

What Was the Worldwide Church of God?

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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.

For most of those who were once part of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), the organizational structure, visibility, size and wealth of that organization is what God's church usually looks like. After the death of its Pastor General, Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) and the transformation of the WCG into a mainstream Christian church teaching the Trinity and salvation by grace alone, former members of the HWA WCG set out to find another religious group which best resembled it. Was the WCG model typical of the way God's Church existed through the ages?

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 (Php 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 o 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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What was the WCG is a topic which will prove to be very sensitive with many but which I think needs to be examined and explained to understand just what is God's Church and where it can be found since the death of HWA. You, the reader, will have to be careful not to prejudge this study as being all wrong the first time you come across something which contradicts one of your established belief. Rather, with an open mind, take the time to consider the explanations given before rejecting the points being made. God tells us to prove all things, to keep what is good and reject what isn't.

In order to understand what was the WCG it will be necessary to make sure we have a correct understanding of how God is working out His plan of salvation for mankind, the great changes that occurred in who and what is God's Church as we go from the Old to the New Testament, the changes that occurred in the role of men in God's plan for the salvation of mankind, where we are now since the end of the WCG and what it is we have to do.

I don't pretend to have any absolute truth that you, the reader, has to believe without question. I am only a student of the Bible as all true Christians must be. God tells us all to study, to get knowledge and to get understanding as we study the sure word of God, the Bible. God also tells us all to have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians. Sticking your fingers in your ears and running away screaming whenever you read or hear something that contradicts one of your beliefs will not result in any spiritual growth. The Scribes and the Pharisees refused to hear Jesus and they lost out on becoming part of God's church on the day of Pentecost when they were still in the physical temple in Jerusalem conducting the rituals and symbolic ceremonies of the Old Testament Levitical priesthood.

My goal in writing this study is to review how God's New Testament church has existed since its foundation on the day of Pentecost. We need to view the WCG in context of the overall historical existence of God's Church up to now to get a correct understanding of what it was and of the changes God's Church has undergone through the centuries. We need to review how God's Church existed before the advent of the WCG, how it is existing now and will continue to exist until the coming of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day.

I attended my first WCG Sabbath day service in August 1985, lived through the death of HWA in January 1986 and the beginning of the events ultimately leading to the WCG ceasing to exist. I left the WCG when it became apparent that it was moving away from Biblical truth.

Personally, I have greatly benefited from the teachings of HWA. The studies I had been writing for myself, and which I have decided to publish on a Web site as a means of having spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians, are all based on those teachings of HWA proven to be correct with the Bible. HWA restored many truths that had been lost. I'm sure that he was one of God's called and chosen one and that many truths were revealed to Him as he studied God's holy Bible but HWA was just a man with all the infirmities or weaknesses of the flesh that are common to all men.

HWA ALWAYS encouraged us to verify all he taught against the Bible and if we were to find that anything he taught wasn't right, we were not to follow him but to follow the Bible. Since my calling in 1985 I have spent a considerable amount of time reviewing all the literature produced by HWA as well as having listened several times to all of his taped sermons.

I don't think HWA set out to mislead anyone and I do think that he was sincere in what he taught the organization he called the WCG. The unintentional and good faith errors that he made do not invalidate the many wonderful truths he restored. All of us, despite our best and most honest efforts, our understanding of certain verses of the Bible, though seeming correct to us, will sometimes be erroneous.

HWA was charismatic, a good orator and writer, and he understood marketing. Before being called, he was a skillful advertising man creating publicity to sell various products. His goal in life was to become wealthy and socialize with the rich and famous people of his days. He had business successes and failures and finally, found himself living in poverty. That is the time when he was called. He then began an intensive study of the Bible and was astounded to discover that many of the religious things he had learned as a child were the exact opposite of what the Bible said.

He started looking for God's Church and for a time associated with the Church of God (Seventh Day). He then got into radio broadcasting and had a very successful beginning. His radio audience grew rapidly; people were very interested in what he had to say. Ultimately, he built a huge organization of some 100,000 followers which at its peak had its own television studio, a weekly television program and which published 2 full colour magazines, *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* and a yearly budget of some \$100 million dollars.

I have not mentioned in detail all of the stages of the development of the WCG organization and these you can review by reading through the autobiography of HWA available on the following Web site which you can access by clicking on the following link: [HWA Library](#)

God's First Century Church

The WCG was a religious organization patterned on the way God's NT Church existed when it first came into being; this was God's First Century or Apostolic Church. Christ after having accomplished His mission at His First Coming to the physical nation of Israel, ascended to His Father. Before His death on the stake, He had reassured his disciples that He would not leave them without comfort, that He would come to them, but for Him to be able to do so He had to first return to His Father.

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Christ was the Comforter who was with the disciples and He knew He would not be able to stay with them; and He knew that His disciples would be greatly troubled by He no longer being with them; so, He told them the Father would give them another Comforter.

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [the disciples] know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]

This Comforter is also the Spirit of Truth and Christ told His disciples that they knew who was the Spirit of Truth and Comforter because He dwelled with them, Himself. After His ascension to His Father, He would come to them and be in them and all true Christians.

Joh 14:18 I [Christ] will not leave you [the disciples] comfortless: I [Christ] will come to you. [as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]

The resurrected and glorified Christ will come to the disciples and all truly converted Christians through the ages and He will comfort them by revealing to them the hidden spiritual truths of the Bible.

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Because of Christ's resurrection as the first human being to be born again by a resurrection from the dead, all faithful truly converted Christian can be born again to glorified, immortal spirit existence by a resurrection from the dead.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Christ and the Father are in ALL truly converted Christians.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

How will Christ manifest Himself to those who love Him. He will reveal to them spiritual truth as they study their Bible.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Why did Christ have to go back to His Father so that the Comforter could come to the disciples? Because the resurrected and glorified Christ is the Comforter who would dwell along with the Father in all truly converted and faithful Christians. And, what would He do?

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] 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.

On the day of Pentecost, the Comforter came to the disciples and God's

Church became a spiritual nation where each of its members are those called by the holy spirit God the Father and taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word as they study God's word, the Bible.

God's church went through a period of transition from being a physical organization of men to being a spiritual nation whose members don't belong to a specific nation, or live in a specific geographical area as was the case for ancient Israel who was God's church in the wilderness.

Act 7:38 This is he, that was in the [church in the wilderness](#) with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

For a time, starting on the day of Pentecost, the physical nation of Israel, God's church in the wilderness, co-existed with the God's new spiritual nation but without being accepted by it. Almost from the day of its founding, Christianity was persecuted by the Jews. They thought themselves as being God's chosen people and Jesus as being an impostor and false prophet. Those who followed His teachings had to be eliminated. Persecutions first came from them and then, from a new great false Christian religion which persecuted all religious groups that would not accept its teachings.

God's First Century came under intense persecution and ultimately had to flee into the wilderness. After the death of the apostles and the men they had trained, and following the death of the members of God's First Century Church, the truth they had was lost but for a few outstanding requirements such as having to keep the 10 commandments and observing the Sabbath.

God's nation changed from being a human level kind of organization with ministers who had the truth given the apostles teaching them, to a spiritual one where each truly converted Christian has a personal relationship with God the Father through God the Word, who for a time was Christ Jesus. This great transformation is made clear in the following verse.

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

There is no man or organization of men standing between truly converted Christians and God. Their high priest and teacher is God, not men.

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

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] 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 teachers of God's church would no longer be men as in the days when God's church in the wilderness was taught by the Levitical priests and God's law administered by judges. And, it would no longer exist as it did in the days of the apostles and of the men trained by them as since the death of the apostles and the great scattering of God's Church, there are no men who have the truth given the apostles and the men they had trained. The several doctrinally different churches of God that came into being, even during the days of the WCG, and especially after the destruction of the WCG, clearly demonstrate the proof of this.

God's NT church or nation would be taught God's spiritual truth, through thoughts shared from the mind of Christ to the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones as they study their Bible. It is not something any man can do for another man; it has to be and can only be by revelation from God.

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.

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.

Men can only know the things of the spirit of God by having the holy spirit God the Word dwelling in them revealing God's spiritual truth to them; God's truth is spiritually discerned.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. [in understanding]

Knowledge and understanding are not the same thing. The unconverted world can have a great deal of Bible knowledge but not having the holy spirit God the Word teaching them, they cannot, in most instances, correctly understand the meaning of the Bible verses they memorize and quote to others.

Remember that Christ had to explain to His disciples the meaning of the parables He spoke to the crowds who followed Him because they also could not understand them. They then had not yet dwelling in them the holy spirit.

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

The changeover from being a physical organization to a spiritual one occurred through the persecution and scattering of God's First Century Church and the death of the apostles and of the men they had trained to be ministers and to whom they had given the truth they had received directly from Christ.

Christians fled into the wilderness and lost contact with each other and with their teachers. As these First Century Christians died out, much of the truth they had received became lost. As many of us have experienced, the spiritual truth that we have cannot be given to our unconverted family members and friends. More often than not, all family members are not called as well as any of our friends which makes it impossible to share with them the spiritual truth we have. It was the same situation for the members of God's First Century Church scattered in the wilderness. For the greatest part, when they died, the knowledge they had stayed with them.

God's Church after its scattering continued to exist solely by God's power to call and teach and give men understanding of the spiritual truth of the Bible which is something no man can do; not even the original apostles.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God** gave the increase. [\[in understanding\]](#)

Paul clearly admitted that he had no power to open the minds of men to be able to understand God's spiritual truth. Only God can do it. Since the day of Pentecost, the essential nature of God's Church has been to be spiritual. The existence and continuation of God's Church is wholly by the power of the holy spirit God the Father to call men and the power of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to teach them all things. This is why and how God's Church since its scattering is wholly a spiritual nation.

Its existence and continuation does not depend on any man or organizations of men who don't have any power to call men or give them understanding of God's spiritual truth.

Knowledge is Not Understanding

Knowledge and understanding are 2 very different things.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom [the knowledge AND understanding of God's spiritual truth] is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

In the parable of the sower, Christ makes the distinction between knowledge and understanding

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The seed that falls into the good ground is the person that hears the word of God AND understands it. The spiritual truth of God in the Bible can only be understood by someone when God the Father is calling him and once that person accepts his calling, spiritual truth is made understandable to him by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who comes to dwell in him. And, it is also the person who not only understands the truth but who also puts it into practice (obedience) which results in his bearing fruits i.e., having a changed mind leads the person to live a changed life more in conformity with God's law. Simply growing in knowledge is insufficient, the uncalled world has knowledge but no understanding. Understanding is made possible by the holy spirits of the God family dwelling in the individual Christian and Christians continue having them because they change obey God (Acts 5:32).

Act 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

So, more understanding if it leads leads to more obedience (to things we did not understand before) will lead to getting more knowledge and understanding because we are changing our lives to obey the truth we have been given to understand. Obedience to the knowledge and un-

derstanding we get from the God family as we study our Bible leads to more knowledge and understanding which if followed by obedience leads to more knowledge and understanding in a never ending cycle throughout the Christian life.

The Bible always tells us to get knowledge AND understanding.

Pro 2:3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Pro 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Pro 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Pro 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Having understanding the spiritual truth of the Bible is what God says is having knowledge of the holy

In Proverbs 9:10 we see a great truth unrealized by most and this is that obedience to God is the first step in understanding the wisdom of God; the mind of God, how He thinks and what He is now doing and will do. And, that having the knowledge of how God thinks is what gives us understanding. God gives it to us in bits and pieces, here and there all over the Bible as spiritual food for His spiritual embryos to maintain them as living and growing spiritual organisms to be fully born at Christ's 2nd Coming.

Organization of the Apostolic Church

The Apostolic Church was an organization of men made possible by the fact that the apostles who were then alive, had the truth given them by Christ while He taught them for 3 1/2 years. It was then possible for them to train men called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father

who had the ability to be teachers and pass on to them the knowledge and understanding they, the disciples, had been given by Christ.

Christ had made the disciples apostles and they appointed evangelists to assist them in the fulfillment of the commission given them to preach the Gospel in all the world for a witness unto all nations. God allowed preachers, pastors and prophets as stated in the following verse of Ephesians 4 while the church transitioned from being a mixed physical/spiritual organization to a wholly spiritual nation.

Eph 4:11 And he [God] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

The offices of responsibility mentioned in Eph 4:11 could exist in the days of God's First Century Church because they (the preachers and teachers appointed by the apostles) had the truth given the apostles to teach those called and chosen by God the Father. They were not limited to giving their best guess or personal interpretation of the meaning of the Scriptures; they had absolute truth which the self-appointed modern-day preachers don't have.

The link between the Apostolic Church and future Christians was lost because of the scattering of God's First Century Church. Under ideal circumstances we would still have the truths taught by Christ to His disciples and the Apostolic Church but we don't. Ah!!! but some will say, we have the Bible. Yes, we do but what we don't have is the correct understanding of its spiritual truth as given to the apostles. This is why we have so many different Christian religions all based on the Bible. Why, we now even have many different churches of God who supposedly all take their doctrines from the Bible.

Since more than 1,900 years after the passage of Christ and the many centuries of persecution against God's one true church, there is no one today who can honestly claim to have the absolute truth given the apostles. The proof that they don't have it is that they all have different teachings which keep them apart including the many different churches of God. There is only one truth and if they all had it they would be only one church but they don't have it.

For centuries, God's Church has existed in the scattered members called and chosen by God the Father and taught by God the Word and Spokesman. For hundreds of years, the offices of responsibilities found in the Apostolic Church have NOT existed yet God's Church continued to exist as it was never to die out.

God's one true Church exists and is maintained in existence by the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Word, to call men and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Word and Spokesman, to teach them all things as they study God's word, Christ in writing, the Holy Bible. This is not something that any man or organization of men can ever do.

The nature of God's "one", true NT Church remains a mystery to mainstream Christianity and to the many man-created churches of God.

The Little Flock

God's one true Church was to be a little flock according to your Bible.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

HWA knew this and said more than once that the WCG was an exception and that God had allowed a big church to exist to make it possible for the Gospel to be preached to the world before the coming of the end. All heard him but it would seem not all understood what he said or simply didn't believe him. HWA knew that according to the Bible God's Church usual mode of existence was not to be a large, wealthy and visible-to-the-world organization. This is why he felt the need to provide some justification for the existence of the WCG. It was contrary to what the Bible said would be God's Church, a little flock.

God's church would be small and invisible to the world; why?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Since the day of Pentecost, many (not **ALL** as will occur during the Millennium) are being called by God the Father but few are chosen which is to say, they don't follow their calling and choose to remain in the world.

Of the few who follow their calling, God says the following:

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.

God tells those called and chosen not to take the broad way which is the way of compromise with the world, of trying to serve 2 masters, of

trying to keep a foot in the world and a foot in the church. Why? Because it leads to destruction or loss of salvation.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

And, unfortunately, it is the many who take the broad way and lose their salvation. They don't want to fully abandon their former life in the world while trying to satisfy the requirements of God's law. They want the one without losing the other. Unfortunately, it is not the many who will be saved according to your Bible if you will believe what is clearly and plainly says. This means in practical terms that God's one true Church would not be a large and wealthy organization of men highly visible to the world as the truly converted would always be a small number of people.

God's NT Church would be invisible to the world. Why ?

Conversion is a process that occurs in the mind, a changed attitude from one of hostility to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things. This is not something outwardly visible to others. It is not possible in a given group to identify who among them, if any, are truly converted Christians. This is why it is almost impossible for truly converted Christians to find other truly converted Christians with whom they could have spiritual fellowship. It is a rare thing to even find one.

Copying the Organization of the First Century Church

Men who read the Bible and who saw the different positions [apostles, evangelists, preachers, etc.] that existed in the days of the Apostolic Church have jumped to the conclusion that the way God's Church existed in the First Century is "the" way it should and would always exist.

As well, they have read into the text of Eph 4:11 that the organization of God's Church was hierarchical which is to say, the topmost position was that of apostle, that evangelists reported to apostles, and that preachers and teachers reported to apostles. They say that is God's form of government which is to exist in God's Church. But, there is no indication in Eph 4: 11 that evangelists reported to apostles, that preachers reported to evangelists, etc. A top down, hierarchical form of government is what HWA called the image of the Beast adopted by the Papacy for its own organization. Would it make any sense that it would also be the form of God's government in His Church?

Here is an excerpt from the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, lesson 31 which makes that very point.

The Papacy is called by Catholics the "Hierarchy of Jurisdiction." It is "the GOVERNING BODY of the Catholic Church consisting of the Pope and the other bishops throughout the world." They possess, according to Catholic sources, "the power to make laws, to sit in judgment, and to fix SPIRITUAL penalties when necessary."

Notice its claimed attributes belong ONLY to God. To attribute them to any organization of men is to set that organization in the place of God! -- to commit idolatry -- to worship the "image" of the beast!

So the Papacy, according to these historians, is a model, a counterpart -- an image of the bestial pagan Roman Government. This ecclesiastical government compelled people, at the threat of death, to worship a man-ruled church organized by men into a worldly government.

Although palmed off as the government of God, IT IS in REALITY ONLY AN "IMAGE" OF A HUMAN government!

God's government in God's Church is by God's law written in the hearts (minds) of all truly converted Christians. It is not by the authority of any man, even truly converted ones.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

This is how the conversion of physical Israel will be made possible when God calls them. Those who convert will then become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel and God's law will be written in their hearts (minds). This is the same conversion process that has been going on since the day of Pentecost. Those called and chosen since the day of Pentecost, have God's law written in their minds just as those of the physical nation of Israel who follow their calling will have it written in their minds when the time comes for God to call them. God's law written in the minds of His called and chosen ones is what constitutes God's government in their lives. It is what they use every day to live their lives as Christians as best they can. In truly converted Christians God's government is by God's law written in their minds.

A person is not a Christian because they belong to organizations of men with leaders claiming to represent God's government to them and that failure to obey them is to not be under God's government. *That is a gross misunderstanding of the spiritual truth of the Bible.*

In God's NT spiritual nation there are NO human intermediary or mediator between God the Father and His called and chosen ones.

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

No man can save anyone else but himself and salvation is not something any man can do for another.

SALVATION IS A PERSONAL AND INDIVIDUAL PROCESS BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRITS OF THE GOD FAMILY AND THOSE CALLED AND CHOSEN. IT IS NOT A GROUP PROCESS.

Truly converted Christians are not the result of the work of men, do not report to men, do not stand or fall because they don't please other men or because they do not belong to organizations of men or are expelled (disfellowshipped) from them.

Rom 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

In Rom 2:29 God through Paul is saying that a true Christian, a member of God's spiritual nation, is one whose desire is to obey God and whose goal is to be praised by God for obeying Him (circumcision of the heart). Christians don't have to follow the dictates of any organization of men to be saved.

The misapplication of Eph 4:11 is why we have all these worldly Christian and non-Christian churches having the same or very similar top-down hierarchical organizations where we find a supreme spiritual leader who sets doctrine for the church with subordinates who preach it to their members. And, it is also why, when HWA had research done on the history of God's Church that what the researchers were looking for were organizations which were the same or similar to Eph 4:11.

Those organizations were not representative of the mode of existence of God's Church after its scattering in the wilderness. They occurred infrequently and were short lived. God's one true Church has existed without interruption since its foundation on the day of Pentecost as it is maintained in existence by the power of God. This is not to say there may not have been any true Christians in those organizations but it is a sure thing these organizations were not the way God's Church would usually exist through the centuries and onto the end of God's plan of salvation.

The History of God's Church According to HWA

The document about the history of God's Church which is known by most of those who were members of the WCG, is the one written by Dr Herman L Hoeh "A True History of the True Church" (1959). You can read this document for yourself by going to the following web site: [HWA Library](#)

In this document it is stated that there existed a headquarters church in God's apostolic church, the congregation that was in Jerusalem. Acts 15 is given in support of that belief. Acts 15 speaks about a dispute that arose as to whether Gentiles on coming to conversion should be circumcised and whether they should follow the law of Moses. The decision of the apostles and of the elders in Jerusalem was that the Gentiles need not be circumcised nor have to follow the law of Moses. A letter was given to Judas and Silas to carry back to their Gentile congregations to inform them of the decision.

It's true that for a time there was a headquarters group who answered questions but the big difference between that time and today is that the apostles had been trained by Christ and had the truth given them by Christ. They could be authoritative in their answers to questions brought to them but this they could do, only as long as a question had to do with something they had been taught by Christ. Otherwise, they like Christians through the centuries and us today, would have to search through the Bible for an answer and if there wasn't any clear answer then no authoritative ruling could be made as to what was to be done.

Sometimes, the Bible has a clear answer, sometimes, it gives us an indication of what could be the answer and sometimes, there is no specific and clear answer to be found.

In the days of OT Israel, the judges who administered the law over the

people could go to Moses who went to God who told him what to do to correctly apply the law in certain novel situations. But, in God's NT Church since the apostles and the men trained by them have died out, there is no one with the required knowledge to resolve doctrinal questions if the Bible does not provide it. Of course, this is assuming that God's Church continued as it was in the days of the apostles which as we have been examining, it hasn't.

Acts 15, does not support the continued existence of a headquarters group in God's Church whose responsibility would be to set doctrine for Church members as is believed by the Christian churches of the world and the many "true" churches of God.

The proof is plain before our eyes. Among the many Churches of God in existence today, there all have significant doctrinal differences which keep them apart. If their spiritual leader (which is something no human being can be) had the knowledge to correctly set doctrine in the Church, there would not be many "true" churches of God. There would be only one. There are not and cannot be several different "true" truths; there is only one.

And, supposing there were now and then, small organizations that came into being, here and there in the world, where the type of organization found in the Apostolic Church was re-created by men, it does not necessarily follow that these organizations were indeed, true congregations of God's Church. In the research conducted by Dr Hoeh and many others, they looked for organizations of men who approximated the organization of the apostolic church and who, they say, were preaching the Gospel to the world because they believed that God's Church would always exist as it did during the First Century.

God's Church in NT times, and since the scattering of God's Apostolic Church, is a spiritual nation whose members are scattered all over the world. They are largely by themselves without any ministry of men and are taught by the holy spirits of the God family.

The Conversion of HWA

HWA was a charismatic and gifted orator. He had a great speaking voice and good writing skills. He had been making a name for himself in the marketing world by the clever and interesting ads he wrote to promote the sale of different products. Despite his talents he suffered several reversals of fortune and ended up living in poverty. His goal in life was to become rich and to socialize with the great and powerful men of this world.

He went into an intense study of the Bible after having been challenged by his wife when she announced to him that she believed the Sabbath was not Sunday but Saturday. Then, around the same time, he was also challenged by a brother-in-law who told him he couldn't prove that the theory of evolution was wrong. He began an intensive study of the Bible and he was amazed to realize that in many instances the Bible taught exactly the opposite of what was being taught by mainstream Christianity.

His belief in Saturday as being God's Sabbath brought him to the Oregon Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). After a while, he was invited to give Bible studies and short talks. Then, local church leaders asked him to hold evangelistic meetings in the small town of Fisher, Oregon. He preached nightly in a small country schoolhouse. In 1931, he was ordained as a minister and apostle.

In January 1934, he began the Radio Church of God broadcast and in February 1934, he produced the first issue of the Plain Truth. From this small beginning grew the Worldwide Church of God (WCG).

The Worldwide Church of God

HWA understood God's Church as being a physical organization of men which at different times in its existence became visible to the world and in which would be found some of the positions mentioned in Eph 4:11. He also taught that God always only worked through one man at a time and that God's truth only entered the church through him which he then taught to ministers who taught it to the members of the church.

There is a brief historical overview of the beginning and development of the WCG in Appendix "A" at the end of this study which you may find useful.

When HWA set out to find God's one true church he looked for a group of people, a congregation or an established church whose teachings, at least in part, were Biblically sound. He finally found what he was looking for in a small church located in the Willamette Valley in the state of Oregon. He associated himself with them and he was first ordained to the ministry in 1931 by the Church of God (Seventh Day) — more specifically by its Oregon Conference. His "Ministerial License Certificate," issued March 2, 1932 by the Oregon Conference, reportedly described him as "a recognized licensed minister, and apostle of the primitive faith."

Public recognition of Mr. Armstrong as an "apostle" didn't occur until

1951, when Dr Herman L. Hoeh, a member of the WCG, proclaimed in a sermon (during the Feast of Tabernacles) that “God had filled the office of apostle” with Mr. Armstrong. He was initially “startled” and reluctant to accept the title, but later acknowledged it.

The WCG from its humble beginning grew to become a great and wealthy organization owning beautifully landscaped properties on which were built magnificent buildings, having ministers in several countries, being on television, publishing 2 full colour magazines, owning an executive jet, having a following of some 100,000 members and a yearly income of some \$100 million dollars.

HWA appointed evangelists, preachers, teachers, elders and deacons as the church grew ever bigger with congregations spread over the United States and other countries.

The structure of the organization of the WCG followed that of the apostolic church but as HWA himself said more than once, the WCG as it existed, large and visible to the world and with all the offices of responsibility mentioned in Eph 4: 11 was an exception which did not represent the way God’s church had existed through the ages. According to HWA, the reason why God allowed such a big and visible-to-the-world church was for it to make possible the preaching the Gospel to the world before the end came.

Excerpt from *Mystery of the Ages*, p 265

For that training-that spiritual development of God’s CHARACTER, God has given his Church a DUALresponsibility:

1) “Go ye into all the world” and proclaim the GOOD NEWS-announcement-of the coming kingdom ofGod.

2) “Feed my sheep.”

But in FEEDING the “sheep,” developing in them God’s spiritual CHARACTER, God has given them THEIR PART in supporting, backing up, the great commission: “Go ye into all the world.”

This first and great commission was given to the apostles. To a lesser extent evangelists were used in carrying forth the message. Other leaders-ordained ministers-were sta-

tionary, yet even the local pastor of a church may hold evangelistic services in his area-not the "soul-saving crusade" type, but lectures ANNOUNCING and PROCLAIMING as a witness the coming KINGDOM OF Goo (the true gospel)!

This ENTIRE GREAT COMMISSION-proclaiming the GOOD NEWS of the coming kingdom, and "feeding the sheep"-is a COMBINED administration and function of the Church.

END OF EXCERPT

After HWA's death, many "churches of God" arose and all organized themselves in almost exactly the same way as the WCG. A quick survey of the several "churches of God" headed up by former WCG ministers, which you can easily do by doing a Google search as they are all on the internet, will show that they have men who appointed themselves as apostles and prophets and who appointed others to be evangelists, preachers, elders, etc. You will also be surprised to see the great number of other "churches of God" that exist in the world in addition to the ones who are splinter groups from the WCG while it was pastored by HWA.

The Many "True" Churches of God

The many, new but doctrinally different, "true" churches of God that have made their appearance since the death of HWA all say they are continuing HWA's work which HWA clearly said no one would. All emphases in the text below are from HWA; they are not from me.

Did God raise up a one-man LEADERSHIP to be used by Him in building this spiritual TEMPLE and in proclaiming after 1,900 years the true GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD in ALL THE WORLD--to even go to kings and heads of nations (Rev. 10:11)--in bringing the Church back to the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED (Jude 3)?

HAS THIS HAPPENED, IN YOUR DAYS, AND HAS GOD BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT AS A PART OF IT?

HAS ANYONE ELSE DONE IT?

*He used me in building the Philadelphia era of HIS CHURCH-
-and in proclaiming His Gospel **IN ALL THE WORLD!***

*Now He has brought this Great Commission near its **FIN-
ISH.** Neither I nor you know how much longer will be re-
quired completely to finish it!*

*But as I said at the beginning, some, even in the public
press, are beginning to ask, WHO is the "heir apparent,"
as the newspapers put it? WHO will rule the Church after
Mr. Armstrong?*

*The answer is, **NOBODY!***

Herbert W. Armstrong , Post Office Box 431,
Tucson, Arizona 85702 Tucson, Arizona, March 19, 1981

And, in his book, *Mystery of the Ages* (paperback edition) on page 239
HWA says the following:

*The true gospel has been restored and has gone in power
into [every nation on the face of the earth.](#)*

And, HWA also wrote that:

*The true gospel, for the first time in 1,900 years, has finally
been proclaimed and published [into all the nations of the
earth.](#) (*Mystery of the Ages*, p 291)*

These several and doctrinally different new churches of God also all
initially claimed they were faithfully holding on to the truth preached
by HWA and this was the main thing that drew former WCG members
to them. However, after a while, they started to make what they said
were necessary changes to what HWA taught, as they now had a greater
understanding of the Bible than he did. What was the reaction of the
former members of the WCG sitting before them? They were overjoyed
at having these more advanced truths that HWA never had and were
proud to say, they had progressed past what HWA taught.

In these new, more advanced churches of God we find men appointed
as ministers teaching that it is the duty of members to vote, that Jesus
was not God in the flesh, that those now being called were not predes-
tinated to be called from the foundation of the world, that speaking in
tongues (incomprehensible gibberish) is a God level language which is
a sign of God's holy spirit in a Christian, that women have to cover their

heads when attending services because a woman is not to pray with her head uncovered, that the church has a duty to continue preaching the Gospel as the end has not yet come, etc.

These churches are moving away from the teachings of HWA and are teaching their own interpretations of the meaning of the Bible and their members, many of which came from the WCG, are sitting contentedly in their meetings and uncritically accepting their new teachings. But, if what HWA taught was the truth which they said they once believed, how can the new truths taught by these new churches of God which invalidate what HWA taught also be true?

And, if they really believed and PROVED with their Bible what HWA taught as they were supposed to do, how can they accept the new truths which contradict HWA's teachings. Were they only pretending to believe what HWA taught or are they now pretending to believe the new truths while privately maintaining their belief of what HWA taught so they can be part of a group because their understanding of God's Church is that is a group sitting in a hall with ministers telling them what the Bible means.

The Bible is clear that light (truth) and darkness (error) cannot co-exist.

2Co 6:14 Be ye [truly converted Christians] not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness [truth; light] with unrighteousness? [lies, darkness] and what communion hath light with darkness?

1Th 5:5 Ye [truly converted Christians] are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

1Co 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

In other words, is there more than one true church of God? Is there the Paul CoG, the Apollos CoG, the Cephas CoG, the Christ CoG. Or nowadays we would ask, is there the United CoG, the Living CoG, the Philadelphia CoG, the Restored CoG, the International CoG, etc.? The obvious answer according to your Bible is that there is only ONE church of God.

Is there any requirement for Christians to belong to a group as long

as it has the right name (church of God) and some of their teachings appear to be true? Is being part of group an absolute requirement for salvation?

Did the possibility of being saved end with the scattering of God's First Century Church? Are the only ones who could be saved are those who were able to find one of the few isolated groups across the centuries and become part of them?

God's NT church is a spiritual nation of individuals whom you will not find in large groups visible to the world. Conversion is something that occurs in a person's mind and this is not something that is visible to others. Truly converted Christians not being visible to the world and to each other makes it impossible for them to become large organizations. They don't walk around with crucifix pendants, crucifix earrings or with crosses emblazoned on T-shirts and leather jackets. Truly converted Christians are spread all over the world, are almost always by themselves, and sometimes, are in small groups. They are all taught by God the Word as they study their Bible, not by men or organizations of men claiming to have a calling to be ministers of God.

Preaching the Gospel

HWA saw himself and the church as being responsible for preaching the Gospel to the unconverted world in fulfillment of Mat 24:14

Mat 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 end come.

God had allocated 7,000 years for the administration of His plan of salvation for mankind and when HWA came along the world was nearing the end of the 6th day of creation where a day is a 1,000 years in fulfillment. The Great Tribulation was about to arrive with Christ's 2nd Coming occurring in the 2nd part of the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord. So the Gospel has to be preached as a witness in all the world before the "end" prophesied by Christ would come.

According to Mr. Armstrong, the Gospel is the good news from Christ that God will establish His kingdom on the earth over flesh-and-blood human beings and that this would result in a thousand years of peace, the Millennium. Christ and His resurrected saints would take over control of the governments of this world and conduct vast public reeducation campaigns in the true values by which people should live as a first step in bringing the nations to conversion. It was considered all would convert except a few really stubborn individuals.

HWA died in January 1986 and the membership of the WCG became disillusioned because Christ's 2nd Coming hadn't happened, God's Church had not been taken to the Place of Safety and there were no clear signs that the Great Tribulation was about to begin. The church began to fall apart under the leadership of a new Pastor General. The church's teaching about the Sabbath, make-up and the law were changed and this resulted in many leaving the WCG. Ministers defected and formed new churches of God and many WCG members followed after them. It was the end of the WCG as founded by HWA.

The Church After HWA's Death

The WCG kept its name for a few years and continued under a new Pastor General who introduced major doctrinal changes.

British-Israelism was rejected; HWA's framework of prophecies was abandoned, the "God as a family" doctrine was changed to accommodate the church's new teachings on the nature of God, salvation began to be taught as being by grace only with no law-keeping required, the doctrine of clean and unclean meats was rejected, teachings about the Sabbath and the holy days were changed, and the government of God as being a hierarchy was rejected.

More changes were made after the new pastor general of the WCG died and his son pushed the church even deeper into the mainstream Christian religious doctrines of this world.

The following additional changes were made to the church's doctrines. There was a full adoption of mainstream evangelical Protestant theology, it was accepted and taught that God was a Trinity, and it was taught that justification was by faith and salvation by grace alone.

The reversal of the teachings of HWA was complete.

In 2009, the WCG became the Grace Communion International church having fully departed from the teachings of HWA. This reformed WCG was received with open arms and amazement by the Christian churches of the world. It was, they said, the first time in history that a church preaching heresies had returned to the truth preached by mainstream Christian churches and they were overjoyed.

HWA

It is undeniable that Mr. Armstrong was called and chosen by God and

that he restored many wonderful Bible truths to WCG members. I am convinced of his sincerity and deep desire to teach only God's truth with no intention whatsoever to deceive WCG attendees. However, HWA acknowledged that he was just a man and that despite his best efforts, it was possible for him to unknowingly make mistakes in what he taught. He always reminded everyone that if ever it was discovered that he had unintentionally made a mistake in his understanding of certain parts of the Bible, they were not follow him; they were to follow their Bible. All heard him say it but either didn't believe what he said or simply ignored it.

The mistakes he made do not in any way invalidate the many wonderful truths he gave the Church nor the fact that he was called and chosen. In the following paragraphs I will list what are some of the mistakes he made and you can judge for yourself whether I am right or wrong using your Bible as the criterion of truth. Your criterion or standard of truth cannot be any man; it has to be the Bible. God holds you responsible for proving all things with your Bible and following the truth.

Unintentional Mistakes

Pentecost Celebrated on Monday

For a time, the WCG celebrated Pentecost on a Monday. HWA couldn't believe that any of God's annual holy days would fall on a Sunday, the day of the sun and of sun worshipers which God condemns as idolatry. So, what does the Bible say?

Lev 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath [\[Sunday\]](#) the priest shall wave it.

Lev 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, [\[Sunday\]](#) from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

Lev 23:16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath [\[Sunday\]](#) shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

The correct day for celebrating Pentecost is Sunday and after HWA realized his error, he made the necessary change. An important point to notice here, and which HWA made, was that it should not be unexpected that as more knowledge and understanding is gotten of the Bible, that sometimes, previous beliefs we thought were right will be found to have been mistakes. Unintentional mistakes are not taken into consideration

by God. The bigger mistake of consequence is not changing our beliefs when we discover some of them were wrong.

The Pasadena Campus Auditorium

HWA announced, all of a sudden, that he realized He had to build a house for God which he had been forgetting to do being too preoccupied with the development of the Pasadena campus. He based this belief on the following Scriptures from the book of Hagai.

Hag 1:2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

The first temple had been destroyed by the Roman armies. The Israelites (they were some of the members of the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) who had returned to Jerusalem from their captivity under the Persians were busily building their own houses and were saying that the time had not yet come for the LORD's house or temple to be built.

God through His prophet Hagai told them that the building of His house should take priority over the building of their houses.

Hag 1:3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Hag 1:4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

Hag 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Hag 1:6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Hag 1:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Hag 1:8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and **build the house**; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

This is why the auditorium was built. HWA called it God's house; however, what does the Bible say is God's house in NT times.

Act 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, **dwelleth not in temples made with hands;**

What is the temple in which God and the Word dwell?

1Co 3:16 Know ye **[truly converted Christians]** not that **ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye **[truly converted Christians]** are.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Truly converted and faithful Christians in NT times are the temple of God; no physical building can be considered to be God's temple.

The Gospel

HWA taught that the Gospel was Christ's message to mankind that the day would come when the governments of men would cease and be taken over by Himself and His resurrected saints. In this way the Kingdom of God would be established on the earth over flesh-and-blood human beings and finally put an end to wars, human misery, crime, etc. and that this would occur during the Millennium.

But Christ told Nicodemus that one **MUST** be born again by a resurrection from the dead to immortal spirit existence to enter and see 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.**

Joh 3:6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Luk 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:**

It is not something that can be seen by flesh-and-blood men.

Furthermore, God's spiritual truth is something that can only be understood by the truly converted through the holy spirits of the God family dwelling in them. In order for the Christ and His resurrected saints to be able to teach the nations of the world they would all, or at least a very great number of them, have had to have become converted.

Does the Bible teach that spiritual truth can be taught to the unconverted? (Rom 8: 7; 1Co 2:14) Does it teach that everybody except a few really stubborn individuals will become converted during the Millennium when God the Father will call all men?

A first point to keep in mind is that being called is not the same thing as being converted. It is only a first step, the called out ones must accept his calling and then commit to obeying God in all things to the best of his abilities until the end of his natural life. All will be called during the Millennium but does that mean they will all but a few become converted?

What does Christ Himself tell us about what people do with their calling?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

They are not chosen because they refuse to follow their calling. What about the few of the many called who do follow their calling, what do they do?

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.

Many are called, few are chosen and of the few who are chosen, few enter by the strait and narrow gate that leads unto life.

This means that during the Millennium, most of the population of the earth will NOT be converted even though all will have been called.

Can God rule by force over the unconverted?

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

God will not force anyone in any way to obey Him. Would it then make sense to believe that Christ and His resurrected saints will take over the governments of this world and forcefully teach spiritual truths to the unconverted (will be most of the population) for whom God's truth is foolishness.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man [someone who is not converted] 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. [Requires the presence in them of the holy spirit God the Word.]

HWA taught that all but a few very stubborn individuals will be saved but Mat 22: 14 and 7: 13-14 is clear that it is the few and not the many who will be saved. This has been true since the day of Pentecost, is true today, and will be true during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day.

It is not possible to teach spiritual truth to the unconverted; they are not teachable.

For these reasons, the gospel is not a message from God to mankind that one day, God's Kingdom will be established on this present earth over flesh-and-blood human beings.

What is the "End"?

HWA taught that the "end" spoken of in Mat 24:14 was the end of the governments of men which would occur during the Millennium after Christ's Second Coming. As has just been demonstrated, God's Kingdom will not be established on the earth during the Millennium and therefore, the "end" mentioned by Christ in Mat 24: 14 is not the end of the governments of men.

Mat 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 end come.

Something of great importance to notice in Mat 24: 14 is that the "end" can only occur after the Gospel has been preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. All nations must have heard it not just the nations that existed at a certain point in time but all nations since the creation of mankind until the end of God's plan of salvation which occurs at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day. This is not something that could ever be done by any man or organizations of men.

Each and every man who has ever lived MUST have heard and believed the Gospel to be saved by the time of the Great White Throne Judgment.

Mar1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to EVERY one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1Co 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

The Gospel was not preached in the first 4,000 years of mankind's existence. It only began to be preached at Christ's First Coming. Who can preach the Gospel to those who have long ago died and never heard it? Who will preach it to those who, since the passage of Christ, were never called, who never heard the Gospel and are dead?

The "end" cannot come until all these dead people who never heard the Gospel are given a chance to hear it, repent and believe it, and be saved.

When is the time when all of mankind will have heard it? It will happen at the beginning of the Last Great Day when all those who have never heard the Gospel will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence. Who can teach it to them? Their teachers will be the same as the church's teachers since the day of Pentecost, the holy spirit God the Father will call them and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman will teach all those who will follow their calling.

So when will the "end" mentioned in Mat 24:14 come?

It will come at the end of the Last Great Day when all of mankind that has ever existed will have heard the Gospel. The Great White Throne Judgment will take place, the goat, the wicked will die in the Lake of Fire and the sheep, God's called, chosen and faithful will become glorified spirit being and the earth, and the universe will be burnt up, and a new heaven and a new earth will be created. The end has come.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. [the END of God's

plan of salvation has arrived] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

The end spoken of by Christ in Mat 24:14 is the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind, the end of flesh-and-blood human beings, the end of this present heaven and earth and the creation of new ones.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Can Men Teach the Gospel to the Unconverted?

The Gospel is spiritual truth which to the unconverted is foolishness. They cannot accept it, always reject it and will become hostile toward anyone persisting in trying to preach it to them.

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

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.

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Most of the people, though many are now being called, will remain unconverted because they refuse to follow their calling or return into the world after having followed their calling for a time.

It is impossible to preach the Gospel to them as they cannot be taught spiritual truth; they are unteachable.

God the Father is the only one who can call and choose men by a great one-time miracle where their minds are opened to accept spiritual truth. It is not something any man can do.

Aside from the fact that spiritual truth is foolishness to the unconverted there is a very real and insurmountable human level linguistic problem facing anyone who would want to preach the Gospel to the world. Presently on the earth there is an estimated 7,000 different languages spoken not counting the ones spoken centuries ago and which no longer exist. What organization of men could even reach those who are alive today considering the multitude of languages spoken. It is not a task that could ever be accomplished by any man or organizations of men.

God the Word is the teacher of God the Father's chosen ones and is the only one who can reach each and every human being that has ever lived in all their very great diversity of languages. This happens at the time when they are called. All of humanity will have been called by the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind. Those never called from Adam and Eve to Christ's 2nd Coming will be called when they are resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

The success or failure of God's plan of salvation does not, cannot and has never depended on men who despite their best intentions are unreliable and have no power to call men to salvation and to open their mind to understand God's spiritual truth.

The Night to be Much Observed

HWA taught that the Night to be Much Observed is the night Israel left Egypt.

Exo 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

Exo 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

When did Israel leave Egypt?

Num 33:3 And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the **fifteenth day of the first month**; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

They left Egypt at twilight as the 15th day was starting. Once the sun set though there is still some light remaining, a new day has started. At dusk or twilight a new day starts.

Exo 12:42 It is a **night to be much observed** unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

There is a night to be observed for bringing Egypt out of Egypt. Because of the events that occurred on a certain night Israel was delivered from its Egyptian slavery.

What was that night?

The night of the Passover.

How and why would the night Israel left Egypt have such great significance and importance that God would want it to be remembered in a special way every year since it had nothing to do with determining their fate as an enslaved nation under the Egyptians?

The night to be much observed is the night when the angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites without killing the firstborn of their family and of their animals as he did to the Egyptians. It is the miraculous events of that night that made it possible for Israel to finally be freed from its 430 year slavery under the Egyptians. This is why the Passover, the night when God through the angel of death He sent made it possible for Israel to leave Egypt is a night to be much observed.

The Firstfruits

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

How is Christ a firstfruit and of what is He a fruitful of?

Christ is the firstfruit of those who sleep which is to say, who are dead. He is a firstfruit of the dead by His resurrection to immortal spirit life. Of all human beings who have ever existed, He is the first and only one to be resurrected to immortal spirit life which is what makes Him a firstfruit of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Christians alive today and those who died in the past and who will die in the future are only a kind of "firstfruits" of God's plan of salvation.

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. [\[of God's spiritual creation\]](#)

They are a kind of firstfruits because they have not yet been resurrected from the dead to immortal spirit life. They are the yet to be the gathered firstfruits of God's spiritual creation which will occur at Christ's 2nd Coming and in the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day.

God Only Works Through One Man at a Time

HWA taught that God only works through one man at a time and this was true for how God acted in the OT but there was a radical change in the NT with God's nation no longer being physical but spiritual.

In the book of Jeremiah God says He will give Israel pastors according to His heart who will not abuse the sheep and feed them with knowledge and understanding.

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

And, in the book of Ezekiel God say He will cause the shepherds (men) to cease from feeding the flock because all they have done is abuse them and exploit them for their personal gratification and their own enrichment.

Eze 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 34:2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, [\[something to happen in the future\]](#) and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Eze 34:3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

Eze 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Eze 34:5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

Eze 34:6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Eze 34:7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Eze 34:8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but [the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock](#);

Eze 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Eze 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, [I am against the shepherds](#); and I will require my flock at their hand, and [cause them to cease from feeding the flock](#); neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for [I will deliver my flock from their mouth](#), that they may not be meat for them.

As has already been mentioned, God will not force men to obey Him and we also know that once converted doesn't mean always converted. So, there is no assurance that any man could be a pastor according to God's heart.

If we spend a bit of time, examining what goes on in the many "churches of God" that have arisen since the death of HWA, what we see is pastors who are tyrannical toward their flocks and don't feel any shame in not even extending to them the common courtesies and respect that are common to men in the world. Their flocks are there to serve them and for them to exploit them. They are the awesome and great teachers of God's truth who are owed respect and admiration lest the sheep feel their righteous wrath.

This is quite different from how the Bible says ministers of God are to treat their fellow believers.

1Ti 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him [as a father](#); and the younger men [as brethren](#);

1Ti 5:2 The elder women **as mothers**; the younger **as sisters**, with all purity.

1Ti 5:3 **Honour widows** that are widows indeed.

Is this what you see happening in the “church of God” you attend?

So, who are the pastors according to God’s heart who would never abuse and exploit their flock and which are to replace human pastors?

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;

In God’s one and only true Church He is no longer speaking through men to his nation which in NT times is spiritual. God’s Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father’s called and chosen ones is the one who speaks to spiritual Israelites, the truly converted Christians of God’s spiritual nation. Since the day of Pentecost, He is teaching His spiritual nation by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [In this instance this is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.] whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you [The disciples and all truly converted Christians through the ages.] all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Since the day of Pentecost, each and every truly converted Christian has dwelling in him the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

All truly converted Christians are being taught and are having God’s spiritual truth revealed to them by the in-dwelling presence of God the Word and Spokesman as they study God’s word, the Bible. The Bible is the physical point of contact between God and men when the holy spirits of the God family dwell in them.

In NT times, and since the day of Pentecost, God is no longer working

through one man at a time nor through any man but with every truly converted Christian through their one and only mediator, Christ.

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

The holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman are the true pastors of God's NT spiritual nation who will never abuse them and use the flock to feed themselves.

Was HWA an Apostle?

This is a very touchy subject with many and one which does not tolerate any opposing views. Do you want to immediately become an outcast, simply mention that HWA was not an apostle and it is done. As sensitive a subject as may be the apostleship of HWA, Christians are not to be led by their emotions but are to prove all things with their Bible.

Are you sufficiently emotionally stable to be able to consider what the Bible says about the creation of apostles?

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (**not of men, neither by man**, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

1Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the commandment of God** our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Were there to be more apostles in God's Church following the death of the original apostles? If there were to be more apostles, wouldn't we be able to find clear instructions in the Bible on how men can ordain men to be apostles?

I haven't found any verses where God tells men how to proceed to ordain apostles.

As has been previously explained in this study, God the Father and God the Word are the preachers/teachers in God's NT spiritual nation of Israel. And, we know that every man that has ever lived will be called before the end of God's plan for the salvation of mankind. Many are being called now and during the Millennium, all will be called. All those never called from Adam and Eve until the end of the Millennium will rise up in the resurrection to flesh-and-blood at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

They will all be taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

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.

Since it is necessary to have heard and believed the Gospel, it is a sure thing that the Gospel is one of the things the holy spirit God the Word will teach them in addition to many other spiritual truths. In this way all of mankind will have known the Gospel and be given to opportunity to repent and believe it before the end of God's plan of salvation arrives.

Only the holy spirits of the God family can reach every person that has lived since Adam and Eve to the end of the Last Great Day and in this way fulfill the requirements of Matt 24:14 for the Gospel to be preached in all the world unto all nations before the end comes.

Final Remarks

Again, for any of you, who may think that I don't appreciate the truth given us by HWA, let me just say that I think the truth he gave us is invaluable and it forms the basis of all that I write.

I have no desire whatsoever to depreciate or vilify Mr. Armstrong in any way. I have but the greatest respect and admiration for the work he did.

I am only doing what he always told us to do and that is to prove all things and not follow any teachings which we may discover to have been in error.

God tells us all the very same thing. We are to prove all things, **reject** what is false and **keep** what is good always after having proved it with our Bible, the sure word of God.

Mr. Armstrong was definitely used by God to restore many important and precious truths which had been lost over the centuries of persecution that came upon truly converted Christians. He was a man whose personality, intelligence and abilities ideally suited him for developing the large organization that was the WCG in response to his personal conviction that such an organization was required to provide the means to preach the Gospel to the world.

It is possible, and it will always be possible, for all of us, no matter how well intentioned we may be, to unknowingly and unintentionally make mistakes in our understanding of the Scriptures. However, in God's eyes we remain His faithful servants and sons who are doing their best to obey

Him. God does not take into account good faith errors which are unintentional mistakes we may make in our understanding of the Scriptures as we obey God's command to us to study.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Mr. Armstrong did a great spiritual work and those of us who have taken the time to study in depth what he taught are spiritually richer for having done so even if he made mistakes in some of the things he taught. Personally, I have greatly benefited from his teachings found in his many books, booklets, taped sermons and videos and without him, this Web site would not be possible.

Hopefully, this study will be useful to you who have had the patience to read through it.

As I always say, I, just like all other truly converted Christians, do not have any absolute truth that all are to uncritically believe. Please do check out with your Bible all that is said in this study and do keep what is good.

These studies are an indirect way of having spiritual fellowship with other true Christians wherever they may be in the world.

If nothing else, they are food for thought and possibly launch points for you to conduct your own studies.

References

You may be interested in reviewing the following studies dealing with who, what and why God's Church.

Just click on the titles to be taken to the document.

- [God's Church Today](#)
- [God's Church is Spiritual](#)
- [Who Can Feed the Flock?](#)
- [God's Church after its Scattering](#)
- [Why God's Church?](#)

The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God

by Herbert W. Armstrong
Good News Magazine September 1980

Summary of Article

The Church began in August 1933 with only 19 members during the Great Depression.

Mr. Armstrong gained a free radio slot on KORE in Eugene, Oregon in late 1933.

This led to the launch of The World Tomorrow broadcast on January 7, 1934.

The Plain Truth magazine—an idea from 1927—was finally launched Feb 1, 1934, mimeographed with 350 subscribers.

The work began with no funds, no equipment, and makeshift tools.

Offices were tiny, windowless, rented for \$5/month, filled with old tables and salvaged materials.

Mr. Armstrong and his wife used a hand-cranked Neostyle printer to produce the magazine.

The couple lived in deep poverty, facing persecution and extreme sacrifice.

Mr. Armstrong describes his earlier life as driven by ambition, status, and business success.

God “smashed” this idol through repeated business collapse, client bankruptcy, and long-term financial failure.

He spent 28 years in economic hardship which he believes God used to crush ego and produce repentance.

True repentance is described as painful, requiring the destruction of personal idols and total surrender.

Human nature is not innate but “broadcast” gradually by Satan.

Appendix “A”

God’s nature likewise must enter gradually; spiritual growth is a life-long process.

Conversion requires deep turning from the old self, continual overcoming, and patient maturity.

Mr Armstrong emphasizes that he had no grand plan; the expansion was Christ’s doing.

The three-point campaign (radio, magazine, evangelism) expanded beyond anything he imagined.

Mr, Armstrong stresses that he was merely a tool—credit belongs entirely to Christ.

Early evangelistic campaigns created small churches, but most dissolved due to lack of ministers.

Cooperation with other Church of God groups brought persecution and conflict.

Plans for Ambassador College began in 1946; the college opened October 8, 1947.

By the early 1950s, trained ministers emerged, allowing long-lasting churches to form.

The work expanded to major U.S. cities, then coast-to-coast, and eventually worldwide.

Mr. Armstrong says God revived His Church after 1,900 years to carry a restored message to nations, leaders, and kings.

The ultimate purpose: prepare the world for the Kingdom of God, world peace, and universal salvation.