



International Voice of The Church Of God Of North Carolina

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**"Our Covenant  
is  
Perpetual"**



Message on Page 4



## From the Editor...

~ John Wilkins ~



### **“Being The Church”**

*As the days quickly pass and the 101st Assembly of The Church of God draws nigh, we are reminded again of what is required of us. The leaders of the church are getting reports ready, the offices here at headquarters are in a buss as everyone readies themselves for this event. While all of this effort is of extreme importance, none of the hard work and scampering to get it done makes it The Church of God. It is something very simple that makes it His Church—The keeping of our covenant in upholding His TRUTH! Our taking or receiving the covenant*

*was extremely important but it's not enough just to receive it—we must KEEP IT! In order to be The Church of God we must do much more than keep the 31 teachings from the pamphlet entitled “These Truths We Hold” and wave the flag—we must believe and Keep God's Word, all of it. Unless we cling to the blessed old book, the Bible and truly love one another we can't be The Church of God. Please don't wait until you stand before Jesus to make this discovery!*

**Let's be The Church today.**

#### **STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

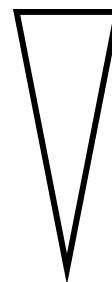
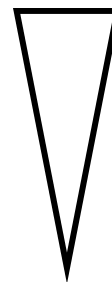
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**Don't  
Miss  
This!**



**Pre-Assembly Program  
at Fields of the Wood  
September 12, 2007  
10:30 A.M.**

# Our Covenant Is Perpetual

~ Hillard E. Foster, Sr. ~  
National Overseer

Many that will read this message became a member of The Church of God by covenant. They participated an agreement to be received in the Church. That agreement is referred to as a covenant. The first words are “Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witness”. God was there, you were there and so were these witnesses. The minister that administered the covenant in his last words stated, “this is a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten”.

Deuteronomy 12: 11 *Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:*

Ecclesiastes 5:4-7 *When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.*

When we make a vow we need to be sure that we fulfill our vows. We find in the Old Testament, God told the Israelites, “I will never break my covenant with you”. God is always as good as His Word, and He requires the same of us. Israel time after time broke their vows and time after time lost the favor of God. If He punished his people under the law He surely will expect us to be faithful. Remember God gave His own son for our sins and we will give account on the resurrection morning. Many Christians that placed their hand on the Bible and took the vow have now abandoned their vow with God. They laid their hand on the King James Bible and said I WILL. Now thousands have abandoned their covenant and replaced their King James Bible with a watered down man revised version of the Bible that they lay their hand on. A covenant has meaning (Webster) said its formal, solemn, its binding agreement, a promise, a binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect of; to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified excellence. We said, “I WILL”, and we better keep our vows. I WILL, WILL YOU?

Genesis 6:18 *But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.*

**This is the first covenant** God made with man. God has



never broken any vows.

Genesis 9:11-18 *And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh*

that is upon the earth. And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.

God is our pattern to follow in keeping our covenants.

God's second covenant was with Abraham and is as valid today as when it was made.

Genesis 17:1-8 *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*

Numbers 30:1-2 *And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded. If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to*

*bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.*

Romans 1: 21-32 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding,*

*covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

Paul places covenant breakers in the category with backbiters, homosexuals, fornicators, wickedness, covetousness, murders. It is very important that we continue to keep our covenant because Paul said in **Romans 2: 1** *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man*, God mentions *"I will make an everlasting covenant with you."*

Isaiah 55:3 *Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

When God does anything, it is forever.

Jeremiah 11: 1-11 *The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God: That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD. Then the*

*LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them. For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice. Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not. And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers. Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.*

God expects us to keep our word in fact God said to Jeremiah cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant. Many have laid their hand on God's Holy Word and said "**I WILL**" and have gone by the way of the backsliders of Israel. We must be as good as our word.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I*

*made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Jeremiah 32: 40-42 *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.*

It is obvious God expects us to keep our covenant everyday, day after day. While God is an understanding God, He will deal with covenant breakers. God never changes and while we live in a ever changing world, God still expects us to keep our word.

Ezekiel 16:58-63 *And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have*

*broken my covenant because of all your abominations. And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves.*

Ezekiel 44: 6-8 *And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations. And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves.*

To ignore our covenant would be an affront to God and the Church.

Leviticus 26: 14-19 *But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will*

*punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:*

God told them what the consequences would be if they didn't hearken unto HIM and do all His commandments. He expects us to keep our covenant just as He did with the Israelites and with God its yea or nay period. Often when things go wrong we blame or question the Lord. Please keep in mind it rains on the just and the unjust. Jeremiah tells us that a great famine came upon Israel because of the lying prophets. The people who believed them also perished. **Read (Jeremiah 14).** We need to know them that labor among us. We are accountable to check things and not follow blind leaders, we could fall in the pit with them. It will do no good to tell the Lord I just obeyed my husband, wife, pastor, overseer or any other leader.

Jeremiah 23: 1-2 *Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.*

You and I are responsible for our own soul and no one can share this responsibility with us.

Matthew 15: 13-14 *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall*

*fall into the ditch.*

We should never follow blindly after anyone. Ezekiel said, *the shepherds feed themselves and fed not my flock.* We are responsible to preach the whole truth, not a watered down version. We know that Christ will come back for the Church—not churches. The one that has made Herself ready. There will be those that have kept their covenant they made in the presence of pastor, witnesses, and God. God changes not and neither should we. I believe Jesus set the Church in order on Mt. Hatin and the teachings are biblical. Denominational churches are altering the meaning of the Bible to make it fit their life style and society. They do this in the name of making it easier to understand the Bible. The Church adopted the King James Bible many years ago. We still respect the Assembly as the highest tribunal of authority under Heaven. The covenant is as important as it was when you and I placed our hand on the Bible and took the pledge. (a binding promise or agreement to do) (Webster).

**The pledge states,** “Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will accept this Bible as the Word of God, believe and practice its teachings rightly divided the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government and discipline, and walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?” The answer is “I WILL”. This is a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. Apparently many have forgotten however, God has not, nor will He forget that vow.

Daniel 9: 3-5 *And I set*

*my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:*

Daniel 11: 32 *And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

Many have done wickedly against the covenant but the people of God that keep their covenant will know the voice of the Shepherd and will follow Him.

**Hosea 2: 18-20** *And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.*

John 10:14-16 *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must*

*bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

While many of the sheep have been led astray God knows where they are and they will hear His voice and come back to the fold with singing. There are many that have not broken their covenant that are not with us at this time.

Hosea 10:1-4 *Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images. Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images. For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us? They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.*

Hosea 6:1-3, 7 *Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.*

Many have transgressed the covenant but we must honor our vow at all cost.

Malachi 2: 1-10 *And now,*

*O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it. And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law. Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

Many have departed out of the way and have stumbled at the teachings and have corrupted

others to violate their promise.

Malachi 2: 17 *Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?*

Many come to their churches adorned, made up like Jezebel. Some that are, in an adulthood marriage are church leaders. Surely this is a stench in the nostrils of God and will not pass the acid test. This is a reproach on The Church of God which Christ purchased with His blood.

Malachi 3: 1-6 *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from*

*his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

The Lord wants pure Gold. Anything less will not please the Lord. Judgment is coming and it will be swift and sure and remember the Lord does not change. Some may have but He has not, nor will He change. His Church is without authority to change His Word!

Luke 1: 67-75 *And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*

God will visit and redeem His people and they will serve Him without fear, in Holiness and righteousness.

Acts 3: 23-26 *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of*

*these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

Many will be blessed.

Romans 11: 14 *If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.*

Thank God we have been grafted in and we are not high minded but grateful.

Galatians 3: 1-3 *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

The Galatians were foolish and someone had bewitched them and caused them to be disobedient and they left the faith. Some have, in the last few years been bewitched and they have left their first love. We must be as good as our word or we will become as the Galatians, destroyed for lack of faith and our disobedience.

Galatians 3: 11-15 *B u t that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:*

*for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.*

We don't live under the curse of the Law but under grace by faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

The Church of God is under the spiritual magnifying glass. Many are waiting for us to fail, but Church we must be as good as our word to be the Church.

Hebrews 12: 23-29 *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that*

*spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*

We are the continuing Church that came out of the dark ages, while many have been shaken off, we have not changed the teachings nor dishonored the flag of 1933.

Hebrews 13: 8-12 *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*

It is obvious that only one has not been carried about with divers and strange doctrine. Our heart is established with the Grace

of God. The doctrine of sanctification has been abandoned by many. However, The Church of God has stayed the course on this doctrine.

Hebrews 13: 9; 20-21 *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Deuteronomy 29:9-15 *Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. Ye stand this day all of you before the LORD your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel, Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water: That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the LORD thy*

*God, and into his oath, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day: That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; But with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day:*

I am not your Judge and you are not mine however, God is the Judge and executioner by the authority of His law book, the Bible (King James Version). Anything that is a facsimile still is not the original. The versions that are in the book stores change many vital scriptures. Some leave out the blood and omit essential scripture and the watered down imitators will not be what we will be judged by. If you want to go up in the rapture and go into the marriage supper as the Bride of Christ you would do well to stay with the assembly approved King James and, honor your covenant. Following the old paths is the only safe ground!

## The Church Covenant

Will YOU sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will accept this Bible as the Word of God - believe and practice its teachings rightly divided—the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government and discipline, and walk in the to the best of your knowledge and ability?



The answer is, I Will.



## TO BE THE CHURCH

~ Rodger Tidwell ~  
Walnut Ridge, AR

A few months ago I was handed a copy of an article that came out in the newspaper of a larger city in our area. The article was entitled, "**REWARD OFFERED**" and its purpose was to relate that something had turned up missing (a piece at a time). From the beginning of the article the author began to describe what had been lost and then about half way through he clearly identified it. By permission here is a portion of that article:

### **REWARD OFFERED**

"I'm looking for something that is missing. It's a little over two thousand years old. I really enjoyed it while it was within my touch. I first noticed that bits and pieces of it started coming up missing; A little bit here, a little bit there, and finally it was gone. I know it's still around somewhere because it can't be destroyed. It's been covered over and hidden a few times, but is always found and cleaned up. It seems to me that a majority of people want to keep it hidden so they don't have to look at it. I guess it reminds them of times past. It won't be hard to mend when it is uncovered and cleaned, for it will be shining like a bright light in pitch darkness. All people will be drawn to it like a moth to the light. What I'm looking for is the Church that JESUS set forth on a mountain, mountain, probably Kurn Hattin,

*about 28 A.D.*" This writer is a good friend and former member of mine, whom I had the privilege of taking into the Church over twenty years ago. He is speaking of God's church. He is not alone in his feelings. The last few years have left many like minded precious saints needing confirmation on the where-about and identity of the Church.

In one's quest to find the Church just what is it that a person should look for? What are the "identifying marks" of the Church? God has not left us clueless as to those identifying marks and in fact has shared many scriptures that reveal what the Church must measure up to, to be His Church. Notice these choice words of the Apostle Paul that are found in I Timothy 3:15.

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Paul used the word **PILLAR** which can be defined as the supporting element of something or that which reinforces. He also used the word **GROUND**, which in this case has a similar meaning; supporting element. Paul uses the words "pillar" and "ground" to bring forth a similar thought twice. This method that Paul chose to use reminds me of the use of the word Selah in the Old Testament, which says, what you just read is of great importance and is worthy of reconsideration, or in briefer terms the writer is saying, "did you get that?"

These well chosen words of the Apostle Paul in our scripture text reveals one of the great "identifying marks" of the Church. **To be the Church, "the Church must be a supporting element of the truth."** This line of thinking is not new to The Church of God but, at times through the Church's history it has proved to be more easily preached than practiced. **To be the Church - there are certain areas of support that must exist. The mind set and heart throb of the Church must be to make sure that everything in which we believe, preach and practice is supported in the Word of God.** When the goal of a group is anything less than that, that group disqualifies itself from being God's Church. In this message we want to address three supporting elements that must exist in The Church of God and that will also serve as "identifying marks" of who she is.

### **SUPPORTING ELEMENT I**

**To be the Church, She must have Her beliefs right. There must be Holiness of Doctrine (or complete consecration to Bible Doctrine).**

From around the time period of what we term the "Arise Shine" era, Brother A. J. Tomlinson along with other devout pioneers that labored with him, understood the importance of getting the doctrine right and that it was a requirement if they were to go forward in being The Church of God. By studying the minutes of the early assemblies one can see that they walked

humbly and prayerfully before the Lord to make sure every principle and every practice measured up to the Word of God. The following covenant is administered to those who desire to be part of the church:

**Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will accept this Bible as the Word of God, believe and practice its teachings rightly divided, the New Testament as your rule of faith, practice government and discipline and walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?**

The first few words of this long standing covenant (which reads, “will you accept this Bible as the Word of God”) illustrates our forefather’s understanding of a necessary part to validate the Church’s claim of being the Bible Church. That validating plan being Her willingness to accept the entire Word of God. God’s Word is not like a smorgasbord in which we can pick and choose which portion we want. There are no optional plans. We are taught that **“all scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable...”** II Timothy 3:16.

The Apostle Paul in summing up his life reminds us of what was one of his priorities, when he made reference to “the whole counsel of God” It was Paul’s commitment to “the whole counsel of God” that brought the favor of God on his life and it requires the same commitment for the favor of God on the Church today. Over the past several years the enemy has worked hard on the Church to lessen our commitment to hold onto the faith that was

once delivered to the saints. Many that we know and have fellowshiped with have been affected by the winds of doctrine. The winds of doctrine are not new. They have affected generation after generation. It was the Apostle Paul who first used the phrase **“wind of doctrine”** when he wrote to the Church about the necessity of measuring up to the faith and the importance of not turning aside.

**Ephesians 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

No doubt, when Paul penned these words he must have had a ship in mind that was caught in a violent storm. His illustration was possibly drawn from his own experience of being on a ship at sea during a terrible storm, which experience is recorded in **Acts chapter 27**. In that particular situation there was a misleading soft wind that preceded the violent winds of an approaching storm. So is the case with false doctrine. It is often preceded by subtle philosophy that is intended to open the door for acceptance of false beliefs. Those who are not spiritually alert often take the bait and are spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit.

**Colossians 2:7-8** *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

Generally speaking, in the Christian realm today there is a

definite “DRIFT” from TRUTH and RIGHTEOUSNESS. Many Christians have not taken the time to look back down the historical path from which their religious group has come to see what it once taught in the past decades or centuries. Many would be surprised when they see just how much larger the list of prohibitions were in their organization in times past, than are now.

One example is the teaching on “Outward Adornment”. In the early part of the 1800’s some of the larger protestant groups of today, taught against the wearing of any type of ornaments but in the latter part of that same century soft winds began to blow and allowance was made for one piece of jewelry, (the wedding ring). Soft winds gave way to stronger winds and eventually they found themselves a long way from where they once were, (**eventually all ornaments were accepted**). This same course has been followed several times since then, (through the 1900’s), by different groups. The teaching against outward adornment is only one among several that has lost its place, on the shrinking list of prohibitions, among once conservative churches.

## **A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.**

Through the years I have heard people express in one form the Word of God but who stopped short of pursuing and embracing the Word of God in its entirety. **There is a danger lurking in our day – “A False Sense Of Security.”** The earlier warning of our forefathers against creeds was a warning against this false security.

**The Church cannot be identified just by commitment to 29, 30 or 31 teachings.** I want to be clear here. I am not condemning the church's stand on what we have called Prominent Teachings and have held for years. I firmly believe in each of them but **they alone are not enough to confirm the identity of the church.** The Church of God must be committed to pursuing Holiness in its entirety. Teachings such as humility, contentment, truthfulness, honesty and selflessness, along with many others are also found in God's Word. Jesus said, *"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."*

Teachings on paper alone will never be enough to make the Church's identity certain, they must also be written in the hearts of its members. This brings us to the second qualification to be The Church of God. If God's Truth is truly in our hearts we are not only going to preach it but we are also going to practice it.

## **SUPPORTING ELEMENT II**

**To be the Church - We must not only support the Truth by what we believe and preach but also by practicing what we believe and preach. This is the element of I-N-T-E-G-R-I-T-Y.**

Earlier we mentioned the importance of the part of the Church Covenant that states, **"Will you accept this Bible as the Word of God"**. Now let's look at the next phrase which states that we must be willing to, **"believe and practice its teachings"**.

When Israel became the Church in the wilderness God required an agreement from Her that

She not only receive his Word but also practice it.

Exodus 19:3-8 *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.*

For hundreds of years, Israel's level of commitment to this covenant which they made with the Lord was up and down. God was patient with them though, sending messenger after messenger in effort to reconcile the lives of these people to the covenant which they professed and had promised to keep.

When Jesus came to build His Church He observed the religious systems that already existed and pointed out to His followers many negative aspects of those groups. One of the things that disqualified those religious people from being a part of His "Called Out Ones" was their say and do not

attitude. Jesus gave some credit to what they said but revealed their hypocritical attitudes when He said, *"they say and do not"*.

**AGAIN, OUR PRACTICES MUST SUPPORT/ REINFORCE WHAT WE BELIEVE!**

Over the past several years people in various groups have become disillusioned and disappointed by the lack of integrity that they have seen. Many of these same people can also recall a time in The Church of God when people knew they were in something special. They had confidence in leadership because they proved themselves trustworthy. The leaders for the most part were people of such character that it encouraged the laity to invest all they could of their time, energy and possessions toward the promotion of the work. When the leadership spoke, people listened with anticipation and expectation of receiving something from God.

## **SUPPORTING ELEMENT III**

**To be the Church - There must be reinforcement of what we believe and preach. There must exist the element of J-U-S-T-I-C-E which reinforces what is right.**

The brokenness and lack of unity that many of us have seen in the last few years, among various organizations calling themselves God's Church, is largely the result of the lack of this third element - **JUSTICE**. What is justice? It can be defined as righteousness at work. How is it brought about? Basically, justice is promoted or encouraged in another idea that since we teach certain truths and many others do not, then this certifies that we are the Church. Again, to be the

Church there has to be commitment to support the **“Whole Word of God”**. In looking back at the roots of the arise shine movement of the last days Church of God, our forefathers were careful not to form anything that resembled a creed or article of faith that could be construed as the sole identifier of our faith. They understood that certain groups/organizations in the past had attempted to identify themselves by being in harmony with a number of selected Bible Beliefs two different ways. One way is by **enforcement** (coercion) and the other way is by **reinforcement** (inspiration).

L e t ' s c o n s i d e r “enforcement” first. It would be nice if people were so set on doing what is right that it did not take outside influence for them to accomplish this. We know that from time to time pressure has to be applied to get people to comply. When sin is left unchecked it eats away at the very character of the Church. This is what happened to Israel. They became indifferent to sin and suffered rejection because of it. There was no single type of sin that brought about their fall but rather their tolerance of sin as a whole and there was a lack of interest in seeing that justice was exacted.

Words from both the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul offer a reflection of their day concerning Israel’s indifference toward sin and their failure to enforce justice. Peter said, *for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...* I Peter 4:17

This scripture is indicating that in the past Israel had done little to discipline sin but now through Christ's Church, God would work

things differently. Paul said, *“...that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful”* **Romans 7:13.**

In this passage Paul alludes to the light-hearted perspective of the terribleness of sin that existed in his day. Perhaps it was this tolerable view of sin that prevented the House of Israel from exercising proper judgment against unrighteousness. In His day, Jesus pointed out to some of the religious leaders (or as He called them, guides) that the important element of **Judgment** was missing from their religious system. The absence of judgment against what is wrong has always been a license for more wrongs. To be **His Church**, the Church must act responsibly toward sin and judge with **“righteous judgment”** but always seasoned by **“a heart of mercy”**.

The second way we promote justice is through **“reinforcement”** of what is right. One way we can do this is by applauding and rewarding people when they do right. Rewarding wrong actions and promoting those who commit wrongs will never produce the results that God wants to see in His church. There have been times in the past when we’ve seen people placed in leadership positions, whose actions have clearly violated what the Church and the Bible teaches, a continuation of the “say and do not attitude”. We have preached, “you better do right”, **but then esteemed those who didn't follow the rules.** This has made little sense to me and I feel that I have not been alone in acknowledging this kind of wrongful behavior. Many appointments have been based more on what the world

values were, rather than Christian values. I believe that this kind of injustice has played a major part in the divisions that we have experienced in the last several years. It may be worthy to note that our text is taken from the same chapter where Paul stresses qualifications for Godly leadership in **I Timothy 3**

By studying the Old Testament we learn that Jewish Leaders had a great impact on their nation. It seemed to be the general rule that the people, for the most part, would take on the characteristics and beliefs of their leaders, whether good or bad. History has revealed to us that many other nations have been similarly affected by their leaders in the years gone by. The Bible asserts that it only takes, **a little leaven to leaven the whole lump** and this Biblical Truth has been confirmed over and over again. We can be certain that God has no part in the placement of ungodly people in leadership positions (whatever level) within His Church; neither will those kinds of people have His anointing, for this would be an injustice to His people. God reinforces what is just and so must we **TO BE HIS CHURCH.**

At the beginning of this message we mentioned the newspaper article, “Reward Offered”. I like the way my brother started his article with the words **“I am searching for something that is missing”**. There are many that have temporarily lost sight of this **“something”** that they have treasured deeply and like this brother they are searching. There are many precious saints that still have it in their heart to do whatever is necessary to measure up, in order **TO BE HIS CHURCH.**

# Philippines Mission Trip

~ Bishop David Myers ~



Minister's Meeting  
La Union

During our visit we had a day of fellowship and rejoicing for all God has done and is going to in the Philippines.

We had fifteen (15) ministers in attendance and we spent the day reviewing our past accomplishments and setting goals for

the future. We visited several churches and reviewed the progress being made on new church construction. God blessed us with a wonderful visit and we are looking forward to great things in the Philippines.

New  
Church Construction  
La Union



**SPECIAL NOTICE:** Due to the extreme work load and our 101st. International Assembly fast approaching, this is our last "BANNER OF TRUTH" mailing until after the Assembly.

# A Special Welcome Home



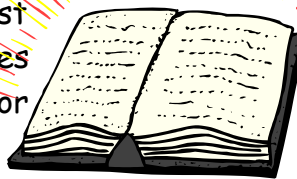
The local Church of God at Dunn, his wife, and other family members **WELCOMES BACK** SFC James P. Evans from Iraq . Sergeant Evans is not only a soldier of the United states Army, he is a soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ. During his deployment to Iraq, Sergeant Evans conducted chapel services for his chaplain and often was called upon for special prayer for the soldiers at his duty station. He has not only reflected great credit upon the U.S. Army but upon The Church of God as well. He has flown the first Church Flag in the Country of Iraq as far as we know. Who among us can measure the great good this man has done in Iraq but God? He will now reside with his family in Hillsborough, North Carolina and attend their local church in Dunn where they have many jobs. It is good to have him back with us and,

**WE GIVE GOD THE PRAISE!**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

—Eunice Foster—

Another Assembly year is almost gone. Excitement is in the air, as we pray and seek God's help in the many things that must be completed before this assembly year comes to an end. We ask ourselves the questions what have I accomplished? Have I done my best for the Lord? Is He pleased with me?



Once again this year I want to encourage you in the Sunday School work. This is an open field all can work in. Opportunity for all of us to step up and be useful in God's vineyard. Cast your bread upon the water's and look to God for results.

Jesus said in St. John 9: 4, *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Children the night is upon us. Our time to work is fast coming to an end. So seize every opportunity to work for the Master.

# 101st. INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY September 13,14,15 2007

## DIRECTIONS TO CHURCH:

United Christian Church  
2200 Peerless Rd.  
Cleveland, TN

**Phone:** (423) 479-4277



**From North—I-75 to exit 25.** Turn right, proceed to 2nd traffic light (at Wendy's). Turn right, three blocks on left.

**From South—I-75 to exit 25.** Turn left, proceed to 2nd traffic light (at Wendy's). Turn right, three blocks on left.

**From Dalton—Take Hwy 71 N** to TN state line where it becomes TN Hwy 60 (Dalton Pike). Proceed to first traffic light. Turn right. Go to next traffic light. Turn right on to APD 40 (Veteran's Memorial Parkway). Go to fifth traffic light (Wendy's on left). Turn left onto Peerless Rd. Rd. UCC is three blocks on left.

**NOTE!**

**Pre—Assembly Program**

**September 12th, 10:30 A.M.**

**In Fields of the Wood**

## News & Updates:

# WE NOW HAVE OUR OWN TRAVEL AGENCY



[www.whiteangelfleettravel.com](http://www.whiteangelfleettravel.com)

We will appreciate your booking with us because not only will you possibly save some money but you will be helping us reach the world with our ministry. You can book flights, cruises, lodging, vacations, insurance, extras and group bookings at competitive prices with the other agencies and it will be a blessing to God's work at the same time. Please check us out before you buy someplace else.

THANKS FOR TRAVELING WITH US!

## Cleveland, TN Hotels....

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Miles from UCMA</u>
Knights Inn	2421 Georgetown Rd. NW	(423) 478-1137	0.1
Heritage Inn	1631 Guthrie Dr.	(423) 478-1183	0.6
Days Inn	2550 Georgetown Rd. NW	(423) 476-2112	0.6
Lincoln Inn	2597 Georgetown Rd. NW	(423)479-3720	0.7
Quality Inn Chalet	2595 Georgetown Rd. NW	(423) 476-8511	0.7
Douglas Inn/Suites	2600 Westside Dr. NW	(423) 559-5579	0.8
Econo Lodge	2655 Westside Dr NW	(423) 472-3281	0.8
Economy Inn	1501 25th St NW	(423) 476-6514	0.9
Wingate Inn	110 Interstate Dr NW	(423) 478-1212	1.1
Baymont Inn	107 Interstate Dr	(423) 339-1000	1.1
Holiday Inn	North I-75, Executive Park	(423) 472-1504	1.4
Exclusive Qtrs.	210 James Asbury Dr NW	(423) 479-1333	2.1
Hampton Inn	185 James Asbury Dr NW	(423) 559-1001	2.2
Super 8	163 Bernham Dr	(423) 476-5555	2.2
Ramada Limited	156 James Asbury Dr NW	(423) 472-5566	2.2
Classic Suites	179 Bernham Dr	(423) 339-4900	2.2
Comfort Inn	153 James Asbury Dr	(423) 478-5265	2.2
Royal Inn	134 James Asbury Dr	(423) 472-5850	2.2
Jameson Inn	354 Paul Huff Pkwy	(423) 614-5583	2.2
Scottish Inns	1510 S Lee Hwy	(423) 472-9525	2.4
Holiday Motel	1600 S Lee Hwy SW	(423) 476-4689	2.5
Applegate Inn	1857 APD 40 Bypass	(423) 479-9915	3.7
White Water Lodge	2500 Pointe South SE	(423) 479-7811	3.8
Rose Hill Inn (Bed & Breakfast)	367 Horton Rd SE	(423) 614-0700	8.3
Ocoee Mist (Bed & Breakfast)	377 Parksville Rd, Benton, TN	(423) 338-6818	12.7

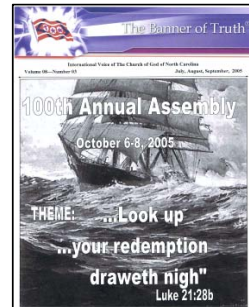
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**September 13 - 15, 2007**

**101st.**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**LOCATION:**

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2200 Peerless Rd.  
Cleveland, TN

**“THE BANNER OF TRUTH”**

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