

similar to that of "depart." There is, however, one occurrence, in Luke 8:13, where it is translated "fall away," though here also "depart" might not be out of place.

Thus I cannot say that *apostasia* means necessarily "departure," but I feel that there is definite evidence that it can mean this. I do not feel that the evidence would enable me to rule out the meaning "rebellion" as wrong, but I consider the translation "departure" to be a possible one, and am quite convinced that it fits the context better than "rebellion" does, particularly since I consider it to parallel the phrase in verse 7.

LETTER 59
1956

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
AND 1 JOHN 5:7**

It is my impression that there are several groups of people who call themselves the Church of God. I have not come across a group with teachings that you describe here, denying the Trinity, saying that they are Israelites, that they will have another chance for salvation during the millennium and that they must worship on the Sabbath day. These views impress me more as characteristic of the group that we know here as Jehovah's Witnesses or Russellites than as the groups which in this area go by the name of the Church of God.

The statement that 1 John is not found in the best manuscripts of the New Testament is entirely false. All the early manuscripts contain this book. I imagine that this statement came to be made because of the fact 1 John 5:7 does not occur in some of the early manuscripts. For this reason many scholars question whether this particular verse belongs in 1 John. Yet removal of this verse from