

Herbert W Armstrong

The Office that He Served In

There was a time in the in the 20th century when the Church of God was in harmony. The Church was growing in both income and membership. Congregation sizes numbered in the hundreds. Bible studies, socials and other events were common place and were attended by large groups of brethren. Numerous feast sites were established throughout the world and feast site attendance at each location numbered in the thousands. The Church and its members were thriving, and at its peak, the total attendance throughout the world surpassed 140,000.

The Plain Truth Magazine, the spearhead that was used to take the gospel to the world was growing by leaps and bounds. It reached a monthly circulation of 8 million copies per month at its pinnacle. The world also heard the one true gospel by way of radio and television. The World Tomorrow Program, a nationally and internationally program was telecast every Sunday morning. And it was seen by at least a million viewers every week.

Amazing truths that had been previously lost to the Church had been restored and explained in plain and simple language. The Bibles greatest prophecies were unsealed and revealed, and its events synchronized so that the average person could understand the staggering events that will be upon us in the near future. New members were being added to each congregation on a monthly basis and the brethren were excited.

Three college campuses were established to train leaders and a ministry. One was established in Pasadena California, another in Big Sandy Texas and a third in Brick Wood England. An ordained ministry that reached a size of over 1,200 men served congregations throughout the world, with over 600 of these men on a full time salary.

And even after the Church was derailed and numerous doctrines watered down in the 1970's, it was put doctrinally back on the track. The entire Church spoke and believed the same thing once again in the 1980's and it was united in one mind in the truth. This 20th century marked the golden era in the history and growth of God's Church.

But how did this happen? How was the truth restored to the Church? What was the cause for this phenomenal growth? How did the Church achieve such harmony? Why did God bless the Church? And what was the key that made this possible? You are about to learn the vital element that made all of this possible.

Selected by God

The year was 1927 when God began working with a man by the name of Herbert W Armstrong. A staggering prophecy was on the verge of being fulfilled. The birth of the Philadelphia era of the Church (Revelation 3:7-8)

was about to begin and a door would swing wide open for a great work to be accomplished around the globe (Matthew 24:14).

The Sardis era of the Church of God was on the verge of closing having lost most of the truths of God (Revelation 3:1-2) and the time was ripe for a massive restoration of truth to occur and for the gospel to be preached throughout the earth. But first, a man had to be selected by God (John 15:16) to lead God's people before this could occur. And so, here is what Mr. Armstrong came to learn about his selection to lead the Church of God in the 20th century and to preach the gospel throughout the world:

"Well, no man made me an apostle and men cannot elect an apostle. That would never have the approval of God in a million years. **Christ Himself selected me,** and laid on me the Great Commission of getting the gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is the good news of the coming government and kingdom of God, to all the world."

Sermon, "Creation and the Gospel", Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

"Forty-three years ago, God committed to me His GREAT COMMISSION — to carry Christ's Gospel MESSAGE of the imminent coming KINGDOM OF GOD into all the world.

"Again I say that is a STAGGERING RESPONSIBILITY!

"Alone, I would be utterly helpless to carry out that commission. Therefore, God used me first in raising up HIS CHURCH of this era, to stand loyally in back of me, making it possible.

"The parent church was 19 members. That was in August 1933. I had really been given the GREAT COMMISSION in mid-July of that year when I was 40. **I was not elected; I was appointed by Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the Church.** How may that be known? By THE FRUITS — BY THE FACTS, which cannot be contradicted!"

Plain Truth Magazine, "How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

"God could have raised up out of stones the one He wanted to do the Work. **But He did call and choose me, revealed His TRUTH through me for all His Church, and has used me,** and will still go on using me — if you are with me."

Plain Truth Magazine, "What Every Reader Needs to Know About the FOUNDATION, HISTORY, AUTHORITY AND DOCTRINE OF THE WOLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

Trained by Jesus Christ

And so, Mr. Armstrong was chosen to lead the Church of God in the Philadelphia era and to preach the gospel to the world. But he was not just selected to do this, he was also trained by Jesus Christ. Just as Christ worked with and taught the original apostles in person when he walked this earth, he trained and taught Mr. Armstrong through the written Word of God.

Apostles are taught and instructed by Christ. This is how the apostle Paul was trained (Galatians 1:16-24 and I Corinthians 9:1). Mr. Armstrong understood this and he knew that he had been instructed by Christ in a similar manner. The following are Mr. Armstrong's words on how he was trained and educated by Jesus Christ:

"And HOW did God put doctrine and belief into His Church? By Jesus Christ—but Christ taught the Apostles and the CHURCH received its teaching and doctrines through the APOSTLES. Now Jesus is the Word of God in Person. The BIBLE is the Word of God in writing—but the SAME TRUTH! Brethren. I did not put myself into God's Church nor make myself Christ's Apostle—HE DID! Just as God taught the first century original Apostles through Jesus the Personal Word of God, even so He taught me the SAME TRUTHS AND DOCTRINES through the WRITTEN Word of God, the Holy Bible!"

Co-worker Letter, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, September 13, 1980

"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."

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

"What kind of men did Jesus choose as His first apostles and leaders in founding God's CHURCH? Men *Christ*-EDUCATED, yet considered by the public as 'unlearned and ignorant men' (Acts 4:13).

"That's why Jesus Christ had to choose as His apostle for the present time one UNinoculated with this world's satanic educational poison, **but whose SELF-education Christ directed — who was finally educated BY JESUS CHRIST as were the original apostles — except by the SAME Word of God in print instead of the Word of God in Person!"**

Good News Magazine, "How Christ Chose and Educated His Apostle", Herbert W Armstrong,
October-November 1980

"There is reason to believe that Jesus Christ appeared in person to Paul in Arabia, and for some three years taught him just as He previously had taught the original twelve for some three years.

“Jesus Christ is the personal living Word of God. The Bible is the written Word of God. The Bible was not in print in Paul’s day. Paul, when called, did not go to men, or those recognized as God’s teachers, but he was taught directly by Christ the personal Word of God. In like manner, when God called me, by circumstances I believe He maneuvered, in the autumn of 1927 – after preparing me in many ways while I was unconverted and traveling the wrong road of life (see volume I of my autobiography) – I did not go to any school of religion, to an denominational teacher, or to any humanly taught theological seminary. **I went directly to the living CHRIST for teaching THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD!**”

Plain Truth Magazine, A Frank Answer to a Reader’s Sincere Question”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 1977

TRUTH Enters the Church

But what was it that Christ taught Mr. Armstrong? What was it that he learned from this great teacher? The information that he gained from Jesus Christ was the knowledge of the TRUTH. And so, in 1927, he began to receive the true doctrines that are revealed in the Bible directly from Christ. Apostles receive the knowledge of the TRUTH straight from Jesus Christ.

The year 1933 marked the dawn of the Philadelphia era of the Church. An era that would see the full truth restored through a man who would lead the Church for nearly 53 years. Proof that the truth was restored to the Philadelphia era is found in Revelation 3:8 and 10 which states that this era kept the Word of Christ. One cannot keep the Word of Christ, which is the Word of truth, unless it was restored to the Church. And here is how Jesus Christ restored the truth to the Worldwide Church of God by using a human apostle as his instrument:

“But God was revealing His truth to me. At first I had to learn a doctrine at a time. In other words, if the whole truth were a jigsaw puzzle of 100 pieces, I found the Church of God of the Sardis era, even though God’s Church, had lost about 75 of the pieces, though some were among the important pieces. But it was impossible to fit them together so as to produce the WHOLE and FULL PICTURE, plain and clear.

“God was inspiring me to fill in the gaps...

“Little by little, God revealed to me more and more TRUTHS — additional pieces of God’s revealed KNOWLEDGE that filled in the gaps — answered all the questions.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “What Every Reader Needs to Know About the FOUNDATION, HISTORY, AUTHORITY AND DOCTRINE OF THE WOLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

“I came among the church first in 1926-1927 and by that time they had lost most of the original truth, but somehow **God opened my mind to begin to understand a lot more than they had seen.** I didn’t

understand it all then, but I understood a great deal that they didn't. They didn't know what the gospel of the Kingdom was. They knew there would be a thousand year reign with Christ, but they didn't know what would happen.

But God began to reveal more and more to me and to restore the truth to His church in this Philadelphia era. I came in the very tail end of the Sardis era of the church. It was the true Church of God, but they had lost so much of the original knowledge and truth ... **So many things that God revealed to me that first year, a lot He didn't reveal until later.**

Sermon, "Accreditation", Herbert W Armstrong, April 17, 1982

"Now really, what I'm saying is that all of the doctrine, all of what we believe, and what the church believed 1900 years ago, was put into the church by the apostles. They got some of it from the prophets, but it was put in by the apostles. That's why the church is on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and Jesus Christ the Chief cornerstone. And it comes, now Christ had taught them directly. **But Jesus is the word of God in person, and Christ's apostle today got the same truth from the word of God in print. And this says the same thing exactly that Christ said in person.**"

World Tomorrow Telecast, "How Truth is Revealed", Herbert W Armstrong

"I wonder if you realize that **every TRUTH of GOD, accepted as true DOCTRINE and BELIEF in the Worldwide Church of God, came from Christ through me, or was finally approved and made official through me.**"

The Plain Truth Magazine, "How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1977, Page 17

One Sent Forth

With God now having selected and trained a man to lead his Church in the Philadelphia era, and with the restoration of truth well on its way, the foundation was set and the time had come for the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14, the preaching of the one true gospel. And the good news of the kingdom of God was preached throughout the world through an open door, just as prophesied in Revelation 3:7-8. The stage was now set and the time had finally arrived for this powerful work to begin.

One of the most important commissions given to an apostle is to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. They are the ones specifically "sent forth" with this commission. This is what the word apostle means, and it is the gospel they are "sent forth" to preach. It is not often this office is given and men are "sent forth" with this commission. But it occurred in the 20th century.

And so, the preaching of the one true gospel began in 1933 in the United States with the start of the first World Tomorrow radio broadcast. And in February of 1934, *The Plain Truth* was published for the first time. It

began with a circulation of 50 magazines by the one selected, trained and “sent forth”, Mr. Herbert W Armstrong.:

“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

“Let me right here make a solemn CONFESSON! **In July, 1933 the Almighty God—through Jesus Christ—conferred upon me, personally, HIS GREAT COMMISSION—to take to all the world as a witness for all nations, the GOOD NEWS (Gospel)** of Jesus Christ, ANNOUNCING the IMMINENT coming of the KINGDOM OF GOD.”

Co-worker Letter, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, January 20, 1977

“Note that Malachi 3:1 says, ‘Behold, I will send.’ An apostle is one sent. Mr. Armstrong is fulfilling this passage, and thus even this Old Testament verse shows that he is an apostle — ‘one sent forth.’ God says that before Christ's return, He would send someone.”

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

“The word apostle means ‘one sent forth.’

“The meaning here is unmistakable — as Peter was the chief apostle to Israel and Judah, so Paul was chief apostle to the gentiles.

“Nevertheless, when ALL of the scriptures on this subject are put together, it becomes certain that Peter, in fact, was the overall chief apostle...”

“For remember an apostle is ‘ONE SENT FORTH WITH THE GOSPEL.’”

Good News Magazine, “How Christ Gives the Church Its Beliefs”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 20, 1978

“My first broadcast was in October 1933, on a small 100-watt radio station. The radio station manager was surprised at the mail response. He invited me to put together a regular radio program.

“The first issue of the Plain Truth appeared February 1, 1934. The regular broadcast, then weekly, started in the first Sunday in 1934.

“Actually, **God committed to me the GREAT COMMISSION – to carry His true gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD to ALL THE WORLD** – after much trial and test and proving.”

You Shall Know Them by Their Fruits

But how can one know that the office of an apostle was given in the 20th century? After all, anyone can claim they are serving in this office. There is one sure way to know. The litmus test for determining if the office of an apostle has been given is found in Matthew 7:16. In these verses, Jesus Christ said "You shall know them by their fruits". Christ himself provided a way to know if someone has been sent as an apostle.

There was a time when the membership of the Worldwide Church of God believed that an apostle, under Jesus Christ, was leading the Church. They fruits of an apostle were obvious to the membership. The brethren and the ministry were able to recognize that Mr. Armstrong was an apostle long before he acknowledged it himself. And once again, it was because everyone could see the fruits. The following is from the archives of the Worldwide Church of God that further explains this point:

"I am not here because a lot of people decided to vote for me, or put me here. You had nothing to do with me becoming God's apostle. **Someone says to me, 'Well Mr. Armstrong, how did you know you're God's Apostle?'**

"... Well, I will answer just as Jesus Christ answered when the messengers of John the Baptist came to Him and said, 'Well, John wants to know, are You really the Messiah that was to come?' Jesus didn't say yes or no. He said, 'You go tell John what you hear and what you see being done. Go and show him the fruit of what you see coming from Me' and **by their fruits you shall know.**

"No, back in 1933, I didn't know. Well, how do I know now? **Because I looked back on all these years and I see the fruits.** And you're here as part of it! You're part of the evidence! Because you're here and I had something to do with that and so did Jesus Christ."

Sermon, "Zerubbabels Temple" Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

"Now let me just say that **God has put one apostle in His Church.** I have never claimed to be that apostle. That is, I didn't originally until I found that all of the Church recognized it anyway. **And I would just simply point to 50 years of the fruits, and what has happened, and what God has done, and how He has used me in the last 50 years.**

Sermon, "Creation and the Gospel", Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

"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."

"Then HOW DO I KNOW?

"How may YOU know?

"Christ Himself gave on answer. 'BY THEIR FRUITS YOU SHALL KNOW.'

"The disciples of John, after he was in prison, came to Jesus to ask him a similar question: 'How may we KNOW you are God's ANOINTED ONE – the Messiah – the Christ?'"

"Jesus answered, 'Go tell John what you see being DONE – being ACCOMPLISHED.' **So I say: LOOK INTO YOUR OWN BIBLE. You will find where Christ Himself said what would be DONE in THE GREAT COMMISSION in our time; 'And this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END [of this age] come' (Matt.24:14).** That's what it says!

"But although millions claim they believe in the Bible, FEW believe WHAT IT SAYS.

"Do YOU!"

Plain Truth Magazine, "A Frank Answer to a Reader's Sincere Question", Herbert W Armstrong, April 1977

The Magnitude of the Great Work

In the 20th century, a great servant of God by the name of Herbert W Armstrong appeared on the world scene. Through him, the greatest single work that God has ever commissioned in the history of mankind took place. It was the preaching of the one true gospel. The commission specifically given to apostles. This message was published and preached throughout the globe by way of print, radio, television and by personal visits with over 1/3 of the leaders of the nations of this world. The following is just a taste of what occurred when he led the Worldwide Church of God and proclaimed the gospel throughout the world:

"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

“Then we got on all the major United States stations every day—all the big 50,000-watt stations. The Work was then growing 30% a year for 35 years, up until 1968. And it finally became WORLD WIDE, as it is now.”

Sermon, “From Sardis to Laodicea”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 24, 1983

“Matthew 24:14 ... and then **coming down to verse 14, he said, and this gospel of the kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come. You may not realize it but that gospel has not been preached for 19 centuries until it was preached on this program. **And now it is going worldwide and into every nation on the face of this earth, either published or spoken. Spoken by television or by radio. Published by the Plain Truth magazine, one of the world’s great circulation magazines that now has a circulation approaching 8 million in copies. One of the largest circulated magazines on the face of this earth.**”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “The Sign of the Times”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 28, 1984

“And today we are probably reaching somewhere around 20 to 25 million people through the printing press. And we are reaching, undoubtedly, much more than a million every week by television.”

Sermon, “Elijah Has Come”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 12, 1985

“Yet today it (The Worldwide Church of God) carries on a great worldwide Work. As a public service, **it is reaching, by radio, television, and large-space advertising in many mass-circulation magazines and newspapers, 150,000,000 people with the inspired message** of the WAY OF LIFE that is the CAUSE of all GOOD-of peace, happiness, prosperity, abundant well-being-the truly successful life.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “This Is The Worldwide Church of God”, December 1976, Page 44

“Following are current worldwide figures you should know for the year 1985.

Seventy-four million PLAIN TRUTH magazines were either mailed to subscribers or distributed through newsstands.

- **Seven million GOOD NEWS issues** were sent out.
- **Two million YOUTH 85 magazines** went to young and old alike.
- **Six million booklets, books and reprint articles** were mailed upon request.
- **More than one million Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course lessons** were sent to students.
- Our Mail Processing Center received more than one million phone calls, mostly in response to the WORLD TOMORROW program on television.
- Our offices around the world received more than 10 million letters from subscribers responding to the work of the Church.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1986

“During the decade of the 70s, Christ has opened the door for me to be invited for private meetings with perhaps more kings, emperors, presidents and prime ministers all over the world—on all continents—than any other man on earth. The TRUE Gospel has gone to the heads of governments!

And now, the latest, has come an invitation to Moscow! It is planned for me to appear there in early May."

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 3, 1980

The Seal of an Apostle

But there is another way that one can verify that the office of an apostle has been given. The seal of a true apostle are the conversions, the baptisms that occur during their ministry. You and I are the living proof that validates the seal of an apostle, "for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord", I Corinthians 9:2. With a Church attendance topping 150,000 at its peak, there can be no doubt of the seal of Mr. Armstrong's apostleship:

"In I Corinthian s, 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 has 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

“Our ministers are being swamped with calls for counseling about baptism by prospective new members. This is becoming a problem, because as Jesus said, the harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. **We now have 583 ordained ministers worldwide serving full time**, but they are much overworked.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, April 25, 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

The Authenticity of the Truth

One of the most important doctrines that Jesus Christ revealed to the Church through Mr. Armstrong is that **TRUTH ONLY ENTERS THE CHURCH THROUGH THE OFFICE OF AN APOSTLE**. This is the way that a member in the Church can validate the authenticity of a doctrinal truth. Christ put this method by which truth enters the Church to prevent the infiltration of false doctrines.

All truth emanates from the Father. The Father in turn gives these truths to Jesus Christ. All truth is put into the Church of God by Jesus Christ, the living Head of the Church, through the office of an apostle. No other office in the Church has the authority to alter, remove or water down the doctrines that were placed in the Church by Jesus Christ, though an apostle.

Therefore, no leader of a Church of God group has the authority to changed, removed, or watered down the doctrines that were placed in the Church by Jesus Christ through His chosen apostle Mr. Armstrong. The groups that engage in this are not being led by Jesus Christ. In addition, you will soon come to see that even an apostle can never establish a doctrine that contradicts the doctrines that were established by another apostle. This would lead to confusion.

The following quotes are from a pool of many statements that Mr. Armstrong made regarding this key teaching. And they perfectly line up with what the scriptures reveal on this important point:

"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!"

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

"Brethren, think a moment. HOW did the first Church of God receive its doctrines — its teachings — its beliefs? Answer: Only through the APOSTLES. And how did they receive this teaching? Direct from JESUS in person. He is the WORD of God. The Bible is the SAME Word of God in writing! **How did YOU receive the true teachings of Christ? From God's apostle. How did I receive this wonderful truth? From the SAME JESUS, only IN WRITING.** The Bible is a coded book. The Catholics and Protestants have access to it, but can't UNDERSTAND IT!"

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 26, 1983

"Now *HOW* did God put *His* doctrines and teachings into His Church in A.D. 31? - before many in the Church turned to another gospel (Galatians 1:6-7) ? **And HOW did the living Christ put God's doctrines and teachings into His Church TODAY** before these 'intellectual liberals' began trying to compromise and water down?

"Only by His chosen apostles!"

Good News Magazine, "And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally", April 1979

"You, dear ministers and wives, did not have to go through what God put me through. **I learned TRUTH a doctrine at a time. Through me it was handed to all of you 'on a platter'** — all together.

"Now if you don't understand and believe that, I wonder what you are doing in Christ's ministry."

"The living CHRIST put HIS TRUTH into God's Church through me."

The Worldwide News, "Watering Down – Or Building Solidly Up?", Herbert W Armstrong, June 11, 1979

"Let's SET THIS STRAIGHT, once and for all! **The SOURCE of the *beliefs*, teaching, customs and practices in the Church of God is GOD HIMSELF!** Not any man. **Jesus said 'I have spoken nothing of myself' — the FATHER had instructed Him! Jesus, in turn, taught His apostles in Person!**

"THERE WAS NO DOCTRINAL BOARD! The teachings of the Church did not come from a COUNCIL of ministers and/or lay members, who voted on what to believe."

Good News Magazine, "How Christ Gives The Church Its Beliefs", Herbert W Armstrong, November 20, 1978

"Notice verse 1 '...certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.' Who were these men? NOT apostles,

or they would have been named.

“Right here, MARK WELL THIS POINT, **GOD PUT HIS TRUTH INTO HIS CHURCH THROUGH CHRIST AND THROUGH THE APOSTLES!** These men were not apostles. What they taught was NOT FROM JESUS!

“The apostle Paul KNEW WELL that God gave His Church its teachings only through Christ and the apostles. Immediately Paul withstood these unauthorized teachers.”

Good News Magazine, “How Christ Gives The Church Its Beliefs”, Herbert W Armstrong
November 20, 1978

Comment: There are two important points regarding this subject. Point number one is, no one except an apostle is authorized to introduce a new truth, remove a truth, or alter a truth that has been established by an apostle. Point number two is, a true apostle will never contradict the truths established by another apostle. This is because there is only one body of beliefs and also because the truth doesn't change.

“God says: ‘There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, *one faith* . . .’ (Eph. 4:4-5).

“One faith - meaning one body of beliefs, one set of doctrines, one perfectly harmonious truth believed and practiced by the true Church of God. Unless a point of truth you may believe fits perfectly and harmoniously into the whole of the doctrine of Christ - unless each truth you have learned only further serves to elucidate, clarify and further explain the whole of the plan of God - then it may *not* be a ‘truth,’ but error.”

Seven Proofs of God's Church, Booklet, Page 30

“This faith, meaning in this sense the body of beliefs and practices handed down by the apostles, forms the essence of the meaning of God's Church ...

“So, then, the faith which must be earnestly held on to and defended is that **original set of beliefs handed down by Christ's apostles.** Paul's writings are full of warnings of false teachers who sought to mislead the people of God.

“Now is the time to return to the faith which was truly once and for all delivered by Christ and the apostles.”

Good News Magazine, “The Faith Once and for all Delivered”, August 1974, Page 27 & 29

““Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine by which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple’ (Romans 16:17-18). Jesus Christ showed me that, much as it hurt, the No. 1 deceiver with watered-down doctrines, in authority, whom I had to mark and put out of God's Church, was my only living son whom I loved as only a father can. Other liberals have had to go since. GOD'S CHURCH MUST BE CLEANED UP! **We must all SPEAK THE SAME THING, as God commands!**”

“But HOW? How does Jesus Christ put HIS doctrines into His Church? How did He in A.D. 31? How in A.D. 1933?

“DID THE CHURCH OF GOD, of A.D. 31, believe and proclaim the TRUE doctrines? How did they come to believe as they believed? Did their doctrines come as a result of a vote of ministers *on* the ideas, opinions and convictions of the ministers in the Church?

“HOW must the true Church of God today receive its doctrinal beliefs? Doesn't every human individual, by himself, KNOW right from wrong — what is TRUTH and what is error? Is not the ability to know right from wrong acknowledged by society as the test of sanity or insanity? Does not mankind automatically know what is truth — what is good and right — as contrasted from what is wrong, evil and sin?

“God says we in His Church must all believe and speak the SAME THING — we must be AGREED on what is truth and right and good as opposed to what is evil and sin.”

Worldwide News, “And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally!”, February 19, 1979

The Apostles Doctrine

Mr. Armstrong was adamant regarding the subject of how truth enters the Church. He stated this as often as he talked about the one true gospel. This teaching is also perfectly in line with the way the government of God functions, which is a hierarchical government that works from the top down. All truth comes from God the Father to Jesus Christ and then flows to the Church through the office of an apostle.

Some might ask, “Is there any scriptural proof to validate what Mr. Armstrong taught on this topic?” There certainly is. Acts 15 is a good example of how a new teaching enters the Church. The following are a few additional verses on this subject:

“And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” **Acts 2:42**

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and **whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**” **Matthew 16:18-19**

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.” **Ephesians 2:20-21**

For additional proof that truth enters the Church through the office of an apostle, the next two article references from the Worldwide Church of God expound on this teaching:

Good News Magazine, "How Christ Gives The Church Its Beliefs", Herbert W Armstrong, November 20, 1978

The Worldwide News, "And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally!", Herbert W Armstrong, February 19, 1979

Will Not Compromise

As was previously mentioned in this article, Mr. Armstrong was an individual who was personally selected by God to serve as an apostle. But have you ever wondered why he was specifically chosen for this office? Did he possess a special quality that the great God would choose him to serve in office of an apostle?

We have already read that he was not educated in the universities of this world. This is the first prequalifier. But there is a specific reason he was chosen for this office. In the 1970's, first in 1974 and then again in 1978, Mr. Armstrong had to remove men from the ministry. These were individuals who began to change and water down the doctrines that Jesus Christ had revealed to the Church through God's 20th century apostle.

When these conspiracies came to light, this old but wise apostle did not waver, falter and did not compromise. He thundered into action and set the Church back on track doctrinally and he did this when he was in his 80's.

God selected Mr. Armstrong as the apostle who would lead the Philadelphia era of the Church for one main reason. **God hand picked him for this office because he knew that Herbert W Armstrong would not compromise on the truth, no matter the consequences.** This is the special quality that he possessed and the reason he was chosen by God for this office. **Holding fast to the truth and not compromising is a hallmark of all true Philadelphian brethren (Revelation 3:8 &10).** And oh, what a rare commodity this is in these final years of this age:

"But there has been an effort to water down the truth. That's another thing that has happened in the last 9 years. We're trying to water down the truth of God with false doctrines that have been creeping in and ministers are teaching them, around the world even ministers of this Church! Now, believe you me, I am going to get after those things, and fast!

"Jesus Christ is in power. Jesus Christ is the power back of it and He is going to set these things in order. And if any of you want to fight Christ, you start fighting Him and see where you get off. Or if you want to go with the devil, maybe you'll suffer the devil's fate. I am speaking very plainly today. I'm a little wrought up about it.

"Revelation 3:8 I know... He knows our works. So there are works and they're good works, and not rituals. Behold, He set this open door. You have but a little strength, **and hast kept my word.**

"I was going to say, if there is any one reason why God called me, it is because I was willing to believe what He said, and because I had kept His Word and I have not compromised."

Sermon, "Warning to the Church", Herbert W Armstrong, July 1, 1978

"God revealed truth to me and if there is any reason why He has chose me, there's only one. It's not because of any righteousness of mine, it's not because of any abilities or powers of mine. I've known scores upon scores of men with better minds than I have, better personality, better appearance, more leadership, I'd say about more of everything that you think of humanly. But God has not called them or used them. Why? Why did He pick on one as inferior as I am? Because I was willing to believe Him. Adam and Eve didn't believe Him. Jesus Christ talked to thousands who didn't believe Him. Only a hundred and twenty still believed Him after Christ had talked for three and a half years to multiple thousands of people."

"But I did believe Him, and I have not compromised with that belief one iota and I've been working hard the last two and a half years to get this Church back on the track" after others were getting it off the track. I don't think we are a hundred percent back yet. I don't think we have gotten all of the leaven out yet. But it's going out, believe me, and we're going to get it out."

Sermon, "Revelation 12", Herbert W Armstrong, April 18, 1981

"For some few years now, there had been a certain group at Headquarters, whom my son surrounded himself with, who have wanted to 'water down' God's truths and doctrines. They seem to have wanted to get as close to the ways of Satan as possible, still keeping 'one foot' in God's Church, hoping thereby to get into the Kingdom of God.

"I want to get as CLOSE to GOD's true doctrines as possible, and as far away from Satan's ways as possible.

"If there is any reason why the living Christ chose me as His Apostle, it is that I will not compromise a thousandth of an inch on God's true doctrines."

"The group of 'liberals' which my son surrounded himself with, who wanted to alter and modify or change GOD'S LAW AND DOCTRINES, are being put out. **FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS, GOD'S CHURCH AND ITS LEADERS AT HEADQUARTERS ARE IN HARMONY, IN GOD'S TRUTH, IN PEACE, AND IN HIS LOVE!**"

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, June 25, 1985

Comment: There are 3 characteristics that all true apostles have in common. The first one is, that an apostle will always stand up for, uphold, and teach the truth. The second one is, that an apostle will always preach the one true gospel. This commission is directly related to the meaning of the office of an apostle which is one who is "sent forth". And the third factor is that an apostle always bears fruit, and the fruit will lead to conversions. This is how one can tell that the office has been given by God.

Agreed With Christ

The Worldwide Church of God received its teachings from the man who served in the office of an apostle for 53 years, Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong in turn received the truth directly from Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ received the truth from God the Father.

This is the same truth that the Church of God received in the first century by the apostles who learned it directly from Jesus Christ. And it is the same truth that the Worldwide Church of God received from the apostle who lived in the 20th century, Mr. Armstrong.

The apostles and the Church of God must always be agreed with Christ in truth. He is the living HEAD of the Church and one who places the doctrines in the body of Christ. The entire Church, from 31 A.D. when the Church began until the return of Christ, must agree with Christ in doctrine, once again because it is He who is the one that places the truth in the Church.

This was a point that Mr. Armstrong stressed when he put the *Worldwide Church of God* back on the track, after liberal men had infiltrated the Church altered the truth in the 1970's. And thus, in the 1980's the Church was back on track and in harmony with Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Church of God must always be agreed with Christ in doctrinal truth:

“When he [Paul] came back from Arabia, he went over to Jerusalem to compare with the apostles who had been taught by Christ when He was here in physical person before His crucifixion to see if they were speaking the same thing — because **Paul had been instructed by Christ that we must ALL speak the same thing.** And **that ‘same thing’ must come from God, through Christ, through an apostle, to us.** That's the way they got it. That's the way we have to get it today. **And when Paul came to Jerusalem, he talked to Peter and others there and found he had been told the same thing by the same Christ that they had been told, and they had absolute harmony and agreement. He wanted to be sure that they all had the same truth — direct from Christ.**”

Sermon, “How You and I Came to be Here”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 16, 1981

“Two can't walk together except they be AGREED! I now AGREED with Christ. I have NEVER DISAGREED. You yourself—every begotten child of God—does, through human weakness, commit sin even after the most deep conversion. None has lived perfectly but JESUS. But when I stumbled through human weakness, Jesus picked me back up on confessing to Him and repenting, and asking help never to repeat the sin. **At no point did I DISAGREE nor water down HIS TRUTH.** He used me in building the Philadelphia era of HIS CHURCH—and in proclaiming His Gospel IN ALL THE WORLD!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 19, 1981

“I BELIEVED Christ, the living Word of God. Through human weakness I have not lived perfectly — I have stumbled and fallen down a few times as **I have WALKED WITH CHRIST WITH WHOM I AM IN AGREEMENT!** But I have repented of that, worked on myself to OVERCOME — cried out to God for

divine HELP in overcoming this weak human flesh. **But I have WALKED WITH CHRIST BECAUSE I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH HIM!**

“But it is still true that two can't walk together except they be agreed. **I am agreed with God and with Christ the Head of the Church.** I shall never water down the TRUTH He has revealed to me, nor in any manner compromise with it. We are **ALL OF US going to have to AGREE with God and with Christ HIS Son, if we are to walk together with them, into God's Kingdom.**”

Worldwide News, “Reports of Garner Ted False”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

He that Receives Me

We have just seen that Mr. Armstrong had a conviction to serve God without compromise. This is reflective by the actions he took and by the many statements he made throughout his life, but especially when he set the Church back on track in the 1970's. He was firm, resolute and determined during the course of his ministry not to make any concessions with the truths that God had revealed to him during the course of his life. To this end, he was faithful until his death.

There are some who no longer believe what Mr. Armstrong taught. They reject him as an apostle and some even believe that he was a false prophet. There are others who water down and reject numerous doctrines that were established as truths in the Worldwide Church of God by God's 20th century apostle.

And then there are some, who claim to be holding fast to the truths that he restored. They make statements such as “the new teachings that are being revealed are lining up with what Mr. Armstrong taught”. Yet they reject him as the end-time Elijah and alter many of the prophetic truths that were revealed to the Church through him, including the truth of the one truth gospel of the kingdom of God.

Those that do this fail to remember the words of Jesus Christ in John 13:20. They also forget the important lesson of I Samuel 8:4-7. These are verses that we must never forget because they go to the heart of how God feels about not accepting an apostle or leader that God has sent. Everyone in the Worldwide Church of God once understood that implications of rejecting the one that God has sent:

“Note that Malachi 3:1 says, ‘Behold, I will send.’ **An apostle is one sent. Mr. Armstrong is fulfilling this passage,** and thus even this Old Testament verse shows that he is an apostle — ‘one sent forth.’ God says that before Christ's return, He would send someone...

“Here are the words of Jesus Christ, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me’ (John 13:20).**”

“Notice that **Jesus is referring to the one that He sends. If we receive the one that He sends, His apostle, then we are receiving Jesus Christ and the Father. On the other hand, if we reject the one**

whom Christ has sent, we reject Christ.

“This lesson is made clear in the Old Testament account of Samuel. **After the people had rejected Samuel, God told him, ‘they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them’ (I Sam. 8:7).**”

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

“Down through the ages God has sent servants to carry out His Work and His will, but most people rejected them. This was true of the prophets and of Jesus Christ Himself and all His apostles and ministers down to and including the present time. **But those who have Jesus living His life in them will not make this mistake. They recognize and accept those Jesus Christ sends. ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send, receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me’ (John 13:20).**”

Good News Magazine, “How to Try the Spirits”, September 1980

Conclusion

The 20th was the golden era of the Church of God. This era began with 19 members in 1933 and closed with a Church attendance of over 140,000 at its peak. A massive restoration of truth accompanied by the preaching of the gospel marked the beginning of a prophecy in Revelation 3:7 and the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14.

And the key involved an office that was given to a man in the last century, the office of an apostle. Herbert W Armstrong was the individual who was used by God as the instrument to accomplish His mighty end-time work. He was the one who was sent and announced the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God throughout the globe. And this great servant of God was selected by Him because he would not compromise the truth, the truth that was restored to the Worldwide Church of God by Jesus Christ:

“No MAN, of himself, could have decided to do this, and, on his own human ability and power alone, have RAISED up this Worldwide Church of God, have developed the facilities and machinery for BROADCASTING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT — by radio, printing press, television, personal preaching to THE WORLD. This WORK OF GOD has grown into a great, powerful WORLDWIDE and WORLD-KNOWN work.

“There is but one answer. **No one can believe that I alone had the ability and the power to accomplish something that never before in the history of man has been done! GOD DID IT, though He used me as a human servant.** No MAN BY HUMAN ABILITY COULD HAVE ACHIEVED IT.

“Yet God always has worked through ONE MAN, surrounded by helpers.”

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

Brethren of the one true God, what did you think took place in the 20th century? Was it the work of the living God or was it the work of a man. No person of his own power could have accomplished the mighty work that took place during this time. I ask again, what did you go out to see? May you never forget that an apostle was among us in the last century and may you always remember the final quote that you have just read from the one who was “sent forth” by the living God just a few decades ago to accomplish the greatest work that has ever taken place on the face of this earth!

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

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