

The Seal of an Apostle

The Biblical Proof of Mr. Armstrong's Office

Introduction

Some people believe that there can be no more apostles than the original 12 disciples who were selected and taught by Christ and who became witnesses to his persecution, death, burial and resurrection. And even some of God's people now believe this. But the Bible reveals otherwise. You will soon see that there are more than the original 12 apostles mentioned in the Bible.

In addition, you will learn the truth regarding how apostles are selected, how a Christian can prove whether a man has been selected to serve in this office. And the word of God will leave no doubt in your mind that at the end of this age, at least one more apostle would be sent into this world.

You will find that everything that is stated in this document is Biblical in nature. You will learn that the doctrines that are contained in this document are part of the "original truths" that were restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church, an era which Jesus Christ said "kept His word", Rev. 8 & 10.

You will also see and how an apostle, or for that matter, how a true minister of Christ can disqualify himself from the ministerial office that they gave been selected to serve in.

This article will contain the quotes from the material that was produced and written in the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Herbert W Armstrong. And all of the material that is quoted will be cited with the source, author and in most cases the date as well, so that everyone can confirm its authenticity.

Were There More Than 12 Original Apostles?

The original apostles are all mentioned in Acts 1:13, “And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.” Matthias was chosen to replace Judas in Acts 1:26. So Matthias is the first apostle mentioned in the Bible who was not one of the original 12.

“Surely everyone will agree that there were 12 original apostles. They are mentioned by name in several places including Acts, the first chapter. Because one of those apostles, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Christ and later hanged himself (Matt. 27:5), it became necessary to select a replacement. The Acts account states that Matthias was the one selected by God (Acts 1:26) to replace Judas. The list of named apostles of Christ now totaled 13 in the New Testament.”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

The next apostles who were not of the original 12 are named in chapter 14 of the book of Acts. They are Paul and Barnabas “Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out...”, Acts 14:14. So far we have seen 3 additional apostles, Matthias, Paul and Barnabas, who were not part of the original 12 apostles.

“The next apostles named in Acts are mentioned in chapter 14. Note verse 4, ‘But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.’

“Who were these apostles? The previous chapter, verse 50, identifies them as Paul and Barnabas. This now brings our total to 16 named apostles. Lest there be any question about Paul and Barnabas, notice also Acts 14:14, ‘Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard ... they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out.’”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

A reference is made in I Corinthians 9:5 that indicates that there were additional apostles who were more than likely the half brothers of Jesus Christ, “Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, **as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord**, and Cephas?”. The reference to these extra apostles has been underline and bolded in the scripture that was just quoted.

“The next apostle is referred to in I Corinthians 9:5. Here Paul refers to ‘other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas [Peter]?’

“It is obvious from this statement that more than one brother of the Lord was an apostle. The book of Jude was written by the brother of James. He was also the half brother of Jesus Christ, so it would

seem that at least Jude is included in this statement. Conceivably, the other brothers Josés and Simon could have been included. Notice Matthew 13:55:

“Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Josés, and Simon, and Judas?”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

There are some who believe that those who are called to be apostles must be witnesses to the persecution, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But there is no such Biblical teaching. On the contrary, there is no indication that Paul and Barnabas were witnesses to these events.

“Some claim that those called apostles must have seen Christ. But there is no indication in the Scriptures that Barnabas saw Jesus. Likewise, the Bible nowhere states any such requirement of an apostle of Jesus.

“Others have claimed that it was necessary that an apostle be with Christ and be a witness to His resurrection. The Scriptures do not indicate that the apostles Paul and Barnabas were witnesses of His resurrection.”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

The Office of an Apostle

So how is a man selected to serve in the office of an apostle? And who selects the men who serve in the highest ministerial position in the Church? Once again, you will see the word of God come to life and reveal the truth on this important subject.

The word apostle comes from the Greek word that means “one sent forth” and the implication from the Bible is that these men are sent forth with a message. In Matthew 28:18-20, the Bible reveals that it is Jesus Christ who sends these men forth and that He sends them with the message of the gospel of the kingdom of God “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen**”, Matt. 28:18-20.

“The word apostle comes from a Greek term that literally means one sent forth. Some authorities explain that it means one commissioned. Others define it as one sent with a special message or commission.”

“This word was also used in the Greek-speaking world in reference to people who were not of apostolic office in God's Church. A person who was sent by another person or group might be referred

to as an apostle. **It is important to know who does the sending, and therefore the power vested in the individual sent forth.**

The Good News Magazine, "How Many Apostles Were There?", Leroy Neff, February 1980

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but," now notice, notice the function of the church, to back up the apostles. **The apostles are the ones that were sent forth with proclaiming the message.** "But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him," for Peter. And the result is that God sent an angel, and just simply broke the chains, the big steel or iron chains that held his hands and feet, and opened the doors and released him, and got Peter out of there...

"Notice now in Acts 4:23. 'And being let go' from prison, 'they went to their own company,' the company of newly converted Christians now, 'and they reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them, and when they heard this, **they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and they said, Lord, thou art God which hast made heaven and earth and the sea,**' **and they asked them to give these apostles the power, and the courage, and to make it possible for them to go ahead with the mission, and to carry on this great commission of getting the announcement of the kingdom of God on out.**

"Now, I would like to show you that the great commission was given not to the church, but to the apostles. It isn't a message to the church, that the church is given the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. **If you will turn with me first to Matthew 28, beginning with verse 16 (Matthew 28:16): 'Then the eleven disciples...'** Now Judas had left them, you see, and they had not yet chosen Matthias to take his place.

"Then the eleven disciples' who became now apostles, 'went away into Galilee into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them, and when they saw him they worshipped him but some doubted' **and Jesus came and spake unto them, that is the eleven, not the whole church, only the eleven. And said, 'all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'"**

World Tomorrow Telecast, "The Church and Its Purpose", Herbert W Armstrong, July 29, 1978

"So you see that, Paul, right from the start. Most people don't see that there's anything important in that sentence, but it's very important. **Paul was an apostle by the will of God.** If I'm not an apostle by the will of Christ, then I am not an apostle at all, and don't deserve to be.

"If I'm an apostle by the will of all of the people in the Church, or by a vote of the Church, **I could not be a real apostle at all, unless I'm an apostle by the will of Jesus Christ, because he chose me and because he has made me an instrument that he can use. And because I am merely that, an instrument,** and that he is using me and putting thoughts in my mind as he does, and guiding me."

Bible Study, "Ephesians 1", Herbert W Armstrong, December 20, 1980

It is important to note that the Church, which is the membership, has an important role in proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God to the World. The role of the membership is to support the apostle through their tithes, offerings, prayers, and in any other duty that is directed by an apostle. But as you have seen, the

members are not the ones commissioned by Jesus Christ with this duty. There must be a living apostle, or one who has been selected for this office by Jesus Christ, to lead and direct the membership in accomplishing this mission.

“And Peter then was led out of the prison because the brethren had prayed. You see, the lay members of the Church were given the part of backing the apostles who were to get the gospel out. The word ‘apostle’ simply means ‘one sent forth’ with the gospel. **And it was the apostles that were taking the gospel to the world, not the lay members, but the lay members backed them with their prayers, with their tithes and in every way with their encouragement, every way that they could.**”

Sermon, “Receivership and Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 5, 1980

“Notice now the King James translation, ‘Afterward he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat... And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...’ (Mark 16:14-16). Of course NONE could believe and be baptized EXCEPT those God the Father specially called. So there is NOWHERE ANY CONTRADICTION. **The GREAT COMMISSION was given to the APOSTLES — those ‘sent forth’ with the message — NOT the lay members of the Church.**”

“What then? **Did not the lay members have any part in proclaiming the Gospel?** Definitely they did, as we have seen. **Their part was to back up the apostles — stand behind them with their prayers, encouragement, tithes and offerings.** They are PART OF A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM, as we shall show in more detail.”

Special Topics, “Where Is The True Church?”, Herbert W Armstrong

“So here came another incident showing how the Church supported the apostles. Continue, verse 5 of Acts 12: ‘... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him’ —Peter. **The brethren stood loyally 100 percent back of God's apostles...**”

“Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION to the apostles—those sent forth with the message. **The lay brethren were added to the Church to support the apostles.**”

Plain Truth Magazine, “7 Proofs Of God’s True Church: Part 5”, Herbert W Armstrong, June-July 1979

The True Gospel

Before we proceed to the very next point, it is important to understand just what is the true gospel. The true gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God. It is the message that Jesus Christ proclaimed after he qualified to replace Satan on the throne of this Earth. And it is the same message that the 1st century apostles were sent forth into the world to preach.

But after the first century, the true gospel, the good news of the kingdom of God, was not been proclaimed. A false gospel about the person of Jesus Christ has been taught by traditional christianity and this world has not heard of the good news of the world tomorrow for over 1800 years, that is, until it was proclaimed to the world in the 20th century. This vital and important fact will become extremely significant in the very next point.

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ was not proclaimed to the world for 1,900 years. It was suppressed back in the year about 53 AD until in our time in the year of 1953. I want you to listen while I read to you what the apostle Paul in the New Testament wrote to the churches in Galatia, about 53 AD, the churches in Galatia in Asia Minor. That is the country that is now the country of Turkey.

“He said, [Gal. 1:6] ‘I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.’ They had turned to another gospel. Now it was not really a gospel, because gospel is good news and this was not. So he said, ‘Which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Jesus Christ.’

“You know it is hard to believe, but it has been perverted through all these years. Millions and millions have heard a gospel. We talk about hearing the gospel. There are millions who hear it or think they do, every Sunday. **But what gospel is it? What gospel is it? And what gospel is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

“I'd like to have you turn with me, if you have a Bible, and otherwise just listen as I turn now to Mark the first chapter and the first verse. That is the very beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and notice what gospel He preached. It is a gospel that has not been preached for 1,900 years until the year of 1953.

“Mark 1, verse 1 in the New Testament, ‘The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God’ and then in verse 14, ‘Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel’, but now listen, **what gospel? Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.’ The gospel of the kingdom of God!**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The True Gospel - Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“My friends, do you know what is the World Tomorrow? It's the very thing that was the subject of the true Gospel which God sent to mankind, and which mankind has spurned and rejected and which we have not been hearing about, for over 1800 years.

“Believe it or not, the true Kingdom of God has not been proclaimed, and people have not been hearing about it. And that was the message, the only true Gospel, which God sent by Jesus Christ.

There have been other gospels. There have been even other concepts of a kingdom, a distorted type of kingdom, that has been proclaimed but not the Kingdom of God, not the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Christ’s Parables Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Well, men continued to extol the name of Christ, and they've done that clear down through the centuries until now. They took the name of Christ but, my friends, they dropped off the message of

Christ. Jesus Christ came preaching a certain gospel, a certain message. He said, 'He spoke nothing of himself, the Father that sent him gave him a commandment, what he should say, and what he should speak.'

"And the message that He brought was the good news of the Kingdom of God. And that, actually, when you understand it is the good news of the World Tomorrow. Now, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God.

"The Kingdom of God is the government of God, it's the rule of God, and God rules by His laws. So, it is the law of God in action in our lives. That, my friends, the churches renounced, that they rejected! They have accepted Christ, they have extolled Christ, they have proclaimed their message, their gospel about the person of Christ. But Christ's message, the message that God sent, the way to peace and prosperity, and everything good that we want, men have rejected."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Christ's Parables Part 2", Herbert W Armstrong

The Apostle of the 20th Century

We have seen the Biblical passages that apostles are called by God and are "sent forth" by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel. And since apostles are called by God and "sent forth" by Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel, it should be noted that at least one additional apostle would have to be sent forth by Jesus Christ before the end of this age to announce the good news of the kingdom of God so that the prophecy in Matthew 24:14 could be fulfilled, "**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.**"

And the man that was chosen and that was used as a human instrument to accomplish this mighty work, this incredible mission, was Mr. Herbert W Armstrong. He thundered this message in the 20th century throughout the world and he went forth into many nations with this message. The true gospel of the soon coming kingdom of God, which had not been proclaimed for over 1800 years, was proclaimed right on time and just as Jesus Christ prophesied would occur before the end of this age.

"Now that 6,000 years is almost up, the KINGDOM OF GOD is about to take over and GOVERN this earth. **The time has arrived when God wants the imminency of His KINGDOM to be ANNOUNCED to all the world.**

"The living Christ trained and chose me to carry out that staggering and tremendous GREAT COMMISSION."

Plain Truth Magazine, "How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1977

“Often, I have wondered, why did Jesus Christ chose me, and trained me, and bring me up, and trained me, to be His Apostle for the Church in this day?” Now, I look at religious leaders. I look at men like Billy Graham. All right, take this, Jerry Falwell now. He is starting a big political movement and he has a full hour program on television, here in Tucson. Just in one hour before I come on the same station, he goes off and I come on with my program. Or, take Oral Roberts, or take this man of the 700 Club, Pat Robertson. Why did God choose me instead of one of those men?”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 15”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 3, 1980

“Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that **Christ did not train all of the people.** And there were, oh within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, it might have been the very next day, the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people. **But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.**

“Later, He taught, and apparently appeared, after He had gone to heaven, and yet came down, and **appeared to Paul the apostle, in Arabia. And taught him just as He had taught the other apostles. God sent them! Apostle is a word that means one sent forth, One sent forth.**

“I am sent forth! And if I go forth, and leave here, some people say, ‘Well, why isn't Mr. Armstrong staying here in Pasadena and taking care of the Church?’ I'll tell you why! The Church is supposed to help me, not me take care of you! **I am one sent forth with the gospel message! That's what God has laid on me!**

“The apostle is the one sent. Not you. You are to back. You will find, in the New Testament, the Church didn't go out. The apostle's went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been beaten, who went out preaching, and that was Philip. And God blessed him because he had been with the apostles. But he then became a minister, and became an evangelist.

“But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. **An apostle is a word that means one sent forth with Christ's message.** And I just look back at the fruits of the last fifty-one years. And I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because "by their fruits" you know, and that's how I know.

Sermon, “Zerubbabel's Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

The “Open Door”

An “open door” is the Biblical term that is used to describe when an opportunity to preach the gospel has been given by God. An “open door” to preach the gospel in Troas is mentioned by the apostle Paul in II Cor. 2:12. Notice that the open door was given to him by Jesus Christ. And since it is Christ who sends these men forth with the message of the gospel, it should be no surprise that it is also Christ who opens the door for these men to accomplish their mission. In Col. 4:3, the apostle Paul petitioned the Colossian congregation for their

prayers to proclaim the mysteries of Christ, which is the gospel. And he used the term “open door” in this scripture.

There is an additional way to confirm that Mr. Armstrong was the man who was sent forth as an apostle to fulfill the prophecy in Matt. 24:14. And that confirmation is found in Rev. 3:7-8. An “open door” was provided by Jesus Christ to announce the wonderful news of the world tomorrow during the Philadelphia era of the truth, a Church era that proclaimed the gospel through a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong. The announcement of the gospel that was prophesied to occur in Matt. 24:14 harmonizes perfectly with the open door to preach the gospel in Rev. 3:7-8.

“Since 1968 God began opening doors through seemingly unusual circumstances for personal meetings with kings, presidents, and leaders in education, commerce, and industry. It was absolutely providential. Many came to have a warm, and even affectionate feeling toward me.

“At first I didn't understand why this was happening. But I did know it was God's doing. **For doors were opening miraculously** and the warmth of their feeling toward me was far beyond normal. In most cases I soon became acquainted with high-ranking officials under these heads of state — such as members of the cabinet, members of their law-making bodies (Diet, Parliament, etc.). Dinners were hosted in my honor. Opportunity began opening for ‘testimonial dinners’ where one or more high officials acted as host, sent out invitations to the most influential leaders, and I could have thirty-five to forty-five minutes to present a message of the soon coming Kingdom of God.

“About two years ago, God began showing us how to develop these open doors into large-scale Public Appearance Campaigns, reaching hundreds and thousands of leading people in these countries.

“I have come to see that the commission to take the gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world for a witness to all nations could only be accomplished through the very heads of government!

“I have explained this time and time again in letters, editorials, and articles. I am now actively holding campaigns in world capitals, speaking before professional groups, even with heads of state worldwide! I am explaining why there is no peace — what is the way to peace — why humanity cannot solve its problems — why Christ's coming world government is the world's only hope! — and what is our very purpose for being! And I am being given grace and favor in their eyes!”

Book, “Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong – Volume 2”, Herbert W Armstrong, Chapter 80

“From the year 1931, exactly 1,900 years (a century of time cycles) from the foundation of the Church, this small remnant of **the original true Church of God began to take on new life as the Philadelphia era.** It had come to the ‘time of the end.’ A new spiritual vitality was infused into it. **The time had come for Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24:14 to be fulfilled-‘this gospel of the kingdom shall be [proclaimed]**

in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' **Such vital truth that had been lost was gradually revealed and proclaimed** ...

"This era of the Church was to produce fruit. **To this era-or to its human leader-God had set before it an open door. It is recorded in II Corinthians 2:12 and also Acts 14:27 how Christ opened the door for Paul to go into other countries to preach the gospel.** This Church and/or its leader had but little strength. Neither were of great and powerful stature in Satan's world but **those of this era were faithful to the Word of God.** Though much of **the original gospel truth,** imparted to the original apostles by Jesus in person, had been lost, it **was restored through the Bible to this era of God's Church who were faithful in keeping it** ...

"The human leader to be raised up somewhat shortly prior to Christ's Second Coming was to prepare the way-prepare the Church-for Christ's coming, and restore the truth that had been lost through the preceding eras of the Church. **Also a door was to be opened for this leader and/or the Philadelphia era of the Church to fulfill Matthew 24:14: 'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'"

Mystery of the Ages, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 290-291

"**Church at Philadelphia:** ...These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth ,and no man openeth.** I know your works: behold, I have set before thee an open door.

"NOW, if you'll trace that 'open door' in Paul's writings, you will see that God set an open door before him. An 'open door' merely means (it's a figure of speech) that God opens the way to get the gospel message out. Now He's opened to us a door to go to the Gentiles and the nations of the earth and the kings of those nations. He didn't open that door for the Sardis Church. And no man in the Sardis Church, Thyatira or those before ever announced the gospel of the Kingdom to kings, heads of government and other top men in the governments of the Gentile nations around the world. They just never did.

"I have been doing it and **I am the one Apostle that God has chosen and with whom and through whom He built this church. The Gospel did not go to the world until this church came and started taking it to the world.** It absolutely was not preached at all."

Pastor General's Report, "Excerpts of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong's Sabbath Sermon", Herbert W Armstrong, June 26, 1978

Special Talents & Abilities

But why was Mr. Armstrong chosen and trained for this important commission? Why is a man chosen for to fulfill the office of an apostle? These men are chosen for this special mission according to the abilities that they have which are enhanced by the spirit of God, Matt. 25:14-23.

“We don’t all have ability to do the same things. God is showing us that He gives special abilities to special people for different performances, different operations in the different functions of the Church.” Now then, to another, the working of miracles, and to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, and to another different kinds of tongues and so on. All these different things are the different operations to be administered in the work of the Church. Now, verse 11, ‘but all these worketh the one and self same spirit’ it’s the same spirit working in each one of us.

“Now that is explained a little more in Ephesians 4 where it says in verse 11 that ‘God gave some’ or ‘Christ gave some apostles and some prophets’ now there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets, as I say, were Old Testament prophets ‘and some evangelists, and some pastors and some teachers.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Gospel of Government”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Mr. Armstrong was a seasoned professional communicator, widely recognized for his outstanding ability in writing and advertising. While millions around the globe tacitly recognized this brilliance in the clarity of Mr. Armstrong’s writings, we here in Editorial Services were privileged to receive an inside view of a master communicator at work ...”

“Mr. Armstrong wasn't interested in what Herbert Armstrong wanted in the publications - he was interested in what God wanted in the publications. And he insisted that every headline, every article, every advertisement bring this world a little closer to God's Kingdom.”

The Good News Magazine, “Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong”, Dexter H Faulkner, May 1986

“I have often been asked, ‘How was Mr. Armstrong received?’ **For those who already had met him the reception was warm and often affectionate. To those meeting him for the first time, they quickly saw him as a man of understanding and wisdom.** As Mr. Armstrong would say, ‘It makes sense, and it is the only explanation that does.’

Although they often didn't want to admit it, and didn't believe it would happen, the Gospel was given as a witness to them. It was clear that God was guiding him in what to say.”

The Good News Magazine, “Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong”, Aaron Dean, May 1986

The Great Work of the 20th Century

You have now seen that Mr. Armstrong was the man chosen and the instrument used to fulfill Matt. 24:14. No other individual or organization has performed the work of preaching the true gospel to the world in the magnitude that was accomplished in the 20th during the Philadelphia era of the Church when it was led by Mr. Armstrong.

“Since 1976, over 50 million Plain Truths have been distributed from newsstands. In 1982 alone, over 16 million were made available to the public. Since it began, the newsstand program has been responsible for adding more than 900,000 subscribers to the *Plain Truths* subscription list.

“You think about it. There's a scripture in Psalms, I get 68:11, which says great was the company of those that published it. Now for the first time in the history of God's work, we got 7,000 church members that are involved in this massive publishing work getting that gospel out. **We are actually reaching, one out of every 25 households in the United States.**”

Behind the Work 1982

“Also a door was to be opened for this leader and/or the Philadelphia era of the Church to fulfill Matthew 24:14: ‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’

“It was to be at a time when, for the first time in the history of mankind, the weapons of mass destruction were produced that could erase all humanity from the earth (Matt. 24:21-22). This also was to occur just before the Second Coming of Christ (verses 29-30).

“These prophecies have now definitely been fulfilled. The true gospel has been restored and has now gone in power into every nation on the face of the earth.”

Mystery of the Ages, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 289, 1985

“Go” and teach all Nations

At the onset of Mr. Armstrong's calling, he developed a 3 point program for preaching the gospel. In the 20th century, the gospel was proclaimed by way of the printing press which included the *Plain Truth Magazine*, by way of a radio broadcast which later included a television telecast, and the final method that he used was personal public meetings which later blossomed into worldwide public campaigns in different countries and meetings with numerous heads of state. The third point mentioned necessitates that an apostle be mobile and go forth to announce the gospel. This is why the word apostle means one who is “sent forth” with a message.

You should notice that the men who are selected for the office of apostle are instructed to “go” and proclaim this message, **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ...”**, Matt. 28:19. “Go” means to go. The men chosen for this commission are not supposed to remain stagnant or idle in one location. They are “sent forth” into the world with the gospel. The word “sent” means to go. Apostles are instructed to **“go”** and proclaim this message to all nations. Mr. Armstrong understood this instruction from the very start his commission.

“My idea for this magazine, from the start, had been to publish a magazine, not for church members, but for the general public - the unconverted and unchurched - an evangelistic-type publication to bring to the world God's TRUTH-making it PLAIN!

“So now, even if it had to start with about 250 copies done by hand on a mimeograph, I would start it! Like the grain of mustard seed, it started, very possibly, the smallest of magazines. But it has grown into a professional appearing 32-page magazine of over 8,000,000 circulation.

“Also I saw at once that the broadcasts should be followed up by continued public evangelistic services.”

“Therefore, I wrote to the small number of members on the mailing list I had-perhaps less than 50-the news of the forthcoming **THREE-POINT CAMPAIGN**: (1) The half-hour Sunday radio program; (2) the new mimeographed magazine for interested listeners, The Plain Truth, and **(3) personal public meetings.**”

Book, “Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong – Volume 1”, Herbert W Armstrong, 1986

“But we will not boast beyond limit, but we'll keep to the limits that God has apportioned us to reach even to you. For, we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. We were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. We do not boast beyond limit in other men's labors. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our field among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach that gospel in lands beyond you without boasting of work already done in another's field.’

“And he said, that we may preach in lands clear beyond you. In other words, Paul preached over great areas of hundreds upon hundreds of miles, and even over a thousand miles in those days, when the going was by sailboat or rowboat, or by walking or by a donkey, or a mule, or horse, or something of that kind. They had no kinds of transportation or communication like we have today.

“God didn't say, stay where you are and preach the gospel. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel.” And that's what I get criticized for, sometimes today. But I still do, do it. And I still shall continue to do it, because that's what Paul did. That's what God wants done today.”

Bible Study, “II Corinthians 9-10”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 11, 1980

“Now He taught twelve apostles, and after He taught them, **He sent them into the world** and said, ‘Go into all nations and preach the message I have preached to you. Teach them, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever things I have commanded you.’ Now **He said go into all the world and teach all nations in Matthew 28. That was the great commission.** Jesus had taught them the gospel.”

Sermon, “Called To Be Teachers”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 10, 1984

Herbert W Armstrong's Fulfillment of Matthew 24:14

Mr. Armstrong proclaimed the message of the gospel of the kingdom of God in all the world, **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations...”**, Matt. 24:14. He did not waiver nor did he fail in the commission that was given to him. He followed this instruction to a tee and did not remain stagnant or idle. He traveled into numerous nations and met with approximately one third of the heads of state in the world starting in the late 1960's and ending with his death in 1986.

The fulfillment of Matt. 24:14 and the fact that Mr. Armstrong “went” into many nations with the true gospel message is proof that Mr. Armstrong was “sent forth” by Jesus Christ and that he fulfilled the commission that was given to him. And he thus served in the ministerial office of an apostle.

“But now, at last, God is opening the doors in several of these big population nations. Already the doors are opening in Japan, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Iran, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Korea, Costa Rica, and the South American nations. I have an invitation through the Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia (who is the former Chief of Protocol in Peking) to visit Mao Tse tung and Chou En lai in Peking. The Russian Ambassador to Nepal is working on a meeting in Moscow with Mr. Leonid Brezhnev. Doors have started to open in Holland, Germany, and France for meetings with their heads of state.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

“Other world capitals where the preliminary work toward Public Appearance campaigns already is well under way are: New Delhi, capital of INDIA; Jamaica; Djakarta, Indonesia; Costa Rica, in Central America; Nairobi, Kenya in Africa; Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; Beirut, Lebanon; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem; Katmandu, Nepal; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Dacca, Bangladesh; and capitals in Europe. And possible meetings with heads of state in Peking and Moscow are pending. If God wants His Message to go to them, He has the power to open those doors!

“Co-Workers, THAT is getting the GOSPEL ‘into all the world for a witness in all nations’ for the first time in 18 1/2 centuries! It is a TREMENDOUS worldwide WORK! I have to ask you to PRAY EARNESTLY for me, personally, that God will prolong my life in dynamic, vigorous HEALTH, until I can get to ALL THESE WORLD CAPITALS, AND MORE!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 21, 1974

“I know that they have problems they can't solve. I talk to them about their problems, all around the world. **I've probably talked to more kings, and presidents, and prime ministers, and emperors in their own offices, which is the thrones where they sit, than any other man on earth today,** because God is sending His apostle to those places, and I go there representing you. You can't all go there.

Sermon, “Are You Ready”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 15, 1980

“As author, radio and television broadcaster and editor-in-chief of several magazines, Herbert W. Armstrong was well versed in world events. **His travels included numerous visits with world leaders, especially during the past two decades. These meetings with emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers gave him a unique perspective on world affairs and were a continual focus of his writing and broadcasting.**

“Among those with whom he had personal meetings are Their Majesties King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, the late King Leopold III of Belgium, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Deng Xiaoping of the People's Republic of China, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the late King Mahendra and Their Majesties King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal, the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, King Hussein of Jordan, the late President Allende of Chile, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, the late President Anwar ElSadat and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Suharto of Indonesia and all of the Japanese Prime Ministers since 1970, including Prime Minister Nakasone.

“Many honors were bestowed on Mr. Armstrong, including Japan's Order of the Sacred Treasure, Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and the Order of the White Elephant, the Presidential Medal of Merit from President Marcos of the Philippines, a special peace award from Belgium's King Leopold III and honorary doctorates in humanities from both Iloilo University and Angeles University in the Philippines, all in recognition of his work for world peace.

“On March 24, 1985, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, by special appointment of King Bhumibol, conferred on Mr. Armstrong the Ratanaporn II Class for his assistance with humanitarian projects of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. This decoration is normally reserved for members of the royal Thai family and in special cases is given to close friends of the royal family.”

The Good News Magazine, “Herbert W Armstrong 1892-1986”, May 1986

The Fruits of an Apostle

In Matthew 7:16, Jesus Christ said that “**Ye shall know them by their fruits.**” It is this key verse reveals the method by which one can determine if a man is serving in the office of an apostle. This is how God’s people can know whether or not the office of an apostle has been given.

“**Now, you say I am Christ’s apostle for our time now today.** The first time I ever heard that was Dr. Herman Hoeh speaking before the Feast of Tabernacles up at Belknap Springs, and the year was 1951. And I never had dreamed anything about being an apostle and he rang out, he said there before the small group because we weren’t very big yet. He says ‘Mr. Armstrong is not a prophet, Mr. Armstrong is an apostle’. I thought, an apostle, where’d he get that. Immediately afterward I called and said, look Herman, don’t you ever say that again. Don’t you tell anyone that I am an apostle. I never claimed to

be an apostle. **Now, it wasn't until some years later I look back at it and see by the fruits what has happened.**"

Bible Study, "I Corinthians 1 & 2", Herbert W Armstrong, July 18, 1980

"But there are no prophets in the Church today. **So we have the one apostle, and I did not appoint myself an apostle. I did not know I was an apostle until I looked backwards. Jesus said, "by their fruits ye shall know them."**"

"How do I know that I am an apostle? By the fruits! I look back and it's the fruits, and the Work was done that can only be done by an apostle, and otherwise I would never say it. Now, the first time I ever knew I was an apostle was in 1951 or 1950. I believe it was, up in Belknap Springs, when Herman Hoeh, who was then a, let me see, he was about a junior, I think. He hadn't graduated yet from Ambassador College.

"But he was speaking up there, and he said, 'Herbert Armstrong is not a prophet, he is an apostle.' Well when I listened to that, I was absolutely shocked and stunned. But immediately I went to Herman and I said, 'Don't you ever say that again. I don't want you telling people I'm an apostle. I'm not going around making any such claims at all.' And I didn't. **But I did think on it a little bit later, as time went on, and it was some time even, I think, two years after that, that I was able to see by the fruits, that God had made me an apostle, and that there was only one in the Church, and there should be one in the Church. But notice, it was of God, not of man. I was not made an apostle by men.**"

Bible Study, "Galatians 3-4", Herbert W Armstrong, December 5, 1980

"It is eminently clear, and has been for some time, **that Jesus Christ and God the Father have specially sent forth Herbert W. Armstrong with a commission, and his fruits have shown that he is an apostle:** For many years, Mr. Armstrong did not claim that he was fulfilling the office. Probably he did not need to, as the Church recognized him as an apostle whether or not he took that title. But in recent years, he has consistently said that he is an apostle. Some few people have resented this."

Good News Magazine, "How Many Apostles Were There?", February 1980, Page 11

The Seal of an Apostleship

The seal of an apostleship are the **conversions**, the **baptisms** that are a result of announcing the greatest news that mankind will ever hear, the gospel of the kingdom of God. The apostle Paul referred to the specific fruits of an apostle as the seal of an apostleship in I Corinthians 9:2, "...For the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord." It is this specific fruit that is the proof of whether an individual has been selected to serve in, and has been "sent forth" by Christ, as an apostle.

"In I Corinthians, chapter 9, the apostle Paul shows the proof of his apostleship: 'Are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord' (I Cor. 9:1-2).

“Just as proofs in the life of Paul set him forth as an apostle of Jesus Christ, in our time another has also been used by God in a powerful way. Through him, the Worldwide Church of God was established. Through him, the doctrines of God were restored to the Body of Christ. Through him, directly or indirectly, all of us in the Church have come to the knowledge of the truth, repentance and baptism. Through him, demons have been cast out and many have been healed_ even of cancer. Isn't that the fruit, the seal of apostleship?

“Directly, or indirectly, you are all MY children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His Apostle — as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.

“WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF — THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine — every point of belief — you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's Apostle!”

The Worldwide News, “Satan Intensifies Persecution”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 16, 1980

“The great Work of God proceeds full steam ahead all over the world. In the first five months of this year a new all-time record was set in number of letters and cards received worldwide. A total of 3.8 million cards and letters were received, as against 3.1 million last year. In 1984 we averaged 465 baptisms per month worldwide — and for the first four months of 1985 the average was 597 baptisms per month. God is adding an average of one new large church congregation per month. This year our ministers have averaged 1,972 new contacts requesting a visit, compared to 1,292 last year.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 25, 1985

“We have twelve hundred and six ordained ministers visiting prospective members, counseling about baptism — but they are swamped and unable to visit and counsel with all who have requested this spiritual counseling and help. These ministers have up to more than 75 new prospective members waiting for each minister to call personally for counsel toward baptism and complete conversion.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, April 30, 1985

“It doesn't seem possible, but the time has already come to direct our attention toward the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles! Focus your mind now on the most joyous Festival — and also the largest convention — held anywhere on earth. About 133,000 of our brethren will gather for eight days in the glorious and happy reunion with those God has chosen and brought to Christ out of the billions on earth who do not know God and the joys of his way of life.

“This year will be the biggest Feast since the days of the first century church. We shall assemble at 89 Festival sites in 49 different countries all around the world. This year there will be a new site behind the Iron Curtain in Cracow, Poland, and once again in China and also in Jerusalem.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 11, 1985

“Paul shows that he had the oversight of the charge of all of the churches in the Gentile area under Christ. He was quite a leader. Now he says ‘Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? For I've never bragged

very much about being an apostle.’ As a matter of fact, I've never claimed I was an apostle until a few years ago. **I never myself admitted to being an apostle or claimed I was until I could look back and see by the fruits that God had made me an apostle, until I was sure that the fruits, which not only I saw it, but plenty of other people saw it too.** Did I ever say that?

“And I only say it now because I think that sometimes saying it and having people understand it helps them. That's the only reason I say it now. ‘Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?’ Now notice Paul says ‘He had seen Jesus.’ He wasn't converted in any way. He didn't mean he saw Jesus one time when he was going the wrong way. He saw Jesus and was with Jesus personally over in Arabia right after his initial conversion. So he was taught privately and personally by Jesus just like the other apostles were.

“‘Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?’ Now I say that to all of you people and all that are listening in, are you not my workmanship in the Lord? Directly or indirectly, you are all my children in the Lord. Now some of you who have only been converted because you heard one of our ministers and God brought you into the church and maybe you've never even seen me yet. Nevertheless, those through whom you were brought in got all of their knowledge from me and from what God has used me in doing. **So in a sense, you are all my children in the Lord.**”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 8-9”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 22, 1980

How a Man is Disqualified from a Ministerial Office

A very difficult question must now be asked. Can a man serving in a ministerial office, or for that matter, a man that has been called to the highest office in the Church which is that of an apostle, disqualify himself from serving in that office?

There are a number of ways that a man who is serving in a ministerial office, including in the office of an apostle, can disqualify himself. The following is a list of these ways; 1) Seeking a higher office for themselves. This includes assuming titles that belong to Jesus Christ. 2) Watering down God's truth. 3) Teaching heresy which is false doctrine. Heresy is a teaching that is contrary to truths that are established in the Bible. A couple of pertinent scriptures are II Peter 2:1 and II Theso. 3:6 & 14.

“I was forced to disfellowship from the Church forthwith a number of those seeking HIGHER OFFICE FOR THEMSELVES. They were seeking personal POWER in a spiritual organism with an annual income of some \$70 to \$80 million, which they wanted to change into a worldly secular ORGANIZATION where they could wield the POWER!”

Brethren Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 15, 1980

“I have come to realize how real the devil is. And what a power he is. Most people undersell Satan. They don't understand how great he is, how tremendous is his power. And, as I've said before, some that have risen in the Church, in the ministry, to the highest rank that is short of the apostle, which is

the evangelist, and even Executive Vice President and Vice Presidents, **some of them have let Satan get to them, with his temptations of coveting, coveting more power,** or of opposition and hostility, or of wanting to water down God's way, and find a little easier way and go a little way towards Satan's way...

“And as a result, Jesus Christ has put them out of the Church. And some of them, he’s put them out through me, and some of them, I didn't have to do it. He just put them out by circumstances and they went out.”

Bible Study, “Ephesians 1”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 20, 1980

“Some ministers, whom I have not taught directly — who have come along since I was able to continue personally teaching the Bible courses in college — **have been tending to want to WATER DOWN God's precious TRUTH — to see how close to SATAN'S WAYS they can get and STILL make it into God's Kingdom.**

“Let me tell you with power — the POWER OF THE LIVING CHRIST — you CAN'T DO THAT: You'll make it into the LAKE OF FIRE INSTEAD!”

The Good News Magazine, “What You May Not Know!”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

“Yes, Satan has tried to WATER DOWN true doctrine — to turn God's Church to false truths.

Apparently it is unhappily true that some willingly fall by the wayside and shall not continue on to enter into the KINGDOM OF God! But I have not retired — I am still vigorously active. Jesus Christ is still on God's throne, as the dynamic living HEAD of God's Church!”

The Good News Magazine, “How Satan Injects False Doctrines”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 1979

“Let's UNDERSTAND this! What doctrine have you learned? Where did you learn the doctrine? Answer? In or through the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! How did the Church receive its doctrine — its beliefs — its teachings — when the Church first started, A.D. 31? The Church from the start received its doctrine from the APOSTLES!

“Jesus is the personal Word of God. The Bible is the written word of God. Both are the same!

“In our day, Jesus Christ taught His chosen apostle through the written Word of God. The Worldwide Church of God — the same Church as founded in A.D. 31 — received its DOCTRINE through God's chosen Apostles!

“Now back to Romans 16:17. **Why have some leaders had to be disfellowshipped — MARKED?** Because of **causing divisions and offenses CONTRARY to the doctrine which you have learned!**

“God's Church is UNITED. We are commanded (I Corinthians 1:10) that we must ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING! **Those put out were splitting the Church speaking DIFFERENT THINGS!**

“Now notice the next verse: ‘For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple’ (Romans 16:18).

“And some of YOU brethren have wanted to hear those good words and fair speeches coming from persons of charisma, even though YOU WERE DISOBEYING GOD!

“Notice FURTHER THE COMMANDS OF GOD!

“God's message through Paul, ‘Now we COMMAND YOU, brethren in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly... And if by any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed’ (II Thessalonians 3:6,14).”

The Worldwide News, “God Commands That WE Avoid Certain Ones!”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Besides false brethren, **false ministers and teachers have come among God's people on many occasions. Peter mentions that false prophets will try to set themselves up as teachers among God's people today (II Peter 2:1). Such people secretly bring in heresies**, denying Jesus Christ by their works (Titus 1:16) as well as their tongues.

“These people with feigned words, smooth speech, false pretenses and hypocrisy, make themselves appear as if they are religious and holy. Some brethren look only on the outside, and are deceived!

“If a false brother came to you, apparently agreeing with what you say, apparently agreeing with God's ministers, **would you then be fooled if he gradually began to twist the Scriptures**, or to bring accusations against the brethren and ministers, **or to bring some ‘new doctrine’?**”

The Worldwide News, “Beware of False Brethren, Warns Evangelist”, August 27, 1984

The Instruction to God's People

If a minister of an apostle does not repent of the actions just listed and continues to oppose God's truths, God's people are instructed to avoid these men and to withdraw themselves from them. This instruction can be found in Rom. 16:17, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” The instruction also includes leaving the Church if these men cannot be removed or put out of the Church.

“Perhaps these ministers now opposing God's TRUTH and HIS CHURCH are themselves now deceived. Perhaps they are sincere — BUT THEY ARE SINCERELY WRONG AND IN THE CLUTCH OF SATAN!

“Well then, you may say, ‘Should we not show them KINDNESS and LOVE?’ Well, should Christ himself show kindness and love toward Satan?

“These people, even if sincere and deceived, are in SATAN'S service doing what SATAN WANTS DONE — helping Satan try to DESTROY God's one and only TRUE CHURCH!

“Let's not REASON our way to DISOBEY GOD! **God COMMANDS ‘AVOID THEM!’ ‘AVOID THEM!’** does not mean to go hear them out of curiosity! You who do that are DISOBEYING GOD. You are trying to be more righteous than GOD!”

The Worldwide News, “God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 25, 1980

“Now, notice the next verse, **‘For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple’**, and that is Romans 16:18. And **some of you brethren have wanted to hear those good words and those fair speeches** coming from persons of a personality of charisma even though you were disobeying God. ‘Well, if I disobey God I still want to know what they say’. Is that the way you think of it? Is that what you are going to say to Christ in the judgment?

“Notice further the commands of Paul. God’s message through Paul, I Thessalonians 3:6 **‘Now we command you, brethren’** it’s a command from God. **‘in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly’**. I Thessalonians 3:14 **‘And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him,** that he may be ashamed’. **Do you do that?** Oh no, several of you members want to disobey that. How do you ever expect them to get into the kingdom of God?”

Bible Study, “Romans 15-16”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

“Now some of our ministers have wanted to water down that doctrine. And they wanted to change that doctrine. They didn’t want to teach that doctrine of the Bible. **They didn’t want to teach the doctrine of Christ and of God.** And so they were causing division and that’s why they were put out. And so they come by speaking trying to draw you after them and I’m speaking unto you people that are going to hear this in the other Churches. And so you say, well I just want to hear what they have to say and so you go. God says don’t go! **God says avoid them!**

“Christ taught His chosen apostle through the written word of God. *The Worldwide Church of God*, the same Church as founded in 31 AD, received its doctrine through God’s chosen apostle. Every doctrine you have came through God’s chosen apostle.”

Bible Study, “Romans 15-16”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

“Well, supposing that one even who has received the Holy Spirit changes his mind and wants to go off a different way and he begins to cause friction and trouble. Some will say ‘Yeah, you are still going to have friction in the Church.’ Oh, no. We are not, brethren. No we're not! And I want to show you why.

“Next we have to turn back to Romans, the last chapter of Romans, the 16th chapter and verse 17 where Paul says; ‘Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions** and offences **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned**, and avoid them.’

“Different doctrines, they are causing division, they are causing trouble. That is what we had in the past. And the REASON that we had it was we said, ‘Well, we must be more loving and more kind and more good than God; and we must just leave them in among us.’ **God says, MARK THEM AND AVOID THEM. Now there are two ways we can avoid them, and only two that I know. One is if we leave them in the Church and we all go out, we're no longer in the Church. The other is that we put them out, and we stay in.”**

Sermon, “Unity”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 4, 1984

Conclusion

It is evident that the original 12 apostles are not the only apostles mentioned in the Bible. In addition, there is no Biblical teaching that a man can only serve in the office of an apostle if he was a witness to the persecution, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for an apostle means one who is “sent forth” and the implication is that they are “sent forth” by Jesus Christ with a message, which is the good news of the kingdom of God. Apostles are not remain stagnant or idle in one location but are commanded to “go” and proclaim this message to the all nations of this earth.

The method by which God’s people can use to determine if an apostle has been sent forth is found in Matt. 7:14, **“Ye shall know them by their fruits.”** The specific fruit of an apostle that is evident for everyone to see are the conversions, the baptisms that occur as a result of preaching the gospel. These are also referred to as the seal of an apostle.

If a minister of any rank, including an apostle, engages in heresy, watering down God’s precious truth, or is found seeking a higher office, he will disqualify himself from the office that he serves in if he does not quickly repent of these actions. Furthermore, God’s people are commanded to avoid such men. This includes leaving the Church if these men cannot be put out of the Church.

In the 20th century, a man by the name of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong was “sent forth” and he “went” into many nations and announced the good news of the kingdom of God to the world. The fruit, and more specifically the seal, of his apostleship were the conversions that occurred during this time. Those who were called and converted in the 20th century are the evidence of this occurrence.

Christ provided an open door for the man who was selected to “go” and proclaim this message, Rev. 3:7-8. And a great prophecy was also fulfilled, the gospel of the kingdom of God was proclaimed throughout the world for a witness unto all nations, exactly as Jesus Christ said it would happen in Matt 24:14.

“The one reason Jesus Christ could use Mr. Armstrong as an apostle in this century was that he never wanted to be an apostle – even though his ordination papers said he was ordained to that office.”

The Good News Magazine, “Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong”, Herman L. Hoeh, May 1986

*With sincerity and love
And in Christ’s service,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luis A Garcia".

Luis A Garcia
(915) 590-2947
Lgarciatexas@gmail.com
www.TheRWCG.org

12/25/2022