

A black and white photograph of a polluted body of water. In the foreground, a black leather-bound Bible with the words "Holy Bible" printed on its cover floats in the water. The water is dark and filled with various pieces of trash, including plastic cups, a metal can, a piece of a tire, and other debris. The background shows more trash floating on the water's surface under bright, direct light.

The Apostasy

by Robert Ardis

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To aid in this study of God's Word,
the computer program ***e-Sword*** is used.
This program presents the key Hebrew or Greek words
in the King James Version of the Bible numbered and defined
by ***Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible***.

The Apostasy!

The Holy Bible prophesies that
a great “falling away from truth”
will occur.

Do we know when that dire event
will happen?

—Or—

Has it already happened?

“**T**ake heed that no man deceive you” are warning words from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:4). The inspired writers of the New Testament repeat His warning throughout the New Testament, especially the Apostle Paul in II Thessalonians 2, beginning in verses 1-3:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [The Day of the Lord] shall not come, except there come a falling away⁶⁴⁶ first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

The term *falling away* is from the Greek word *apostasia*, as defined by *Strong's Exhaustive Commentary*: “#G646—Feminine of the same as G647; defection from truth (properly the state), (‘apostasy’): - falling away, forsake.”

Make no mistake—we are living in Bible times! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God’s end-time Elijah, repeatedly proclaimed that the Bible is one-third prophecy, and 90% of that prophecy is for this end-time. It has been stated that prophecy is history written in advance! And I Thessalonians 5:20 states: “**Despise not prophesyings.**” Prophecy is being fulfilled at a very rapid rate today, including the warning about the **apostasy of II Thessalonians 2**. Thus, a study of prophecy is vitally needed in these dangerous times in which we live.

Christ, our Lord, also warns us in Matthew 24:15 that when certain prophesied events become reality—“**whoso reads...let him understand**”! How much do you understand? And is your understanding based on the Holy Bible—or on ideas of men?

Have you heeded the urgent warnings of the Word of God—or have you been deceived by men—even trusted ministers—about the *falling away* from Truth?

Have you even considered the possibility that the *falling away from truth* has already happened? Just look at the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) today and its many divided, confused, and contentious splits and splinters. What does that tell you? One sure fact is presented by those 300+ split and splintered churches and groups: they can’t all be right—some or all have *fallen away* from truth!

But how could that be?

Notice II Thessalonians 2:1-3 again. Paul cautions the Thessalonians to urgently keep in mind the *coming* of the Lord Jesus Christ and the *gathering together* of the brethren. Christ’s *coming* is certainly a prophecy for the time of the end! Paul makes it abundantly clear that those alive in the end time must be fully aware that the Day of the Lord will not happen until the *falling away from truth* has occurred.

The *falling away* comes first—and after that—the Day of the Lord!

Changes, Changes—What Changes?

I do not know how much you know about us—the Church of God’s Faithful (CGF). We were organized in September of 1997 and have just begun our twelfth year. We have been an established Church longer than *The Living Church of God*, *The Restored Church of God*, and many of the smaller split and splintered churches.

We teach that the prophesied *falling away from truth* began im-

mediately after the death of Herbert Armstrong, with the teachings of his hand-appointed successor, Joseph W. Tkach. Due to the *falling away from Truth*, the WCG today is unrecognizable as the faithful Church we loved over 20 years ago. The major doctrines of the WCG, which were plain truth direct from the Word of God, had been revealed by Christ to His servant, the end-time Elijah. But at his death, that wonderful Truth began to be changed, slowly and slyly being replaced by the confused doctrines of the world that were thrust upon the bewildered WCG membership. Today the WCG is just another “protestant-appearing” church with an estimated membership of 20,000 and its headquarters in Glendora, CA. Most of its members keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath, and many keep the pagan holidays instead of God’s Holy Days! And they teach the closed *trinity* rather than the Family of God.

If that is not a great *falling away*, please explain to me what it is!

When these sly changes began to occur, Christ raised up Gerald Flurry, a lowly preaching elder in the WCG, to lead the last era of the Church—Laodicea. Mr. Flurry was used by Christ to issue a stern warning to the membership of the WCG that II Thessalonians 2 was being fulfilled right before our amazed eyes. He remembered Christ’s words: **“Let no man deceive you.”**

It was plain to those who had *spiritual eyes to see* that the Church was falling away from truth. Have you awakened to this fact yet?

Mr. Flurry began crying aloud through the pages of his book, *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today*, first mailed out on the fourth anniversary of Mr. Armstrong’s death. Gerald Flurry presented the revealed understanding of II Thessalonians 2:6-7:

And now ye know that which restraineth [the man of sin], to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now [Herbert W. Armstrong], until he be taken out of the way [by his death].

Mr. Herbert Armstrong was the restraining force that God used to *withhold the man of sin and the mystery of iniquity, until he was taken away*—by his death (vv. 6-7)!

And then [after Mr. Armstrong’s demise] shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him [the man of sin], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all

power and signs and lying wonders...(v.8-9).

And that “Wicked”, the “man of sin”, and the *mystery of iniquity* were revealed through Gerald Flurry. Jesus Christ used Mr. Flurry as the leader of Laodicea (the seventh Church era) to issue a dynamic warning to the leadership of the WCG—while the high-ranking ministers sat idly by, drawing their paychecks.

Verse 8 is emphatic that the Lord shall *consume* the *wicked one* and his wicked actions of causing the *falling away from truth*. The verse states that Christ will accomplish this by the *Spirit of His mouth*. The *Spirit of His mouth*, or the Word of God—Truth—shall consume all of the lawless one’s teachings. Those who had eyes to see realized that Mr. Flurry exposed the “man of sin” and his wicked doctrines that could not stand in the light of truth: **“Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth”** (Hos. 6:5).

Isaiah 11:4 adds: **“... he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.”**

The next clause in verse 8 of II Thessalonians 2 declares: **“...shall destroy²⁶⁷³ [abolish] with the brightness of his coming!”** This tells us that our Lord at His return, first as a *thief in the night*, and then at His visible return to rule the earth in the light of truth, shall bring to naught any and every false doctrine of the world, taught by the “man of sin”—or anyone else.

Recent History

Gerald Flurry’s private teachings about the original thoughts of *Malachi’s Message to the Church of God Today (MM)* were reported to WCG headquarters by a few of his local Church members. He and his associate pastor, John Amos, were called out to Pasadena headquarters and subsequently fired from their jobs in early December 1989.

These men were ridiculed and scoffed at by the WCG leaders and many of the high ranking *hireling* ministers who were just “sitting there” in the WCG clinging to their salaries. Although many of the leading ministers disagreed with the rapidly changing WCG teachings, they would not help Mr. Flurry and the Laodicean Work which Christ had raised up. The WCG leaders and members were rapidly becoming unfaithful Philadelphians. Therefore God raised up Mr. Gerald Flurry as the leader of Christ’s Laodicean Church. For the Church’s incorporated

name, Mr. Flurry chose *Philadelphia Church of God* (PCG) (located in Edmond, Oklahoma). The *Laodicean Church of God* would have been the Biblically correct name for him to choose, but the name “Laodicea” has an unpopular stigma about it that Mr. Flurry wanted no part of.

The high-ranking *hireling ministers* failed as true shepherds as they sat back and waited several years before they would leave the WCG. They waited until they could draw out a following to maintain their comfortable life-style, as the scriptures warn about:

Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in the which the Holy Ghost hath made you bishops, to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Wherefore watch ye, remembering that by the space of three years I ceased not to admonish every one night and day with tears (Acts 20:28-31).

Those “respected” *hireling ministers*, just “sitting there” as “adulterous Philadelphians” waiting until they could draw out a following, promoted the belief among the brethren that all the changes being made by the WCG were God-inspired. Sheep will follow their shepherds.

Today in October of 2008, Gerald Flurry and his Laodicean Church have abandoned their warning message to the Churches of God and are perfectly described in Revelation 3:15-18.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot [Mr. Flurry’s zeal to do God’s work has been replaced with a zeal to do his own futile work.]: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; [Gerald Flurry exclaimed at his 2006 minister’s conference; “We have it all, we have it all!”] and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, [of the Great Tribulation] that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

The PCG has not heeded Christ's warning and has let a Satan-deceived man deceive them (see Zech. 3:1-2). They veered way off track with the shameful and costly law suit against the WCG over the rights to publish Mr. Armstrong's final book, *Mystery of the Ages* (see I Cor. 6:2 and Matt. 5:19). Then the blind Laodiceans followed their high-priest, Gerald Flurry, in his vain and bizarre belief that *Malachi's Message* was the *little book* of Revelation 10, and that he is *That Prophet*—a title belonging to Jesus Christ—only! Belief in these two false doctrines is required for baptism into the PCG! PCG members have also blindly followed Mr. Flurry into additional very hurtful and unbiblical teachings. His rule of “no contact” with people who were formerly WCG members, and who are not in the PCG, has split asunder many family units, causing deep grief. The confused leader of Laodicea has promoted marital divorce between PCG members and non-member mates. Truly the PCG is wretched, miserable, poor in spiritual awareness, blind, and naked. Request or download our booklets *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* and *The Midnight Cry* for the full story.

There also exist today several “large” churches and scores of “smaller” churches split and splintered off of the original WCG.

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 [large church] to hill [small church], they have forgotten their resting place [the whereabouts of the True Church has been lost to them. See Jer. 50:6].

In the history of the world's “Christian churches”, there exists the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church, and her Protestant daughter churches. History has truly repeated itself today in the picture of the WCG as the “old mother church” and her split and splintered “protesting daughter churches”. These divisions of the WCG collectively call themselves “the Churches of God”. However, Christ has only one true Church! When they claim, “We are the Churches of God,” they are saying “We are all Christians—*spiritual Jews*” (Rom. 2:28-29), but Christ says that is a lie and calls them the “synagogue of Satan”, which could be paraphrased as, “churches of god”.

Behold, I will make [give] them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to

know that I have loved thee [My faithful Philadelphians] (Rev. 3:9).

Study carefully! Verse 9 has nothing to do with the world’s churches! God is not calling the world at this time—He is concerned with the thousands of His begotten children trapped in the *synagogue of Satan*, the “churches of god”, unfaithful Philadelphians!

The “Living” Church of God

In this booklet we will investigate one of the larger “churches of god” with a membership in excess of 6000. Dr. Douglas Winnail, Head of Church Administration of the *Living Church of God* (LCG), has provoked an issue that must be answered according to Proverbs 26:5. Dr. Winnail initiated the issue in a letter written to a former member of the LCG who has now come with the CGF. In his letter he tells this person that I am a *false prophet* and makes other uncomplimentary statements about me. However, we have never met and it is obvious that he has not carefully read our literature.

Am I really a *false prophet*—or is the man who makes this accusation against me a *false prophet*? The question needs to be answered, **lest he be wise in own conceit**, and the answer must be from the Word of God—not just my opinion or his opinion!

This situation really began when Dr. Winnail completely failed to provide a Biblical answer for two very sincere young men who were seeking truth on the subject of the apostasy. One of the young men is the son of the person Dr. Winnail had written to claiming I am a *false prophet*.

The very sincere questions asked by these two young men were first directed to Dr. Roderick Meredith, long time evangelist and the leader of the *Living Church*. He had no answers for them, but stuttered and stammered and became very agitated at their questioning. He sent them away, promising he would give them answers later—but he never has. They later presented Dr. Meredith with each of the 14 booklets produced by the CGF, and he has not offered any answers to these, either.

The next visit (300 miles) to *Living Church* headquarters by the two young men was not welcomed by Dr. Meredith, but they were introduced to Douglas Winnail. They had sincere Bible questions and were glad to have a “doctor of theology” to provide needed Biblical information for conflicting beliefs between the LCG and the CGF. However, to

the young men's surprise, the learned doctor, in the same manner as Dr. Meredith, had no true answers—only opinions that amounted to utter nonsense when recent history is viewed in the light of Bible prophecy.

One of the questions the young men asked was the subject of this booklet—When will the great falling away from truth occur—or has it already happened? To arrive at the Bible's answer to this important question, let's get a little background on the LCG.

Seeking to Draw Away a Following

Evangelist Roderick C. Meredith was one of the leading ministers who had vacillated and waited until he *could draw out a following* before he would leave the corrupted WCG. Finally, in late 1992, he launched the ill-fated *Global Church of God* (GCG). The GCG was based on politics and a *collegial government* instead of faith and the *Government of God*; thus it was doomed to failure from the beginning—and fail it did! Roderick Meredith was finally “kicked out” of his own church by the bickering *collegial government* he had instituted—then he launched the *Living Church of God* in 1999.

It is quite amazing that Dr. Meredith would choose to name his newest church the *Living Church of God* in light of Revelation 3:1, where it is stated: “**...thou hast a name that thou liveth, and art dead.**” And I understand the LCG headquarters in Charlotte, NC was established on “Sardis” lane (or street). I realize fully that the Sardis era is over and done, but I thought that this was an interesting “sign”!

For a church to be considered “living”, it should naturally be growing in spiritual fruit. Matthew 7:15-20 is another familiar warning about being deceived and how to recognize the deceivers.

Examine the Fruit!

Beware of false prophets [As you read, you want to prove by the Word of God which man is a *false prophet*—Douglas Winnail or Robert Ardis.], **which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt**

tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (Matt. 7:15-20).

By their fruits you will discern true prophets and false prophets! But what very special fruit—or the lack of that fruit—would cause a watchful Christian to know absolutely whether the prophet or minister (and church) is true or false?

This booklet is titled *The Apostasy* because we are examining the question of when the great *falling away* from Truth will occur—or has it already happened? Thus we can use this very question and the Biblical answer to show how to distinguish a true prophet from a false prophet—and the True Church from a false church—by its fruit!

The Apostle Peter has written in II Peter 3:15-17:

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood [For example: when does the *falling away* happen?], which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

If glaring error is seen in a church's doctrine—if scriptures have been wrested—then that doctrine is “rotten fruit”, and an individual who teaches “rotten fruit” can be recognized as a false minister. Likewise, a church that expounds “rotten fruit” is a false church.

Our Lord makes this plainer in John 17:17: “**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**” To be *sanctified* or “set apart by truth”, the true living Church of Jesus Christ must absolutely be fulfilling another key verse of scripture! That scripture is II Peter 3:18: “**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...**”

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ IS the Living Word of God! The Holy Bible IS the written Word of God! Therefore growth in the *knowledge of Jesus Christ* IS growth in understanding of the Word of God! Growth in understanding of the Word of God IS NEW TRUTH—and the TRUE CHURCH will be *set apart* by a continual flow of NEW TRUTH.

Do you know of any NEW TRUTH that the *Living Church of God* proclaims? I know of no New Truth that they teach, but I do know of several glaring errors the LCG proclaims as they remain stuck in a 1986 mind-set! Do you know of any NEW TRUTH taught by any of the other split and splintered “churches of god”—TRUTHS that can be seen and proven by the Word of God?

We are probing the question of *The Apostasy*—when does it occur—or has it already occurred in the collapse of the WCG? With the background already presented let’s carefully examine the *Living Church of God’s* teaching on *The Apostasy*—the great *falling away from truth*.

Unbelievable Lack of Biblical Knowledge!

The following quote is from a letter by Dr. Winnail to a former LCG member entitled, “**Critique of CGF Ideas**”.

The falling away in II Thessalonians 2:3 will occur in conjunction with the appearance of the “man of sin”—however, Revelation 13 indicates these events will have an impact on the whole world—not just the COG! This prophecy will have much more meaning if we can see the “Christian world” realign with the Church of Rome and follow a miracle-working pope!

Dr. Winnail’s critique about *the falling away* is proof positive that he just does not understand II Thessalonians 2 or Revelation 13. His statement that the *falling away from truth* happens when the “Christian world” realigns with the Church of Rome is preposterous. He makes the mistaken assumption that those two chapters in the Bible are discussing the same subject—which they most definitely are not! Dr. Winnail’s stubborn refusal to study the CGF teaching and the true Biblical facts on the subject led to the jaw-dropping amazement of the young men who asked him for Biblical answers, but received only arrogant nonsense from him. Remember, you will know them by their fruit!

Revelation 13

Understand! Revelation 13 describes a definite period of 42 months (vv. 4-5):

And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like

unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

The beast power will continue for 42 months, but will be totally destroyed at the visible return of Jesus Christ to take rule of the entire earth.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war... And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone (Rev. 19:11 and 19-20).

Dr. Winnail's statement that the *falling away from truth* occurs during that 42 month period is totally inaccurate—it's just plain wrong!

Please understand, Dr. Winnail's so-called "Christian world" has no truth to *fall away* from. Dr. Winnail is a doctor of theology, but he is very confused when teaching that the "protestant world" of false Christianity, somehow, has truth to be *fallen away from*.

At this juncture, let me add a quote from Dr. Roderick Meredith. This quote is from a 1995 interview by Ewin H. Barnett and Sue Ann Pomicter, when Dr. Meredith was "the Presiding Evangelist" of the Global Church of God:

As far as Protestant churches who do not keep God's law and do not keep God's Sabbath, we want to love them, help them—many of my relatives and friends are Protestants—and reach them every way we can. But we certainly do not regard them as brethren, because they do not even know the Truth or obey it in anyway whatever. (My emphasis.)

Dr. Meredith needs to have a long talk with Douglas Winnail! What truth does Dr. Winnail think the "Christian world" has?

- They do not know the true God or Jesus Christ (I John 2:4).
- They believe the Holy Spirit is the third member of the god-head.

- They teach the *trinity* instead of the Family of God.
- They teach a false Christ.
- They teach a false gospel (Gal.1:6).
- They keep Sunday instead of observing the Sabbath.
- They keep the pagan holidays instead of God's Holy Days.
- They believe in an immortal soul.
- They believe Heaven is their reward.
- They believe in an ever-burning hell.
- They do not know the identity of Israel and therefore cannot understand most prophecy.

This list could go on and on, but the point is—what “truth” would they fall away from?

And, be sure to understand that God's Church (the Woman of Rev. 12:14), who truly know and love the truth, will be taken to the Place of Safety immediately before the 42 months of great tribulation begins. It is not likely that any one “**accounted worthy to escape**” will *fall away from truth* in the Place of Safety. There they will be protected from the *face of the serpent* (Rev. 12:14).

The remnant portion of the *Woman's seed* **not accounted worthy** to escape to the Place of Safety will have already fallen away from truth before the 42 months of the beast's power begins. That is the reason they are not worthy to escape!

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 (Rev. 12:17).

The *remnant of her seed* will be the *foolish virgins* of Matthew 25 (and the stubborn Laodiceans). Doesn't this enlightening parable emphatically declare that they have already fallen away from truth—their lamps were going out? And although some of the *foolish virgins* respond to the *midnight cry* (v. 8), they wait too long to become an active part of the one true Church—the Woman! Consequently, they are plunged into the great tribulation. Yet, many of them, not all, will overcome the *dragon*, the *beast* and the *false prophet* during the most terrible time of trouble ever, as they **return to the truth** they once believed. Let me repeat: they will **return to the truth**—not *fall away*!

Dr. Winnail has it exactly backwards!

Overcoming in the great tribulation will be the most difficult task a

Christian could be required to do. This group of God's people will give their physical lives to receive eternal life. Revelation 15:2-3; 20:4 and 12:11 show definitely that many of those who are not worthy to escape the tribulation, because they have *fallen away* from God's truth, will ***return to the truth*** and overcome—*not fall away!* Their example of laying down their lives in defiance of the *beast* and the *false prophet*, in conjunction with the ministry of the Two Witnesses, would seemingly provide the inspiration for the 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 to be accounted worthy to be protected from the final one year of tribulation—the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 9:4). Request or download our booklet *The Deep Things of God* to thoroughly understand many of the details mentioned briefly here.

The entire world, including Dr. Winnail's "Christian world", who in their deception today already worship Satan, will be deceived by the *false prophet* to worship Satan **and** the *beast system* (Rev.13:12-13).

The Temple of God

The *false prophet* will in no way sit in the "temple of God" (II Thess. 2:4)! The "man of sin" has already sat in the "temple of God" as the leader of the WCG—the collective Body of Christ—and caused the *falling away from truth* among the people of God! **"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"** (I Cor. 3:16 and II Cor. 6:16)

The Spirit of God dwells within His people, individually and collectively, with the purpose of their growing into the Holy Temple—**"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit** (Eph. 2:21-22).

The Worldwide Church of God at the death of Herbert W. Armstrong was the collective Body of Christ—the Temple of God. The "man of sin" took control of the WCG, changed the true doctrines of God and caused the *falling away from truth* of God's people. That was a great *false miracle* by which nearly 100,000 members, supposedly begotten by the Spirit of God, have *fallen away* in one way or another, as influenced by the *lying wonders* of the "man of sin" (II Thess. 2:9-10). Never in history has there been such a *false miracle*, through which people possessing the Spirit of God have been so deluded.

Dr. Winnail is still suffering from the delusion of this fantastic

lying wonder!

Defining “Falling Away”

Revelation 13 is a different subject altogether from II Thessalonians 2. The coming *false prophet* is a completely different character than the “man of sin”. The “man of sin” has come and gone after causing the *falling away from truth* of God’s people. Thousands of God’s people are still members today of the modern WCG, having abandoned the Sabbath Day for Sunday—and other true doctrines for the doctrines of the world.

That plainly defines the great *falling away from truth*!

The splits and splinters—the “churches of god”—who came out of the corrupted WCG, have also *fallen away*, as is being revealed in this article. Dr. Meredith, Dr. Winnail, and the other LCG ministers have *fallen away* into spiritual sleep, *failing* to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. They have *failed* to grow in understanding of the Word of God in these urgent times. They are fast asleep—deluded—in a 1986 time mode, oblivious to the fantastic prophecies occurring in the past twenty-two years.

The truth contained in II Thessalonians 2 could not be understood in Mr. Armstrong’s day. To think that the Worldwide Church of God would be deluded into becoming another church of the world was incomprehensible to God’s apostle—although in his very latter years he thundered out that about 95% of the Church just “didn’t get it”! And that is still the case today—only worse.

The *false prophet* of Revelation 13 will not sit in the “Temple of God”. **“...he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain...”** (Dan. 11:45). The super-dictator called the “beast” along with the “pope” will construct a temporary structure in Jerusalem—and **deceive the world** (those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life), with mighty *false miracles* (Rev. 13: 7-8). The **world** will not *fall away from truth*—they have no truth to fall away from.

The beast will make war with *the saints* who had already *fallen away from truth* before the 42 months of tribulation begins, and who were, therefore, not accounted worthy to escape. Some of these may *keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*, but they refuse to grow in New Truth and become a part of the one True

Church of Jesus Christ (Rev.12:17). Then they must overcome in the Great Tribulation!

All kindred, tongues, and nations of the **world** will be deceived into worshipping Satan and the beast system of Roman Catholicism through the *false miracles* performed by the *false prophet*, and through abject fear of the beast (Rev. 13:11-17). But many of our dear brethren who had *fallen away from truth*, but *have their names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life*, must face the beast and the false prophet. They will be victorious in ***returning to the truth***, though they must give their physical lives (see again Rev. 15:2; 20:4, and 12:11).

The Bible does not state that the beast and the false prophet will be **“...consumed with the spirit of his mouth, and shall be destroyed with the brightness of his coming”** (II Thess. 2:8). No! Absolutely not! Revelation 19:20 declares:

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Matthew 7:18 declares: **“You will know them by their fruit.”** Are you beginning to see the fruit of this false doctrine taught by the *Living Church of God*? Who is it that the Word of God has revealed to be a false prophet? There are many more obvious doctrinal errors in that church which claims to be a *living church* (Rev. 3:1).

The leaders of the LCG have had hand-delivered to them all of our booklets containing the New Truths Christ has revealed to the CGF. Instead of reading the booklets, as Dr. Meredith and Dr. Winnail promised they would do, they have resorted to ridicule and scoffing, as is typical of the arrogance of a false minister exposed in Biblical ignorance and devoid of true answers. Therefore rash judgments were made before they searched our booklets and the scriptures that support our doctrines. See Proverbs 18:13, where such an attitude is condemned as shame and folly! Why get angry and contentious? If a doctrine is wrong, the Word of God will show it is wrong—as this article has revealed about the LCG! If the doctrine is right, it can be proven from the Bible—as this article has revealed about the CGF!

Come back to the question initially asked: **when will the great *falling away from truth* occur—or has it already happened?**

Now you know! It began happening 22 years ago—and now the Day of the Lord has come! Do you understand that statement?

Lest we forget

All of the former WCG ministers learned the True Gospel through God's Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. Each of these ministers—Roderick Meredith, Douglas Winnail, etc.—at one time believed that Mr. Armstrong was the servant of Jesus Christ and fulfilled very important roles in God's Plan. Other examples of *falling away from truth* that the ministers of the *Living Church* once believed are:

- They have *fallen away* from the belief that Herbert W. Armstrong was the end-time Elijah, but say, weakly, “He could have been”!
- They are looking for another Elijah to come—“to shake the earth!” But the Elijah has come and gone (Matt. 17:11) before the great and awesome Day of the Lord began (Mal. 4:5). It's the Two Witnesses who are prophesied to have *power* to shake up the earth (Rev. 11:3-6). The LCG, in effect, is preaching that the *Lord delays His coming* (Luke 12:45).
- They have *fallen away* from their belief that Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 4:9: **“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it...”** Mr. Armstrong believed and taught that he fulfilled this prophecy.
- They do not believe Herbert W. Armstrong's statement that he had fulfilled his commission of proclaiming **the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness unto all nations** (Matt. 24:14). Christ, through His servant, also made disciples in all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). Nonetheless, the LCG leaders have closed their minds to the truth of Matthew 24:14: **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end⁵⁰⁵⁶ come.”**

Strong's Concordance defines “end”, #G5056 *telos* as:

From a primary word τέλλω *tellō* (to *set out* for a definite point or *goal*); properly the point aimed at as a *limit*, that is, (by implication) the *conclusion* of an act or state (*termination* [literally, figuratively or indefinitely], *result* [immediate, ultimate or

prophetic], *purpose*); specifically an *impost* or *levy* (as *paid*):
- + continual, custom, end (-ing), finally, uttermost. Compare G5411.

Notice, *the conclusion of an act*. The act that is being emphasized is the verb *preached*, and it was successfully concluded by Mr. Armstrong. He took the Gospel to the world and that act then came to a successful conclusion! The WCG was mailing out 8,000,000 *Plain Truth* magazines each month. There were over 100,000 subscribers to the Ambassador Correspondence Course. The *World Tomorrow* telecast was the most powerful religious voice on television and was viewed around the world.

- Therefore the LCG and all of the other churches attempting to duplicate the Elijah's work are involved in an utterly futile endeavor. God is not calling the world today! He is interested in His shattered and scattered Spiritual Temple snared in the synagogue of Satan. Today, the *falling away* has occurred and *the Day of the Lord has come as a thief in the night*. And you have not known it until now! **"The Kingdom is at hand"** is now being proclaimed by the CGF in preparation for Revelation 3:9 to be fulfilled, that the "Church (not the world) may be made ready"! Request or download our booklets, *The Midnight Cry*, *The Day of the Lord*, *Whoso Reads...Let Him Understand* and the article entitled *Matthew 24:14!*
- They have *fallen away from the truth* that Christ has only one true Church. Christ is not divided! I Corinthians 1:10-12 could be understood by most fifth-grade students—but the leaders of the "churches of god" are contentiously divided. Instead of uselessness in going to the world, as they are all attempting to do, they should concentrate on creating unity among the brethren of God. The great tribulation is looming, and *sighing and crying* for our brethren is a responsibility of a true Christian (read Ezek. 9). Ask yourself, "Why don't these 'leading hireling ministers' get together instead of being so terribly divided?" And then, ask them this same question! There seems to be no difference in attitude between the divided *hirelings* of the *churches of god* and the Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Pentecostals, Episcopalians, etc., etc., etc. Warring, fussing, fighting—disfellowshipping one another! What a shame! What a sin!

- The LCG has *fallen away* from the Philadelphia standard; instead, they have a “come as you are” dress code and an “open door policy” that “whoever you are can come”—in an attempt to draw in new members.
- Have they grown in any New Truth according to the directive in II Peter 3:18?

The LCG ministers (and the other *hirelings* of the “churches of god”) are still asleep and have failed to grow in the *knowledge of Christ*. They do not want to be awakened and bothered with New Truth, although more and more brethren will be asking very sincere questions as Christ directs the *midnight cry*.

It should now be abundantly clear to you that the *great falling away* from Truth has already occurred! Now you need to prove the next step, as expressed in II Thessalonians 2:3: the Day of the Lord has come as a *thief in the night*! Request or download our booklet, *The Day of the Lord*.

We are living in very dangerous Bible times—and the *beast is rising*! Time is short!

Write or call us, the Church of God’s Faithful, at 803-492-9061, or go to our website, www.setapartbytruth.org. You will be amazed at the abundance of New Truth that you will find—wonderful spiritual fruit that *sets us apart* and proves that Jesus Christ is here as the Head of His one True Church.

And I promise you, if you have questions on any of our doctrines, we will try our best to answer your questions from the Word of God.

You will know them by their fruit!

[illegible]

Write or call us for your copies of *The Deep Things of God, The Day of the Lord, 6000 Years HAVE Ended and Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*. Send your request to Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Dr., Harleyville, SC 29448. Our telephone number is 843-462-7977. If you prefer downloading our literature from our website, our web address is www.setapartbytruth.org.



Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!



We Live In A Violent World!

Wars and rumors of wars everywhere are the news of the day. International Terrorism plagues the earth. Yet, Life goes on! Especially here in the Western World, eating, drinking, living it up, marrying, starting families—just as it was in the Days of Noah! Violence and wickedness is everywhere, but Life goes on.

But how long can Life continue on as usual? Where are we in Bible prophecy? Can we really know?

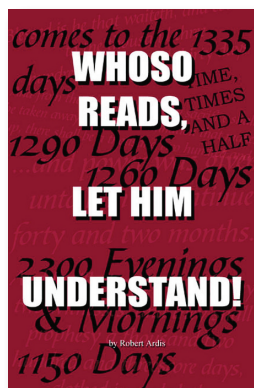
Matthew 24:15 states: “*When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand).*”

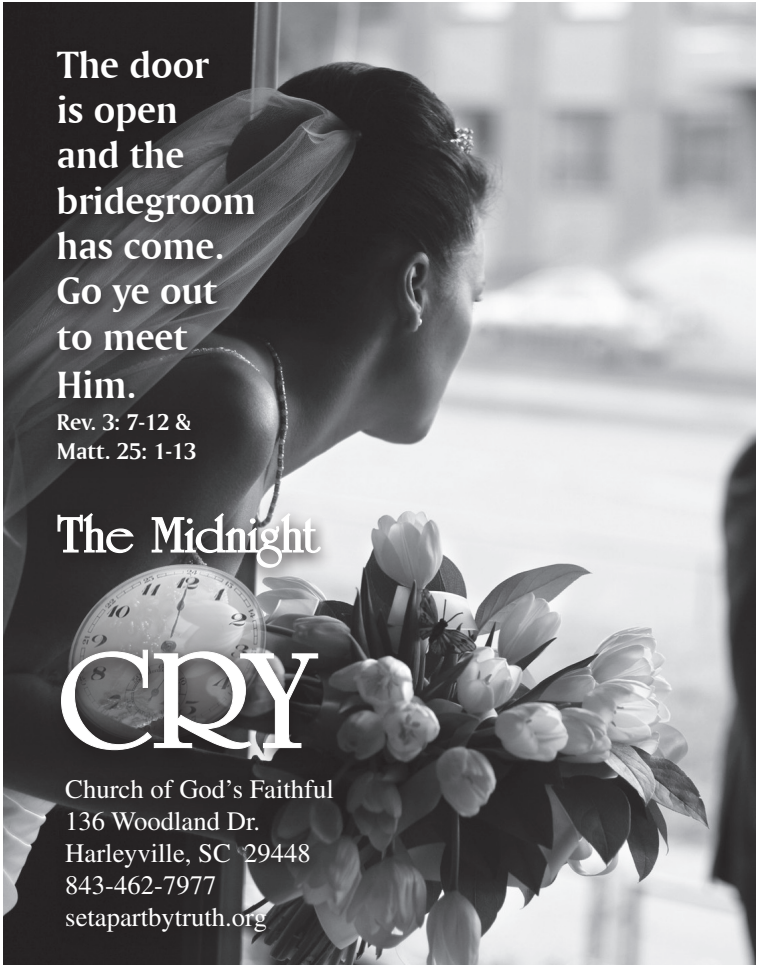
Today many understand that the amazing prophecy of the “*man of sin sitting in the Temple of God*” has already been fulfilled. But do you realize “the abomination standing in the Holy Place” has also been fulfilled—NOW!

Do you understand? And do you understand what happens next in prophecy? Do you understand the prophecies of the 1335, 1290, and 1260 days?

These are the urgent subjects of this booklet! Please write for your copy, then read carefully and UNDERSTAND.

Write or call us for your copy of *Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!* Send your request to Church of God’s Faithful, 136 Woodland Dr., Harleyville, SC 29448. If you prefer downloading our literature from our website, our web address is www.setapartbytruth.org.





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

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

The Midnight CRY

Church of God's Faithful
136 Woodland Dr.
Harleyville, SC 29448
843-462-7977
setapartbytruth.org

**Are you a part of the “WOMAN” or the “REMNANT”
of Revelation 12:14, 17? Your life depends on the answer!**

But where is the WOMAN? And how will she be found?

The answer is found in Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. The time has come for God's people to read, understand, and heed Matthew 25:6 - The Midnight Cry.

Write or call us for your copy of *The Midnight Cry*. Send your request to Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Dr., Harleyville, SC 29448. Our telephone number is 843-462-7977. If you prefer downloading our literature from our website, our web address is www.setapartbytruth.org.