

HOLDING FAST... GOD'S WAY!

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In 1931, after 1900 long years, Jesus Christ began to restore the True Gospel through His end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong! The True Gospel of the Kingdom of God, originally brought by Jesus himself, had become lost, being replaced by “another gospel” (Galatians 1: 6-7). The Message of Christ was furtively replaced by a message about Christ! But the time had come, when once again the REVEALED TRUTH of the Kingdom of God would be proclaimed to the entire world --- as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14).

Our Lord built His Church and it has continued down through the centuries. However, it was a very small and persecuted Church through those ages. By the time Herbert Armstrong was brought on the scene, the Sardis era of the True Church was practically dead (Rev. 3:1-2). The Gospel of the Kingdom of God began to be preached and published by that servant of God. The Church of God began to grow in numbers, yet was still very small in comparison to the World’s churches. Through 55 years of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, the WORK of the Worldwide Church of God declared and completed the MESSAGE of the TRUE GOSPEL to all nations.

Then Herbert Armstrong died---and Satan attacked the Worldwide Church of God!

Only a few of the nearly 100,000 former members of that Church have remained Faithful to the doctrines taught by Mr. Armstrong. Then there are others who “Hold Fast” to the Elijah’s teachings, but refuse to grow in new Truth.

Did Mr. Armstrong RESTORE ALL THINGS?

Can NEW TRUTH be received at this present time?

Was Herbert Armstrong right in every doctrine he taught?

Mr. Armstrong often stated: “Don’t believe me; believe your Bible!” Which will you believe?

The Bible tells us to “grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Growth in the knowledge of Christ IS NEW TRUTH! So, can you GROW in knowledge of Christ (NEW TRUTH) and still Hold Fast to that which Herbert Armstrong taught 16 years ago?

You can if you are Holding Fast --- God’s Way!

This booklet will show, from the Bible, how this must be done--
-and answer the questions above.

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HOLDING FAST... GOD'S WAY!

Some very sincere former members of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) believe that a true Philadelphian must hold fast to all things restored by the end time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA). They quickly quote Revelation 3:11 which declares: "Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown." These very well-intending, begotten brethren presume that holding fast to all things taught by Mr. Armstrong would assure a person of retaining "his crown,"--- or SALVATION. That appears to be RIGHT and GOOD, but is it TRUE? Or is it possible to QUENCH the Spirit of God within you by just HOLDING FAST to that which has been taught while refusing to ACCEPT NEW TRUTH? This is a VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION!

The BIBLE admonishes a true Christian to: "PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD" (I Thess. 5:21)--- and to: "GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST" (II Pet. 3:18).

Our Lord and Savior tells us in Matthew 24:4: "...Take heed that no man deceive you." Has someone deceived you? Has your belief regarding "HOLDING FAST" DECEIVED you? How can you HOLD FAST and still Grow in Grace and Knowledge? What does "growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ" really mean? If you think you are NOT deceived, are you basing your beliefs on your own INTERPRETATION of the SCRIPTURES or what the SCRIPTURES actually say? These are serious question that need to be addressed!

No one wants to be deceived, but if you ARE deceived, you would not know it unless you examine your beliefs in the LIGHT of God's Word. So, I would like to present a few more questions ---and some answers--- concerning "HOLDING FAST" that I hope you will prayerfully examine. Are you really willing to open your Bible and PROVE ALL THINGS, not just SOME THINGS, in regards to Holding Fast? For honestly, until you are willing to PROVE ALL THINGS, then, and not until then, can you HOLD FAST TO ALL THINGS ... GOD'S WAY!

THE GREAT FALLING AWAY HAS OCCURRED

Let us keep in mind as we begin this study that there are hundreds and maybe a few thousand of our begotten brethren who as individuals, groups, or churches are “holding fast” to the teachings of Mr. Armstrong---as you are doing. They are sincerely trying to do that which they think is right in God’s sight. They keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, there is only ONE TRUE CHURCH of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Word of God tells us in I Corinthians 1:10: “Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you ALL speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (I Cor.1: 10). But what is found in the Church of God today? We see division, strife, contention, and confusion!

WHY? Why do these attitudes exist among the people of God today?

Some of you may have been affiliated with Gerald Flurry and his Philadelphia Church of God (PCG). Many of you may have heard of Mr. Flurry but never examined any of his teachings. I mention this for the simple reason that Gerald Flurry and the PCG were the only Church crying aloud concerning the CAUSE of the breakup of the Worldwide Church of God. He began proclaiming the TRUTH of the man of sin way back in 1990 when most of the ministry was compromising their beliefs to maintain their paycheck with the WCG! He sternly warned that there was a controlling figure, a “man of sin,” sitting in the TEMPLE---in the Church of God! That “man of sin” was CAUSING the FALLING AWAY from TRUTH as seen in the WCG and as prophesied in II Thessalonians 2:3-4: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day (the Day of the Lord) shall not come except there come A FALLING AWAY first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the Temple of God showing himself that he is God.”

Without a doubt, after Mr. Armstrong’s death, Satan attacked the Church of God by the “man of sin” who changed the doctrines of God and practically destroyed the Church. “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the Woman that brought forth the man-child” (Rev. 12:13). The GREAT FALLING AWAY of God’s people, since TRUTH had been “restored”

by the Elijah, has happened! Approximately 100,000 baptized members of God's Church have FALLEN AWAY from TRUTH in one degree or another! (This may include you.) And it CANNOT happen again on this side of the Tribulation! Do you understand this PLAIN fact? There CANNOT be ANOTHER "FALLING AWAY" by God's people. They have ALREADY FALLEN AWAY! Please THINK this out!

Mr. Flurry and the PCG was the LAODICEAN WORK of Jesus Christ. He tried to warn all of God's people of what was occurring in the WCG right before our eyes. Now it HAS happened! God's people have been scattered, divided, and confused. Do you believe this? Do you recognize the Plain Truth of recent Church history? THE GREAT FALLING AWAY HAS OCCURRED!

IN TIME ORDER

Look at the way this has happened in time order.

- 1) God raised up Herbert W. Armstrong and began the Philadelphia era in 1931. (See Mystery of the Ages, page 289 hardback edition.) The Philadelphia Candlestick was lit! The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, with ALL that it comprises, was to be taught again after 1900 long years: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then the end shall come" (Mat. 24:14). This GOOD NEWS that had been lost would be RESTORED. The Sardis church was a "dead" church, when HWA was brought on the scene: "And unto the church in Sardis write... I know your works, that you have a name that you live, and you are dead" (Rev. 3:1). The Fifth Candlestick had nearly burned out by 1931.
- 2) HWA was the end time Elijah who would RESTORE ALL THINGS: "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah shall truly come and RESTORE ALL THINGS..." (Mat. 17:11 and 24:14).
- 3) HWA was a type of Zerubbabel through whom the Spiritual Temple would be finished: "... the hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, his hands shall also finish it" (Zech. 4:9). The Temple could now be "measured." "Rise and measure the Temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein..." (Rev. 11:1).

- 4) HWA was the messenger to prepare the way for Christ's Second Coming. Malachi 3:1 states: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me..."
- 5) HWA was the end-time messenger and the "withholding force" that restrained the mystery of iniquity until he was taken away by his death. "And now you know what withholds (Strong's #2722) that he (the man of sin) might be revealed in his time. For the Mystery of Iniquity does already work: only he (HWA) who now lets (#2722, same word as "withholds") will let (#2272 again) until he be taken out of the way (II Thess. 2: 6-7). Have you ever known this? Have you forgotten this?
- 6) HWA died 16 years ago. The "FALLING AWAY" happened! The facts of recent history cannot be denied! Now the 100,000 members of the Church are split and splintered. They are in division, strife, contention and confusion similar to the Roman Catholic Church and her Protestant daughters. The Journal newspaper, that some of you are familiar with, is sub-titled News of the Churches of God. More correctly labeled, it should be News of the churches of god (little "c" and little "g") or, News of the synagogue of Satan. The devil has done a job! Not only has he deceived the entire world, but now has deceived the 100,000 very begotten children of God. The many churches out there made up of these brethren claim to be churches of God, but are not God's churches: He has only ONE CHURCH! The other churches out there are either Mr. Flurry and his Laodiceans called the PCG, or the old mother church, the WCG, and her split and splintered daughter churches identified as the Synagogue of Satan! Think about that!
- 7) Although HWA is dead, Jesus Christ is dynamically alive and actively leading His ONE TRUE CHURCH. He is here in the Day of the Lord as our High Priest, our Apostle, and our Lord and Savior (see Hebrews 3:1 and II Peter 3:18).

But how do you recognize GOD'S ONE TRUE CHURCH today?

DID HE OR DIDN'T HE?

I have heard some brethren state: “CHRIST SAID, ‘ELIJAH WOULD RESTORE ALL THINGS’---AND EITHER HE DID OR HE DID NOT. WHICH IS IT?” Some have made a big issue out of this by narrowly looking at Matthew 17:11. The plain answer from the Word of God is that Mr. Armstrong DID NOT RESTORE EVERYTHING. Will you believe that which Jesus Christ has inspired to be written in Acts 3:20-21? “And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens must receive until the times of the RESTITUTION of ALL THINGS, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Jesus Christ will restore ALL THINGS---EVERYTHING! That is what God’s Word says!

Is there a contradiction between Matthew 17:11 and Acts 3:20-21? Of course not! Mr. Armstrong as the Elijah would RESTORE ALL THINGS God gave him to restore. He would RESTORE the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD after 1900 long years and proclaim it to ALL NATIONS! That was Mr. Armstrong’s commission. And it was successfully accomplished through God’s Spirit.

It was the same with Jesus, Himself, as He walked this earth during His ministry. He said in Matthew 11:27: “ALL THINGS are delivered to me of my Father...” Yet in Mark 13:32 our Lord declares: “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, NEITHER THE SON, but the Father only. What? You mean Jesus did not know the time of His return? You mean ALL THINGS WERE NOT DELIVERED UNTO HIM? Is this a contradiction between Matthew 11:27 and Mark 13:32? Of course not! The Bible does NOT contradict itself, anytime. Thy Word is Truth (John 17:17).

HERBERT ARMSTRONG RESTORED ALL THINGS GOD GAVE HIM TO RESTORE THAT WOULD FULFILL HIS COMMISSION!

GOD DELIVERED UNTO JESUS CHRIST ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO FULFILL HIS COMMISSION. The knowledge of WHEN Jesus would return was not necessary for Him to know, to fulfill His commission as the Lamb of God. It was not necessary for Mr. Armstrong to know ALL THINGS, ONLY those things related to his commission of taking the GOOD NEWS of the SOON COMING KINGDOM of GOD to the world as a witness to all nations and to complete the Spiritual Temple.

The scriptures, Matthew 17:11 compared to Acts 3:20-21 and Matthew 11:27 compared to Mark 13:32 can appear as contradictions when viewed separately. However, in reality they are examples of solving an apparent contradiction by

allowing the Bible to clarify and expand one scripture by another plain scripture to obtain the complete meaning. Don't you remember that Mr. Armstrong taught us that the Bible is written like a jigsaw puzzle; a little here and a little there (Isa. 28:9,10 & 13)? Only God's Spirit can rightly put it ALL together.

So, what we see at this point is that Herbert W. Armstrong was raised up by God to RESTORE the TRUE GOSPEL, the GOSPEL of the Kingdom of God. This was the same GOOD NEWS and TESTIMONY, Jesus Christ originally brought during His earthly ministry (Mark 1:1 and 14-15). This included the knowledge of the KING, the location of the KINGDOM, the LAWS that will be applied, and the SUBJECTS ruled over. A good understanding of PROPHECY would be RESTORED also. The last phrase of Revelation 19: 10 reads: "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." And one third of the Bible IS prophecy. The astounding TRUTH that man can become GOD through the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ would be thundered out to the world as a witness. Truly this is amazing and fantastic understanding of the Plan of God that was revealed to Mr. Armstrong. However he was not given the knowledge of ALL THINGS in the Plan of God. This was not this faithful servant of God's fault---it was not TIME for ALL THINGS to be revealed!

WILL HOLDING FAST ASSURE SALVATION?

But, surely if we HOLD FAST to the fantastic knowledge given to HWA we can hold on to "our crown" and achieve Salvation. Right? Once again you had better let the WORD of GOD give you the answer! Revelation 12:14 and 17 plainly state, "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and a half a time, from the face of the serpent..." "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, WHICH KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST."

The TRUE CHURCH, the WOMAN, will be taken to the Place of Safety. The "remnant," which KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST, will experience the wrath of Satan in the Great Tribulation! WHY? If they are keeping God's Law and have the testimony of Christ, which was RESTORED by the Elijah, WHY do they end up in the TRIBULATION? It will be extremely difficult to "HOLD FAST THAT NO MAN

TAKE YOUR CROWN” in the Great Tribulation! Why do these people (maybe you) end up in the Great Tribulation? Why is it that they are not considered WORTHY to escape (Luke 21:36)?

The basic answer to this question, as taught through the years in the WCG, is that those who are “lukewarm” in their Christian efforts are Laodiceans and are considered unworthy to escape. They must “overcome” in the Tribulation, according to this old teaching. BUT THAT IS AN INCORRECT ANSWER!

THE TWO CANDLESTICKS

Let’s review the TRUTH of the identity of the Laodiceans and ask the question; are they the ONLY ones to end up in the Tribulation? You should know the answer to this question!

In Revelation 1:20, the last phrase states: “...and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches.” This scripture and chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation show us that Laodicea is the SEVENTH and final Church (or Candlestick) to come on the prophetic scene. Revelation 3:10 tells us: “Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” This is a promise to those of Philadelphia (the SIXTH Candlestick). They are promised protection from the “hour of temptation,” or Great Tribulation, that shall come upon the entire world. Revelation 12:14-17 plainly shows TWO groups of God’s people. The greater portion of them is taken to safety as the WOMAN; the “remnant” experiences the wrath of Satan in the Tribulation. Revelation 11:3-4 announces the Two Witnesses. They are presented as the TWO OLIVE TREES and the TWO CANDLESTICKS. Two Candlesticks are symbolic of TWO CHURCHES that will be represented by these two Prophets (v. 10 and 1:20). Their ministry will be mostly during the Great Tribulation and will end immediately before the First Resurrection and the Visible Coming of Jesus Christ (vv. 7-12)!

The TWO WITNESSES symbolically portrayed as TWO CANDLESTICKS represent TWO CHURCHES, Philadelphia and Laodicea! This clearly shows that the Philadelphia Candlestick did not “burn out” when Herbert Armstrong died. The Candlestick still burns brightly. However, an important test was to be conducted.

Exactly four years after HWA's death God raised up an exceedingly zealous man to WARN the ministry and members of the WCG of the disastrous changes being made against God's true doctrines. This warning message was the beginning of the Laodicean WORK of God. The Laodicean Candlestick was lit. Think about this! For four years the WCG was careening off track. Those who were swallowing these false doctrines were NOT Laodicean, they were unfaithful Philadelphians who were committing spiritual adultery, becoming a part of the Synagogue of Satan. Gerald Flurry was raised up as the physical leader of Laodicea, to WARN the Church of what was happening right before our eyes. This was the Laodicean WORK of Jesus Christ. Mr. Flurry did not start off "lukewarm" or "rich and increased with goods." Not at all! After seven years of warning, he became "lukewarm" to the WORK of God by doing his OWN work. He turned from his true commission to an utterly futile work. His work now has become the same as the, so-called "ranking" ministers of the "daughter churches." It is an attempt to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to the World, although Jesus Christ had already done this through Herbert Armstrong. Now Mr. Flurry and his Laodicean work is perfectly described in Revelation 3:14-17.

THE END OF EACH ERA DESCRIBED

In each description of the Seven Churches in Rev. 2 and 3, their portrayal is toward the END of their phase as the Work of Jesus Christ. Study this out and PROVE this for yourself.

Ephesus did not start out losing their first love (Rev. 2:4). They became that way toward the end of their era and Smyrna replaced them. Smyrna existed only a short while, finally ending up in prison and dying, yet FAITHFUL to the end (v.10). Then Pergamos came along, but in their final days allowed false doctrines to enter in among them (vv.14-15). Thyatira is complimented for her LAST works being greater than the FIRST works (v.19). So, when Sardis was raised up it was NOT raised up as a DEAD or dying church, it BECAME that way (3:1-2). That was their condition as Christ brought Mr. Armstrong into contact with them.

The Bible is always consistent because God is consistent. As we come to the description of Philadelphia in Revelation 3 it is pictured toward the very end of its phase, NOT the beginning. Carefully think this out! The description pictures Mr. Armstrong's Work in type only, but vividly portrays conditions in the TRUE

WORK OF GOD'S PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK/CHURCH TODAY.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND the following:

- (1) The Synagogue of Satan did NOT come and worship at the feet of HWA and the WCG (v. 9). This event has not occurred yet! Mr. Armstrong did NOT even KNOW the true identity of the Synagogue of Satan, but the CGF does. Their identity was revealed earlier in this booklet.
- (2) Mr. Armstrong and the WCG were not protected from the Tribulation (v.10). It hasn't happened yet either.
- (3) The WCG and her adulterous daughters have NOT patiently kept God's Word (v.10). They will not be protected from the tribulation unless they repent. Most have also "denied his name," not accepting God's form of Government (v.8).
- (4) At the time of the death of HWA, the Church had one of the most POWERFUL voices in the entire World, not just "little strength" (v.8).
- (5) The WCG and her adulterous daughters are the synagogue of Satan. They will NOT be PILLARS in the Temple of God (v. 12).
- (6) The understanding of the OPEN DOOR is more complete today than in any other time in Philadelphia's history. Our Lord will MAKE many in the Synagogue of Satan to repent and come through the through the Open Door to His Faithful Church to be taught (vv. 7-9).

And as we said earlier, Laodicea did NOT start off "lukewarm" to the Work of God. NO! Mr. Flurry and the early PCG was the dynamic Work of Jesus Christ! Think that out! There was NO OTHER CHURCH doing any WORK at all. The TWO CANDLESTICKS, Laodicea and Philadelphia WORKED TOGETHER for Seven years in the PCG—then they separated. The Laodicean Candle is "rich and increased with goods" in Mr. Flurry's work. However, that Candle is becoming very dim except for God's Spirit still burning in the hearts of some very sincere, although blind and asleep, PCG members. The Philadelphian Candle is becoming brighter each day through an attitude of ONE ACCORD and soon the entire Synagogue of Satan will know WHERE the TRUE PHILADELPHIANS ARE!

DOING IT GOD'S WAY

True Philadelphians hold fast to the true Gospel! True Philadelphians also prove all things by the Word of God! A true Philadelphian will continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. **GROWTH IN NEW KNOWLEDGE IS NEW TRUTH! GOD'S TRUE CHURCH WILL BE SET APART BY TRUTH!** Our Lord, Savior, and Apostle, JESUS CHRIST, continues to pour upon us NEW TRUTH! We are the CHURCH of GOD'S FAITHFUL!

If you are just “holding fast” you will NOT be growing in NEW TRUTH as the TRUE CHURCH MUST DO. You will NOT be a part of the ONE TRUE CHURCH because you will NOT be GROWING IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE. And IF you are NOT Growing in Grace and Knowledge, even though you “keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ” you will soon find yourself in the midst of the Great Tribulation, along with the Laodiceans who refuse to heed God's warnings. Christ built His One True Organized Church that will always exist. Christ will always have one man “sitting in the seat of judgment [Government]” of His One True Organized Church (see Matt. 16:18-19 and Isa. 28:5-6). If you are NOT a part of Christ's One True Organized Church you will be very similar to the Sardis members of the early thirties!

Think this through! When Herbert W. Armstrong was brought on the scene, the Sardis Church was an ineffective Church described as DEAD (Rev. 3:1). Sardis did NOT even know the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Since the Ephesian era, knowledge of the TRUE GOSPEL began to become lost. By the time God sent the end-time Elijah to the Sardis era, knowledge of the Kingdom of God did not exist. But in each of the eras of God's Church, those that were faithful to the knowledge they had, qualified to “receive their crowns” or SALVATION. They GREW in as much GRACE and KNOWLEDGE as GOD gave them—and they endured until the end---of their lives (Matt.24: 13).

Christ said to Thyatira: “...that which you have already hold fast till I come.” They evidently did not have much knowledge of the Gospel, ALREADY, but those who overcame HELD FAST and are promised an important position in the Kingdom (vv. 26-27). Christ told Sardis: “...Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and HOLD FAST, and repent...” (Rev. 3:3). How had they heard and received? Those of Thyatira had passed down their understanding, but Sardis had even lost much of that. Still they could repent and HOLD FAST and make it into

the Kingdom with the little understanding that they had. How? Because they HELD FAST to the TRUTH they retained. By God's GRACE they were saved (Eph 2:8-10). But please remember, NEW KNOWLEDGE was not being given until HWA came into the picture.

When Mr. Armstrong came among the brethren of Sardis, things changed! No more could they just HOLD FAST. NO! Now they had to GROW IN GRACE AND NEW KNOWLEDGE! Mr. Armstrong came with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ. Many of the ministry and members of Sardis could NOT accept the NEW TRUTH! Some, probably, considered it BLASPHEMY, teaching that man could become God. Some, most likely, considered The United States and Britain in Prophecy as RACIST---instead of TRUTH. So, was God pleased with these people when they rejected NEW TRUTH given them by Jesus Christ through the Elijah? NO! Absolutely not! As they rejected GOD GIVEN knowledge, God would have to reject them. WHY? Because they refused to FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST.

This brings us back to our question. Can you retain "your crown" by just HOLDING FAST TO ALL THAT HAS BEEN RESTORED BY MR. ARMSTRONG? The ANSWER is NO! ALL THINGS were NOT RESTORED by HWA! Jesus Christ will restore ALL things as Acts 3:20-21 plainly states. This "RESTITUTION" is in progress at this very moment. NEW TRUTH IS BEING GIVEN IN GOD'S ONE TRUE CHURCH TODAY! You MUST continue to FOLLOW CHRIST as he RESTORES and brings NEW TRUTH to His One True Church. If you refuse to accept NEW TRUTH, you REJECT CHRIST and separate yourself from the ONE TRUE CHURCH. You become the same as the Sardis people. You are QUENCHING the Spirit of Truth and are about to be swallowed up in the Great Tribulation (I Thess. 5:19 and John 16:13). IF you do not GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE, if you only HOLD FAST and "...keep the Commandments of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ," you will end up in the GREAT TRIBULATION! Only ONE CHURCH will be in the Place of Safety!

BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE!

One of Herbert Armstrong's most famous sayings was, "DON'T BELIEVE ME! BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE!" Mr. Armstrong was the servant of God and had astounding TRUTH revealed unto him. Mr. Armstrong NEVER claimed to be infallible. He knew he was a man subject to making mistakes just like everyone

else. And it is a simple fact that God did NOT reveal EVERYTHING to this man. Mr. Armstrong NEVER wrote one WORD of the BIBLE. We respect and honor most of his writings, but they are NOT Holy Scripture. He was very sincere in everything he wrote or preached; nevertheless everything he wrote was NOT absolutely correct. “DON’T BELIEVE ME! BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE!” Do YOU BELIEVE this statement? Mr. Armstrong knew the BIBLE is TRUTH! He knew also that he, himself, was not infallible. Some have wanted to BELIEVE Mr. Armstrong and refused to BELIEVE the BIBLE! Just the opposite of what he had instructed you to do! How pitifully inconsistent!

At this point I want to present a list of differences between what Mr. Armstrong sincerely taught as TRUTH, but are incorrect by BIBLE definition. WHICH WILL YOU BELIEVE?

CAN SPIRITS DIE?

Let’s start with a big one! Mr. Armstrong taught that Satan and the Demons are Spirits that CANNOT die. “The penalty of sin by the angels was not death---for God had made them immortal spirit beings who cannot die.” See Mystery of the Ages, hardback edition, page 92.

Regardless of this statement by God’s Elijah, the Bible reveals that Spirit Beings CAN die. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:1 & 14). The Word was SPIRIT, but was MADE flesh! Of course, you understand that the WORD, who became Jesus Christ and who CREATED ALL THINGS, including the angelic kingdom--- DIED. So, Spirit Beings CAN DIE!

Don’t believe me! Believe your Bible! Do you BELIEVE Spirits Beings can die, or Not?

Maybe you reason as many others do and have erroneously used Luke 20:36 to “prove” angels or spirits don’t die “...Neither can they die any more: for they are equal to the angels...” Those who make this claim by this one scripture forget to put ALL the pieces together. Read the rendering of this in Mathew’s account: “For in the resurrection... are as the angels of God IN HEAVEN” (Matt. 22:30). Mark’s account is the same as Matthew’s (see Mark 12:25). The righteous angels of HEAVEN do not sin, so they WILL live forever! The FALLEN ANGELS WHO

SINNED WILL DIE! “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

In Mark 1:24 our Lord encounters an evil spirit who cries out: “Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with you, you Jesus of Nazareth. Are you come to DESTROY US?” The Greek word rendered “DESTROY” is Strong’s #622. This same word is used twice in John 3:15-16 as “PERISH.” “That whosoever believes in him should NOT PERISH, but have ETERNAL LIFE” (v.15). We of the Church of God have long known, in light of these very familiar scriptures, that “perish” means just the opposite of “have eternal life.” This demon knew he was going to perish in eternal death in the Lake of Fire.

That demon probably knew ALL of the Scriptures concerning their fate, especially the last part of Ezekiel 28:16 through verse 18: “... and I will destroy you, O Covering Cherub (Satan), from the midst of the stones of fire.” This tells of the very source from which Satan’s (and the demons) destruction emanates. Their DESTRUCTION comes from the very throne of God. The last part of Verse 18 reads: “...therefore I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth...” Satan and the demons will be “made flesh” and finally burned to ashes in the Lake of Fire.

Christ can MAKE Himself “flesh and bone” at any time! “And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terribly affrighted, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself: handle me, and see, for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as you see me have” (Luke 24:36-39).

And apparently the righteous angels have this ability also. By a simple study of Genesis 18:1, 2, 8, 16 and 19:1-16 it is obvious that the LORD and two angels visited the patriarch Abraham before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. They accepted Abraham’s hospitality and sat and enjoyed a dinner of steak, bread, butter, and milk. Here is an example of Spirit-Beings appearing as fleshly men and eating food. The other two “men” are referred to as ANGELS in chapter 19. Read this yourself. Angels CAN become flesh! And FLESH can be destroyed! Do you BELIEVE what your BIBLE says? You need to read our booklets, The Deep Things of God and Set Apart By Truth.

If you will read these booklets you will be amazed at the REVEALED TRUTHS contained in them! DON’T JUST “BELIEVE” ME OR MR. ARMSTRONG!

PROVE WHO IS RIGHT ACCORDING TO YOUR BIBLE! THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD. JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD. IT IS JESUS CHRIST WHO REVEALS THE TRUTH TO HIS ONE TRUE CHURCH!

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- (1) How many resurrections does the Bible actually teach? See Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 20:4-15. Do you find THREE--or only TWO?
- (2) Does Isaiah 65:17-25 picture conditions during the time of the Second Resurrection or the World Tomorrow? A simple reading of those verses easily PROVES this to be the Millennium---the 1000-year reign of Christ and the Saints. A NEW WORLD, a new heaven and new earth, are here pictured. This PRESENT EVIL WORLD will be totally destroyed. It will become “tohu and bohu” during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Wrath of God (see Jer. 4:19-29). The Bible reveals that people during the Millennium will live long lives, at least 100 years (Isa. 65:20) and “bring forth” healthy, happy children. Mr. Armstrong and the writers of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course mistakenly believed the “new heavens and new earth” in verse 17 is the same as pictured in Revelation 21:1: “And I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH: for the first (#4413) heaven and the first (#4413) earth were passed away...” Now read the last phrase of verse 4 of Revelation 21: “... for the FORMER (#4413) things are passed away. The words rendered “first” in verse 1 and “former” in verse 4 ARE THE SAME GREEK WORD. The latter part of verse 1 should be translated, “for the FORMER heaven and FORMER earth were passed away.” The FORMER heaven and earth that was “passed away” was not the heaven and earth of Genesis One, but the “new heaven and new earth” of Isaiah 65:17! This is the only sensible conclusion that can be drawn according to the biblical time sequence. It was not TIME for Mr. Armstrong and the ACC writers to understand this TRUTH. They also write that these verses in Isaiah 65 are describing conditions during the period of the second resurrection. They incorrectly try to connect Isaiah 65 with Revelation 20:11 supposing the Second Resurrection will be a period of 100 years called the

“White Throne Judgment.” That is simply WRONG! DON’T BELIEVE ME! BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE!

- (3) The Bible tells us that ONLY the Israelites will receive God’s Spirit in the Millennium. Mr. Armstrong has taught that ALL people will receive God’s Spirit in the Millennium. If you think Mr. Armstrong is correct, WHY do the Nations of the earth need to be ruled with a ROD of IRON? And if ALL nations receive God’s Spirit, WHAT happens to Gog and Magog who attack Christ’s headquarters at the end of the Millennium?
- (4) Do you believe Mr. Armstrong’s understanding of the First Resurrection occurring on the Feast of Trumpets? You need to read that which Christ has revealed to the CGF right out of the BIBLE. Please request our booklet The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost?
- (5) Mr. Armstrong has stated: “If Petra is not the place of safety, the Bible does not indicate where it is!” The BIBLE has clearly revealed to the CGF that Petra is not the place of safety. Are you still hoping to go there? Request our booklet: Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter.
- (6) The BIBLE plainly shows that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are TWO different events. If you do not understand this extremely important BIBLE TRUTH, you urgently need to read our second edition of The Day of the Lord. Don’t let ANYONE deceive you! The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a “thief in the night.” Jesus Christ has come to His Temple and is REVEALING NEW TRUTH to His ONE TRUE CHURCH!

These are just a few of the 40 or more TRUTHS revealed to the CGF by Jesus Christ.

Can you recognize the possibility that you have rejected TRUTH in your efforts to HOLD FAST TO ALL THINGS RESTORED? YOU HAVE BEEN DECEIVED! BY REFUSING TO GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE YOU ARE QUENCHING GOD’S SPIRIT--- AND YOU HAVE SEPARATED YOURSELF FROM THE ONE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD!

At this point in time, the ONLY way for you, or anyone else of the Outer Court (also labeled as the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel [Matt.10:6] and as the Synagogue of Satan [Rev.3:9]) to recognize WHERE CHRIST’S TRUE CHURCH

IS LOCATED, IS THROUGH TRUTH REVEALED TO THAT ONE TRUE ORGANIZED CHURCH!

WE ARE SET APART BY TRUTH!

Don't believe me! Believe your Bible! This is precisely what Mr. Armstrong would tell you as you observe this NEW TRUTH. The Bible is the Word of God in print. Jesus Christ our Lord is the Living Word of God. He says in John 17:17: "Sanctify them through your TRUTH: your Word is TRUTH." Christ is NOT divided (I Cor. 1:10-13). His ONE TRUE CHURCH is "sanctified," SET APART, from ALL the DIVISIONS, SPLITS, and SPLINTERS by TRUTH! OLD TRUTH AND NEW TRUTH!

Check me out! Who is right and who is wrong? PROVE ALL THINGS... GOD'S WAY! DON'T BELIEVE ME OR ANY OTHER MAN, LIVING OR DEAD! THIS IS THE SAME THING MR. ARMSTRONG WOULD TELL YOU! BELIEVE YOUR BIBLE! YOUR BIBLE IS TRUTH! CHRIST'S ONE TRUE CHURCH IS WHERE HE IS, WHERE NEW TRUTH IS BEING REVEALED! YOU DESPERATELY NEED TO BE THERE TOO.

Please write or call for our free booklets and any questions you might have. Our address is Church of God's Faithful, PO Box 279, Eutawville, SC, 29048. Our Telephone number is 803-492-9061. We are here to help.