



The Midnight Cry

February 2009, Volume 1, Number 1

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

WHERE IS GOD'S ONE TRUE CHURCH? ?

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Falling Away**

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*Matt 25:6
IT IS
TIME!*

A Wake-Up Call!



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A Wake-Up Call!

Greetings Brethren,

There is much confusion that exists today in the Churches of God. Isn't it incredible that the Worldwide Church of God, as it was at the death of God's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, has now split and splintered into over 300 different groups and churches—all in disagreement to one degree or another?

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18).

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10).

Is Christ divided?... (1 Cor. 1:13). The answer is NO!

What has happened in these 23 years? Where is His One True Church?

You have probably never heard of the Church of God's Faithful, although we have been around since 1997. We have 15 booklets, many articles, and an easily accessed website. We have held formal Sabbath services every week from the date we were founded with over 800 recorded services. Over the past eleven years, our literature, containing now over 75 new Truths, has been sent to our brethren of the Laodicean Church, the seventh candlestick, and its leader, Gerald Flurry. Have you heard of Gerald Flurry and his Philadelphia Church of God located in Edmond, Oklahoma? Mr. Flurry has played an important role in the recent history of the Church of God. That was our commission, but now this publication is designed and focused on you of the Churches of God.

The true history of God's Church during the past 23 years is an intriguing story—and Truth can sometimes hurt. I certainly do not mean to offend any of you. I am sure each of you is as sincere in your beliefs as I am in mine. I know many of you personally, as Church members, deacons, and elders and am aware of your honesty and devotion to your particular church.

I definitely do not mean to offend, but we have very important messages from the Word of God that, hopefully, you will carefully and prayerfully read and study.

Time is swiftly going by! Prophecy is being fulfilled and most of God's people are asleep spiritually, not comprehending the extreme perils of the times in which we live! Hopefully, this will be a wake-up call for you. And as you read, please understand that you are hearing *The Midnight Cry* of Matthew 25:6!

Your brother in Christ,



Robert G. Ardis

Pastor General, Church of God's Faithful

The Great Falling Away

by John Durrad

What do you think of someone who saved for something all his life and at the very last minute, when the object of his dream was within his grasp, turns away from it? What about someone who spends hundreds of pounds on driving lessons, yet refuses to take his driving test? What about a student who has studied his subject for years and, fully appraised with all details of his chosen subject, doesn't go through the final exams?

Most importantly, what do you think of someone who hears and sacrifices for the truth of God for perhaps 50 years, and then carelessly gives up at the last minute, or in the end time? These people have turned away from God! Sometimes that turning away is dramatic; they leave the Church entirely

or perhaps turn to mainstream religion.

There is a more subtle way one can leave the truth of God, and that is to follow a man into one of the many churches of god derived from the Philadelphia era Worldwide Church of God.

“ For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed. Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still (Isa. 9:16-17).

Many fell away from the truth of God rejecting their leader, Jesus Christ. In some cases, they held onto these truths for up to 50 years, because of one man. The problem was, they followed the man and not the authority behind the man. God is angry with these people (Psalm 7:11)!

When that man was taken away, they floundered. They forgot that the last warning to the Philadelphia era was to let “no man take your crown.”

“ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son perdition (2 Thess. 2:3).

This falling away is so great that God uses it as a sign! God gives a sign to the world in Matthew 24:14 but this falling away from the truth of God is an even more urgent sign to God's people.

“ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matt. 24:14).

Now notice the most vitally important warning sign aimed directly at God's Church:

“ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many (Matt. 24:4-5).

Over 300 Splinter Groups!

Most of God's people in this end-time are going to be deceived as to where Jesus Christ is working and blindly follow a man. Are you sure

There are over 300 different churches and groups that have split from the WCG... could they all be God's Churches?

you don't fall into this category? Are you sure that Jesus Christ is behind the human leader of your church? Is New Truth being revealed through your church group?

Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? If you are not sure that you are in the right church – you probably are not!

There are over 300 different churches and groups that have split from the Worldwide Church

all be God's Churches? You know the answer (Matt. 12:25; 1 Cor. 1:10)! Are you following a man or Jesus Christ?

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 tells us of someone that "withholds" and someone that "lets". These two words have the same Greek origin and mean something that restrains or holds back.

“ And now you know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

God's Holy Spirit is what "withholdeth" or restrains. He who "letteth" or restrains is personified, indicating it is a man who restrains. God's Spirit is clearly behind it all but in verse 7 we see a man being used by God. The man who restrains the mystery of iniquity or the Synagogue of Satan is to be taken out of the way. Although Christ is the main power here, He is not the One taken out of the way!

Herbert W. Armstrong was the man who restrained the liberal forces, especially in the 70's and up to the time he was taken out of the way by his death on January 16th 1986. Those who followed Mr. Armstrong – the man – and not Mr. Armstrong as led by Jesus Christ, floundered!

After Mr. Armstrong died we saw a great falling away from God. This was the test! God let the mystery of iniquity be revealed. God gives us free moral agency, but after this test God knows who obeys and follows Him, and who does not!

Unfortunately, many failed this test, not just a few! This represents a great falling away from the

Truth of God by His own baptized people.

“ And them that are turned back from the Lord; and those that have not sought the Lord, nor enquired for him. Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God; for the day of Lord is at hand; for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests (Zeph. 1:6-7).

We are now in the prophesied Day of the Lord and God is saying to His errant people to be silent and listen to

Him as He speaks through His one and only true Church today. The Day of the Lord's wrath, the final one year period of punishment before the Kingdom of God is set up on earth, is near. (Please request our free booklet entitled, "The Day of the Lord" or download it from our website).

“ The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry bitterly (Zeph. 1:14).

Time is short, you don't have much time to act. You need to prove that "your" church is in fact the one being led by Jesus Christ. There is only one True Church of God which is growing in grace and knowledge and is set apart by truth (John 17:17). The Church of God's Faithful is delivering a message to those who are turning away or have fallen away from the truth and faith

once delivered.

If you belong to one of the 300 or more splinter groups, ask your minister what makes your church the one True Church of God. If he can't answer, you have your answer. Many of God's people are asleep; some are not even bothered with

We are now in the prophesied Day of the Lord and God is saying to His errant people to be silent and listen to Him as He speaks through His one and only true Church

New Truth when it's presented to them. Make sure you are not a part of the great falling away! Be absolutely certain that Jesus Christ is the Head of "your" church.

If you are not entirely sure, a representative of the Church of

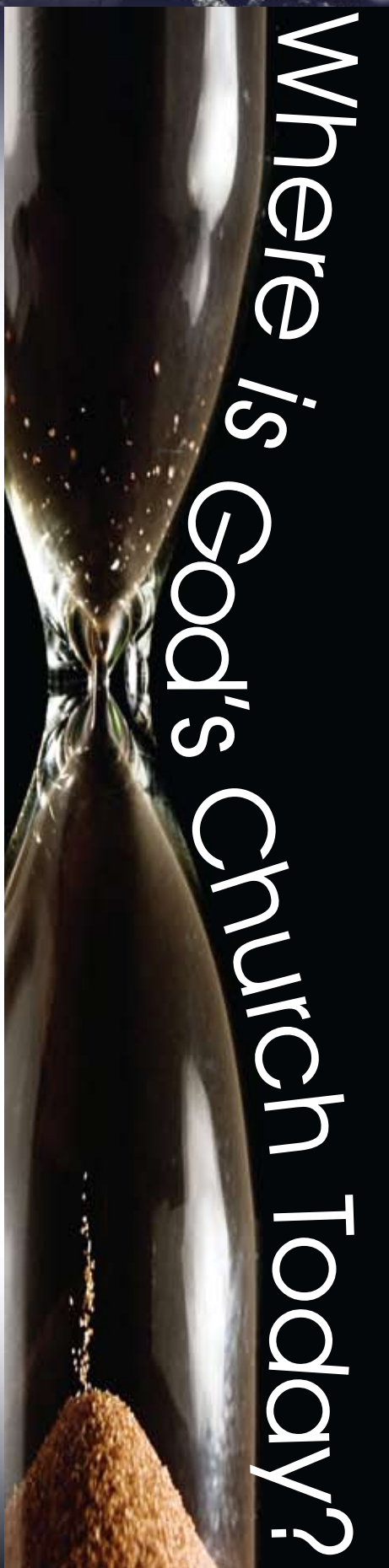
God's Faithful is on hand to answer your questions.

Let No Man Deceive You

We are living in very dangerous and deceptive times and it should be absolutely clear that the great falling away from truth has occurred. Not one of God's baptized members need be deceived if they continue to seek the truth and pursue it to where Christ is now working.

“ Let no man deceive you by any means... because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth (2 Thess. 2:3, 13).

You owe it to yourself, and God's plan, to pray to be worthy to help to usher in with God's True Church the soon coming return of Jesus Christ. ❖



Where is God's Church Today?

by Frank Borg

In the late 1920's, Mr. Herbert Armstrong came into contact with the Church of God headquartered in Stanberry, Missouri (Rev. 3:1-6). Although he failed to see where the Sardis Church was bearing much fruit, he knew that this was the Church that had more Bible Truth than any other Church he could find. This was the 'resting place' for God's people at the time. It professed the commandments of God and had the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Test

Around this same time, even before Mr. Armstrong was ordained into the ministry, his mind was being opened to the understanding of some Biblical Truths which this little Church (Sardis) did not teach or accept. So, in 1929 he decided to try and test the authenticity of the Church. He wrote about a dual test in his autobiography and is important advice for those trying to find God's Church today:



Now, it was a simple truism that if each individual member of the Church must be growing in the knowledge of God, constantly overcoming, being corrected, and eliminating error, then all the members together, which form the Church, must also be CONSTANTLY WILLING TO CONFESS ERROR AND ELIMINATE IT, and to ACCEPT THAT

Although Mr. Armstrong failed to see where the Sardis Church was bearing much fruit, he knew that this was the Church that had more Bible Truth than any other Church he could find.

WHICH IS "NEW LIGHT" FROM GOD'S WORD to the Church. I knew of no church or sect or denomination that had ever publicly confessed error or embraced new truth. Yet, plainly, THIS WOULD BE A TEST OF THE TRUE CHURCH. As a first step in this test, I wrote up an exposition of some 16 type-written pages proving clearly,

plainly, and beyond contradiction that a certain minor point of doctrine proclaimed by this Church, based on an erroneous interpretation of a certain verse of Scripture, was in error. This was mailed to Stanberry, Missouri, headquarters to see whether their leaders would confess error and change. (*The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, pg. 344, Vol. 1).

As outlined by Mr. Armstrong, following is the dual test to prove where God's true Church is:

- It must be willing to confess error and eliminate it (Mark 6:12; Acts 26:20).
- It must accept New Truth (John 17:17; 2 Pet. 3:18)

As it turned out the physical head of the Church at the time, Mr. A. Dugger, explained that if he were to correct a false doctrine and publicly confess error, much of the membership would not accept it. He feared people would leave the Church because of New Truth! Dugger believed the mem-

bership would not allow Christ to correct error and restore Truth to the Church! Evidently, the physical leader, and the membership, looked to people rather than to Christ, the spiritual Head of God's Church! This must have shaken Mr. Armstrong's confidence!

After much study on another topic, Mr. Armstrong exhaustively proved that the lost Ten Tribes of Israel had migrated to the areas in North Western Europe and the sons of Joseph - Ephraim and Manasseh - migrated to Britain and the United States respectively. He began to understand that the British were the descendants of Ephraim and the United States represented modern day Manasseh. Mr. Armstrong typed up some 300 pages explaining this Truth substantiating it with Scripture, proving that this was the key to understand more than a third of the whole Bible! Six months later, Mr. Armstrong received a reply saying that although this was Truth, the Church could not proclaim it! This was outright and blatant rejection of God's Truth! 1929 turned out to be an important year for God's Church! It was during that year that the Sardis Church of God refused to accept, preach or publish new truth which came right out of God's Word. Sardis wasn't submitting to the Spiritual Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and as a result (spiritual) growth was no longer being borne!

Four Years for Fruit

The sequence of events outlined above, are a fulfillment of a most important prophecy found in Luke 13:6-9:



A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none; cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Christ allowed the fig tree three years to produce fruit. When He found none, He contemplated cutting the tree down but was convinced to give it one further year to see if it would produce fruit. When no fruit was produced in the four year period, Christ cut down the fig tree!

This parable demonstrates a direct parallel to what happens in God's Church before God ignites or moves His Candlestick /Church! When God's Church refuses to submit to Christ, He gives the physical leader four years to repent and to begin producing fruit once again! If this doesn't happen, God will move His 'resting place' by igniting a subsequent Candlestick and start working through another human representative (see Rev. 2 & 3)!

From the time Mr. Armstrong approached Mr. Dugger in 1929, God gave the leader of Sardis four years to (a) be corrected and (b) imple-

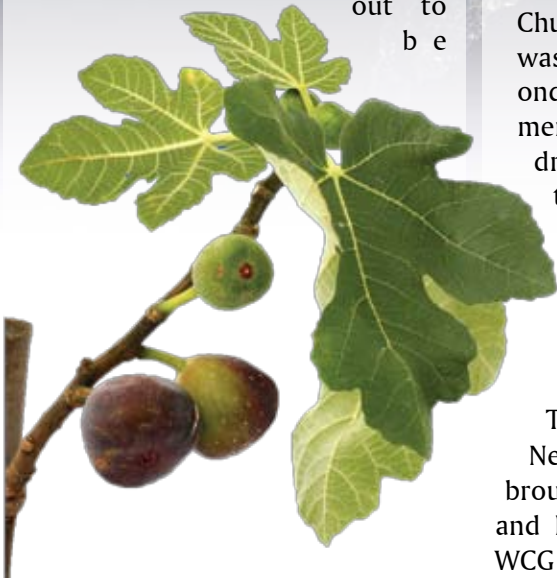
ment New Truth. Sardis failed the test on both counts! Because of this, God had to move the 'resting place' for His people and begin working through another physical leader who would allow himself and the Church to be corrected and to proclaim His Truth! In 1933, God ignited the Philadelphia candlestick through His humble servant Mr. Herbert Armstrong. God's Church was incorporated under the name Radio Church of God.

When God's Church refuses to submit to Christ, He gives the physical leader four years to repent and to begin producing fruit once again! (Luke 13:6-9)

Throughout Mr. Armstrong's ministry, God was able to restore much Truth to the Church. The most important Truths which God restored through Mr. Armstrong related to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. God gave Mr. Armstrong, the end-time Elijah, the commission of preaching the Gospel as a witness to the whole World (Matthew 24:14). Mr. Armstrong fulfilled this commission prior to his death in January 1986 (this subject will be explained in detail in the next issue of this periodical). On page 291 of Mystery of the Ages, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "These prophecies", [of the preaching of the gospel], "have now definitely been fulfilled. The true gospel has been restored and has now gone in power into every nation on the face of the earth". Undeniably, Mr. Armstrong knew that the commission given to him to preach the gospel to the world had been fulfilled (Matt. 24:14). Just before he died, Mr. Armstrong stated that all that was left for the leadership to do was to 'get the Church ready' before Christ's return!

A Test for Today

On January 16th 1986, Mr. Armstrong died and Mr. Tkach Sr. began leading God's Church. This turned out to be



another landmark year for the Church. A four year test on the Church commenced. History proves that the new leadership immediately began to make monumental changes to the doctrines and Work of God. In retrospect, we could see that God was closely watching His Church giving it three years, and then an additional year, to see if it would produce fruit (Luke 13:6-9). Things in the Church went from bad to worse! By 1989, God began to open the mind of one of His faithful ministers on the situation developing in the Church at the time by revealing an important truth on the identity of the 'man of sin'. New understanding was given by God to Mr. Flurry, a WCG minister over the Oklahoma congregations. Here is an excerpt from the preface of his manuscript, 'Malachi's Message', outlining events as they took place when this new Truth was brought to the WCG leadership:



Malachi's Message was originally written in 1989, when the new di-

rection in God's Church was, to many of its members, not very perceptible. The book was primarily intended to alert the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) as to what was really happening, and secondarily to alert the Church membership. When an early draft of the book was brought to the attention of WCG leadership in Pasadena, California, Gerald Flurry and his assistant, John Amos, were fired from their positions as WCG ministers.

The WCG leadership refuted New Truth from God which was brought to them by Mr. Flurry and his assistant, Mr. Amos. The WCG leadership was not willing to (a) confess error, eliminate it and (b) accept 'new light' from God's Word! The WCG leadership had taken the Philadelphia era of the Church (WCG) off track! God had to set things straight for His people!

By January 1990, four years after the death of Mr. Armstrong, God moved the 'resting place' for His people. He ignited His Laodicean candlestick through His loyal servant, Mr. Gerald Flurry. Meanwhile, the Philadelphia candlestick was not extinguished! Here is an extract

By January 1990, four years after the death of Mr. Armstrong, God moved the 'resting place' for His people.

from the Church of God's Faithful booklet entitled "*The Midnight Cry*", detailing the events that took place as Mr. Flurry and Mr. Amos were fired from the WCG: "In retrospect, it surely appears that, as these two men stood there before Joseph Tkach Jr., a tremendous change in Church leadership took place. Af-

ter four years, the Tkach's and the WCG ministry (kowtowing to that corrupted administration) had disqualified themselves in the eyes of God (see Luke 13: 6-9). So what was God to do? Through hindsight it is apparent to me that, at that precise moment, the candlestick of Philadelphia was removed from the disqualified WCG in Pasadena! The candlestick was not extinguished, as scripture clearly shows in Revelation 11:3-4.... it was given to John Amos! Also, amazingly, the seventh era of the Church began as the Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry.... these two men... represented the last two of the seven Churches." (See Mat. 24:41 and Luk. 17:35).

What Happened?

Obviously, all seven of God's Church's started well. The PCG, as God's Laodicean Work, was no exception. With Gerald Flurry as the physical leader, the Laodicean Work started well by fearlessly and tirelessly warning God's people of the destruction in God's Church (WCG). A dynamic warning work was being done for God! However, there is a terrifying prophecy about the fate of Laodicea:



And unto the an-

gel of the church of the Laodiceans write....I know thy works... So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth... thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked... (Rev. 3:14-17).

What happened to Laodicea? How could things go so horribly wrong after God had begun such a magnificent and powerful Work beginning in December 1989? Let us take a close look at only three events which led to Christ leaving the Laodicean Church:

1) John Amos died in 1993. He was a stabilizing force for Mr. Flurry. When Mr. Amos died, the Philadelphia Candlestick was not extinguished, but passed on to another man who was completely unaware of the plans that God had in store for him (more on this later). With Mr. Amos taken away from the scene, the question must be asked: Was God starting a 'three plus one year' process (Luke 13:6-9) to see the kind of spiritual fruit that would be produced in Laodicea, without the buttressing support of Mr. Amos?

2) By 1997, four years later, there was growing evidence that the PCG leadership ceased from following and submitting to the Spiritual Head, Jesus Christ. Notice the change in commission in 1997:

“ The first seven years of our Work were concentrated primarily on warning God’s own Laodicean Church’s...Now, that emphasis has shifted to the whole world and only secondarily to God’s Laodiceans. (*Philadelphia Trumpet, Personal*, February 1997) [Note: Shift in emphasis of commission].

Abomination!

Currently, the PCG no longer makes any provision in their commission statement to warn God’s people or seek out the lost sheep. (www.pcog.org/ourmission August 2008).

By 1997, four years after the death



of Mr. Amos, Mr. Flurry turned away from his God given commission. The following quotes indicate the seriousness of the change in direction of the work:

“ Gerald Flurry left his commission to do his own futile work! His ‘new commission’ was to take Mystery of the Ages to the ‘largest audience possible’---or in other words take the ‘Gos-

pel to the World’. He was well aware that Herbert W. Armstrong had successfully accomplished that task already. As he roared off track, things became worse. He succumbed to his own vanity and pride through the deceitfulness of Satan and took to himself a title belonging only to Jesus Christ! Gerald

Flurry began boastfully claiming he is “THAT PROPHET”! He who revealed to us “the man of sin sitting in the Temple of God”, has, himself, turned his back upon the Temple of God---and has become the ‘abomination standing in the Holy Place’! (pg.16, *Elijah’s Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*, by Robert Ardis, Church of God’s Faithful).

[By 1997,]

“ ...vanity, impatience, and a lack of wisdom prompted Mr. Flurry to ‘turn away from the trunk of the tree.’ If he could have Mystery of the Ages it would be a sign and a wonder to many of God’s people that he was the “heir-apparent” of Herbert

W. Armstrong! But to God’s faithful people who were wide awake, the unlawful action of printing MOA was clearly seen as turning away from the Law of God...A true Philadelphian could not follow this man any longer because he ceased following Christ. (pg. 14, *Whoso Reads Let Him Understand*, by Robert Ardis, Church of God’s Faithful).

Satan deceived Mr. Flurry into unlawfully publishing Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages* (MOA) in an attempt to attract more members to his Philadelphia Church of God. The WCG held the copyright on MOA. But instead of negotiating with the WCG for their authorization for him to publish the book, Gerald Flurry impetuously violated the copyright law by printing and distributing MOA without permission. The following is a quote from Ralph K. Helge, legal counsel for the WCG, that sums up that violation: 'First of all, he removed all inserts from the book that referred the readers to the Worldwide Church of God; he then changed the copyright notice from 'WCG' to 'Herbert W. Armstrong' to further hide the source of the work, and then, with the highest degree of chutzpah, he deleted the notice (as provided below) that forbade making copies:

'No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the Worldwide Church of God.'

Mr. Flurry, early on in the PCG, was aware that copyright infringement was punishable by law. The booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*, also authored by Mr. Armstrong, was the most requested of all literature the WCG offered to the public during Mr. Armstrong's lifetime. Gerald Flurry very much wanted that booklet for his PCG, but hesitated printing its most recent edition due to the copyright held by WCG. Instead, in

1993, he published a 1945 edition of the booklet that he assumed was no longer protected under the copyright laws. Nevertheless, in 1997 he illegally seized MOA and brazenly published and distributed several thousand copies (pg.11, *Whoso reads Let Him Understand*, by Robert Ardis, Church of God's Faithful).

3) By 1997, "many of God's ELECT had [already] been greatly abused by some directly under Mr. Flurry. Many have been DISFELLOW-SHIPED based on false accusations or lies. I John 4:1 states we are to "try the spirits". We know Satan is the 'ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN' (p.22, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*, by Robert Ardis, Church of God's Faithful).

One Regional Director at the 1996 PCG Ministers' Conference boasted that he had disfellowshipped

Truth John 17:17

or suspended 173 members of the Philadelphia Church of God [in less than a four year period]! Elaborating further this modern-day Diotrephes exclaimed, 'Now we have it like God wants it!' Is that what our Father, the God of love, really wants? Is that concern for the good of the governed as the Elijah instructs? (pg. 22, *Elijah's Message*

to the PCG, by Robert Ardis, Church of God's Faithful).

The above three points demonstrate when and how Laodicea went off track. Laodicea and Philadelphia worked together for seven years (Matt. 24:41) until Laodicea

How can we be absolutely sure of where God is working today?

veered off track by (a) refusing to be corrected and (b) refusing to accept New Truth. Laodicea still blatantly refuses to acknowledge any

of the 75 New Truths revealed since 1997 through the Church of God's Faithful! (Ask for our booklet entitled *Set Apart By Truth* for more information on these New Truths). By 1997, Laodicea ceased submitting to the Spiritual Head of the Church and instead began submitting to a man. (Among other things, those in Laodicea now unashamedly misappropriate titles belonging to Christ, promote dysfunctional family by misapplying the no-contact ruling, endorse unbiblical regulations for baptism, divorce and more). In 1997, God allowed this further split to take place (Matt 24:41; Rev 3:20) by

preparing a 'resting place' for His people through a man who stood up for Him and His Truth. God now wants to see who will hear His voice and follow Him (Mal 3:1-3), or who will instead follow and submit to a man. In 1997, Christ left Laodicea and started working through His loyal remnant, the "Church of God's Faithful". As of that point, the Philadelphia candlestick no longer worked alongside Laodicea (Rev 3:20). Christ is currently knocking on the door of Laodicea (Rev. 3:20) and also seeks after the lost sheep (Eze. 34).

God's Word is Sure!

How can we be absolutely sure of where God is working today?

Mr. Armstrong's advice, as supported by scripture, still holds true today:

a) God's Church must be willing to be corrected and confess error (Mark 6:12; pg. 344, *Autobiography of Herbert Armstrong*, Vol. 1).

b) God's Church must be willing to accept that which is 'New Truth' from God's Word (pg. 344, *Autobiography of Herbert Armstrong*, Vol. 1). It will be set apart by truth (John 17:17), and continually growing in grace and knowledge as recorded in His Word (2 Peter 3:18)

God's Church won't only keep 'old' Truth, it will accept where it was wrong and it will continue to grow in new Truth. This shows a Church that is humble and submissive to its Spiritual Head, Jesus Christ. Which Church today has these qualities and lives by them? Research into the splinter groups shows that many keep much of the Truth which was restored to the Church through the end-time Elijah while others have lost much of it! Laodicea no longer has revelation from God because of pride and vanity (Rev. 3:17). In each of these cases, whether wittingly or unwittingly, Christ's voice has been rejected;

(a) past errors are not being corrected and (b) New Truth from God that can be proved from the Bible is blatantly being rejected!

The Church of God's Faithful (CGF) is the only Church which passes the dual test of God's True Church! It has more new understanding than

any other Church! You will have to prove this for yourself! You can begin by proving the 75 New Truths given to the CGF!

In many cases, these New Truths (a) correct some of the misconceptions of the past and (b) have allowed the Church to grow in grace and knowledge. Some of the New Truths given to the Church of God's Faithful include:

- The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's wrath are not the same.
- Christ came to His Church as a thief in the night not to 'appear' but to 'discern' (Mal 3).
- The identity of the 144,000 of Rev 7 and the identity of the 144,000 of Rev 14.
- The identity of the two Candlesticks.
- Spirits can die!
- The abomination standing in the Holy Place (Matt. 24:15).
- Only Israel to be given the Holy Spirit during the Millennium.



self with your Bible!

“My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place” (Jer 50:6).

Many have been wrongfully disellowshipped by Laodicea or have left of their own accord because they recognized what was going on around them.

Through prayer and diligent Bible study, you will find the 'resting place' that God has prepared at this time. The Church of God's Faithful is the place where God reveals 'secrets' to His remnant flock in this most crucial time during the Day of the Lord! Now is the time to demonstrate spiritual courage by continuing to prove all things and to once again regroup with other faithful Philadelphians under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Head of His Church! ❖

The Church of God's Faithful (CGF) is the only Church which passes the dual test of God's True Church!

These are only a few of the seventy five New Truths which God has revealed through the Church of God's Faithful. Visit the Church

of God's Faithful website <http://www.setapartbytruth.org> or write us for literature (sent to you free of charge) and PROVE IT for your-

Call today to receive this urgent understanding!



Contact information on page 16.



by Daniel Frendo

Over 300 competing churches claim to be God's true Church! At one point or another, you probably wondered which Church is being led by Jesus Christ. If, like me, you have been baptized and have had hands laid on you, God our Father has given you the gift of His Holy Spirit! This puts you and me in a special category; that of being amongst His firstfruits who have been begotten into God's Family.

A Living Sacrifice

At baptism we buried our old self (Rom. 6:3-9) signalling our agreement and commitment "to crucify our old man... that we should not serve sin". We also covenanted with our Father that, "we should walk in newness of life," leading to the time when we will be born again of spirit.

The apostle tells us that we must "present our bodies a living sacrifice...acceptable unto God" and that we are not to "conform to this world" (Rom. 12:1-2). What is required of us to fulfil our commitment? The apostle begins to answer this question in verses 9 to 21:

“Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his

head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is a tall order! However, it is the life that we agreed to lead when we entered into our covenant with God at baptism.

Look at what else we had covenanted with our Father:

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body... but yield yourselves unto God... and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God... Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom. 6:12-18).

At baptism, we promised God that we would yield to Him and that we would obey unto righteousness. We promised our Father that we would obey the doctrine delivered unto us. At baptism, we entered into a covenant with God our Father which will be ratified at Christ's return, if we fulfill our part of the baptismal agreement!

What God thinks

Here is what God inspired the apostle Paul to state about our covenant which will be ratified with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah after Christ's return: "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Heb. 8: 8, 10).

These verses are also quoted in Jeremiah 31 and demonstrate that under the New Covenant, Christ will consider us to be His, if the principles of His law are indelibly written in our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit (II Cor 3:3). The same spiritual law that was written on tablets of stone for the Old Covenant is to be written in our hearts once the New Covenant is complete.

As part of the Church, or the House of God, WE are now preparing to confirm that covenant when Christ returns. Once we fulfill our part of the covenant as His Wife, we then also get to help Christ teach and make that covenant with Israel first, then with all mankind, so that they too may be born into the God Family and become His.

A Call to Remember

As we take an in-depth look at our baptismal covenant, we need to seriously ask ourselves: Do we truly remember and deeply understand what this covenant entails on our part? Do we desire to ensure that we strictly adhere to it?

Acts 2:38 emphasizes that we are to "repent and believe" to be baptized into Christ's body! This is repeated

in Mark 1:15 and other scriptures. At baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to keep our side of the contract.

Several scriptures reveal that at that precise moment, we enter into a covenant that is a life-long commitment (Matt 24:13). Luke 9:62 warns that once a man has accepted God and "put his hand to the plough" he shouldn't longingly look back to the world and its ways otherwise he isn't "fit for the kingdom of God." That's what God states about a begotten son of His who fails to adhere to his baptismal commitment. Following the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, many have carelessly and dangerously fallen into this pitfall in different ways. One of the main problems is that many have allowed their loyalties to some man, or some church leader instead of God! In the language of Rev. 3:11, these begotten children of God have allowed a man to take their crown.

Heb. 6:4-6 further demonstrates what could happen to those who at some point in time purposely and knowingly reject the gift of God's Holy Spirit! They will be unable

to renew themselves "again unto repentance" as they "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh!"

This should be a serious warning to all Church members who have been baptized.

It is indeed extremely dangerous to allow ourselves to drift into a situation like the servant who did nothing with his pound, or talent (Luke 19). We must never allow ourselves to get anywhere close to the situation of becoming so

callous to any sin that, no matter what God may do to correct us, we refuse to repent. Unless being used by God, following a man can be a real danger to our individual baptismal covenant with God! This situation results in "having other gods before the One True God" and by so doing, blatantly break the first Commandment. We must keep the Apostle Paul's admonition to only follow a minister as he follows Christ (1 Cor. 11:1)!

Our baptismal covenant is a life-long commitment – and once we enter into it, we must be fearful of going back to the world; we must not resurrect the old man! The warning found in II Peter 2:20 amply shows us that we are turning to our "own vomit again" if, after escaping "the pollutions of the world", we return back to them. We must never allow these verses to describe us!

In "An Open Letter to Newly Begotten Brethren Recently Baptized" God's 20th-century apostle Herbert W. Armstrong had reminded every individual who had entered into a covenant with God that:



God has called you to surrender your life to HIM – to GIVE your life into His HANDS – that He may transform you into a perfect, holy, righteous CHARACTER. God is CREATOR! And now, with your consent, according to your own free will, you have placed yourself in His hands to CHANGE you – to CREATE out of you the supreme masterpiece of His creation!

In the above quote, Mr. Armstrong describes our incredible potential once we fulfil our commitment to the terms of the covenant we entered into at baptism. With our

We are now preparing to confirm our baptismal covenant when Christ returns.

ongoing consent, God promises to continue to change us and create out of each of us the supreme masterpiece of His creation.

“Let this mind be in you”

Our total surrender to God must continue throughout our life. Baptism is only the starting point. We need to continually and joyfully renew our commitment to replace our carnal thoughts, emotions and desires by those of God. In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul encouraged the saints in Philippi to develop the mind of Jesus Christ. He stated: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (vs. 5). Taking the mind of Christ means that we submit to Him in all that we do, while resisting Satan all the way.

The penalty of sin is death. Remember: We are sinners and that’s why Christ died! We need to be aware of the sobering reality that even if nobody else ever enters the Kingdom of God but you, Christ still would have subjected Himself to that gruesome execution. Christ died because of our individual sins!

In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul admonishes us to:

“...be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life...” (v. 15-16).

Philippians 3 tells us how God’s first-century apostle to the Gen-

tiles looked at the covenant he had entered into with God:

“I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto

his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (v. 7-14).

The apostle Paul placed himself in God’s hands so that He may create out of him the supreme masterpiece of His creation.

“For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence

also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (v. 20-21).

The apostle Paul knew that once he put his life into God’s hands, he was destined to become God. We must fulfill our part of the baptismal covenant we entered into!

Amongst some of the other instructions that we glean from Paul’s epistle to the church at Philippi, we see that we must “stand fast in the Lord”, “be of the same mind in the Lord” and to fill our minds with: “whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Phil. 4:1,2,8).

As we furthermore “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” (Col. 3:16), this is how we may develop God’s own character; this is how we exercise self-discipline to direct ourselves, with God’s help, into God’s way of life. If we’ve allowed ourselves to stray over the years, perhaps having gone back to wrong habits, then this is the time to determine to again embark on a campaign to break these wrong habits – rooting them out of our life. Now is the time to determine to again instill new habits – and resolve to make these right ways fixed habit.

Caution: Those who may be amongst those lost sheep (Jer. 50:6), have allowed their shepherds to cause them to go astray. If any are sitting out on their own,

God's True Church and Our Covenant With Him

by Frank Borg

A covenant is a legally bound agreement between two or more parties. A baptismal covenant, therefore, is a legal agreement between God and the individual being baptized, whereby God promises eternal life if we perform our part of the covenant.

An important point to remember is that we were not baptized into an organization of men but into the body of Jesus Christ, the family of God. Our covenant is not with a man or a leader of a religious group but is with God, and God alone! The Body is made up of members who fellowship with the group and physical leadership that follows and submits to God (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 11:1). God's one true Church is the 'wife of His covenant' (Mal. 2:14). The wife must always follow her one husband otherwise she is guilty of adultery! Anyone following a man that is not following God, is essentially guilty of breaking God's law and baptismal covenant! God's true Church demonstrates its faithfulness to God by repenting from past error and believing the New Truth which Christ communicates and delivers to His Church. We must

or have been led to one of the Worldwide Church of God offshoots, then it's time to allow God, in His infinite mercy, to lead you back the Church being led by Jesus Christ, the Church of God's Faithful! As we see this world quickly disintegrating, it's time to ask God to help us resume our

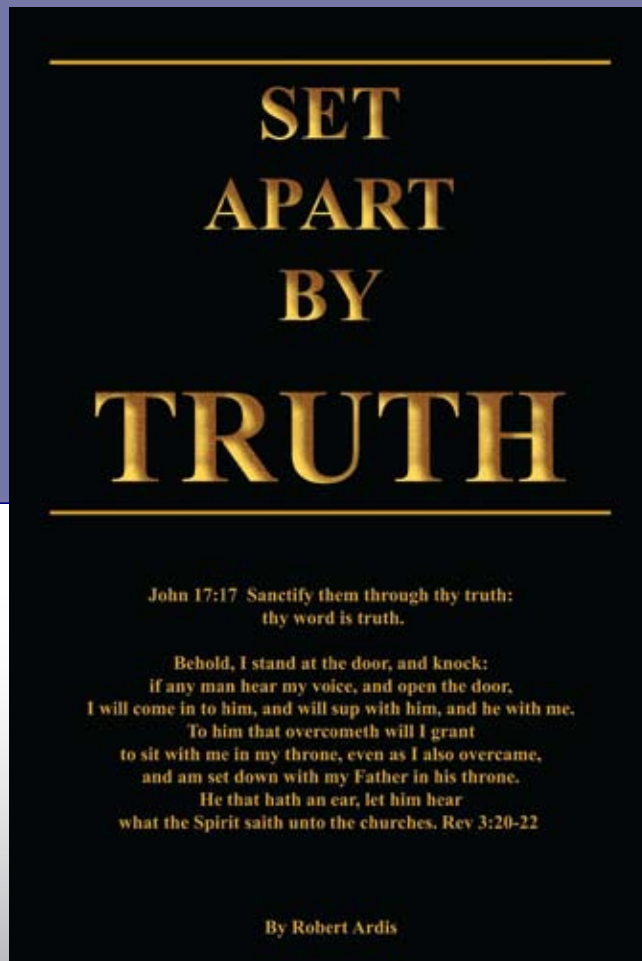
find and be a part of that one Body!

Only one Church upholds the covenant with God (1 Cor. 1:10). Adhering to our baptismal covenant includes determining which one Church is being led by Jesus Christ. God's Church listens to, and takes notice of, God's voice as evidenced by the New Truths established and taught by His Church.

Please ask for, or download, the Church of God's Faithful free booklet "Set Apart by Truth". This booklet lists and explains 75 New Truths given by God to the CGF and is provable through the inspired Word of God. You have a responsibility to prove these Truths with your Bible to see where God is working! Rejection of God's Truth is tantamount to rejecting His voice and authority and poses a danger in transgressing our baptismal covenant (Acts 22:14; Rev 3:20)!

Mr. Robert Ardis, pastor general of the Church of God's Faithful, has shown that we are pillars now if we remain loyal to our baptismal covenant. This loyalty has everything to do with coming under the authority of Christ and forming part of His one true Body!

quest to be steadfast so that we may again begin to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as the apostle Peter encouraged us to do in II Peter 3:18. To do this, we will need to be in the Body of Christ – His One Church that is under His authority, busily doing HIS Work. ❖



Grow in Grace and Knowledge

by Andres Yparraguirre

“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:17-18).

To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, one must allow himself to be corrected by God through His Word! If God's Word directs us to see something which shows us that what we believed was wrong, we must humbly and willingly accept God's correction, ask His forgiveness, and accept the New Truth that Jesus Christ has revealed to replace what was in error. This is the only way that God can, through His inspired Word, increase our knowledge and understanding! The moment we refuse to be corrected, or refuse a New Truth, we allow something, or someone, to come in between us and God. If we resist New Truth that God communicates to us, we are guilty of

rejecting Him and His voice! Leaders of God's true Church have always admonished us not to believe them, but to believe our Bibles! We should take this counsel and apply it because it comes right out of the mind of God (1 Thess. 5:21).

The understanding of the identity of the abomination of desolation, the resurrection of the first fruits to take place on a future Pentecost, the identity of the leader of Laodicea, the fate of Satan and the demons are only a few of the many New Truths given to the Church of God's Faithful. (Please ask for our free booklet, *Set Apart By Truth*, or download it from our website.) New Truths indicate where God is working (Amos 3:7)!

The majority of those called out of this world during the ministry of HWA either refuse or are unaware

of the New Truths given to the Church of God's Faithful. Those who refuse to listen are comfortable to simply hold on to the foundational truths that were revealed and restored in the Church through HWA refusing, in effect, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. They have left their first love (Rev 2:4) and do not exhibit a desire to grow in knowledge. God's people today are perishing for not 'loving enough the truth' (II Thes. 2:10). They are in danger of eternal judgment unless they repent soon.

One of Christ's final prayers, just before the band of men and officers from the high priests arrested him, was for God the Father to keep in His name those that were given to Christ and to sanctify them with God's truth (John 17:11, 17). The majority of God's people today have taken for granted the importance of New Truths in their Christian calling. New Truth is what sets apart God's true Church with His faithful servants from the hundreds of other splinter groups! Instead, most groups today have embarked on a futile work of preaching the gospel again unto the whole

If we resist New Truth that God communicates to us, we are guilty of rejecting Him and His voice!

world in an attempt to again make disciples of all nations to the end of this age. This work was completed by the end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong (Matt. 24:14).

The true and faithful servants of God the Father and of His Son Jesus Christ, are small in number and poor in material and financial strength during this Laodicean era (Rev. 3:8), preaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt. 10:6-7). The deceived and unfaith-

ful servants, that include the biggest in number and perhaps the mightiest in strength and financial resources, go to the world – preaching the gospel all over again. What a contrast and tragedy! But in the end, God’s work of seeking out his own people shall prevail as Jesus Christ directs those of the synagogue of Satan, (or splinter groups), to come to the group

that is afflicted, small and of little strength but has not denied his name (Rev. 3:8-9).

May God open your mind to the precious New Truths presented through the Church of God’s literature. Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus and set yourselves apart! ❖

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**The door
is open
and the
bridegroom
has come.
Go ye out
to meet
Him.**

Rev. 3: 7-12 &
Matt. 25: 1-13



Order your FREE copy of *The Midnight Cry* today and answer Christ’s call to bring the “woman” of Rev. 12:14 together before the greatest time of trouble ever.