAT! Job knew he was merely the work of God's Hands! Merely a piece of divine workmanship in the Hands of the CREATOR! Merely a piece of plastic CLAY in the hands of the Master Potter! And in calling us forth from the grave, in the resurrection, God is having a DESIRE to FIN-ISH this WORK OF HIS HANDS!

Even the RESURRECTION, then, is a final completing of GOD'S CREATION!

#### Adam's Creation NOT COMPLETED!

Now we come to the WONDERFUL TRUTH!

The first chapter of Genesis does not record a COMPLETED creation at all!

Adam's creation was not finished!

Read that amazing statement again! Be sure you understand it!

CREATION is still going on!

SALVATION is not a "repairing of the damage,"—a frustrated effort of God to restore man back to a condition as good as Adam, before the "Fall!"

Satan did not break into the Garden of Eden in spite of God—did not do one single thing contrary to God's great PURPOSE! All that has happened had been planned before of GOD—and all is progressing exactly as GOD WILLS.

Oh, what a WONDERFUL TRUTH!

What God actually is creating in us humans is the SUPREME MASTERPIECE OF ALL HIS WORKS OF CREATION! Millions—yes, billions—of perfect, SPIRIT-UAL CHARACTERS! It is a spiritual creation. And God is bringing it about in two phases! This DUALITY, in fact carries thru every part and sequence of this tremendous work of creation!

The model, from which the finished spiritual product is to be moulded, is material substance—just mortal, human CLAY!

The creation described in Genesis 1 is the first phase of this creation—the MATE-RIAL creation, only. And that is merely the *beginning*—the bringing into existence of the SUBSTANCE out of which a *model* may be moulded for the finished Masterpiece!

God formed man, not out of Spirit, but "of the dust of the ground." To the man whose creation is described in Genesis 1, and 2:7, God said, "DUST thou art." Not immortal spirit—just DUST. Man is MOR-TAL, not yet immortal!

Adam did not have God's HOLY SPIR-IT! He was a PERFECT physical specimen, yes! Whatever GOD creates is perfect, not imperfect. But what God created, in Adam, was a FLESHLY MAN—a mortal man of flesh and blood.

Adam, in other words, was not complete!

One vital thing was lacking—and this one thing he was made to NEED—to hunger and to thirst for!—the indwelling of GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.

But God provided for that. In the Gasden of Eden was one "tree" which would have supplied it! And this, God freely offered the man. But Adam and Eve had to make a CHOICE between this "tree" which would have given them LIFE — GOD'S SPIRIT—the one thing that would fill that void, that longing in the soul—and the "tree" which symbolized the ways of SIN. Adam made the wrong choice, as of course, God knew he would! HE NEVER RECEIVED GOD'S SPIRIT! OUR FIRST PARENTS NEVER RECEIVED IMMORTALITY!

Rather, they were driven forth *from* the Garden of Eden, *lest* they now take also of the tree of LIFE, and eat, and gain immortality (Gen. 3:22-24).

#### **REDEMPTION IS CREATION**

Creation was not completed, as described in Genesis 1. Rather, what God is creating is a SPIRITUAL CREATION, and God has mapped out a DEFINITE PLAN, allowing SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS for the process!

In His great purpose, the physical and material comes *first*, and always is the *type* of the spiritual. A day is as a thousand years to God, and a thousand years as a day. And, as God's revealed Plan is allotted seven *thousand-year* "DAYS" for its completion, so God used just seven 24-hour days for its first beginning—the MATERIAL creation described in Genesis 1!

So the seven literal 24-hour days are a TYPE of the seven thousand-year "days." And in this seven-thousand-year period, God Himself has deliberately ALLOTTED to Satan the first SIX of those days for *bis labor of deception*—but the SEVENTH millennial day shall be the SABBATH of The ETERNAL our God, and in it Satan *shall not* do any work! God has set a limitation upon him! Satan shall be chained for that coming thousand years! (Rev. 20:1-3).

Christ Jesus will return to earth IN PER-SON, as King of kings and Lord of lords, and "the earth shall be FULL of the knowledge of the Eternal," (Isa. 11:9)—to HIM shall the Gentiles seek (Isa. 11:10), and the final GREAT harvest of souls shall be reaped! Yes, THAT'S the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD—Good News the devil does all in his power to suppress— Good News Satan's ministers deny! But praise God! the light of HIS WORD still shines for those who will see!

So now let's look briefly at **REDEMP**-TION. W bat is it?

"By GRACE are ye saved thru faith ... for we are His workmanship, CREATED in

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# Should Christians TITHE?

#### Here is an eye-opening article on a much misunderstood subject, making the TRUTH plain, clear, INTERESTING!

#### By HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

N the last Book of the Old Testament is an amazing PROPHECY. It foretells the cause of a national calamity soon to happen to the UNITED STATES!

It is a WARNING for America and Britain, now! It is not dead history, not abolished teaching for Jews of a bye-gone day. It is a live, timely PROPHECY.

To America and Britain of this 20th Century, Almighty God says:

"I will come near to you to judgment. ... Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them.... YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Mal. 3:5-9).

But why? What has brought on this national curse, soon to bring upon this nation a calamity of the most cataclysmic proportions ever to befall any nation in world history,—as prophesied in many other prophecies,—prophecies which have repeatedly been explained in the broadcasts, and in articles in this magazine.

"But ye say," continues the Eternal's Message to us, "Wherein have we robbed thee?" And God replies, "in TITHES and OFFERINGS!"

#### Was Tithing Done Away?

Now all this, we know, doesn't make much sense to the average American today. Many do not even know what Tithing is. Others ask, "Wasn't tithing just for Jews of a long-dead past?" Or, "Wasn't tithing done away? Wasn't it just part of the ceremonial system introduced by the Old Covenant Law of Moses?"

Others, today, are taught and believe tithing was merely a form of national taxation in the civil government of the one-time nation of Israel. Still others teach that the tithe supplied the material needs of the poor, and was never put into the ministry.

WHAT CONFUSION today! What ignorance of the revealed laws and commands of God!

Since this WHOLE NATION is under a curse, soon to suffer unprecedented total national disaster *because* of a lack of understanding as well as for disobedience to the laws of God, it's certainly about time we opened our Bibles and began to study honestly, diligently, prayerfully, exactly what the Almighty has declared on this muchperverted subject!

For,—and mark this well!—even though God sends a cataclysmic destruction upon the nation as a whole, yet the *individual* who seeks understanding, and who heeds God's warnings, shall be given full protection, and ESCAPE all these things to come to pass.

#### What the "TITHE" Is

But first, before looking to the NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING to see whether or not Christians must "tithe," let us make clear just what that word "tithe" means.

God says to Britain-America of *today:* "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. . . . IN TITHES and offerings."

What, then, does God mean by that word "tithes"?

It is an old English word, commonly used in England three and four hundred years ago. Today it is seldom used, except in this scriptural connection. This old expression "titbe" has been preserved in the Authorized, or King James translation, of the Bible—translated in 1611.

The word "tithe" means TENTH. A tithe of anything is the tenth part of it.

It is well known that the nation Israel, during Old Testament times, was required to tithe,—that is, pay in one tenth of income. But the matter of to whom each Israelite paid this tenth, which tenth was paid, why and for what purpose, seems to confuse a great many today. And the New Testament teaching for Christians about tithing is understood only by a few.

#### The Principle of Tithing

The subject is mentioned many places in the New Testament, as well as in the Old. But first, a simple explanation of the scriptural PRINCIPLE of tithing will make it more understandable.

Let's bring the subject home to each one of us, in a plain and personal manner.

Suppose you own a farm. Does that farm, and all you raise from it, *really* belong to you?

Suppose you work for wages, or a salary. Or you "clip coupons," or receive dividends, profits, or a pension. When you receive the money, is it *really* YOURS?

This may seem a bit foolish. Nearly everyone will answer immediately, "Why, of course!" But if you do, you're wrong! And this only goes to show that our people as a nation have strayed so far from God and His revealed TRUTH that we are astonished, when the truth is explained!

Do you know what the Bible is? It is a revelation from God to man of things both material and spiritual which man otherwise could never know. God let Newton discover and reveal to mankind the law of gravity. He has left it for our chemists with their test-tubes and technical equipment in their laboratories to discover the laws of chemistry. But there are laws and truths which man never could discover. God has not left us in ignorance of these, but has revealed them, thru the Bible! That's why the BIBLE is the very BASIS of right and sound education—"the fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom." And that's why there is so little real understanding and TRUE education today, in a world whose schools and colleges almost universally ignore this basic foundation of TRUTH!

#### Who OWNS What You Have?

So now in the simplest of language, let me make plain to you the PRINCIPLE of tithing, as revealed in the Bible. Then we shall look to the Scriptures themselves, from which this explanation is derived.

First, then, YOU, or *I*, actually own nothing!

"The earth is the Bternal's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (1 Cor. 10:26, and Psm. 24:1). In Job 41:11, God the Creator says: "whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine." God Almighty is CREATOR. He created the earth. He created man upon the earth. ALL BELONGS TO HIM!

It is, therefore, for HIM to say how much of what you earn you may keep and use for yourself. Your farm actually does not belong to you—GOD is the true owner. Your income is not really yours,—because ALL belongs to GOD!

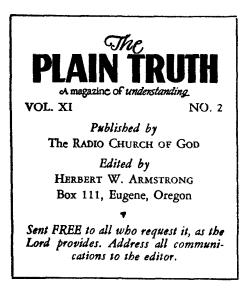
Now in the BIBLE, God reveals to man that He never has given to man the whole of what he produces or earns. The FIRST TENTH of all you produce from the ground —of your wages, your salary, your profits, your INCOME—that FIRST TENTH remains HOLY to the Eternal, and that He has reserved for Himself—for His boly and spiritual use!

After man has PAID TO GOD that first tenth which *belongs* only to Him—and which *never belonged to the man,*—then the remaining nine-tenths God gives to the man.

It's a good deal like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden-and the first sin. The garden was beautiful beyond description. Just one tree, however, God reserved for Himself. That, remained HIS. That, He never gave to Adam and Eve. That, they had no right to touch, or use. All the rest He gave to them. But they were not satisfied with what was theirs, ample tho it was. Filled with greed to possess all, they reached out and took of the fruit of that forbidden tree! And that was stealing! It was covering! It was placing another god before the CRE-ATOR! It was dishonoring their Creator-Father! It broke FOUR of the Ten Commandments! It was SIN-the original sin!

And today, the same Satan who deceived mother Eve has deceived this whole world into believing that *all* of each man's farm

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NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

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There has been no issue of The PLAIN TRUTH since the March-April number. We hope to publish it monthly hereafter.

# A Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

The other day I read a story in the newspaper that I hope will make you THINK!

A woman in the state of Washington returned home from her work in a restaurant at 3:AM Sunday morning to find her four children, ages 12, 10, 8, and 7, dead in their beds of asphyxiation. One of them had turned on the gas stove without lighting it.

But that isn't all. A fifth child 4 years old had burned to death last year. And her husband has recently been confined in a tuberculosis sanitarium!

A year ago, she was a happy wife and mother, with her husband and five children!

Most of you are having troubles of some kind. Many of you are complaining or grumbling. But few, if any, of you have ever had to suffer such tragedy as came to this woman in Washington. Yet this ought to give us all something to *think about!* What ASSURANCE have you that some such calamity will not strike you? Perhaps when you least expect! I'm not trying to frighten you, but rather to point you to the only safeguard against it—the only true security you can have!

Many, even professing Christians, trust in money as their security for the future. Many lay up this earthly treasure—they akimp, economize unduly, in order to lay up more and more, so they need not worry for the future!

But this is a false security!

There is only one true Security for the future—knowing God, and faith and truss in God!

If you could look into this world Tomorrow;—if you could see now what lies in store for this world, and for you—then perhaps you a do now as men will do then, run frantically and terror-stricken "into the caves of the rocks, . . . away from the terror of the Eternal! Then man shall fling to rats and bats his silver and his golden idols . . . to hide from the terror of the Eternal!" That's an actual prophecy, quoted from Isaiah 2:19-21! ONLY ONE has power to protect you from the terrible WRATH to come, and that is our loving, merciful heavenly Father, Almighty GOD!

A multi-millionaire can be wiped out, penniless, unexpectedly—without warning just overnight! His millions are no security for the future. I have personally known millionaires who were wiped out just that suddenly—and thereupon committed suicide!

In our own experience in conducting this work of God, now grown into a GREAT work costing several thousand dollars a month, reaching a cumulative audience of five million people a week, I have had to learn, by experience, how this entire great work could be taken away—put out of existence, suddenly and without warning! Recently, while I was away, a long distance telephone call came from my office. My secretary read to me two telegrams, terminating without warning our contracts on the two most powerful radio stations in this hemisphere! At the same time we were unex-

# **RADIO LOG**

# *The* World Tomorrow

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

#### RADIO BROADCASTS

#### TO THE NATION (and Canada)

- XEG-150,000 watts-1050 on dial. 8:PM Central Standard time every night except Sat., 5:30 every week-day morning.
- XELO-100,000 watts-800 on radio dial. 8:PM Mountain time every night except Saturday.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

- XERB-50,000 watts-1090 on dial. 9:PM every night except Saturday. Heard all over Coast.
- KXL--Portland, 10,000 watts-750 on dial. 7:30 AM Saturdays, and 6:30 AM Sundays.
- KVAN—Vancouver, Wash.—910 on dial. 9:30 AM Sundays.
- KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570 on dial, 11:PM Sundays.

pectedly thrown off the air in the Seattle-Tacoma section. Our time was sold out from under us in the Portland section. Our station in Hollywood had gone out of business, its physical assets taken over and incorporated into a new station. We were off the air in California. We had also suddenly been thrown off the air on another Mexican station which at the time was depended on to cover the Southern California district!

Yes, the most dire calamity can strike *anyone*, anyplace, any time—suddenly, without warning!

If we become sick, God heals us and restores our health.

But, more than that—if we serve God and put our TRUST in HIM, He often prevents these things even from happening. Countless times God's angels have protected God's children, and their little ones, from accident.

We have had such experiences, personally,-several times. Once my wife was lying in bed asleep with our eldest daughter. This was years ago, when our daughter was just a baby. The baby was lying on the inside, her head against the wall. Suddenly my wife was startled and awakened with an audible voice, in a dream, commanding her, "Move Beverly!" Opening her eyes and perceiving it was a dream, she turned over and went back to sleep. Again a voice spoke in a dream, this time louder, with insistance, "MOVE BEVERLY!" Startled, frightened, she opened her eyes, reached over and lifted Beverly over on the other side of her. She was lying there, half frightened, thinking about it, when, a few seconds after she had moved Beverly, a large heavy picture and frame which had been hanging on the wall just over Beverly's head came crashing down on the exact spot where the baby's head had lain! Then she knew God had sent an angel to speak to her in a dream and protect our baby's life!

Personally, I have learned what it is to FEAR GOD! I have learned that my wife, all my children, could be taken from me suddenly and without warning! I have no earthly treasure to be taken away—we sold all we had and put it into God's work—but I have learned that the opportunity for service in this work could be taken from me COMPLETELY, suddenly, with one swift stroke, except for the protection of GOD!

Frankly, I'm afraid—and I mean really AFRAID!—to disobey God, or turn from Him, or cease to serve Him in the mission to which He has called me! I'm AFRAID to live contrary to His Word. I've learned to TREMBLE at the WORD OF GOD!

Better FEAR God—TREMBLE before His Word—be AFRAID to disobey, and then live in the great and peaceful security that comes from a living FAITH in HIM!

Yes, better a thousand times to have this godly FEAR and TREMBLING to do wrong, and then have God's gift of PEACE, and SECURITY thru FAITH, than to ignore God and trust in men or in money! Often, if we are trusting implicity in

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# What Is the Purpose Being Worked Out Here Below? Continued from Page 2

Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them!" (Eph. 2:8,10). Notice, there are GOOD WORKS to salvation! WHY do the preachers always stop quoting at verse 9, never reading this 10th verse?

The "we" in New Testament language always means Christians—those truly converted. WE, then, are GOD'S workmanship. Yes, "CREATED" now being created—to what objective — to WHAT PURPOSE? Note it! The PURPOSE Satan's ministers DENY today—"UNTO GOOD WORKS!"

Unto perfect spiritual CHARACTER!

Now Paul here is not speaking of Adam's creation 6,000 years ago. He is speaking of Christians, NOW, *being created*—UNTO GOOD WORKS! We are HIS WORK-MANSHIP—the Creator is *still creating*! He is moulding, fashioning, CHANGING us, conforming up to His own noble, right-eous, holy, spiritual CHARACTER! Yes, creating *in us* this perfect CHARACTER!

Salvation, then, is a PROCESS!

#### The Purpose of Our Living

But how the god of this world would blind your eyes to that! He tries to deceive you into thinking all there is to it is just "accepting Christ,"—with "NO WORKS" —and presto-chango, you're pronounced "SAVED!"

But the BIBLE reveals that NONE is yet "saved!" "He that endureth unto the end, the same SHALL BE saved." (Mat. 24:13). Jesus, *alone*, of all humans, has so far been SAVED! By the resurrective power of GOD! When Jesus comes, at the time of the resurrection of those IN CHRIST, He then brings His reward with Him!

Christ, as the Lamb of God—our Saviour —was "slain from the foundation of the world"—it was all planned of God from the beginning,—yes, even before the "Fall." (Rev. 13:8).

Those called, now, in this present age to salvation, were chosen *before* Adam was created! "According as He hath chosen us in Him *before the foundation of the world.*" And WHY? "That we should be HOLY and without blame before Him IN LOVE." (Eph. 1:4).

(Eph. 1:4). "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, be is a new creature." (II Cor. 5:17) Yes, a NEW CREATION!

"And be renewed in the spirit of your MIND! and that ye put on the new man, which after GOD IS CREATED in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:23-24).

It all begins in the mind. Repentance, the first step in salvation, is a change of mind. The receiving and indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a renewing of the mind. Gradually, thru Bible study, learning to live by "every Word of God," being continually corrected, keeping in constant prayer, the very MIND OF GOD is placed within the yielded man. And thus the NEW MAN—a holy, spiritual CHARACTER—is CREAT-ED in righteousness, and in true holiness!

The PLAIN TRUTH

#### Born Again ... HOW?

In this NEW CREATION God works in man, the man must be "BORN AGAIN." God made Adam solely out of MAT-

God made Adam solely out of MAT-TER. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh IS flesh!" Then He explained we must be born again—not again of the FLESH—not again entering our mother's womb, as Nicodemus thought He meant—but born of The SPIRIT—BORN OF GOD! As we were born of the FLESH from a fleshly human father, so now we must be born of the SPIRIT by GOD, the heavenly SPIRITUAL Father.

And this process is brought about, in God's great PURPOSE, by a man first coming to see HOW WRONG are the ways of mortal humans, thinking and living CON-TRARY to the revealed LAWS OF GOD! The first stage is REPENTANCE! Surrender to Almighty God!

God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world as a human being, to pay for us, in our stead, the *penalty* we have incurred by the transgression of God's spiritual Law. So the second step in our salvation-our SPIR-ITUAL CREATION -- being BORN of the Spirit—is to accept Christ Jesus as personal Saviour, being baptized for the remission of sins. Then God's PROMISE is that we shall receive HIS HOLY SPIRIT. And that is the entrance of the very LIFE of God-the im-pregnating "germ," so to speak, of eternal life-the begettal of the life of GOD. We then compare to an unborn babe in its mother's womb. And, after the experiences of the Christian life, if we overcome, grow in grace and knowledge, and endure unto the end, then at the time of the RESURREC-TION, this MORTAL shall be instantaneously CHANGED INTO immortality-this flesh and blood body shall BECOME a SPIRIT body! Then, and not until then, shall we be FULLY BORN OF GOD.

Then, and not until then, shall our CRE-ATION be fully COMPLETED!

But we now are the "clay models," in the Hands of the Master Potter!

If in this life our thinking, our ways, are CHANGED until we really do become —in character—new creatures in Christ Jesus, conformed to HIS WILL, then that clay model, worked over, fashioned and shaped as God would have it, is finally turned into the FINISHED SPIRITUAL CREATION!

#### **Begins and Ends in Christ**

This ENTIRE CREATION begins in Christ, and is finished BY Him!

God created all things by Jesus Christ. (Eph. 3:9). Jesus was the workman, then, who created the original Adam. But our SPIRITUAL creation begins in Him, too. He it is who became our living Example who came into the world to lead the way and became the *first-born* from among the dead—the FIRST completed, perfected spiritual MAN! Now notice, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect THROUGH SUFFERINGS." (Heb. 2:9-10).

Look at it! Turn to it, read that in your own Bible!

Jesus, the captain or LEADER of our salvation—the one who led off, setting us an example—the only one so far completed even HE was made perfect, and THRU SUFFERINGS!

"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience BY THE THINGS WHICH HE SUFFERED; and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (Heb. 5:8-9).

There it is again! Jesus is the *author* of our salvation—He WROTE that salvation BY HIS EXPERIENCE, and that was the *first writing* of it—He was the *first* human ever to achieve it—to be perfected, finished as a PERFECT CHARACTER!

Jesus LEARNED! He SUFFERED! But out of it came PERFECTION!

Do you see?

Do you begin to UNDERSTAND?

Satan did not upset God's Plan. All that has happened, God foreknew and *permitted* —for a PURPOSE! *Redemption is not a sepairing of the damage*—not a restoring to a condition "just as good." No, that was merely the *beginning*—the *material* creation. Redemption is the great SPIRITUAL creation! In it, God is creating in us something infinitely superior to Adam before he sinned.

Do you see now WHAT God is creating, in you and me?

He is creating something higher than angels or archangels! He is creating the supreme MASTERPIECE of all God's creation . . . HOLY, PERFECT SPIRITUAL CHARACTERS!

And what is Character?

#### What CHARACTER Is

Perfect Character, such as God is creating in us, is a person finally made immortal, who is a separate entity from God; who, through independent free choice has come to KNOW, and to CHOOSE, and to DO, what is right.

Inanimate rock will roll down hill by power of gravity. Water runs in its channels thru creeks and rivers into oceans. Great planets, some many times larger than the earth, *must* travel in God's ordained course. These things are marvelous examples of the creative power of God. Yet these things are *inanimate*—they have *no mind*, *no free choice*, NO CHARACTER!

Dumb animals do not sin. They do not know enough to sin! They act by instinct, or according to training of others. They do not have this Character!

CHARACTER is the possession and practice of love, patience, mercy, faith, kind-

## Should Christians Tithe? Continued from Page 3

belongs to him—that the whole of a man's income is his! This divine and original TRUTH of ownership has been hidden from the people thru the deceptions of the god of this world! And today, nearly every American is taking and spending that first tenth of his income which BELONGS TO ALMIGHTY GOD!

Actually, in so doing, the individual and this whole nation is ROBBING GOD, just as surely as Adam and Eve robbed God when they stole the fruit of the one tree which never belonged to them!

#### WHY God Retains the Tithe

But WHY does God retain for Himself the ownership of that first tenth—that TITHE—of your income?

Here again comes a TRUTH man would never know, and could not find out, except by God's revelation to man! What is man, anyway? WHY is he? Where is he going? GOD HAS A PLAN! God is working out • GREAT PURPOSE! He reveals it in His Word—His revelation—the BIBLE.

For the carrying out of His holy PUR-POSE in placing mankind upon this earth, God has always had a PRIESTHOOD—a ministry, representing HIM, serving Him, carrying out His mission. Way back in the dim antiquity of patriarchal times, God's High Priest—His representative on earth was Melchisedec. More of Him later—and an article in the next issue tells who He is.

During the national dispensation of Israel, under the Old Covenant, known as the Mosaic dispensation — those years from Moses until Christ—the tribe of Levi constituted the ministry of God, known as the Levitical priesthood. Then later, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, He ascended to beaven as a living HIGH PRIEST. Today He calls ministers as His true representatives in a darkened and Satan-deceived world, to carry on HIS PLAN. Today the Melchisedec Priesthood is restored, in Christ.

Now it costs money to carry on the work of God. God's ministers who devote their entire time to God's holy and spiritual purpose are prevented from earning a living in the usual channels. Yet they work. If they are *true* ministers, they are men of ability who WORK HARD, and long, observing no hours. Actually they *earn* a living—they have worked for their food, shelter and clothing and physical need—the same as the farmer, the laborer, the clerk or the merchant.

And so God, in His wisdom, has provided for financing His work, and for His ministers' living. In God's program, these true ministers work for HIM, and Him done.

In God's great Plan, HE pays His ministers. It is HE who "hires" them,—He who calls them to their work for Him.

So, in order to provide for the financing of HIS MINISTRY, God has from the very beginning RETAINED for HIMSELF the first tenth of the income of every human being on earth. The OWNERSHIP of that first tenth of income is GOD'S.

#### To WHOM Tithes Are Paid

But how can you pay God's tenth to Him? God is on His throne in heaven. And "no man," said Jesus, "has ascended to heaven." You can't go there. You can't see God, or hand your money to Him Personally. How, then, can you pay Him HIS TITHE?

Well, some large corporations, perhaps in a distant city, cannot be directly contacted by their many customers. And so they send around representatives, *collectors*, to collect for them what you owe the company. The collector comes in the name of the company. When you pay the money which really belongs to the company to the collector, you have paid the company.

God's system of collecting from you HIS tithe is just that simple. Since you cannot see God, or go to God's throne in heaven, God instructs you in His revealed Word to pay it to HIS REPRESENTA-TIVE, who, in receiving it, represents God just as a collector to whom you pay a debt represents the company to whom you owe it.

And when you pay such a bill to a collector, you consider you paid THE COM-PANY—not that you made a personal donation of your own money to the man the company sent. You paid it as TO THE COMPANY. From there on it is the COM-PANY'S responsibility what happens to that money, not yours. And the company pays the collector his salary. He does not consider that you paid his salary—he receives his salary as from the company.

This illustrates plainly God's true principle of tithing. When you pay tithes today you are instructed by God's directions to pay them to God's called and chosen representative—the true minister of Jesus Christ. But you pay it, not as a personal contribution of your own money to a minister—but AS TO GOD. The minister represents GOD —receives not your money but GOD'S money from you for God.

Here again so many in this modern world have lost sight of God's clear directions. When they give the tithe to a minister they seem to feel it is a personal entrusting of *their own money*, and they make it their duty to try to supervise *how* the minister handles it—even, in some cases today, down to the supervision of what the minister and his family may eat, or wear, or have in their personal private family life!

Yes, many a disallusioned minister today can testify that some members of his congregation attempt to regulate and supervise the most intimate and personal matters of his private family life. They feel it is *their* money the minister is living on, and they make it their business to see that he uses it according to *their* ideas—and to critisize him and his family and withhold their tithe unless he and his family permit this insulting intrusion upon their private family life!

#### When YOUR Responsibility Ceases

But God's revealed principle is quite different. That first tenth of your income is not yours—never was yours! It belongs to God. And the method God himself instituted for your payment of His money to Him is to pay it to His called and true minister.

When you have done that, your responsibility for that money ceases! You have no further concern, responsibility, or direction in the handling of it than you have in money you owe the electric light or the telephone company which you pay to their collector. Once paid, you have DONE YOUR PART —you have aquitted yourself of your obligation.

The telephone company does not expect you to make it your responsibility to supervise what happens to THEIR money once you have paid it to *their representative* and received the company's receipt. Of course their collector might lose, steal, or misappropriate the money. But if he does the company who employs him will deal with him as they wish—it is their responsibility.

Of course you are expected to be sure the collector is the company's approved representative—not a thieving impostor pretending to be the company collector. And you should be equally sure you are paying your tithe to a called and TRUE minister of Jesus Christ. Satan has many more ministers today than Christ—and Satan's thieving imposters pose as ministers of Jesus Christ, put on sanctimonious airs, speak in pious and spiritual-sounding language! How are you to know? BY THEIR FRUITS, Jesus said, you shall know them! The FRUITS of God's Spirit, and of Christ's true ministry cannot be counterfeited!

So when you pay tithes to God's true and accredited spiritual representative, you pay it as to GOD. It is not a charitable gift from you to the minister. It is not your money—but rather it is God's way for you to pay to GOD that which BELONGS TO GOD.

And from there on, the minister who receives it is accountable to God. And you may be sure that GOD'S justice is PER-FECT—that God Almighty will hold every minister far more strictly accountable than you would be capable of doing!

#### What GOD Does With His Tithe

Once paid, so far as you are concerned, you have paid GOD'S tithe to GOD.

The question now is what does GOD do with it?

And the answer, which we will show by the Scriptures inspired of God, is that God uses it FOR HIS MINISTRY—for CARRYING ON HIS WORK!

Now the *nature* of God's ministry on earth has changed with changing dispensations. Not much is revealed as to how God's ministry was carried on back in patriarchal times. We know Melchisedec was High Priest—that He held rank equal to that of Jesus Christ, actually one of the Godhead!

## Should Christians Tithe? Continued from Page 6

The ministry, then, must have been of a *spiritual* nature. New Testament writings reveal that the GOSPEL, God's Spiritual Message, was preached beforehand to Abraham. All we know of those days of the dim distant antiquity is that the tithes were paid to Melchisedec, a divine Being, for the service of God's ministry for that time.

But beginning with Moses a new and different dispensation was ushered in. God formed Israel as a civil nation, and also as a church (See Acts 7:38). But between Moses and Christ, under the Old Covenant, God's ministry was purely *national*, for Isneel alone,—and purely MATERIAL, not spiritual.

As a Church, or Congregation, Israel was given a constant round of physical ceremonies and rituals—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal ordinances (see Heb. 9:10) —which, NOTE IT!—means of a material, not a spiritual nature. Israel under the Old Covenant was not given God's Holy Spirit. They had no promise whatsoever of salvation, astonishing as that may seem! They were not commanded to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to other nations. On the contrary, they were forbidden to have anything to do with other nations!

Consequently, the church ministry in Israel was one of ministering to all Israelites, and to Israelites only. There was no spreading of the Gospel. The ministry, rather, was largely a matter of physical labor—preparing animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, administering the different washings and physical ordinances and rituals. For this service, God Himself selected His ministers —the people had no choice as to who their ministers were. For this service, God took ONE WHOLE TRIBE of the twelve tribes of Israel—the Tribe of Levi. Every man born a Levite was a priest, or minister.

The Levites owned no land—had no secular source of income—devoted their entire time to the physical ministry of that dispensation. Yet, tho a physical ministry this service was sacred and holy to God. And during these years from Moses to Christ God Himself paid His Levitical priests by terming over to them all of His Titbe.

Today, we are in the age of GRACE, the NEW Testament GOSPEL dispensation. Today, the Levitical priesthood is gone, and JESUS CHRIST is High Priest. Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are *called*, by special spiritual call from God thru His Holy Spirit—not by flesh birth—not by selfdesire to become a minister—not by selection, appointment, or vote of the people.

Jesus Christ came as God's MESSEN-GER, bearing a Spiritual Message from God to man. That Message — His GOSPEL—the Good News of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD, a kingdom of immortals which human flesh and blood can never enter! One must be born again!

And today, Christ's commission to all His true ministers is "Go ye into all the world, and PREACH THE GOSPEL"... "Go ye, therefore, and teach ALL NA-TIONS." And, for our day now. "This GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END (of the age) come."

Today the ministry is a SPIRITUAL ministry—a ministry of PROPHECY—a ministry of SALVATION—a ministry of WARNING! Today it is not physical and national, but spiritual and *individual*—it is not for *everyone* in a single nation, but for a witness UNTO ALL NATIONS.

Today, in these critical, chaotic days approaching the END OF AN AGE, the carrying on of God's true ministry is a worldwide mission, which must reach MILLIONS of people, and quickly, for the "night cometh, when no man can work."

Today Christ's true ministry is a huge undertaking. It requires, not the mere financing of the personal needs of a few ministers, but the employing of tremendous available facilities for PROCLAIMING THE WORLD-SHAKING WARNING — for PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM into ALL THE WORLD FOR A WITNESS UNTO ALL NATIONS!

And these super-powered facilities God has had invented and made available for HIS PURPOSE—great powerful radio stations, and the modern printing press—cost a great deal of money, because they reach vast multitudes of people never before possible in any past age!

Today, God has PROVIDED for the financing of His powerful ministry by the same system He has used from the very beginning—His TITHING system!

Thus Almighty God has purposed that THOSE WHOM HE HAS SPECIALLY FITTED AND CALLED for this tremendous mission in this chaotic and dying world may be FREE to proclaim HIS TRUTH fearlessly, boldly, and with GREAT POWER!

They cannot be subsidized, controlled, coerced by men or organizations of men. They are not hired by, nor obligated to, men or any organized group or denomination. They are called by God, guided, protected, and empowered by God, financed by GOD'S OWN TITHING SYSTEM! — yes, by GOD'S OWN MONEY!

That is how The PLAIN TRUTH is published — without subscription price, FREE to all who will request it for themselves.

That is how the true GOSPEL Message is going out in great power to a cumulative audience of FIVE MILLION EVERY WEEK, broadcast nightly at the most listened-to hour—8:PM—over the most powerful radio stations in all the North American continent.

That is God's way, carrying out God's Plan in HIS GREAT PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW! And the Almighty has so guided and directed this great work of His today, that every single dollar of His money placed faithfully in His work is actually reaching TWO THOU-SAND precious souls with HIS MESSAGE! Yes, it is growing into a huge work. It costs today a great deal of money. But it is reaching MILLIONS of people with power —and at the infinitesimal cost of only one dollar for each two thousand reached! We and all our co-workers together—are happy to be privileged by the Eternal God to each have our small part in so glorious a work for HIM!

#### -TO BE CONTINUED -

In the next issue will appear an article explaining clearly the SCRIPTURES on "Tithing." The NEW Testament teaching on this very important subject will be made plain. Many points will be cleared up which seem to puzzle some. Also, in a future number, will appear an article on "How God PROSPERS the Tither," showing by Scriptural promise, and by many experiences, how the faithful steward is prospered by divine law of God so that he actually has more than he would have if he held on to all ten tenths. This is God's financial LAW. God has ordained a Plan for financing His work which costs His co-workers NOTHING! Rather, it pays them big dividends! Great and marvelous are the ways of GOD!

# A Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor Continued from Page 4

God, giving our SELVES to Him for His service, yielding our wills to His, living by His laws and ways, He prevents troubles even from striking us.

In the time of the WRATH to come, soon to bring such havoc upon this world as to defy the most lurid imagination, those who trust in God, who are WATCHING, and PRAYING ALWAYS, shall be accounted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand, before the Son of God!

Christ Jesus is our ROCK of safety—our REFUGE in time of trouble—our only trustworthy security for the future!

Thru trust in Him, we have been restored on the radio stations—a new and additional time opened up for us in Portland —new and powerful stations opened to us to send out the Gospel Message with TWICE the power of formerly!

Instead of laying up treasure on earth for YOURSELF, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves can break thru and steal, LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN (Mat. 6:19-20) by putting as much of your earthly money as you can INTO GOD'S WORK for the good of OTHERS (Mat. 19:21). and you shall have REAL SECURITY indeed—and great shall be your reward in the Kingdom!

# What Is the Purpose Being Worked Out Here Below? Continued from Page 5

ness, gentleness, meekness, temperance, selfrestraint, and right self-direction! Character involves KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, PUR-POSE, ABILITY, all properly controlled and developed, and through independent CHOICE!

Holy, righteous CHARACTER is something even God cannot create instantaneously! It is produced, or developed, only through EXPERIENCE! Experience requires TIME, and CIRCUMSTANCES! And so God creates Time, and God creates Circumstances which produce character!

And so God first formed out of the dust -out of 16 elements of matter-the fleshand-blood man, in the IMAGE of God-(and "image" means form, or shape, not composition). And thru seven thousand years of experiences, God is taking the human family thru a process, the result of which, even "as we have borne the image of the earthy (mortal Adam): we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (Christ Jesus immortal "second" Adam). (I Cor. 15:49).

Yes, once fashioned, shaped, moulded according to God's Purpose, even WE shall be LIKE HIM, for we shall see Him as He ìs l

#### WHY All This Human Suffering!

There are just two broad principles of life-God's Way, or God's Law, summed up in the Ten Commandments, and Satan's way of competition, greed, vanity.

All suffering — all unhappiness, fear, misery, and death, has come from the transgression of God's Law! Living by that great Law of Love, then, is the only way to peace, happiness, and joy.

God placed man on this planet to learn that lesson-to learn it thru generations of EXPERIENCE!

Yes, we, too, LEARN by suffering! God has REVEALED the TRUE way—His revelation always has been available to man! But man, given the right of free choice, always has turned his back on God, and on God's true WAY. And even though man as a whole still refuses to see or learn the les-

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We learn thru EXPERIENCE! And thru SUFFERING! This, then, is the very stuff CHARACTER is made of!

And that's why we are not taken immediately to our reward-away from all the unhappy circumstances of this world-just the minute we "accept Christ," and are converted. Yes, that's why "many afflictions" visit the righteous, even as God sent affliction upon Job-tho the Eternal delivers us out of them all! That's why God permits Christians to suffer-why God even chastens every son whom He loves! It strengthens us -develops us into the CHARACTERS God is creating! It teaches us to rely on Godand reliance on God is the very foundation of Character.

Jesus suffered, was made perfect thru suffering!

Paul suffered! WE suffer-to the end that we shall learn. We are being created, in true righteousness and holiness, unto GOOD WORKS! Unto perfect CHARACTER!

And so it is that in His matchless WIS-DOM God has *permitted* man to sin. God permits nations to go to war! For almost 6,000 years God has permitted Satan to sway this world, to deceive it into transgression of His Law, that it might learn by reaping that the results of Satan's way are not good! The RESULTS are the staggering mountain of woe ad human misery, the fear the heartache, the injustice and the suffering in this world today! A comparatively few true Christians have learned that GOD'S WAY is good!

Soon, now Jesus Christ is coming again to earth, to FINISH His tremendous spiritual creation on the SEVENTH millenial day, just as He finished that of the present world on the seventh literal day. Satan will be restrained a thousand years. As Christ healed the sick and preached the Gospel on the literal Sabbath, so He will heal up these ugly wounds of the whole world during His millenial Day!

He shall rebuke strong nations, until they all beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning-hooks, and the nations learn war no more-but rather find the way of PEACE!

Competition shall be abolished. The premium will no longer be on GETTING, but

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on SERVING. A man will no longer be adjudged successful by what he HAS-what he has been able to amass for himself-but rather by how well, and how much he has served-by how much good he has contributed!

People at last will find the Way to peace, the true source of happiness they will be filled with JOY! They will learn God's laws of health, and they will be vigorous, filled with joyous vital energy! They will be active, they will come into a prosperity we can hardly imagine, now! And they shall find salvation, and ETERNAL LIFE!

After a thousand years of this, we shall all look back and COMPARE:

We shall compare the actual RESULT of six thousand years of being deceived into living Satan's way of competition, of strife, of jealousy, bitterness, envy, greed, and vanity, with the HAPPINESS, the WORLD PEACE, the PROSPERITY, and the energized JOY of one millenium lived by GOD'S LAWS!

We shall have learned our lesson!

We shall have learned that all Power, all KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM, all GOOD, comes alone from God. We shall have learned that we are not, ourselves, even capable of knowing which is the right way -which are the TRUE values-unless we go to GOD for that knowledge, and permit Him to reveal it. We shall have learned that the POWER to become strong and noble characters also had to come from God-that we have had to receive EVERYTHING from Him! But we ourselves shall have learned these truths, and made our own decisions! We shall have had to WANT this righteousness of God with such fervent and burning desire that we have been willing to FIGHT our own selves, to suffer trying to control and to master our selves, and finally to throw ourselves on God's mercy, trusting in HIS power, in order to overcome!

And we shall give ALL the GLORY to GOD!

Now I think you see God's great PUR-POSE being worked out here below!

NO WONDER Paul burst out, when be saw it, with the exclamation: "O, the deptb of the riches both of the WISDOM and the KNOWLEDGE of God! How UN-SEARCHABLE are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"

#### THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS WHYNO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscrip-tion price, and without advertising? The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE, It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received." Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price," is God's way. We proclaim a PREE salvation. Therefore we cannot put a PRICE upon The PLAIN TRUTH. We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not ear work, but God's. We have set our to conduct cod's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need. God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way og giving, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His peorle to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds oi thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who head The PLAIN TRUTH. Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

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