

Holding Fast...

GOD'S WAY!

Holding Fast GOD'S WAY!

by Robert G. Ardis



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The Church of God's Faithful
136 Woodland Drive
Harleyville, SC 29448

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Second edition 2021
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PREFACE

In 1931, Jesus Christ began to restore His true gospel through the prophesied end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong. The true gospel of the Kingdom of God, originally brought by Jesus himself, had been lost, and it had been replaced by “another gospel” (Gal. 1:6-7). The message of Christ was furtively changed to a message *about* Christ. But the time came, after 1900 years, for the revealed truth of the Kingdom of God to be proclaimed once again to the entire world, “for a witness to all nations” (Mat. 24:14).

Our Lord built His Church, and it has continued as a small and persecuted Church down through the centuries. By the time Herbert Armstrong (HWA) was brought on the scene, the Sardis era of the true Church was practically dead (Rev. 3:1-2). This servant of God recognized truth and began to preach and publish the gospel of the Kingdom of God. The Church of God grew in numbers, yet it was still very small in comparison to the world’s churches. Through the fifty-five years of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, the Worldwide Church of God completed the work of declaring the true gospel to all nations.

Then Herbert Armstrong died, and Satan attacked the Worldwide Church of God (WCG).

Only a few of the nearly 100,000 former members of the WCG have remained faithful to the doctrines taught by Mr. Armstrong (Mat. 17:11). Then there are others who hold fast to the Elijah’s teachings, but refuse to grow in new truth.

Did Mr. Armstrong restore all things?

Can new truth be received at this present time?

Was Herbert Armstrong right in every doctrine he taught?

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

The Bible tells us to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2Pet. 3:18). Growth in the knowledge of Christ is new truth. Can you grow in knowledge of Christ (learn new truth), and still hold fast (Rev. 3:3,11) to that which Herbert Armstrong taught years ago?

You can...if you are holding fast *God’s way*. This booklet will show, from the Bible, how this must be done. And it will answer the questions above.

INTRODUCTION

Some very sincere former members of the WCG believe that a true Philadelphian must hold fast to all things taught by Herbert W. Armstrong. They quickly quote Revelation 3:11, which declares: “Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.” These well-intended begotten brethren presume that holding fast to all things presented by Mr. Armstrong will assure a person of retaining his *crown*—or salvation. That appears to be right and good, but is it true? Or is it possible to quench the Spirit of God within you by just holding fast to what has been taught, while refusing to accept new truth? This is a very important question!

The Bible admonishes a true Christian to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1Thes. 5:21), and to “**grow** in grace and **in the knowledge of our Lord** and Savior, Jesus Christ” (2Pet. 3:18).

Our Lord tells us in Matthew 24:4, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Has someone deceived you? Has your belief about holding fast deceived you? How can you hold fast and still grow in grace and knowledge? What does growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ really mean? If you think you are not deceived, are you basing your beliefs on your own interpretation of the Scriptures, or are you sure of what the Scriptures actually say? These are serious questions that need to be addressed.

No one wants to be deceived, but if you *are* deceived, you would not know it unless you examined your beliefs in the light of God’s Word. So, I would like to present a few more questions, and some answers, concerning “holding fast” that I hope you will prayerfully examine. Are you willing to open your Bible and prove *all* things, not just some things, in regard to holding fast? For, honestly, not until you are willing to prove *all* things—only then—can you **hold fast to all good things...God’s way!**

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Chapter One:
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The Great Falling Away Has Occurred!

Let us keep in mind as we begin this study that there are hundreds, maybe even several thousand, of our begotten brethren who, as individuals, groups or churches, are holding fast to the teachings of Mr. Armstrong—as perhaps you are doing. They are sincerely trying to do what they think is right in God's sight. They keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, there is only one true Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Word of God commands us in 1Corinthians 1:10,

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

But what is found in the Church of God today? We see division, strife, contention and confusion. Why? Why do these attitudes exist among the people of God today?

Some of you may have been affiliated with Gerald Flurry and his Philadelphia Church of God (PCG). You may have heard of Mr. Flurry but never examined any of his teachings. I mention this because, after Mr. Armstrong died, Gerald Flurry and the PCG were the only church crying aloud about the cause of the breakup of the Worldwide Church of God. He proclaimed the truth about the man of sin way back in 1990, when most of the ministry compromised their beliefs to maintain their paychecks from the WCG. He sternly warned that there was a controlling figure, a man of sin, sitting in the Temple—in the Church of God. That man of sin caused the falling away from truth, as seen in the WCG and as prophesied in 2Thessalonians 2:3-4:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day [the Day

of the Lord] shall not come except there come a *falling away* first, and that *man of sin* be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits *in the Temple of God* showing himself that he is God.

Without a doubt, after Mr. Armstrong's death, Satan attacked the Church of God through the man of sin who changed the doctrines of God and practically destroyed the Church. "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman that brought forth the man child" (Rev. 12:13). God had restored the truth through the Elijah, but after his death, the great falling away of God's people happened. Approximately 100,000 baptized members of God's Church have fallen away from truth in one degree or another. This may include you. And it cannot happen again on this side of the Tribulation. There cannot be another falling away by God's people. They have already fallen away!

The PCG is the Laodicean work of Jesus Christ. Mr. Flurry tried to warn all of God's people about what was occurring in the WCG right before our eyes. Now it has happened, and God's people have been scattered, divided and confused. Do you see this? Do you recognize the plain truth of recent Church history? **The great falling away has occurred!**

In Time Order

Look at the way this happened in time order.

By 1931, the Sardis Church was a "dead" church: "And unto the church in Sardis write... I know your works, that you have a name that you live, and you are dead" (Rev. 3:1). The fifth candlestick had nearly burned out.

God raised up Herbert W. Armstrong, and began the Philadelphia era in 1931. (See *Mystery of the Ages [MOA]*, Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, 1985, p. 289.) The Philadelphia candlestick was lit. The true gospel of the Kingdom of God was to be taught again after 1900 long years: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then the end shall come" (Mat. 24:14). This good news that had been lost was restored.

HWA was the end-time Elijah who was to "restore all things": "And

Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah shall truly come and *restore all things...*" (Mat. 17:11 and 24:14).

HWA was the end-time messenger to prepare the way for Christ's second coming. Malachi 3:1 states, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me."

HWA was a type of Zerubbabel, through whom the spiritual Temple would be finished: "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it" (Zech. 4:9). The Temple could now be "measured." "Rise and measure the Temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein" (Rev. 11:1).

HWA was the withholding force that restrained the mystery of iniquity, until he was taken away by his death.

And now you know what *withholds* [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, #2722] that he [the man of sin] might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity does already work: only he [HWA] who now lets [#2722, same word as "withholds"] will let [#2272] until he be taken out of the way (2Thes. 2:6-7).

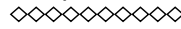
HWA died thirty-two years ago, and the "falling away" happened. The facts of recent history cannot be denied. Now, the 100,000 members of the Church are split and splintered. They are in division, strife, contention and confusion, similar to the Roman Catholic Church and her Protestant daughters. The *Journal* newspaper, with which some of you are familiar, is subtitled *News of the Churches of God*. More correctly labeled, it should be *News of the churches of god* (little "c" and little "g"). Not only has Satan deceived the world, but now he has deceived 100,000 begotten children of God. The many churches out there made up of these brethren claim to be Churches of God, but they are not God's churches. He has only *one* Church! The other churches are either Mr. Flurry and his Laodiceans, called the PCG, or the old mother church, the WCG, and her split and splintered daughter churches identified as the synagogue of Satan (Rev. 3:9). The devil has done a job!

Although HWA is dead, Jesus Christ is dynamically alive and is actively leading His one true Church. He is here in the Day of the Lord as our High Priest, our Apostle, and our Lord and Savior (see Heb. 3:1 and 2Pet. 3:18).

But how do you recognize God's one true Church today?



Chapter Two:



Did He or Didn't He?

I have heard some brethren state, “Christ said Elijah would restore all things. Either he did or he did not. Which is it?” Some have made a big issue out of this by narrowly looking at Matthew 17:11. The plain answer from the Word of God is that Mr. Armstrong did not restore *everything*. Will you believe what Jesus Christ inspired to be written in Acts 3:20-21?

And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens must receive until the times of the restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Jesus Christ will restore all things—everything! That is what God's Word says!

Is there a contradiction between Matthew 17:11 and Acts 3:20-21? Of course not. Mr. Armstrong, as the Elijah, was to restore all things God gave him to restore. He was to restore the gospel of the Kingdom of God and proclaim it to all nations. That was Mr. Armstrong's commission, and it was successfully accomplished through God's Spirit.

It was the same with Jesus as He walked this Earth during His ministry. He said in Matthew 11:27, “All things are delivered to me of my Father.” Yet in Mark 13:32, our Lord declares, “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, *neither the son*, but the Father only.” What? You mean Jesus did not know the time of His return? You mean not *all* things were delivered to Him? Is this a contradiction between Matthew 11:27 and Mark 13:32? No, it is not. The Bible does not contradict itself. “Thy word is truth” (Jn. 17:17).

Herbert Armstrong restored all of the things that God gave him, all things he needed to fulfill his commission!

God delivered to Jesus Christ all things necessary for Him to fulfill His commission. The knowledge of *when* Jesus would return was not necessary for Him to know, to fulfill His commission as the Lamb of

God. It was not necessary for Mr. Armstrong to know *all* things, but only those things related to his commission to take the good news of the soon coming Kingdom of God to the world as a witness to all nations, and to complete the spiritual Temple.

The scriptures, Matthew 17:11 compared to Acts 3:20-21, and Matthew 11:27 compared to Mark 13:32, can appear to be contradictions when viewed separately. However, in reality, they are examples of solving an apparent contradiction by allowing the Bible to clarify and expand one scripture by another plain scripture, to obtain the complete meaning. Mr. Armstrong taught us that the Bible is written like a jigsaw puzzle—a little here and a little there (Is. 28:9,10,13). Only God's Spirit can correctly put it all together.

So, what we see at this point is that Herbert W. Armstrong was raised up by God to restore the true gospel, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. This was the same good news and testimony that Jesus Christ originally brought during His earthly ministry (Mk. 1:1,14,15). This included knowledge of the King, the location of the Kingdom, the laws that will be applied, and the subjects to be ruled over.

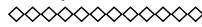
A good understanding of prophecy was also restored. "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). One-third of God's Word is prophecy.

HWA and the WCG thundered out to the world, as a witness, the astounding truth that man can become God through the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Truly, this is amazing and fantastic understanding of the plan of God that was revealed to Mr. Armstrong.

However, this faithful servant of God was *not* given the knowledge of *all* things in the plan of God. This was not his fault. It was not time for *all* things to be revealed.



Chapter Three:



Will Holding Fast Assure Salvation?

But surely, if we hold fast to the fantastic knowledge given to HWA, we can hold on to our crown and achieve salvation, right? Once again, you had better let the Word of God give you the answer.

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and a half a time, from the face of the serpent...And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:14,17).

The true Church, the woman, will be taken to the place of safety. But this scripture plainly states that the “remnant,” which keep the commandments and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, will experience the wrath of Satan in the Great Tribulation. Why? If they are keeping God’s Law and have the testimony of Christ, which was restored by the Elijah, why do they end up in the Tribulation? It will be extremely difficult to “hold fast that no man take your crown” in the Great Tribulation. Why do these people end up in the Great Tribulation? Why is it that they are not considered worthy to escape (Lk. 21:36)?

The answer taught through the years in the WCG was that those who are lukewarm in their Christian efforts are Laodiceans and are considered unworthy to escape, and must overcome in the Tribulation. But that is an incomplete answer.

The Two Candlesticks

Let’s review the identity of the Laodiceans and ask the question:

Are they the only ones who end up in the Tribulation? You need to know the answer to this question!

In Revelation 1:20, the last phrase states, "And the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches." This scripture and chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation show us that Laodicea is the seventh and final Church (or candlestick) to come on the prophetic scene. Revelation 3:10 tells us, "Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." This is a promise to the Philadelphia Church (the sixth candlestick). They are promised protection from the "hour of temptation," or Great Tribulation, that will come upon the entire world.

Revelation 12:14-17 plainly shows two groups of God's people. Most are taken to safety as the woman. The remnant experiences the wrath of Satan in the Tribulation. Revelation 11:3-4 announces the two witnesses. They are presented as the two olive trees and the two candlesticks. Two candlesticks are symbolic of two churches that will be represented by these two prophets (Rev. 11:10 and 1:20). Most of their ministry will be during the Great Tribulation, and they will complete it immediately before the visible coming of Jesus Christ and the First Resurrection (Rev. 11:7-12).

The two witnesses, symbolically portrayed as two candlesticks, represent two churches, Philadelphia and Laodicea. This clearly shows that the Philadelphia candlestick did not burn out when Herbert Armstrong died. The candlestick still burns brightly. However, an important test was conducted.

Exactly four years after HWA's death, God raised up an exceedingly zealous man to warn the ministry and the members of the WCG about the disastrous changes being made against God's true doctrines. This warning message was the beginning of the Laodicean work of God. The Laodicean candlestick was lit. For four years, the WCG was careening off track. *Those who swallowed these false doctrines were not Laodiceans. They were unfaithful Philadelphians who committed spiritual adultery, becoming a part of the synagogue of Satan.* Gerald Flurry, as the physical leader of Laodicea, warned the Church of what was happening right before our eyes. This warning was the Laodicean work of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Flurry did not start off lukewarm, or rich and increased with goods. After seven years of warning, he *became* lukewarm to the work

of God by doing his own work. He turned from his true commission from Christ to an utterly futile work. His work now has become the same as the so-called ranking ministers of the daughter churches. It is an attempt to take the gospel of the Kingdom to the world, although Jesus Christ had already completed this through Herbert Armstrong. Revelation 3:14-17 perfectly describes Mr. Flurry's Laodicean work in its current state.

The End of Each Era Is Described

In the description of each Church in Revelation 2 and 3, the portrayal is toward the end of the Church phase as the work of Jesus Christ. Study and prove this for yourself.

Ephesus did not start out losing its first love (Rev. 2:4). The members became that way toward the end of their era, and Smyrna replaced them. Smyrna existed only a short time, with most of the congregation finally ending up in prison and dying, faithful to the end (v.10). Then Pergamos came along, but in its final days false doctrines were allowed among the believers (vv.14-15). Thyatira is complimented for her last works being greater than the first works (v.19). So, when Sardis was raised up, it was not raised up as a dead or dying church; it became that way (Rev. 3:1-2). That was its condition when Christ brought Mr. Armstrong into contact with it.

The Bible is always consistent because God is consistent. As we come to the description of Philadelphia in Revelation 3, it is pictured toward the end of its phase, not the beginning. The description pictures Mr. Armstrong's work in type, but it vividly portrays conditions in the true work of God's Philadelphia candlestick/Church today and in the near future. Consider the following:

The synagogue of Satan did not come and worship at the feet of HWA and the WCG (v. 9). This event has not occurred yet. Mr. Armstrong did not even know the true identity of the synagogue of Satan, but the CGF does. Its identity was revealed earlier in this booklet.

Mr. Armstrong and the WCG were not protected from the Tribulation (v.10), since it has not yet happened.

The WCG and her adulterous daughters have not patiently kept God's Word (v.10). They will not be protected from the Tribulation unless they repent. Most have also "denied [His] name," not accepting

God's form of government (v.8).

At the time of HWA's death, the Church had one of the most powerful voices in the entire world, not just "a little strength" (v.8).

The WCG and her adulterous daughters are the synagogue of Satan. They will not be pillars in the Temple of God (v. 12).

The understanding of the "open door" is more complete today than at any other time in Philadelphia's history. Our Lord will make many in the synagogue of Satan repent and come through the open door to His faithful Church to be taught (vv. 7-9).

And as we said earlier, Laodicea did not start lukewarm to the work of God. Mr. Flurry and the early PCG was the dynamic work of Jesus Christ. There was no other church doing any work at all. The two candlesticks, Laodicea and Philadelphia worked together for seven years in the PCG—then they separated. The Laodicean church, i.e., the PCG, is "rich and increased with goods" (Rev. 3:17). However, that candle is becoming very dim, except for God's Spirit still burning in the hearts of some very sincere (although blind and asleep) PCG members. The Philadelphia candle is becoming brighter each day through an attitude of one accord, and soon the entire synagogue of Satan will know where the true Philadelphians are!

Doing It God's Way

True Philadelphians hold fast to the true gospel. True Philadelphians also prove all things by the Word of God. A true Philadelphian will continue to grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior. Growth in knowledge is "new truth." God's true Church is set apart by truth. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to pour new truth upon us. We are the Church of God's *Faithful* (CGF).

If you are only holding fast, you will not be growing in new truth, as the true Church must do. You will not be a part of the one true Church because you will not be growing in grace and knowledge.

And if you are not growing in grace and knowledge, even though you keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, you will soon find yourself in the Great Tribulation along with the Laodiceans who refuse to heed God's warnings. Christ built His one true organized Church that will always exist. Christ will always have *one man* "sitting in the seat of judgment [government]" in His one

true organized Church (see Mat. 16:18-19 and Is. 28:5-6). If you are not a part of Christ's one true organized Church, you will be very similar to the Sardis members of the early thirties.

When Herbert W. Armstrong was brought on the scene, the Sardis Church was an ineffective church described as dead (Rev. 3:1). Sardis did not even know the truth of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Even in the Ephesus era, knowledge of the true gospel began to disappear (Gal. 1:6). By the time God sent the end-time Elijah to the Sardis era, knowledge of the Kingdom of God did not exist. But in each of the eras of God's Church, those that were faithful to the knowledge they had, qualified to receive their crowns, their salvation. They grew in as much grace and knowledge as God gave them—and they endured to the end of their lives (Mat. 24:13).

Christ said to Thyatira: "That which you have already hold fast till I come." They evidently did not have much knowledge of the gospel, but those who overcame held fast and are promised an important position in the Kingdom (Rev. 2:25-27). Christ told Sardis: "Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent" (Rev. 3:3). How had they heard and received? Those of Thyatira had passed down their understanding, but Sardis had even lost much of that. Still they could repent and hold fast and make it into the Kingdom with the little understanding that they had. How? Because they held fast to the truth they received. By God's grace they were saved (Eph. 2:8-10). But remember, new knowledge was not given until HWA came into the picture.

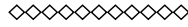
When Mr. Armstrong came among the brethren of Sardis, things changed. No more could they just hold fast. Now they had to grow in grace and *new knowledge*! Mr. Armstrong came with the gospel of the Kingdom of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Many of the ministry and members of Sardis could not accept the new truth. Some probably considered it blasphemy, teaching that man could become God. Some considered *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to be racist, not truth. So, was God pleased with these people when they rejected new truth given to them by Jesus Christ through the Elijah? Absolutely not! As they rejected God-given knowledge, God had to reject them. Why? Because they refused to follow Jesus Christ.

This brings us back to our question. Can you retain your crown by just holding fast to all that was restored through Mr. Armstrong? The answer is no. Not *all* things were restored by HWA! Jesus Christ will

restore *all* things, as Acts 3:20-21 plainly states. This “restitution” is in progress at this very moment. New truth is being given to God’s one true Church today. You must continue to follow Christ as he restores and brings new truth to His one true Church. If you refuse to accept new truth, you reject Christ and separate yourself from the one true Church. *You become the same as the Sardis people.* You are quenching the Spirit of truth and are about to be swallowed up in the Great Tribulation (1Thes. 5:19 and Jn. 16:13). If you do not grow in grace and knowledge, if you only hold fast and keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, you will end up in the Great Tribulation! **Only one Church will be in the place of safety!**



Chapter Four:



Believe Your Bible!



ne of Herbert Armstrong's most famous sayings was, "Don't believe me. Believe your Bible!" Mr. Armstrong was the servant of God and had astounding truth revealed to him. Mr. Armstrong never claimed to be infallible. He knew he was a man subject to making mistakes, just like everyone else. And it is a simple fact that God did not reveal everything to him. Mr. Armstrong never wrote one word of the Bible. We respect and honor his writings, but they are not Holy Scripture. He was very sincere in everything he wrote or preached. But not everything he wrote was absolutely correct. "Don't believe me. Believe your Bible!" Do you agree with this command? Mr. Armstrong knew that the Bible is truth. He also knew that he, himself, was not infallible. Some who want to believe everything Mr. Armstrong said have refused to believe the Bible—just the opposite of what he instructed us to do! How pitifully inconsistent!

At this point, I want to present some examples of teachings that Mr. Armstrong sincerely thought were truth, but are incorrect by Bible definition. Which will you believe?

Can Spirits Die?

Let's start with a big one. Mr. Armstrong taught that Satan and the demons are spirits that cannot die. "The penalty of sin by the angels was not death—for God had made them immortal spirit beings who cannot die" (MOA, p. 92). Regardless of this statement by God's Elijah, the Bible reveals that spirit beings *can* die.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:1,14). *The Word was and is a spirit being who was made flesh.* Of course, you understand that the Word, who became Jesus Christ and who created all things, including the angelic kingdom, *died*. So,

spirit beings can die!

Don't believe me. Believe your Bible! Do you believe spirit beings can die, or not?

Maybe you reason as many others do, and have erroneously used Luke 20:36 to prove that angels or spirits don't die: "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal to the angels." Those who make this claim by this one scripture forget to put *all* the pieces together. Read the rendering of this in Mathew's account: "For in the resurrection they...are as the angels of God *in heaven*" (Mat. 22:30). Mark 12:25 confirms this. The righteous angels of Heaven do not sin, so they will live forever. The angels who sinned are not in Heaven, and they will die! "*The wages of sin is death*, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

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

This demon probably knew all of the scriptures concerning the fate of Satan and the demons, especially the last part of Ezekiel 28:16, "...and I will destroy you, O covering cherub [Satan], from the midst of the stones of fire." This tells of the very source from which Satan's (and the demons') destruction emanates. Their destruction comes from the very throne of God. The last part of verse 18 reads, "...therefore I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth..." Satan and the demons will be made flesh and finally burned to ashes in the lake of fire.

Christ can make Himself flesh and bone at any time:

And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terribly affrighted, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself: handle me, and see, for a spirit has not flesh and bones,

as you see me have. (Lk. 24:36-39).

And, apparently, the righteous angels also have this ability. By a simple study of Genesis 18:1,2,8,16 and 19:1-16, it is obvious that the Lord and two angels visited the patriarch Abraham before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. They accepted Abraham's hospitality and sat and enjoyed a dinner of steak, bread, butter and milk. This is an example of spirit beings coming in the flesh and eating food. Two other men are referred to as angels in chapter 19. Read this yourself. Angels can become flesh. And flesh can be destroyed! Do you believe what your Bible says?

Read our booklets, *The Deep Things of God* and *Set Apart by Truth*. If you read these booklets, you will be amazed at the revealed truths contained in them. Don't just believe me, or Mr. Armstrong. Prove what is right according to your Bible. The Bible is the written Word of God. Jesus Christ is the living Word of God. It is Jesus Christ who reveals the truth to His one true Church.

What Do You Believe?

Consider the following teachings and questions:

How many resurrections does the Bible actually teach? See Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1Corinthians 15:52; 1Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 20:4-15. Do you find three, or only two?

Does Isaiah 65:17-25 picture conditions during the time of the second resurrection, or during the World Tomorrow? A simple reading of these verses easily proves this to be the Millennium, the 1000-year reign of Christ and the saints. A new world, a new heaven and new Earth, are here pictured. This present evil world will be totally destroyed. It will become "tohu and bohu" during the Great Tribulation and the Day of God's Wrath (see Jer. 4:19-29). The Bible reveals that people during the Millennium will live long lives, at least 100 years (Is. 65:20) and bring forth healthy, happy children. Mr. Armstrong and the writers of the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course* (ACCC) mistakenly believed that the "new heavens and new earth" in verse 17 are the same as pictured in Revelation 21:1: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first [#4413] heaven and the first [#4413] earth were passed away..." Now read the last phrase of verse 4 of Revelation 21: "...

for the former [#4413] things are passed away.” The words rendered “first” in verse 1 and “former” in verse 4 are the same Greek word. The latter part of verse 1 should be translated, “for the former heaven and former earth were passed away.” The former heaven and Earth that were passed away were not the heaven and earth of Genesis 1, but the “new heaven and new earth” of Isaiah 65:17. This is the only sensible conclusion that can be drawn according to the biblical time sequence. It was not time for Mr. Armstrong and the ACCC writers to understand this truth. They also wrote that these verses in Isaiah 65 describe conditions during the second resurrection. They incorrectly try to connect Isaiah 65 with Revelation 20:11, supposing that the second resurrection will be a period of 100 years called “The White Throne Judgment.” That is simply wrong. Don’t believe me. Believe your Bible!

The Bible tells us that only the Israelites will receive God’s Spirit in the Millennium. Mr. Armstrong taught that *all* people will receive God’s Spirit in the Millennium. If you think Mr. Armstrong is correct, why do the nations of Earth need to be ruled with a rod of iron? And if all nations receive God’s Spirit, what happens to Gog and Magog, who attack Christ’s headquarters at the end of the Millennium?

Mr. Armstrong assumed that the first resurrection occurs on the Feast of Trumpets. You need to know what Christ has revealed to the CGF right out of the Bible. Please request our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost...Which?*

Mr. Armstrong stated, “If Petra is not the place of safety, the Bible does not indicate where it is!” The Bible has clearly revealed to the CGF that Petra is not the place of safety. Are you still hoping to go there? Request our booklet, *Petra: Place of Safety or Place of Slaughter?*

The Bible plainly shows that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are two different events. If you do not understand this extremely important Bible truth, you urgently need to read our second edition of *The Day of the Lord*. Don’t let anyone deceive you! The Day of the Lord has come as a thief in the night. Jesus Christ has come to His Temple and is revealing new truth to His one true Church.

These are just a few of the new truths revealed to the CGF by Jesus Christ.

Can you recognize the possibility that you have rejected truth in your efforts to hold fast to all things restored by HWA? Have you been deceived? By refusing to grow in grace and knowledge, you quench

God's Spirit and separate yourself from the one true Church of God.

At this time, the only way for you, or anyone else of the Outer Court (also labeled as "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" in Mat. 10:6, and as "the synagogue of Satan" in Rev. 3:9) to recognize where Christ's true Church is located, is through *truth* revealed to that one true organized Church. We are set apart by truth (Jn. 17:17)!

Don't believe me. Believe your Bible! This is precisely what Mr. Armstrong would tell you as you look into this new truth. The Bible is the Word of God in print. Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, says in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through your *truth*: your word is truth." Christ is not divided (1Cor. 1:10-13). His one true Church is sanctified, *set apart* from all the divisions, splits, and splinters, *by truth*—old truth and new truth!

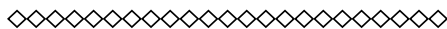
Check us out. Who is right and who is wrong? Prove all things... God's way! Don't believe me or any other man, living or dead. This is the same thing Mr. Armstrong would tell you. Believe your Bible. Your Bible is truth. Christ's one true Church is where He is, where new truth is being revealed! You desperately need to be there, too.

All of our literature is available at our website.



Recommended Literature by the Church of God's Faithful

The Deep Things of God



Have you ever wondered about Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium? These multitudes from the four quarters of the earth will be deceived by Satan's power after living their entire lives during the 1000-year reign of Christ. How could they be deceived into attacking the headquarters of the only God they had ever known? Are these people, described in such enormous numbers, lost forever? Does this part of God's Plan fail? Of course not! God's Plan is perfect.

What is the ultimate fate of Satan and the demons? You might think Spirits cannot die or be killed. But, the Creator of all the angelic beings died! Jesus Christ was KILLED and would still be dead if the Father had not raised Him up. If God can die, can He not put a rebellious demon to death? What will the Lake of Fire be created for? When will it begin to burn? Why do we believe there will be three resurrections, while the Bible mentions ONLY two? And how long is the period of the Last Great Day? All of these questions concerning these Deep Things of God are thoroughly explained by the Word of God as revealed in our booklet. Request your own free copy.

The Day of the Lord 6000 Years Have Ended!

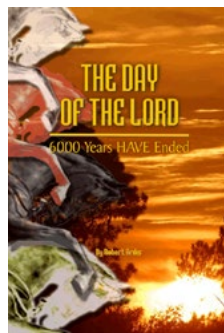


Where are we in God's Master Plan? 6000 years HAVE ended! What is the Day of the Lord? Are you sure you know? Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath the same occurrence? The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, according to I Thess. 5:2 and II Peter 3:10. Christ says He will come as a thief, unexpectedly (Rev. 3:3 and Luke 12:39-40).

However, we read in Rev. 1:7, Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him... How do you reconcile these scriptures? Can it be that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are not the same event?

Yes! The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a ONE-Year period of time within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a "thief in the night" and YOU did NOT know it! What happens NOW?

You can read all about it in our free booklet; *The Day of the Lord*. Don't wait. Order it now!



Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God



Herbert W. Armstrong was the end time Elijah and a type of Zerubbabel. What was finished and completed at Mr. Armstrong's death? Do you really know? When Mr. Armstrong died, did the 6th Candlestick cease to burn? No! It continued to burn brightly in the Inner Court. However, the WCG leaders began to dismantle the true doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God and they drifted into the Outer Court of the Spiritual Temple as the synagogue of Satan. Only those faithful few of the 6th Candlestick stayed with Christ in the Inner Court. After four years of the systematic destruction of the WCG, God ignited the 7th Candlestick

and gave it to Gerald Flurry. The Laodicean Work of God began. The 6th and the 7th Candlesticks began to work together as the Philadelphia Church of God to warn those of the Outer Court to return to the truth. Now, true to the prophetic description of the Laodicean era, that Candlestick/Church has become lukewarm to the Law of God (Rom. 13, I Cor. 6, Matt. 5:19). The Faithful of the Church of God, the 6th Candlestick, have had to separate from the Laodicean 7th Candlestick. Our free booklet explains this separation and what you must do to come out of the Laodicean Church. Write for your free copy.

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.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..." (Rev. 1:10)

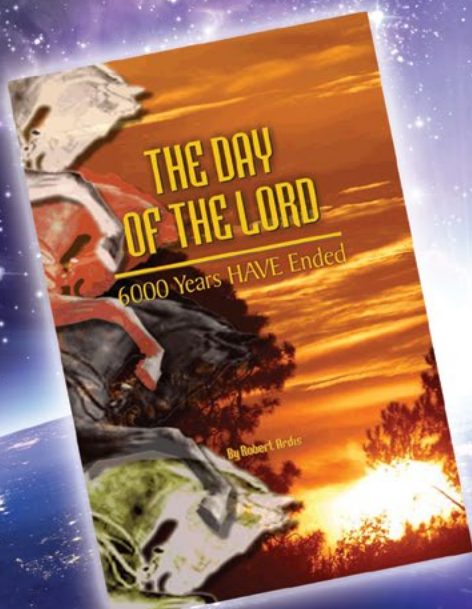
Who's day?

The day belonging to Who?

Paul was obviously taken in Spirit to behold
an incredible vision.

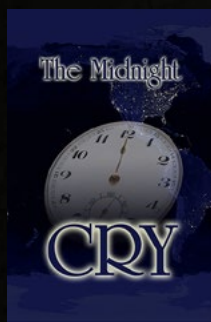
But when does the vision take place?

IN THE DAY OF THE LORD!



Yes! All the miraculous visions including: the ride of the four horsemen, the heavenly signs, the greatest time of trouble ever to befall mankind, the resurrection, the thousand year rule of Christ and the Saints, the last great day, the coming of God the Father to set up Earth as the headquarters of the universe, and beyond all occur within The Day of the Lord!

Write for or download our booklet *THE DAY OF THE LORD, 6000 years HAVE ended* to find out more, but don't delay. We are almost 18 years into The Day of the Lord and the end of the first 19 year time cycle! It's time to hear His voice!



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



Church of God's Faithful
136 Woodland Dr.
Harleyville, SC 29448

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