



# The Church of God BIBLE BULLETIN

Issue 1, March 2003

## You Were Born to be a KING!

**Herbert W Armstrong**

*Do you know you were put here on earth for a PURPOSE? Do you know what that purpose is? Are you sure?*

More than three decades ago Queen Elizabeth gave birth to her first son. Everyone in Britain knew — and much of the world knew — that her son was born for a purpose. They knew he was born to become a king. From birth he has been receiving training to prepare him to be a king.

But if I should tell you that YOU were born to be a king — and a ruling king at that — would you believe it? Yet I can tell you on authority of the living Jesus Christ that you definitely were born for that very purpose!

WHY has the real purpose of life been hid from the world? WHY must the world remain oblivious to the real meaning of life?

Search, in this world, for the answers! The world does not have the answers. WHY?

### Quest for the truth

Go on a quest for the truth. Ask the question: Is there any PURPOSE? Is there any meaning to life?

Do we know why we are here — where we are going — what is THE WAY — what lies ahead?

Let's ask science. Let's ask education. Let's ask government, religion, technology, industry. Do any of them have the answers?

Dr. Fred Hoyle gave his answer in his book *The Nature of the Universe*. He spoke of this wholly fantastic universe in all its incredible order and precision, yet leaving mankind with scarcely a clue as to whether there is any real significance to human existence. He wondered why the universe is as we find it, and not something else. Or, he wondered, why is it here at all? He says we are at present without a clue to the answers.



**CROWNS HAVE LONG BEEN A SYMBOL OF ROYALTY. AS GOD'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS, DO WE HAVE A DESTINY GREATER THAN EARTHLY KINGS?**

This scientist stands in awe of the fact that man possesses intelligence so powerful that he can penetrate deeply into the wonderful universe, yet he is left without the smallest clue to his own fate!

Did you ever hear of the grandmother who searched over the whole house for her mislaid eyeglasses, when all the while they had merely been shoved up on her own forehead? Scientists look way off in the remote regions of endless space to find the reason for their own existence, when all the while the answers are on their own bookshelves — probably covered with dust — in the one Book they never read unless in skepticism and doubt.

Let's ask the Nobel prizewinner Dr. Harold Urey. He replies: "Science gives us no purpose in living beyond having a pleasant existence in one way or another." What, then, do scientists live for? Well, they are fascinated and inspired, he says, by the intriguing and magnificent things that they study.

Yes, one can occupy his mind, for a while, with a hobby, a study or almost any interest. But it's a passing interest. It doesn't answer our questions.

But if scientists may enjoy being wrapped up, for the moment, in the fascinating things they study, what does science give the ordinary man?

"But science," answers Dr. Urey, "does not give the ordinary man, whose daily life is often drab ... any motive that gives him a feeling of dignity. One of the great needs of this age is a great interpretation which can accept the facts of science and at the same time give inspiration to fill this void."

But I wonder what he really means by the facts of science? Science too often expresses its "facts" in terms of: "We cannot know, but we are coming to suppose thus and so..." Or, "Many are of the opinion that..." Or, "It is coming to be believed..." Or, "We may well assume..." Or, "Assuming such and such hypothesis to be true, it naturally follows that such and such is a fact." Then all these speculations, hypotheses, guesses and imaginary fables are assumed to be "facts." All too often, that is so.

Of course, there are many established FACTS of science — facts that have been proved facts. And if scientists only knew, the true "interpretation," which

can come only from God, does completely square with the true and proven facts of science. And it does, at the same time, fill that void and inspire to joy unspeakable!

So science does not have the answers. Science turns out to be a false messiah, after all.

### **Is knowledge the solution?**

Let's ask education. Thoughtful men have said that KNOWLEDGE is the one solution to all our ills. "Give us sufficient KNOWLEDGE," they say, "and all problems will be solved." Look first at the colleges and universities where this education is being disseminated. Student enrollments are on a rapid increase — at an all-time high. But also there is a rapid rise in discontent, disillusionment, a sense of hopelessness and a "what's-the-use" attitude.

And there is an accompanying rise in illicit sex, in premarital pregnancies, in mental illnesses, in drunkenness and in suicides. Among students!

Plainly, the instruction they are receiving is not giving them the answers they need.

Then look at the product of this world's education. The world leaders — the politicians, the scientists, the industrialists, the professional people — they are the product. They have the KNOWLEDGE.

Is, then, KNOWLEDGE the solution? Will KNOWLEDGE solve all the problems, end the world's ills? The KNOWLEDGE acquired by these people has not brought world peace. It has not ended hunger and want. It has not brought health, happiness and joy.

Take a few specific examples at random. The more doctors we have, the more sickness and disease there is to be treated. The more psychiatrists, the more mental cases to be treated. WHY? Do the doctors cause sickness, the psychiatrists the mind-slippage? No, of course not. But, neither do they deal with and prevent the causes. They treat the effect, while they let other commercial outlets increase the CAUSES.

So, science cannot give the answers. Education has gone materialistic and does not have the answers.

The world has tried about every form of government the human mind can devise — but none has brought world peace, universal prosperity and economic security or given us the real MEANING of life.

Technology, industry, the world of business have never provided the answers.

### **What about religion?**

And religion? None of this world's religions know WHY mankind is here, what is his potential destiny, how to achieve it or to be happy along the way.

Do you know WHY none of the world's religions has the answers? It is because NOT ONE of them has for the SOURCE of its religion THE TRUE AND PURE WORD OF GOD!

People suppose their religion came out of the Bible. I supposed that what I was taught as a boy in Sunday school came out of the Bible. Then, more than 50 years ago, when I was angered and challenged into my first real STUDY of the Bible, I was shocked with amazement to see that I had been taught the diametric OPPOSITE of the teachings of the Scriptures!

The Bible teaches that man's potential is to BECOME A KING — an actual ruling KING! It teaches that he is going to rule people right here on this earth.

When Jesus Christ returns to earth in all the POWER and GLORY of the eternal GOD, and takes the reins of government from men, setting up the WORLD-RULING KINGDOM OF GOD, David — the ancient King David of Israel — resurrected to immortal life, shall be king, under Christ, over all the nations descended from the 12 tribes of Israel (Ezekiel 37:15-25, 34:23, Jeremiah 30:9). And who will be the kings over each of the 12 tribes — then, of course actually 12 powerful nations? Jesus has promised those positions to the original 12 apostles (Matthew 19:27-28).

### **The way to peace**

In the world tomorrow — soon to dawn on this world — we shall have WORLD PEACE. Soon there will be universal prosperity. There will be happiness — JOY! There is, truly, a PURPOSE being worked out

here below, as a former Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, said before the U.S. Congress.

To make POSSIBLE a perfect UTOPIAN condition, God created and set in actual living, inexorable motion, a great invisible SPIRITUAL LAW. The law is THE WAY OF LOVE. And LOVE is an outgoing concern for others. It is LOVE toward God — and love toward fellowman.

The BIBLE is the INSTRUCTION BOOK for peace, happiness, prosperity security, joy. Jesus said man should live by EVERY WORD of the Bible. Sin is the transgression of the great LAW. And all have sinned.

The world has rejected God's LAW — GOD'S WAY. It has gone the WAY that has brought every curse on mankind. The WORLD TOMORROW will change all that. It will be RULED BY GOD'S LAW!

To QUALIFY to become a king — a RULER in the KINGDOM OF GOD — you must come to really KNOW that law. And the WHOLE BIBLE is a magnification — an elaboration — of its principles.

It is ONLY those who REPENT of their transgressions of God's great spiritual law — the Ten Commandments — and who surrender to and accept as Savior JESUS CHRIST, who can become begotten children of GOD. No one is a true Christian until he has received THE HOLY SPIRIT of God (Romans 8:9).

That is God's gift. It imparts the very LIFE of God. It renews and opens the MIND to comprehend spiritual knowledge. It bestows the LOVE of God — divine, spiritual love. It imparts POWER. It instills FAITH.

### **Yes, you were born to BE A KING!**

There IS tremendous PURPOSE for human existence. There IS stupendous meaning to life!

In the beginning God devised, created, set in actual, invisible MOTION, a living, spiritual LAW. This LAW is a way of LIFE. It is THE WAY God devised to produce peace, well-being, happiness, prosperity, joy.

Then God made MAN. He made man a free moral agent. Man must choose WHETHER to obey God, follow THE WAY that will bring him every blessing, or turn to THE WAY that may seem right, but that brings only curses.

God created man in His very own likeness — same form and shape. But God is A SPIRIT, and He formed man out of MATTER. Thus if man rejects THE WAY to every blessing for his happiness — if he makes a choice to go THE WAY that brings on him unhappiness, suffering and curses — he can be destroyed.

But God provided for man's salvation. Even if man starts out the WRONG WAY, he can repent, turn around to go the RIGHT WAY of God's law. The SIN of having gone contrary to that law can be forgiven. Christ paid the death penalty for us. We can be reconciled to God, through Christ.

### **Happiness forever!**

And then God has promised to actually beget us, by His Spirit, to be BORN AGAIN — next time born of GOD, as HIS CHILDREN, into HIS VERY DIVINE GOD FAMILY! Then we, too, shall BE SPIRIT. If man will choose THE WAY that produces full, abundant, joyful HAPPINESS, he may enjoy it FOREVER! But he may not suffer self-inflicted curses forever.

God marked out a 7,000-year duration to work out His PURPOSE in having put humans on earth. The first 6,000 years are allotted for man to be allowed to go the way that, in his deception, looks right — contrary to God's law.

Under Satan's sway, man has set up his human society — human forms of government, contrary to GOD'S government. He has set up his own world — with its Satan-influenced, human-produced systems of economic, political, scientific, educational, religious life. Man has REJECTED the way to peace, happiness, prosperity and joy.

But the few who repent, turn to God and His WAY through Jesus Christ, study and learn GOD'S WAY, live that way with God's help, converted by God's Spirit, are, in this life, actually learning to be KINGS whom Christ will USE, in the seventh thousand years,

to RULE the world WITH GOD'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

For 1,000 years there will be a different system of GOVERNMENT. It will be GOD'S GOVERNMENT. Jesus Christ will return, having received the KINGDOM from God Almighty the Father. He will set up WORLD GOVERNMENT. It will be the GOVERNMENT of GOD. Its laws are found in your Bible.

Christ will assign some, who have learned and lived HIS WAY — the WAY of His government, during this life — to rule over one city, or perhaps five, 10 or 100 cities.

But THIS LIFE is the training period. It is only those who are UNDER and OBEDIENT TO the authority of God's government now — who learn its LAWS, who overcome every other (and false) WAY — whose real citizenship is now reserved in heaven, who then will be assigned A POSITION OF RULE.

Christ is going to rule the whole world — WITH A ROD OF IRON!

The world has had nearly 6,000 years of MAN'S governments — MAN'S education — MAN'S industrial, commercial and economic systems — MAN'S social customs — MAN'S religions. Man has written the lesson in human blood — in suffering, frustration, anguish — in wars, failures — in discontent and emptiness.

Soon he will BE FORCED to start a 1,000-year period under GOD'S GOVERNMENT — with GOD'S religion, GOD's education, GOD'S social customs, GOD'S economic, industrial and merchandising system. MAN IS GOING TO BE FORCED, against his will — TO BE HAPPY!

The real and true Christian life is, simply, THE WAY OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT. It trains the true Christian to ADMINISTER that government. It trains him to BECOME A KING!

**Yes, you were born to be a KING!**

# The Great Purpose for YOUR Life!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**H**ow did you come to be on earth? Did you just happen, an accident of blind, unintelligent, lifeless EVOLUTION?

Or were you put here and given life by an all-knowing, all-intelligent, purposeful, living, supreme God, who designed and created the human mind and body?

Let me tell you — and I can prove it, and so can you if you are willing — that the great Creator brought YOU into existence on this earth FOR A GREAT AND MIGHTY PURPOSE!

You were born into a world that has developed a certain type civilization. The instant you were born you knew — NOTHING! But your eyes opened, you looked about and knowledge of what you saw began registering in your memory — began putting knowledge into your mind. Your ears heard sounds, and thus additional knowledge entered through the sense of hearing. Very elementary at first, but gradually, each bit of new knowledge, entering your mind through your senses of taste, smell, feel, sight and hearing, was added to what had previously been stored there.

Gradually you came to know, and take up with, the customs, ways, generally accepted ideas and beliefs of this world. You accepted them, took them for granted without question. Some of them were good — many of them were BAD. But you took them for granted without realizing they were bad.

Human nature, you see, wants to BE good — that is, to believe it is good — to be considered good. It just doesn't want to DO good. Because GOOD is the WAY of God's invisible, inexorable, spiritual LAW. That LAW is, simply, LOVE.

It is love toward God in the form of trusting and willing OBEDIENCE to God's every command and direction, knowing it is for our highest good. It is love toward God in the form of being God-centered —

having the mind continually (consciously or subconsciously) in contact with God, relying on God, seeking guidance from God, worshipful in the sense of gratitude, obedience, faith and trust. It is love toward fellow-MAN — in the sense of outgoing concern, equal to love and concern for self.

Now NO MAN exercises that kind of love naturally. You simply were not born with that kind of love.

YOU DON'T HAVE IT!

That is, not unless you have received it from God through His GIFT of His Holy Spirit. THAT love — God's love — that of His Holy Spirit — travels a certain road. It is the road that leads to peace, to happiness, to confident assurance, security, well-being, ENJOYMENT without kickbacks, prosperity — every good thing the heart desires. Everyone wants that result.

That is to say, everyone wants to have the RESULT of doing good.

But no one, it seems, naturally wants to GO that way — to DO good.

That WAY — doing good — is the WAY of God's law. This world is not FULL of happiness, peace, joy and universal prosperity. It is pretty well filled with strife — in the home, in business, in politics, in war between nations. It is pretty well filled with unhappiness, frustrations, insecurity. It is pretty well filled with crime and violence, with broken homes and unhappy, quarreling homes, with sickness and disease, with frustrations, failures, tragedies.

Now God is not the author of all these troubles in the world.

God has, FOR A GREAT PURPOSE, made humans free moral agents, and allotted 6,000 years for mankind to make a choice — whether to accept God's

government over him, to be ruled by God's law of LOVE, or whether to set up his own ideas of man-made government, following what comes naturally — HUMAN NATURE. That 6,000 years is about up. When it is — a very few more years, perhaps less than 10 — God Almighty is going to step in, intervene supernaturally and in divine POWER abolish governments and ways of society — rule all nations with GOD'S laws — and BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO HUMANITY!

HOW can that be done?

It's simple!

There is A WAY of personal, group and organized living that will automatically produce that Utopia. And there is A WAY that has, for 6,000 years, produced curses, war, strife and violence, frustration, failure — everything this world has. God is simply going to enforce, with divine power, His WAY. He is going to take over all governments, in a super WORLD GOVERNMENT ruled by the very CREATOR. It will rule by GOD'S LAWS — the WAY of love!

You can have a part in actually bringing PEACE, happiness, joy and abundance to humanity. God Almighty is going to do it — whether or not you have a part in it! But He is not going to do it alone. He is going to take certain human beings, born in the very LIKENESS of God, who REPENT of their carnal human nature — who cry out to God to CHANGE that nature — and give them the matchless supreme GIFT of His divine LOVE that will travel THE WAY toward peace, happiness and joy. These are they who, through real repentance of what they are as well as what they have done, through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as well as in His resurrected LIFE and POWER, are forgiven their guilty past, given contact with God, changed, converted, receiving His HOLY SPIRIT, being begotten as His CHILDREN, receiving the DIVINE nature.

In other words, they REPENT of human nature — they REPENT of hostility to authority — of resentment against God's law. They SURRENDER unconditionally to GOD, and wholeheartedly WANT Him to rule in their lives.

They CHANGE (through God's power given by His grace) from rebellion to submission — from SELF-

centeredness to God-centeredness. They let Jesus Christ (in spirit) come into their lives and actually live their lives for them (Galatians 2:20).

They change from THE WAY that has brought all the curses upon this world to THE WAY that will bring a brilliant, joyous UTOPIA to earth in a very few years when God sends the living Jesus Christ in power and glory to RULE ALL NATIONS and bring the happy WORLD TOMORROW!

This CHANGE is conversion. This is what it means to become a Christian.

A Christian is NOT merely one who PROFESSES Christ. God's own instruction to us — the Bible — says that if one has not received God's Holy Spirit, he is NONE of His — he is NOT a Christian (Romans 8:9). God gives His Holy Spirit ONLY to them who OBEY Him (Acts 5:32). This implants within the mind the divine nature — it means a CHANGED MIND!

But it does not remove the HUMAN nature. The mind governs whether the converted Christian now follows the pulls and desires of human nature, or whether he resists them and is LED BY the newly received divine nature. "As many as are LED BY the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14). But one's human nature cries out to be satisfied — does not like to be repressed.

Just receiving God's Spirit is not enough. One must be LED by God's Spirit. His Spirit opens the mind to UNDERSTANDING of spiritual truth, and the KNOWLEDGE of God's law. It opens the mind to THE WAY one should follow. God's Spirit also is the love of God — God's own divine love — flooding into the human heart, and flowing on out in love to God and love to neighbor. One must therefore GROW in spiritual knowledge and in God's grace (II Peter 3:18). He must become a DOER of God's law — actually LIVING in THE WAY of peace and happiness and joy.

This means he must OVERCOME his own carnal nature, his old habits, the temptations of the world — HE MUST BE CHANGED! He must develop toward perfect spiritual CHARACTER. The real Christian is undergoing a life of TRAINING to become a RULER in God's Kingdom — in the happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW. One cannot learn every-

thing in a minute, a day or a year. One does not become perfect at one jump.

It is a continuous PROCESS. No Christian becomes perfect at the very beginning. He does not overcome or root out all the sins, the wrong habits, all at once. He must do it little by little.

But, "He who overcomes, and keeps MY WORKS until the end," says Jesus Christ, "to him I will give power over THE NATIONS — 'HE SHALL RULE THEM' " (Revelation. 2:26-27).

WHY do THE NATIONS of this earth need ruling by Christ and those trained under a Christian life? Because all the unhappiness — everything WRONG with this world — has come from living THE WAY of hostility to God's law and GOD'S government. Because the only way this world can have PEACE, PROSPERITY, HAPPINESS is to be forced to build a society based on THE WAY that produces these desired blessings.

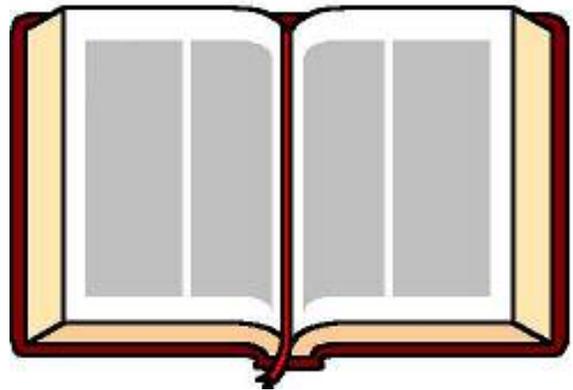
If you have started on THAT RIGHT WAY, don't get discouraged because you have slipped and fallen down along the road a few times. Get up and KEEP GOING. Even if you have sinned and are truly sorry, you can repent and Christ is your High Priest to forgive. Read and study I John 1:7-10 and 2:1-2. This is written to converted CHRISTIANS.

At the time of Christ's coming, the dead in Christ will be resurrected and rise to meet the descending Christ in the air. At that instant those living who have been thus changed, begotten by God's Spirit, will be changed in composition, from mortal to immortal — from matter to spirit — from human to divine.

THEY are then to RULE with and under the all-powerful, living Christ, until ALL NATIONS beat their swords into plowshares and PEACE shines forth on this war-weary earth! Jesus Christ taught His followers to PRAY: "YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH" (Matthew 6:10)! How about it? Shall we pray that prayer?

I DO!

## Thought for the Month



**“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

**Psalm 119:105**

# Sermon Summaries

**In this section we are providing sermon summaries. These are BRIEF OUTLINES ONLY! You should refer back to the audio tapes for the full messages.**

---

## Responsibility for Marking Part One

By Don Roth

**T**here have been some stormy periods in the life of this fellowship, with some difficult situations among the brethren. HOW should disfellowshipping be used in these situations?

In the early years of the Church of God, Mr. Herbert Armstrong carried a very heavy burden. He had to work very hard TO PROTECT the Church — to make sure it didn't *go astray*. He often "took the bull by the horns" and DISFELLOWSHIPED PEOPLE. These people were "put aside" in the hope that they would repent, and come back into the Body, and also because Mr. Armstrong didn't want them *to contaminate* the whole Body.

Some have said that the ministry of T-COG haven't taken the correct action when problems of this nature have arisen. "If HWA had been here," they say, "he would have disfellowshipped these troublemakers."

Near his death, Mr. Armstrong commissioned Mr. Joe Tkach to "get the Church READY." He knew it wasn't READY. And on many occasions, Mr. Armstrong lamented, "You people JUST DON'T GET IT!"

Mr. Armstrong felt that something WAS MISSING from the Church. That's why he gave Joe Tkach the mission to PREPARE IT.

What was MISSING? A DRAMATIC CHANGE between what Mr. Armstrong DID, and what he wanted us to BECOME.

Those of us who were ministers in the PCG weren't really getting people PREPARED for the Kingdom. When we started T-COG we wanted to DO THINGS RIGHT! To do things CHRIST'S WAY!

Ephesians 4 described our responsibility towards the brethren. "He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," verses 11-13. The ministers are to help ensure that the brethren don't become deceived. To provide the brethren WITH THE TOOLS that they can use!

So at our conferences we looked at Church Government, the Calendar, Passover, all the while asking Christ to LEAD US. Yet — we missed one of the "Big Ten" — adultery! This was a big bump on the road!

In considering a certain type of problem among the brethren, 2 Thessalonians 3 gives us good advice.

“But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that *YOU WITHDRAW* from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you ... For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, *NOTE* that person and *DO NOT KEEP COMPANY* with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother,” verses 6-15.

Here was a situation where people, who weren’t employed, just wanted to “live off” the rest of the brethren. Paul says the brethren should have enough sense to *AVOID THEM*. Note that Paul says “*YOU withdraw*” — there is a responsibility upon *the brethren* to take “special note” of these people and *KEEP AWAY* from them.

A similar teaching is found in Romans 16, where the problem is *divisive teaching*.

“Now I urge you, brethren, *NOTE THOSE* (KJV: *mark them*) who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and *AVOID THEM*. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech *deceive the hearts* of the simple,” verses 17-18. One way to avoid deception is to *AVOID* — or *withdraw* — from those who bring in “different ideas.” And it is up to *US* to do the withdrawing!

We can expect to come across division frequently in the Church of God. There are many warnings in the New Testament.

“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are *CONTENTIONS* among you,” 1 Corinthians 1:11.

“For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, *AND DIVISIONS* among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” 1 Corinthians 3:3.

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a *DIFFERENT GOSPEL*, which is not another; but there are some who *TROUBLE YOU* and want to *pervert the gospel* of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed,” Galatians 1:6-8.

“There will be *FALSE TEACHERS* among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And *MANY* will follow their destructive ways,” 2 Peter 2:1-2.

False teaching will be seductive and clever. The ministry need to provide *THE TOOLS TO MEASURE WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT*.

In the area of marriage, for example, the ministry need to teach how *GOD* looks at marriage, and set *THE EXAMPLE* themselves. Then the brethren can be *ON ALERT* for false teaching.

In the early days, it was *NECESSARY* for Mr. Herbert Armstrong to “get the bad apples out.” *WE WEREN’T READY* to do that *FOR OURSELVES*. Yet if, many years later, we *STILL* can’t *SEE ERROR*, have we really *developed the character* we should have?

We know the situation in 1 Corinthians 5, of the man who had “taken” his father’s wife. Notice how Paul seeks to get the Corinthians to deal with this problem in their midst.

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I *WARN YOU*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, *IMITATE ME*. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will *REMIND* you of my ways in Christ, as I *TEACH EVERYWHERE* in every church. Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills,

and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. What do you want? Shall I come to you with A ROD, or IN LOVE and a spirit of gentleness?" verses 14-21.

Paul did not want to come with a "big stick." If Paul has to make ALL the decisions, all of the time, WHERE is the CHARACTER of the brethren? Paul is trying to TEACH THEM — to show them what to do, having set them EXAMPLES in the past. But it's important for them to make decisions on a *personal basis* — as it is for us.

In 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 Paul makes his teaching very plain. "I wrote to you in my epistle NOT TO KEEP COMPANY with sexually immoral people ... But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral ... Therefore 'PUT AWAY from yourselves the evil person.'" The way we do not "keep company" is by WITHDRAWING OURSELVES from those who are causing trouble, or are engaged in public sin.

In all of this, of course, we have to act IN LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Our decisions and actions must be motivated by a desire for the ULTIMATE GOOD of the one we are withdrawing from. In the short term it may be painful for them (and us!), but in *the longer term* it will hopefully bring about repentance and a changed life — with ETERNAL BENEFITS.

Mr. Armstrong looked on us very much as CHILDREN. We couldn't be TRUSTED all the way — we couldn't do a good enough job of differentiating between TRUE and FALSE. So he very often did it *for us!*

Paul said, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things," 1 Corinthians 13:11. Even so, we should now be sufficiently MATURE in the things of God to recognise when we should MARK — TAKE NOTE — and AVOID those who cause trouble in our midst.

*Recorded 20 May 2000.*

## Marking: Part 2

### The Ministers' Responsibility

TEACHING is vitally important! And we have to be taught the FOUNDATIONS — the BASIC PRINCIPLES — before we can MOVE ON.

My desire is to *prepare us*, to give such understanding that we CANNOT BE MOVED ... and will be in THE RESURRECTION.

Looking back, we can think of situations where people in our fellowship have been moved away from the Truth. There is a reason.

The ministry have a very important task to do — which is TO TEACH.

What was Paul trying to do in his letters? He was trying to get the Romans ready for every eventuality. He was teaching the Corinthians how to prepare as the called-out ones, and build up the quality of their lives. He tried to teach the Galatians how to live the right way.

His whole purpose dealt with TEACHING the brethren ... preparing them so they would "make it" ... so they would not be moved. The majority of his writings do not deal with our "calling into the family" but with our "PREPARATION FOR THE KINGDOM."

In Part 1 of this message, I explained how Mr. Armstrong recognised that we needed a DEEPER UNDERSTANDING of how to conduct our lives.

We discussed 2 Thessalonians 3, where we are instructed to "... WITHDRAW from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us ... And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, NOTE that person and DO NOT KEEP COMPANY with him, that he may be ashamed." But Paul also pointed out that he had set AN EXAMPLE for the brethren — that they should IMITATE his conduct.

So when the ministry explain that the brethren should "withdraw" and "avoid" those who cause trouble,

they should be SETTING AN EXAMPLE by doing so THEMSELVES! Mr. Roth acknowledges that this has not been done. This has been a MAJOR ERROR, which Mr. Roth now apologises for on behalf of the ministry. In this area — of identifying and withdrawing from divisive people — the ministry have failed to properly protect the sheep.

A shepherd needs to be willing to lay down his life for the sheep. A shepherd would often lie down across the doorway to the sheep-fold — you'd have to get past the shepherd FIRST, to get to the sheep.

I carry a responsibility for those who have been misled. In an effort to avoid the extremes of the PCG, who have been throwing people out all over the place,

we have swung too much the other way. It is quite clear from the fruits that we have not been doing this Christ's way.

Thankfully, God is working with His ministers as much as with any of the brethren! And He will step in where necessary, to put things right, IF we approach Him in the right way.

So we must ALL LEARN to identify and “take note of” those who are busybodies — who are divisive — who are engaged in public sin — and WITHDRAW from them. And that applies to both the ministry AND the brethren, with the ministry *leading the way*.

*Recorded 27 May 2000.*

## Kermit Pulls a Face at Evolution

By Jamie McNab

Fans of The Muppets will recognise Kermit as one of the recent generation's most famous *celebrity frogs*. Yet there is a *real-life* frog who deserves to be every bit as well-known as his TV cousin — a frog who demonstrates, once again, that evolution DOES NOT MAKE SENSE, and has NO ANSWERS.

The hero of our article today is Kermit II, who is a South American *false-eye frog*. False-eye frogs are about 3 inches long, with skins that are a mixture of brown, black, blue, gray, and white spots. By “masking out” certain of these spots, the frog can change his skin colour — in the same way that a chameleon can change its colours.

One of the problems with frogs is that they don't have much in the way of defence. They are, for example, rather *soft*! Any predator who gets his mouth around a frog discovers that it can be quite juicy. Hopping away can be an option, but has its limitations — and some predators have very fast reactions! Some frogs and toads can produce an evil-tasting substance from their skins which can

be rather off-putting to some predators, but the false-eye frog has a most ingenious mechanism for protecting himself — one which evolution CANNOT EXPLAIN, but which is easy to understand if there is AN INTELLIGENT CREATOR.

One day, Kermit II is waiting happily by the edge of a pond, waiting for a particularly tasty fly to come just a little bit closer — breakfast is just the “flick of a tongue” away. Just at that moment, Hissing Sid, the snake, spots Kermit and slithers rapidly towards him. What can Kermit do? Hop away? Leap onto a passing motorbike? Pray?

In practice, Kermit leaps into action in *less than one second*.

Instantly, he jumps around, so that his back is now facing the predator. Kermit's usual sitting position is with his head held high and his back down low. But now, with his back facing the snake, Kermit puts his head low to the ground and elevates his hind parts up high. And he instantly changes the colours on his skin, to effec-

tively produce the image of a horrible “face,” so that what Hissing Sid now sees staring at him is a big head, a nose, a mouth, and two black and blues eyes! And it all looks very realistic; the eyes even have black pupils with a blue iris around them.

As Kermit tucks his hind legs away under his false “eyes,” they look like a *large mouth*. And as he moves his hind legs around, the mouth appears to move! The part of his body that once was his tadpole’s tail now looks like a perfectly formed *nose* — at just the right location! And what about Kermit’s toes? As he tucks his legs to the sides of his body, he purposely lifts up *two toes* from each hind foot, and curls them out, so they look like a couple of weird *claws* at the side of his fake “face.” What Sid now sees is not a soft and squishy frog, but a vicious rat’s head staring back at him. All in all, a fairly frightening sight, and enough to put off all but the most fearless of predators!

The intriguing question is: HOW DID THE FACE GET THERE? Let’s not forget that the frog himself NEVER SEES IT! He doesn’t actually know it is there! He just spins around, elevates his hind quarters, somehow changes all the



**OUR FRIEND KERMIT II, A FALSE-EYE FROG, PULLS A FACE WHEN ANYONE MENTIONS EVOLUTION. KERMY KNOWS BETTER!!**

colours on his skin (no — don’t ask the evolutionists HOW!), and — voilà — a monster’s face appears!

The frogs are not equipped with mirrors! They do not spend weeks practicing fancy colour schemes, and checking out with each other whether their false faces are scary enough. And they don’t even see each others’ “faces”, because it’s only under threat of *imminent attack* that they go into their “ugly mug” mode.

If we gave Kermit II a box of top-quality colouring pens, do we think he would be able to draw a detailed portrait of an ugly rat’s face on the surface of a nearby stone? No way! Do we think he would be able to draw a horrible face *on his own back*? Could you or I draw a portrait on *our backs* (and don’t forget — without a mirror)? And could our friendly frog manage this portrait on his back *without* any colouring crayons — and without *any knowledge* of what a rat’s face even looks like?

The whole idea is ridiculous!

There is NO WAY that Kermit could have developed this incredible camouflage by evolution (or is that *evil-lution*!). And if he couldn’t produce his nasty “face” when he was first attacked, all those millions of years ago, he couldn’t have survived ... and so he wouldn’t exist TODAY. But he DOES EXIST — because he has ALWAYS had this ability PROGRAMMED IN by His CREATOR. An ALL-INTELLIGENT Being DESIGNED the false-eye frog, and has given him this incredible in-built mechanism to help him survive.

To believe this could all happen *randomly* — over millions of years — with no intelligence, design or planning — takes more FAITH than it does to BELIEVE IN A GREAT CREATOR GOD!

Perhaps when God designed the false-eye frog He was, in effect, pulling a funny face at evolution? I’m sure if Kermit II could speak, he would wholeheartedly agree!