

The Eighteen Restored Truths Revisited

The Eighteen Restored Truths Revisited

By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

The knowledge that we have of God's truth is something that can change over time as we grow in knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. We can come to discover that some things which we once thought to be true were errors in understanding; errors which were unintentional but still, which should be corrected.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In this study, a review will be conducted of some of the core beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong (HWA).

The goal is to examine if these beliefs are still valid since the death of HWA in January 1986. He certainly gave us a lot of wonderful truths which can be easily proven with our Bible. Christians are to prove all things, always and this is what HWA repeatedly told WCG members. If something which we once thought to be true is discovered to have been an error in understanding then we have to cease believing it.

The knowledge that we have of the Bible is not static and unchanging because no one at any time can say that they have the “whole” truth. It will always be something that can and will change as God gives us more understanding.

With these thoughts in mind, let’s begin our review of the 18 truths revealed to God’s Church. We will go through each one of them and I will provide comments wherever deemed appropriate.

1] The government of God. When Christ comes, He will restore God’s government to the whole earth. So you can be sure the one to come in the spirit and power of Elijah would restore God’s government in His Church. When Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong came among the Oregon Conference era of the Church of God (Seventh Day), the church had the right name, the law, the Sabbath and the tithing system. But they also had a

government of men, with a biannual conference, voting just like they do in the world. Today, the government of God has been restored to His Church. That's the kind of government you find in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12.

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. The Bible is a book about a single nation, the nation of Israel. In the Old Testament (OT), God's nation was a flesh-and-blood physical nation which was never converted. In New Testament (NT) times, God's nation is a spiritual nation composed of all those who have been called by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Physical Israel's time of calling will occur at the time of Christ's Second Coming, not to the world but to the descendants of the physical nation of Israel when Christ will complete the 2nd 3 ½ year part of His 7-year ministry to Israel (Dan 9: 27) which was cut off when He died on the stake.

God now has a spiritual nation of Israel and He speaks to it by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners
spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath **in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he
made the worlds;

The holy spirit God the Father calls men to salvation; no man can call another man.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except **the Father which**
hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom
the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**,
and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have
said unto you.

Christ at His Second Coming is returning to the descendants of the ancient physical nation of Israel; not to the world.

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye
gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up
from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye
have seen him go into heaven.

Zec 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Christ is coming a second time to Israel to restore or restitute all things to them.

Act 3:19 Repent ye [the physical nation of Israel that will exist at Christ's 2nd Coming] therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; [Christ at His Second Coming]

Act 3:20 And [God the Father] he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [Israel]

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Christ is to stay in heaven until the time comes for Him to come back to the physical nation of Israel to restore all things to it, until the times of the restitution of all things.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet [Christ] shall the Lord your God raise up unto you [Israel] of your brethren, like unto me [Moses]; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. (Deu 18: 17-18)

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, [person] which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. [will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel]

This will be the time when God will make a new covenant with the house of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and with the house of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) and it will be done by Jesus who is the mediator or the means by which this New Covenant will be made with the physical nation of Israel

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the

days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the **house of Israel** and with the **house of Judah**:

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus **the mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

In NT times, God has a spiritual nation whose members are from all over the world; upon conversion they become spiritual Israelites. They were called by God the Father and are taught by God the Word and Spokesman. They are the royal priesthood of God's spiritual nation of Israel offering themselves daily as living sacrifices dying to their previous life of sin, their old man, and striving to live in newness of life, the new man, with a mind regenerated by the indwelling presence of the holy spirits of the family of God.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also **should walk in newness of life**.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In God's NT spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church, God's government is by God's law written in the heart or minds of those called and chosen by God the Father.

Eze 11:16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them **[Israel]** far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Eze 11:17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I **will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered**, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Eze 11:18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

Eze 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I **will put a new spirit within you**; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Eze 11:20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and **they shall be my people, and I will be their God**.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Eze 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Eze 36:26 **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Eze 36:28 And **ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers**; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

God's government as the word implies is God, not men, governing His called and chosen ones and He does it by His law written in their hearts (minds) by the holy spirit God the Word. It is a law to which they freely

and willingly submit themselves to as God will not force anyone to obey Him.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

No man can claim to be a perfect representative of God's government or that failure to obey him means that we are not under God's government. This is foolishness of the highest degree.

There is, nor can they be, any man or organizations of men between truly converted Christians and God. The great high priest and mediator of God's called and chosen ones is not any man or organizations of men, but the resurrected and glorified Christ sitting at the right-hand side of His Father.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

God's government in God's Church which is a spiritual nation is by God the Father and God the Word writing God's law in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones to which they voluntarily and freely submit themselves. Conversion is a process that starts and remains at the mind level; it is something that goes on in the mind. Obedience to God's law is not as a result of having men watching over the converted to ensure they are following God's law.

God's Church is a spiritual organization whose members live in the different countries of this world, speaking different languages, and who most of the time, are unknown to each other as conversion is not something outwardly visible to others, converted and unconverted. This is why, true Christians are not to be found in large organizations of men; indeed, in most instances, they are by themselves or in small, isolated groups of faithful. God's Church is the "little flock" invisible to the world and persecuted whenever it comes to its attention.

There is therefore no need for an organization of men to exercise authority over them and even when in the First Century Church of God congregations there existed apostles, evangelists, preachers, teachers, etc. all they could do was to be helpers of the joy of those God had called. They had no power to force men to obey God, to remain con-

verted or to bring them back to the truth if they chose to turn away from it. They had no power to force men to believe the truth because of the free moral agency given mankind by God. In other words, no man can be made to believe something he has not chosen to believe. Even in the days of the early Church, the role of the ministry was small and not all that important. God the Father and God the Word are the ones making conversion and salvation possible and no man can force any man to remain faithful.

Lastly, there is no indication in Eph 4:11 that evangelists reported to apostles, pastors to evangelists and teachers to pastors; none. A vertically integrated hierarchical organization is based on the form of Roman government that the great false church (Roman Catholic) loved so much that it adopted it for its own organization. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said that the adoption of the Roman form of government by the Roman Catholic church was the “image” of the beast. So, it should not be found in God’s Church.

2] The Gospel of the Kingdom of God has been restored after 1,900 years. The Church of God (Seventh Day) did not have a clear understanding of the Gospel; they emphasized what they called a “third angel’s message.”

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. The Gospel has been interpreted to mean different things and HWA thought that the Gospel proclaimed by Christ was that a time was coming when He and His resurrected saints would take over the governments of the nations of the world at His Second Coming and carry out a vast reeducation campaign in the true value by which people should live. The result would be a world of peace, prosperity, safety, abundance and great joy. However, God’s truth is spiritual knowledge which can only be known by revelation.

1Co 2:10 But God hath **revealed** them unto us by his Spirit:
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

And, God’s truth is foolishness to the unconverted.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the
Spirit of God: for they are **foolishness** unto him: neither can
he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

During the Millennium, all of mankind then alive will be called.

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God,
I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and

your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Act 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

However being called and being chosen are 2 different things; one can be called and not chosen because he doesn't follow his calling.

Mat22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

And, of those who are chosen, it is the many that don't remain faithful.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

This doesn't make for a lot of people who will be converted during the Millennium. If we will believe Christ, it is the few that will be converted during the Millennium. The unconverted are not subject to God's law and indeed cannot be.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

There will be no need for teachers to teach the masses which for the very greatest part though all called will not become or remain converted.

And, God's Kingdom is entirely composed of spirit beings who are invisible to flesh-and-blood human beings. Christ clearly says that men have to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to enter into the Kingdom of God and that flesh-and-blood human beings cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Rom 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The Millennium will not be and cannot be the time when Christ will establish God's Kingdom on the earth over flesh-and-blood human beings who cannot see nor enter into God's Kingdom.

Christ at His Second Coming will not rule by force over the governments of the world during the Millennium.

3] The purpose of God, that we are to be born of God and become God. God is reproducing Himself, and no other church on earth knows that or preaches it. As a counterfeit they talk about being already born again. Christ is the firstborn of many brethren. Has anyone else been born again by a resurrection from the dead like He was?

4] Who and what is God? The Jews think God is one person. Many people mistakenly think that God the Father is the God of the Old Testament and then Christ came as His Son. Traditional Christianity believes in the trinity, that the Holy Spirit is a person. God is neither one person nor a trinity. God is a Family into which we may be born and also become God. His Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are the begotten children of God. And when we are born of God we will not even be able to sin.

5] What is man? Do we have an immortal soul? Or are we just an animal? What happens at death? The dead are unconscious, and they don't know anything. The Church of God (Seventh Day) people understood some of what happens at death, but not fully. They believed that man did not have a spirit. That's been explained more fully now.

6] The human spirit in man. What makes the difference between a human mind and an animal brain is that there is a human spirit with the human brain. That spirit is not the conscious part of the man. And it needs to be united with the Spirit of God.

7] The Church is only the firstfruits, and not the end of God's plan of salvation. God isn't trying to save the whole world yet. It starts with us, and we're being taught and trained so that we, under Christ, will be the teachers and rulers when Christ comes to rule in the Millennium, when He starts to save the rest of the world.

We have the great opportunity of being made God and, in the future, to rule over others and teach them and help them be converted so they can become children of God, also. And those who are converted during the Millennium will, with us, be kings, priests and teachers for the rest of the world that will be resurrected after the end of the Millennium.

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. God's Church are not yet the firstfruits they are only a kind of firstfruits.

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a [kind](#) of firstfruits of his creatures. [\[spiritual creation\]](#)

The time when they will become actual firstfruits is at Christ's Second Coming when they will be resurrected from the dead like Christ was resurrected from the dead and became the first of the firstfruits.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

The first of the firstfruits is Christ and then, at his Second Coming, is the time when those that are Christ's become firstfruits.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

8] The Church is not yet the Kingdom of God, but we are the embryo that will become the Kingdom of God.

9] Only those whom God the Father calls and draws to Him can be converted now. No other church knows that or believes it. That's another truth restored to the Church through Mr. Armstrong.

None of us had ever heard that before, except as we got it through Mr. Armstrong. Only those God chooses and calls now can come in and become part of the firstfruits. Satan has deceived the whole world, and the Church is called out of the world.

10] The resurrection to judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment. God has a plan to save those who have not had an opportunity for salvation and who are now dead in their graves. They have not had the Holy Spirit. Their time is coming. But our time comes first, and we have to fight the devil, and they won't.

In the judgment, they'll be found guilty and condemned to death. They'll have their first chance to know that Christ came and paid the death pen-

alty for them. They'll be allowed to accept that payment, and they'll have 100 years to prove they want to live differently than they did in their first life. They can be saved at last.

11] The Millennium. The Kingdom of God will rule nations on earth, and Christ and the saints will rule and bring prosperity to the entire earth. The Church of God (Seventh Day) understood the time duration, but, because they did not adequately grasp the full meaning of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, they knew little in the 1930s of what the Millennium would be like. Salvation will be open to all for the first time since Adam sinned and God closed off the tree of life.

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. God will not rule by force over anyone. Although salvation will be opened to everyone Christ plainly tells us that many are called but few are chosen and that of the few that are chosen, it is the few who remain faithful to their calling. Since the vast majority of people will be unconverted during the Millennium, it will be impossible for God to teach them spiritual truth.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Christ nor His resurrected saints will rule forcibly over the nations of the world which for greatest part, though having been called, will remain unconverted.

Can we know for sure the multitudes will remain unconverted?

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in **the four quarters of the earth**, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: **the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:

and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Who are all these people who are unconverted at the end of the Millennium and where do they come from? If the Millennium will be a time when Christ will rule over the nations with His resurrected saints who will teach the nations the true value by which they should live and if it is a time when everyone except a few really stubborn individuals will become converted then how is it that the moment Satan is released there is a very great multitude of deceived people from the four quarters of the world and whose number is as the sand of the sea?

With Christ and His saints ruling over the nations and just about everybody supposedly being deeply converted and full of zeal to obey God and teaching their children to do the same how is it that as soon as Satan is released there is this huge number of deceived people from the 4 quarters of the world.

Who are the ones who can be deceived by Satan? The whole world is presently deceived because it is unconverted.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And Christ tells us that the elect cannot be deceived.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

Would this mean that this very great multitude from the 4 quarters of the world are the unconverted alive at the end of the Millennium; the ones called and not chosen and the ones chosen who did not remain faithful? They are the only ones who can be deceived by Satan. The only time Satan's deception is removed is when someone is called, follows his calling and remains faithful. If ever he turns away from the truth he again becomes deceived.

This great uncountable number of people as the sand of the sea is the proof that during the Millennium it will be the few that will choose to follow their calling and remain faithful and that it will be the many who will not. It also shows that Christ nor His resurrected saints will forcibly rule over the nations of the world.

12] The Holy Spirit coming into us only begets us. It opens our minds so we can understand the coded book, the Bible. Eye has not seen nor ear heard the things God has in store for us, described briefly in the Bible. God does reveal them to His Church by His Spirit that resides in us. Without that Spirit we cannot understand the Bible. Spiritual knowledge comes from the Bible, but by the Holy Spirit.

13] We are only begotten now, not born again. We are heirs, not yet inheritors. The Holy Spirit begets us as children of God, but we are not yet born.

14] The identity of modern Israel. What are America's roots, our national identity? We are Manasseh, one of the lost 10 tribes of Israel. Numerous other groups have some knowledge of this truth, but no major denomination does. The Church of God (Seventh Day) officially rejected this truth. Mr. Armstrong wrote up the proof in an article and sent it to the leader of that church. You'll find a copy of the leader's letter in response in Mr. Armstrong's autobiography.

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. Nowadays because of the great ease of travel, the nations of the world are now being changed by the arrival of immigrants in great numbers from second and third world countries. It used to be that Canadians lived in Canada and the British lived in Great Britain but this is no longer true. These 2 countries, as many other First World countries, are being overrun by immigrants to the point where the native populations are becoming minorities in their own countries.

The net result of this massive immigration has been the erosion of national identities so that countries are no longer composed of a single founding people. Native populations have become so intermixed with other nationalities that the original national identities of nations are being erased. So who is Israel today? Where can its native population be found? No one really knows. The days when a country's native population remained the majority population are long gone. Israel is scattered all over the world and not to be found in any single nation.

15] Prophecy can be understood only if you know that we are the Israelites, and what prophecies apply to us and which do not. Others who do not know Israel's identity can't understand, for example, the 30th chapter of Jeremiah and scriptures like that, which show the Great Tribulation will be the time of Jacob's trouble.

16] The annual festivals, the feast days. What other church knows about them or keeps them? Where did you hear it from? God revealed it to Mr. Armstrong. For seven years he and his wife kept the annual Holy Days

alone. And for seven more years they kept God's Holy Days with the Church in Eugene, Oregon, before God revealed their meaning.

It was not until the end of World War II in 1945 that they began to see that we have to get away from our homes for the Feast of Tabernacles. These Holy Days picture the seven major events in God's plan of salvation. How many of us would have kept God's days for 14 years without fully understanding their meaning?

Comments by Robert G Theophilus.

When Israel entered the Promised Land, the annual feast days were celebrated a certain way but when both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) went into captivity the manner of celebration of these days changed. When Judah came back from its captivity, this is how it celebrated God's 6th annual holy day.

Neh 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Neh 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Neh 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon **the roof of his house**, and **in their courts**, and in **the courts of the house of God**, and **in the street of the water gate**, and **in the street of the gate of Ephraim**.

Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and **sat under the booths**: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

The Israelites celebrated the feast of booths by making booths in their yards and in their court yards and they sat under them. They didn't leave their homes. Nehemiah was a prophet of God and he would have known what was the correct manner of celebrating the feast.

17] The authority of the sacred calendar, preserved by the Jews. Before Mr. Armstrong revealed this to the Church of God (Seventh Day), they

were confused as to when the year should begin. Mr. Armstrong also made clear the importance of the Jews' preservation of the weekly cycle.

18] Second and third tithe. What other church knows these points? The second tithe is for God's feast days. Other churches do not keep the feasts, so they have no reason to have second tithe.

Third tithe is for the needy, primarily within God's Church.

Comments by Robert G Theophilus. The physical nation of Israel were to save a second tithe and every third year, a third tithe.

The second tithe was to be for their celebration of the annual holy days and was to be shared with the Levites, the widows, the orphans and the strangers that were in their gates.

The third tithe was also to be shared with the Levites, the widows, the orphans and the strangers within their gates.

However, in New Testament times, God no longer has a physical nation with a physical priesthood whose sustenance needs to be through tithes and offerings. God's nation is a spiritual one whose members are from all over the world and whose teachers are the holy spirits of the Godhead as they study God's holy Bible. Conversion is something that occurs in the minds of men and is not visible to others. The converted walk unseen among the nations of the world and to each other which is why they are not found in large organizations of men.

God's church is not an organization of men who has given itself the authority to appoint men as apostles, evangelists, prophets, preachers, teachers, etc. and who somewhere in the title of their organization we find the words "church of God."

God's Church has existed throughout the ages without interruption in those called by God the Father and taught by God the Word. Whether alone or in small groups, individually and collectively, they ARE God's Church.

Conclusion

Many of the truths put forward by HWA continue to be valid and this is good. Some of them, are no longer valid and this should not be unexpected as at no one time has there been anyone who had all the truth except Christ. This is how it will be until the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind. It is unavoidable that mistakes will be made by well intentioned people and that of itself, is not a big thing. The really big problem is refusing to correct errors when some are found.

