

"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"

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THE ARMSTRONG MOVEMENT IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

by Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

Recently it became known through the press as well as by the lengthy statement from Herbert W. Armstrong to his faithful followers, that Garner Ted Armstrong, his son, was relieved of all duties as executive Vice President of the Worldwide Church of God and Vice Chancellor of Ambassador College. This was an astonishing news item, in view of the fact that Garner Ted Armstrong has been heard over several hundred radio stations, and his weekly televised program has had a large number of viewers. In addition, the 42 year old son was the managing editor of the magazine, *Plain Truth*, which has a circulation of 1½ million. Many speculations have been offered as to the possible reason for the unexpected rift between Herbert W. Armstrong and his son. The Religious Editor of the Minneapolis Star, Willmar Thorkelson, offered some suggestions, on May 6th as to the possible reason for this startling turn of events. In the May 15th Issue of the *Time* magazine, a lengthy article appeared, entitled, *Ted Armstrong, Where Are You?* This discussion was in the section of Religion. The well known publication, *Christianity Today*, in the May 6th Issue, has a brief article with the head-

ing, *The Vice-President is Missing*. It begins with an opening question, "Has a rift opened between the cultist, Herbert W. Armstrong ("The World Tomorrow" and *Plain Truth* magazine), and his son, Garner Ted, 42, number-two man in Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God?" The writer discusses several possibilities such as e.g., personal reasons, exhaustion, or a leave of absence. Very properly the writer in *Christianity Today* points out the unusual steps which were taken by the Armstrong organization in stripping Garner Ted Armstrong of his titles during a leave of absence. In a letter to the cult's many local organizations, Herbert W. Armstrong explains the steps taken, without going into any details, except that discipline has been applied to his son, and that he is relieved from any responsible leadership in the Worldwide Church of God. This, then, is a brief resume of what has happened within the Armstrong Movement.

It seems possible, however, to see certain implications in the removal of Garner Ted Armstrong from leadership in the Worldwide Church of God. It was generally believed that he was the heir apparent not only to the whole Armstrong Movement, but also to the

leadership of the three church-run institutions at Pasadena, California, Sandy, Texas, and St. Albans, England. The effect of this cleavage will be far-reaching. The elder Armstrong, who has reached 80, obviously cannot bear the heavy duties involving leadership of such a large movement, at least not very long. This will bring the movement in the hands of others who have never exercised strong leadership in the Radio work, and in the production of materials, which keep the organization alive and strong. Whether these enormous funds (involving millions of dollars) will continue to pour in may be very doubtful. The consistent teaching by the Armstrong dynasty of tithing and rigid stewardship has channeled vast amounts of funds into the organization. People who have been brain-washed for years may decide to take a new look into the whole program of Armstrongism. It is doubtful that the same blind allegiance and loyalty can be transferred to the new leadership even if it possesses capability. The authority and the reliability of the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong and his son, Garner Ted Armstrong will be subjected to a real test subsequently. Whatever the causes of the rift may be, they are certain to bring repercussions throughout the Armstrong movement, and even among those who have been somewhat sympathetic to his simplistic solution to mankind's distressing problems. This great crisis in the Armstrong Movement may awaken many people who have not previously seen the threat to evangelical Christianity which this dynamic cult has brought about.

We agree with Dr. Joseph Martin Hopkins, who recently wrote,

"To accept Armstrong's prophetic role is to reject the wise council of Christianity's greatest interpreters — among them Augustine, Luther, Calvin, and Wesley. To believe the Armstrong gospel is to reject virtually all of Christianity's classic doctrines: the Trinity, the personality of the Holy Spirit, the sinless nature and bodily resurrection of Christ, the immortality of the soul, the conversion experience, salvation by faith alone, and the existence of hell as a place of eternal punishment. To subscribe to Armstrong's system of doctrine is to submit to a straightjacket of legalism and to accept a regimentation every bit as restrictive and stultifying as that of Jehovah's Witnesses." This is a condensed summary of Armstrongism. The full story of the recent rift in the movement cannot long remain mysterious. It is certain to surface and become information very soon.

In a later discussion of the Armstrong system we expect to have more to add to the rift at the highest leadership of this cult. Perhaps the most deplorable situation is that tens of thousands of people have placed their complete confidence and reliance on everything which Garner Ted Armstrong has presented over the radio, television, as well as the great amount of literature distributed through the years. It must be humiliating for many people to have the ground cut from under them by the serious disciplinary action taken with regard to Garner Ted Armstrong. It is particularly sad to know that such a large number of people have been brainwashed and led away from the Scripture by this cult. We trust many of these will abandon the cult and turn to the Gospel of Christ.

IS THERE AN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

by Wilson Ewin

One year ago St. Joseph's Oratory witnessed the closing meeting of a campaign to "turn Montreal upside down for Jesus Christ." Many French and English Protestants acclaimed it as the beginning of a great revival in this French city. Rev. Jean-Paul Regimbal, a Roman Catholic priest and widely heralded as "a born-again believer in Jesus Christ," stated the aims of the week's meetings in these words, "That those who believe in Christ might confess Him, that those who seek Him might find Him (*La Presse*, March 3, 1971). The entire crusade was presented as "Christ-centered" and oriented to become Montreal's greatest "evangelical" thrust.

The Rally Committee issued its first press statement on January 9, 1971. The February 5th bulletin announced the speakers for the March 7-12 meetings and read in part:

"Rev. Eugene Boyer, French evangelist (member of Greater European Crusade) will preach in the Forum on Tuesday, March 9th. Rev. Boyer has devoted the past twenty years to spreading the Gospel across Western Europe as well as the French-speaking nations of Africa. His radio program *La Voix de l'Evangile* is produced in Marseilles, and is heard in 28 French speaking nations. The radio audience is estimated to be about 10 million. This Presbyterian minister carries the good news of the Gospel wherever God leads Him, from humble meetings in the inaccessible areas of Europe and Africa to the great cathedrals of important

European centres."

"Dr. Donald Leidman, Ph.D., was born in Sweden and brought up as an Orthodox Jew. He studied medicine in Sweden and Holy Scripture in Jerusalem including the Dead Sea Scrolls. Healed miraculously from a chronic heart disease, he was finally brought to the conviction that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Messiah. Since then he received not only water baptism but also the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He has a ministry of love and reconciliation among the Jewish people everywhere. Dr. Leidman is a Christian psychiatrist by profession and is presently living in the U.S.A."

"Dr. David du Plessis from Oakland, California, was born in Southern Africa. He is known as 'Mr. Pentecost' (Dr. Du Plessis is a Pentecostal minister) and served for several years as executive secretary for the World Council of Churches. Dr. Du Plessis was the personal guest of Pope John XXIII and served as an observer at the second Vatican Council. Last September he was asked by Cardinal Willebrands to establish a dialogue between the Charismatic Movement and the Roman Catholic Church. This report, prepared by 9 international representatives of various Charismatic Movements, was adopted by the Secretaryship for Christian Unity (Roman Catholic) and by the ninth World Congress of Pentecostal Churches."

ROMAN CATHOLIC SPEAKERS

Roman Catholic speakers included Rev. Valerien Gaudet, member

of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He served as missionary in Latin America for 10 years before being named general co-ordinator for Pastoral Formation and Social Communications within his congregation. He lives in Rome, claims to have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit and gives testimony of "the outpouring of the Spirit" in Italy.

Tuesday night's feature speaker was Rev. Roman Carter, Dominican priest and member of the San Tomas Convent at Avila, Spain. American by birth, he served his Church in Hawaii and England and now travels extensively as General Secretary for the International Ecumenical Fellowship at Salamaque. The February 5th bulletin presented Rev. Carter as a "doctor in theology, licentiate in philosophy, and an international authority in ecumenical matters." He also was a "witness of the outpouring of the Spirit" in Italy.

Other speakers at the Montreal Rally included Rev. Roy Bringham, International President for the Inter-Church Renewal Ministry; Dr. Robert Frost, biologist and the author of several works on the Holy Spirit; Dr. Don McKenzie of the N.A.S.A.; Mr. Ray Brooks, representative for Action-Life Ministry.

Also active in promotion of the Rally was Mr. Keith A. Price, Executive Director of *Direction Chretienne* (the new name chosen by Sermons from Science Pavilion at the Montreal Expo, Man and his World). One of Mr. Price's staff, Mr. Jim Yorgey, directed the adult and youth training classes for counselling during the Rally. A nun, Sister Joan Givas, was in charge of baby sitters. An around the clock prayer campaign was organ-

ized and began on Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). Evangelicals and especially those from Pentecostal Assemblies worked together with Roman Catholics in carrying out the work of publicity.

Probably no single event has done more to clarify the many and sometimes conflicting reports of world-wide evangelical movements within the Roman Church than the Montreal Mass Rally for Christ. No religious gathering in modern times has cast more light upon the Charismatic Movement, so enthusiastically shared by many Evangelicals and Roman Catholics alike. The Montreal Rally diffracted light emanating from the "Roman Catholic Pentecostal Movement."

"BROTHERS IN CHRIST"

The changing attitude of some evangelicals towards the Church of Rome and her doctrines and practices has now given Roman Catholicism a place in the Christian arena. The view that Roman Catholics are "brothers in Christ" might be made mistakenly by laymen in areas where Rome has concealed her true identity. It is questionable how ministers with formal Bible training could fall under such an illusion. However, in Quebec, Canada, the modern home of pagan Rome, terms such as "born-again Roman Catholics" are absolute models of sheer spiritual irresponsibility, and that without parallel.

It is most regrettable that confusion over this issue has been caused by some whose best energies have been devoted to Gospel work. An example is given in Christian Directions (Sermons from Science) December, 1970 publication: "Two Sundays ago, Jim Yorgey was invited to take our

program to a Trappist Monastery near Montreal. These monks have for centuries been sworn to absolute silence, giving most of their time to meditation. As a born-again Roman Catholic priest from another Order told us, "This is a real break-through!"

Rev. Eugene Boyer of Greater European Crusade may have come to Quebec with no knowledge of the Ecumenical atmosphere in which he was to speak. However, several Evangelical pastors explained to him the precise belief of the Roman Catholic priests involved. The afternoon of March 9th he was challenged to declare the true facts before the people of Montreal, if he still chose to speak. (A petition signed by 12 pastors asking him not to participate, strangely enough, never reached his hands.) He chose to speak. Rev. Boyer warmly hugged the priest who introduced him (Rev. J. P. Regimbal), and a few seconds later called him his "brother." His message was neutral and pleasing to the ears of the Roman Catholics. He has been introduced to the audience as "the Billy Graham of the French language."

Rev. Jean-Paul Regimbal, a Roman Catholic priest, was Co-Director of the Montreal Rally and Master of Ceremonies throughout the entire week of activities. He is highly esteemed by certain Evangelicals as a "born-again believer." The priest lectured at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, P.Q., on March 4th. A tape recording was made of both his message and the question period that followed. Rev. Regimbal's story was not one of conversion to Christ, but an experience that led to his feeling the "reality of the Roman faith." He at-

tended meetings several years ago where the "power of the Holy Spirit" was being sought. This led to hands being laid upon him by a woman, and he was introduced to the charismatic world of "tongues" and "healing."

Rev. Regimbal's subject "Christianity Demythologized" created the impression that once again a Roman Catholic priest had chosen to follow the Word of God and abandon the myths, superstitions and pagan teachings of Rome. Instead, however, the audience was informed that Roman Catholicism had been a myth to the priest until he had been "baptized of the Holy Spirit." His church, its doctrines and practices were now realities of truth. Thus Roman Catholicism had been demythologized!

STILL ROMANISTS AT HEART

The priest emphasized that the Charismatic Movement was active within the Roman Church throughout the whole world. Following are some of the questions and answers given after his message:

"Do you still pray to Mary as Mediator?"

Answer: "First of all, let me make it clear that we never do use Mary as an intermediary. When we say 'Hail Mary, full of grace,' we are just repeating what we read in the Gospel." (Rev. Regimbal admits he says the Rosary and of course contrary to what he said, Roman Catholic doctrine recommends Mary as mediator and that prayer should be made to her.)*

"Follow your encounter with Christ, would you say that your new experience led you to reassess certain teachings of your Church?"

Answer: "The real assessment of it all led to a new discovery in depth of the reality of my faith."

"Do you feel a radical change in your beliefs took place, for instance, in the Church's teaching that the Mass is the sacrifice of Christ?"

Answer: (Rev. Regimbal left no doubt that he holds to the teachings of Rome concerning the Mass. He went to great lengths to explain that the Mass is not "another" sacrifice. This is merely a classical Romanist evasion of the subject. Rome has always taught the Mass is the same sacrifice of Christ and not "another"). He concluded with these words, "The sacramental presence of the Lord Jesus continues to be a fundamental belief."

"Your movement within the Roman Catholic Church extends to several nations. Do you foresee a conflict within the Church or perhaps even a schism?"

Answer: "On the contrary, of 256 bishops informed of the Holy Spirit's work, 251 have given their written approval and blessing."

THE MEETING AT ST. JOSEPH'S SHRINE

The Rally's first meeting, Monday, March 8, took place in St. Joseph's Oratory. The program in the huge auditorium featured "born-again" Roman Catholics. Rev. Valerien Gaudet, Mary Oblate, delivered the main address at the international shrine. He began by saying, "In this city, called the City of Mary, a new Pentecost is about to break out. Brethren from all nations, from all denominations and all brothers in Christ are gathered. And yet there is this great suffering of my heart—the great division that exists among us." Brother André, founder of the shrine, was eulogized as well as the "saints of the Canadian (Roman) Church."

*But contrary to what he says the Church of Rome does teach that Mary acts as Mediator and is acclaimed as Co-redemptrix with Christ.

At the turn of the century entire denominations decayed through the cancer of Modernism and nearly destroyed the Evangelical movement that began with the Reformation. Now again a subtle and devastating attack has been marshalled against the Church throughout the world. It is a spiritual neutrality defined by some observers as neo-evangelicalism. Its adherents have attained a degree of sophistication that they imagine relieves them from the biblical duties of "overseers" and "watchmen." Among the "wolves" these neo-evangelicals have chosen to ignore is the very one most responsible for destroying or scattering the sheep across the past twelve centuries, namely, the false teachers of Roman Catholicism. Suddenly Romanism is Evangelical and Roman priests are "brethren."

Without doubt the Charismatic Movement of Rome will expand; the process of weakening walls and barriers within presently Evangelical groups will grow and intensify. Upon a foundation composed of the stones of absolute apostasy and the mortar of Ecumenism, compromise and neutrality will emerge the World Church.

Standing apart and faithful to His Word will stand the Church of which the Master spoke. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." May he give courage to the Nehemiahs to stand, to separate, to "Warn every one night an dday with tears," but foremost and above all, to proclaim the Bible truth that Jesus saves.

Two Evangelical pastors approached the French priest at the close. He mistook them for Roman Catholics, and the following conversation took place.

Pastors: "In this day of changes even religion has changed."

Priest: "You must remember that the Church (Roman) has never changed."

Pastors: "You mean that penance and indulgence are still useful in taking away sin?"

Priest: "Yes, yes, yes."

Pastors: "Then you can assure us that purgatory after death still exists for the cleansing of our sins?"

Priest: "Yes, yes, yes."

Pastors: "And you can assure us that the daily sacrifice of the Mass is still the offering of Jesus in sacrifice?"

Priest: "Yes, yes, yes."

Pastors: "Then you must surely believe that one can still pray to Mary?"

Priest: "Yes, yes, Remember that I'm still an Oblate priest of Mary Immaculate."

A NUN'S TESTIMONY

Following Rev. Gaudet's address, Sister Joan Givas was asked to give her testimony. This member of the Congregation of Our Lady had met a group of Pentecostal people. She received the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and spoke in tongues. The nun informed her listeners that she was cleansed in the blood of Christ. (The Roman Church sometimes speaks of Christ's blood. The parish in which the writer lives is called the Parish of the Precious Blood!) The nun from Winnipeg, Manitoba, concluded by publicly stating that her appreciation of the sacraments was much deeper, especially that of the Holy Eucharist (the Mass.) This was attributed solely to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Following the close of the evening program, truly born-again sisters in the Lord questioned the nun. She affirmed her faith in penance, prayers to Mary and the sacrifice of Christ in the Mass. She too, is presently more confirmed in Romanism than before her charismatic experience.

A PRIEST'S TESTIMONY

Rev. Simoneau, a Roman Catholic, followed the nun in giving testimony. This was read from a prepared document and began with the statement that the Rally would glorify Jesus Christ and Him only. In the paper which spoke of God's mercy and Christ, the Lamb of God, Rev. Simoneau repeatedly read the statement that Christ obtained total pardon for sin. He stated that Christ was always accessible and would open to those who would knock. The paper sounded evangelical.

Then came the next day. The writer attended the Rally's afternoon program at the Alexis Nihon Plaza. A somewhat informal testimony period was in session, and the throng of Roman Catholics and Pentecostals were joined together in bonds of mutual love and understanding. This fellowship was disturbed somewhat when the pastor of an Evangelical French Baptist Church asked a number of questions, and then began to address the congregation. His questions and commentary on Hebrews 9 and 10, started a discussion.

Then suddenly from somewhere stepped the same Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Simoneau. The preaching stopped, and a dialogue began between the pastor and the priest. Several former Roman Catholics were present to witness the priest's confession that he still believed in the Mass, sang the Mass and that the Mass contributed to salvation. His written testimony from the night before was completely forgotten and reversed in the verbal discussion!

THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

Much documentation is available to show that the bishops of Rome

met in council solely for the purpose of "renewing" the Church. There was absolutely no intention, plan or movement to change the doctrines of the Church of Rome. In his opening address October 11, 1962, Pope John XXIII said, "The Church will act so that men, families and peoples, will turn their souls to heavenly things."

In October, 1957, the Monsignor Montini (now Pope Paul VI) addressed members of the World Congress of the Lay Apostolate (Roman Catholic) in these words: "Today we witness a spiritual and historical event with ourselves as actors. This need to witness is becoming a collective phenomenon as if raised up by a renewed *charisma* (spiritual power movement) of early Christianity. 'Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall dream dreams' (Acts 2:17). Yes, it is the Pentecostal wind springing up again in the heart of the Church."

Four years ago, several of Quebec's Evangelical Baptist pastors became intrigued by this new 'Evangelical' movement. Was Quebec, the world's model Roman Catholic state, experiencing a Holy Spirit revival from within the pagan system itself? This called for prayerful and sincere investigation. Roman Catholic rectories were visited from east to west. Time was spent in "Retreat Centres" where Roman Catholics were being "converted to Jesus Christ." Countless interviews were held with Catholic priests, nuns and people alike.

BORN AGAIN—ROMANIST STYLE

All personal contact and subsequent investigation produced the same disclosure. Reports of born-again people and evangelical trends

within the Church of Rome were absolutely untrue and without foundation. Questioning and conversation revealed the same condition of heart as every Roman Catholic who participated in the Montreal Mass Rally for Christ. They were unregenerate souls whose love for their Church burned with a strange new zeal. In no sense had they grasped the New Testament Covenant. The heavenly sanctuary, the perfect atonement by the Lamb of God and His shed blood, and the High Priestly office of the Lord Jesus Christ were entirely foreign to their intellect and heart.

Reports circulating that Roman Catholic priests are now born again or that Rome now has an "Evangelical wing" are misleading, and extremely harmful to the Lord's work. The authors of some reports probably are sincere and acted in good faith. They are unfortunate victims of Rome's deceit and intrigue. Probably the major cause for their mistaken identity of error and the subsequent gross misrepresentation of fact lies in the present general ignorance of Romanism. The responsibility for this, in consequence, lies squarely upon the shoulders of individual pastors and Denominational machinery.

No doubt this had led to the present wave of flirtation by many evangelicals with the Roman system. Certainly this can be said of the Pentecostals attending the Montreal Rally. Their knowledge of Romanist belief and practice was conspicuous by its absence. Sheer emotional experience carried the day to the absolute exclusion of Biblical doctrine. Constant negligence or refusal to present the errors of Rome has conditioned God's people to a process of neu-

trality, compromise, cooperation and finally shameful fellowship.

THE LESSONS FROM HISTORY

At the turn of the century entire denominations decayed through the cancer of liberalism. Modernism nearly destroyed the evangelical movement that began with the Reformation. Now, a subtle and most devastating attack has been marshalled against the Church throughout the world. It is a spiritual neutrality defined by some observers as the neo-Evangelicalism. Its adherents have attained a degree of sophistication that they imagine relieves them from the Biblical duty of "overseers" and "watchmen". They no longer accept the God-given responsibility of warning the flock that wolves are present and where they are found. They have only a "positive" message to preach and have retreated to a neutral corner of their own fabrication within the Gospel arena. The effects of the new philosophy are being increasingly felt. Among the "wolves" which the neo evangelicals have chosen to ignore is the very one most responsible for the destruction of the sheep across the past twelve centuries; namely, the Roman Catholic Church. Suddenly Romanism is "Evangelical" and

Roman Catholics are "brethren" in Christ.

Rev. E. S. McVety, Minister of Evangelism, the People's Church, Toronto, wrote a 10 page paper concerning the Congress and entitled it "Trojan Horse—1970." One sentence is of cardinal importance, "I am of the growing opinion that both the staging of the recent Congress on Evangelism and the reactions to it are of greater significance than is realized by most of us."

The Charismatic Movement within Roman Catholic circles will expand; the process of weakening walls and barriers within some evangelical groups will grow and intensify. Upon a foundation composed of the stones of absolute apostasy and the mortar of ecumenism, compromise and neutrality will emerge the World Church.

Standing apart and faithful to His Word will stand the Church of which the Master spoke. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." May He give courage to the Nehemiahs to stand, to separate, to "Warn every one night and day with tears," but foremost and above all, to proclaim the Bible truth that Jesus saves. □

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THE SCRIPTURES AND THE HOMOSEXUAL

*by Roy E. Knuteson, Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church, Whittier, Calif.*

Homosexuality has gained a degree of tolerance and acceptance today unparalleled in human history since the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. Homosexual activity between consenting persons is not only legal in many areas but generally condoned. Gay parades, homosexual weddings, and films receive wide and consistent publicity in the nations news media. This permissive attitude has generated such a significant numerical increase in the homosexual community that estimates indicate that there may be as many as 20 million such perverts in America alone. One knowledgeable author contends that every sixth man in America has latent or overt homosexual tendencies (Jess Stearn, *The Sixth Man*, Doubleday) In this climate of acceptability, the once strong puritan ethic has eroded to the point where some evangelicals now treat this degrading moral problem as simply a psychological illness! What does the Bible say about this problem? Is it a sin? Do homosexuals go to heaven?

The Scriptures deal with this problem in a number of passages in both Testaments. Under the Mosaic law, God dealt very severely with the homosexual. Moses decreed:

“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination” (Lev. 18:22).

“If a man lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put

to death; their blood shall be upon them” (Lev. 20:13).

God’s judgment upon the infamous cities of the plains stand as an indelible example of divine vindication of spiritual law.

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

It is apparent from a careful study of the new Testament that God has not changed His mind regarding this serious malady of our day.

THE WARNINGS OF SCRIPTURE

In a basic passage dealing with deviant human behaviour and God’s response, Paul writes:

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did (exchange) the natural use for that which is against nature; And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their own lust one toward another, men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was (fitting)” (Rom. 1:24, 26, 27).

In this list of heinous sins, homosexuality is explicitly and

fully illustrated. It is obvious that the passage is describing the habitual life-style of the unsaved whose destiny has already been settled both in history and in eternity. No one can argue from this setting that God has any other attitude towards such sinners but rejection and judgment.

Certainly such sins of the flesh are condemned in John's writings as stated in his First Epistle:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust of it, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

"And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:5-9).

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (1 John 5:18).

The only possible conclusion to be drawn from such plain statements from God's Holy Word is that the homosexual cannot be a Christian in the Biblical sense, regardless of any claims of a profession of faith. The Bible refutes such claims as spurious.

THE FUTURE FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL

Viewing as a prophet the decadence of our day, Paul wrote:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

Ancient Biblical patriarchs abhorred such immorality and the apostle Jude quotes one to prove his point:

"And, Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convict all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 14, 15).

The Book of Revelation flatly declares:

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all

liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

In a passage that deals with the splendor of the heavenly Jerusalem, an ominous note is sounded regarding those who are excluded from this eternal scene:

"And there shall in no way enter into it anything that defileth, neither he that worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they who are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).

John, the prophet of God, concludes:

"Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For outside are dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Rev. 22: 14-15).

But perhaps the most conclusive statement regarding the destiny of the homosexual is found in I Cor. 6: 9-10:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"

HOPE FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL

In this startling and frank passage Paul relates that some of the Corinthians had been practicing homosexuals. However, a remarkable change took place in their social and physical relationships which drastically altered their personal manner of living. He writes:

"And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:11).

The only "sure cure" for the homosexual is the spiritual conversion called the "new birth." The Bible declares:

"Jesus answered, and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

"And that He died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them and rose again. Wherefore, henceforth know we no man after the flesh; yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:15-17).

Regardless of the reason for homosexuality (dominant mother—no father image—environmental background or lack of spiritual training), the Bible offers one hope to those enmeshed in this sin of perversion and that is personal renewal, or regeneration through Christ.

Most psychologists and psychiatrists refuse to recognize that the practice of homosexuality is sin, and spend their time attempting to uncover the source of this perverted behaviour, rather than dealing with the root problem which is a recognition and admission that before God the homosexual is a sinner in need of regenerative cleansing of God.

The revelation that a person has an unfortunate and irretrievable family background or environmental problem will not resolve this sinful practice. It is comparable to a physician who simply places "band-aids" on the external declares that every moral deviation, whether it be murder, adultery, or Sodomy is the external revelation of an internally corrupt human nature. Unless this spiritual issue is faced realistically and a genuine repentance occurs before God whereby the sinner admits his guilt and applies the crucifixion of Christ to his old nature and its re-

sultant evil deeds, there will be no permanent release or moral cleansing.

There is no sin so great that it cannot be forgiven. "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Isaiah's promise is good news to those seeking release and redemption from this particular deviant behavioral pattern. He said:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

BOOK REVIEW

MASTERS OF DECEPTION by F. W. Thomas, *Bakers Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich.* A startling Exposé of the so-called Jehovah's Witness. Paperback 162 pp \$2.45.

The Writer, F. W. Thomas proceeds in this fine book from his personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, Luke 10: 17, 20, to his purpose in writing the book, viz. A defense of the faith, Jude 3, right on through a detailed, documented presentation of the theological position of the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses. In most cases he uses the very portions of Scripture on which they base their beliefs, showing from their contexts that the Bible clearly does not teach what they claim it does. Thus the Scriptures clearly show that their conclusions are not justified.

All through the book, even while **FORCEFULLY** refuting their teaching, Mr. Thomas manifests a real love for the souls of the individuals involved in this Satan-inspired cult. He shows a keen desire that

they "might be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth".

He makes it clear that he is not so optimistic about the effect of his book on the J.W.'s., as to believe it will produce a great movement to the Bible and to Jesus Christ. It is, however, his stated hope that some might be saved, and that those who are outside the J.W.'s will be well enough instructed as to their beliefs that they will (1) Not be led into the movement. (2) Will be helped in seeking to lead some of them to Christ.

As indicated above the main thrust of the book is to refute the J.W.'s. false teaching, including some of their unbiblical predictions, which they like to call prophesying.

Masters of Deception is not exactly "easy reading", but, at the same time, it is written clearly and interestingly enough that most any interested person will be profited by reading it. I predict it will enjoy a wide distribution.

Rev. E. Loren Pugsley

LISTINGS FROM OUR CATALOG

(Add 10% for mailing charges on orders up to \$10.00.)

1. **HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG AND HIS WORLD TOMORROW**, Noel Smith. Editor Baptist Bible Tribune. Mr. Smith has carefully analyzed the philosophies of the great world-wide program in the light of the plain teaching of the Word of God, giving his conclusions, sometimes in a bit harsh language, but always objectively. Paper, \$1.00.
2. **HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG AND THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD**, Walter R. Martin. Bethany Fellowship Publishers. Mr. Martin, well-known for his unexcelled Kingdom Of The Cults, writes just as authoritatively on this present-day heresy. Paper, .60¢
3. **THE DELUSIONS OF HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG**. RAS Publication. This is a composite of three articles: The well-known Mr. Confusion; Who Is H.W.A.? and What Is His Program; H.W.A., What Does He Believe? Paper .20¢
4. **HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG—A FALSE PROPHET**, Robert L. Sumner. Dr. Sumner is a faithful contributor to The Sword Of The Lord, and presents the unbiblical position of H.W.A. in this small, but well-written booklet. It is especially good for use in talking with Armstrong followers. Paper, .10¢
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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Prof. John E. Dahlin

QUESTION . . . What has brought about such a rapid growth of the Armstrong Movement in the recent years?

ANSWER . . . The extensive use of the radio, television, and the printed page has brought the Armstrong teachings before an enormous number of people. In addition, perhaps no other cult has used the power of persuasion more effectively than this dynamic system. Whether the radio, television is used, or the pages of the *Plain Truth* magazine, the presentation is given in such a way that the emphasis seems plausible, especially to people who lack the capacity of discrimination. The present cleavage at the highest level of authority (as pointed out elsewhere in this Issue) may cause disruption and serious repercussion within this cultic system, however.

QUESTION . . . May we foresee some far-reaching changes in the Roman Catholic Church in the near future?

ANSWER . . . No. The changes which have occurred in a number of local places, such as an emphasis on Tongues, Pentecostalism and liberty of expression at the services, does not represent a new policy of the international Roman Catholic Church. The major doctrines proclaimed during the past century, such as Papal Infallibility, The Immaculate Conception of Mary, and the Bodily Assumption of Mary into Heaven, are still binding. Changes must come from papal pronouncements in order to be effective. It is well to remember this great ecclesiastical system has outridden many storms, the most serious of which was the Protestant Reformation. The Catholic Counter Reformation recaptured and restored Catholic power such as was never held prior to the Reformation. This rejuvenation of the Catholic Church was achieved after it had reached its lowest point of influence in history. It is not reasonable to expect any major doctrinal changes in the oldest ecclesiastical system in the world.