

Dear brethren,

I want to explain an extremely important matter and one of the reasons why we **only** listen to the sermons that were recorded during the Philadelphia era of the Church. As many are aware, we only listen to the messages that were given by Mr. Armstrong and by the ministers that gave sermons in the *Worldwide Church of God* during the time that Mr. Armstrong was alive.

The reason for this is because this is the only way that I know of where we can be assured that we are only hearing and thus learning the full truth and nothing but the truth. After an apostasy occurred and the early first century Church began to splinter, the Apostle Jude exhorted the brethren to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints”, Jude 3. The word “faith” as it is used in Jude 3 means “truth”.

In this final era of the Church of God, the leaders of the splinters have injected many nuances, erroneous teachings, mixed error with truth, watered down and liberalized the truth, and in many cases introduced new teachings that oppose the original truths that we learned in the Philadelphia era.

I have found that the teachings that are emanating from these groups sometimes appear as though it is a doctrine that stemmed from the Bible, especially when truth is mixed with error, but when examined and compared to the truths we learned in the 6th era, it becomes apparent that they are in fact a mixture of truth and error.

The unity of the faith that is described in Ephesians 4:13 is only achieved when we are in harmony with the truths that were authored by God the Father. These are the truths that were established in the Church of God by Jesus Christ through his apostles. It is this vital and important fact that creates an unwavering unity between God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Church of God. The truth after all is the foundation of the true Church of God and the temple of the living God, 1 Timothy 3:15 and Ephesians 2:19-22;

“Well, now let me just say finally, the book that I am now completing. I have not decided yet on the exact name of it, but it will have to do with the religious confusion in the world. And it will give you seven major proofs which really put to shame such confusion as we have in this world, in a Babylon of religious ideas. And if you get together, no two people can agree.

“If you're going to have truth in a church, to the Corinthian Church, the Apostle Paul was inspired to write that you must all speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among you, no schism in the body. Well, there's only one way that can be, because you can't get a group of people, and if they vote on what they want to believe and what they don't want to believe, they're not going to agree.

“There's only one case in the Bible, only one case and one illustration where there was a council, and they came together to decide a doctrinal matter. And that's on the 15th chapter of the book of Acts. There were probably only three or four of the apostles there, but there was Paul and Barnabas, so that would have made it at the very least, at least five of the apostles and other elders.

“And there was much disputing and much wrangling until Peter stood up who did have primacy, and he laid down the law of what it was and gave the decision. Then John, I mean, James, who was the pastor of the local Church. And for that reason was acting what we would call today, the chairman of the meeting, a matter of diplomacy, he just said, ‘Now Peter has spoken and so we just make this official what Peter has said.’

“You'll find that everything that was believed in the original Church had come from one source, not what the people believed, not what ministers wanted to get together and decide among themselves what we think ought to be the true doctrine. **It all came from Christ, and Christ got it to the Church through the apostles that he had chosen,** and in no other way. Now, I'll just give you \$1,000 if you show me where it ever got into the Church of God in the Bible times, any other way, because it just didn't.

“And as long as men are going to decide, and ministers want to get together and decide on what to believe and what not to believe, you're going to have confusion of tongues. That's why we have it in the world today. **The truth must come from God. He's the author of truth.** And Christ is the spokesman of God and the Word and it must come from there. **And he chose the apostles. They didn't choose him. They didn't choose themselves.**

“Jesus said to his apostles, he said, ‘You have not called me or chosen me, but I have chosen you.’ You see Peter wanted to be a fisherman and Andrew his brother. And one of them wanted to be a tax collector. But Jesus said, ‘No, you come and follow me. I've called you into my mission.’ **And so, they followed him and they got their teaching directly from him.** Now, the Apostle Paul, he spent three years with Christ in Arabia. He said, ‘I have seen Christ. I have been with Christ.’ He got it, and he went to Jerusalem to be sure that what he was preaching was exactly the same as they were preaching, so that there wouldn't be any division.

“And he found that what he had gotten from Christ was precisely the same thing that Peter and James and John and those other apostles at Jerusalem, as they were at that time, had also received from the same head of the Church who is Christ. That's where it must come from. **And if it comes in any other way, you're going to have confusion, and you're going to have trouble,** and you're going to get into the same trouble. **It will damn the Church as the whole world has damned itself** by the way, they have done and the suffering and the sorrow and everything that we have in this world.

“So, I hope that here we will come out of all of that and come into the way that God will show us. And I'll tell you, an apostle of God always keeps the door open. And if someone thinks he's human and if he's made a mistake, someone can come to him and his mind will be open enough that if you are right and he's wrong, he'll find it and make the change. You know if, if anyone would never, if, if he can't ever change when he's wrong, he can never really be right. I haven't had to change very many times,

but I have, and when I've had to, I've done it, and I would do it again. And that's the only way you can be sure. You've got to be in the hands of God.

“And so you see, we're only the clay and he's the master potter. **We got to let Him form and shape us His way. You've got to let Him give us His doctrines, His beliefs, His teaching of what we ought to do, what we ought to believe.** And any other way you're going into the confusion of tongues and the religious confusion that is now engulfing this world.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Why So Many Religions”, Herbert W Armstrong

The apostle Paul clearly understood that even the apostles have a responsibility to ensure that they are all teaching the same doctrines. This means that an apostle cannot contradict what another apostle is teaching or has received from Jesus Christ as truth. And as was often the case in the 1st century, what one apostle taught and recorded as doctrine completely harmonized and supported the truths that another apostle taught.

No one has the authority to alter, to add or subtract from, nor does anyone have the authority to modify any of the teachings, let alone introduce new teachings that oppose the “original truths” that were placed in the Church by Jesus Christ through His faithful apostles. This is the avenue that was established by the almighty God through which the New Testament Church could receive His doctrines.

When one alters or mixes truth with error, one is taking upon oneself the authority to determine right from wrong, truth from error. This is nothing less than eating from the forbidden fruit, the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

It is the prime duty of all ministers/elders in the Church of God, regardless of their ministerial rank, to preserve, guard and to faithfully “hold fast” to the original truths that were received from a faithful apostle (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Titus 1:1 & 9, 2 Timothy 3:14 and Revelation 3:11).

It is also of utmost importance that a faithful minister feed the flock a diet that consists of the original truth and nothing but the truth, without compromise (1 Peter 1:1-2). In doing this, meat in due season must also be part of the diet of those who are striving to hold fast to the truth (2 Timothy 4:2 and Luke 12:42).

The common pattern that we use to feed the flock of God is to alternate between the messages that were given by Mr. Armstrong and the messages that were given by other ministers on a weekly (Sabbath) basis. The sermons are rotated this way in order to ensure that the Church of God receives the “trunk of the tree” and the many branches of truth that comprise the spiritual diet of God’s flock.

In other words, Mr. Armstrong often gets down to the heart of the subject, the important overarching truths. The sermons from the other ministers fill in the many branches, the more specific points that pertain to doctrine and to the way of life that we should live.

Even though the men who now lead and teach the splinters are now teaching doctrinal error mixed with truth, or in some cases, have abandoned the truth completely, the messages that they delivered during the Philadelphia era of the Church were given during a time in Church history when the truth was intact, when it was led by a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong.

Furthermore, the sermons that we listen to were given in a sincere and truthful manner (1 Corinthians 5:8) and in many cases, with a noticeable conviction for the truth. These messages contain encouragement, correction, and they explain the way of life that we should live, the way of unselfish love that is revealed in the Bible.

And since the pool of sermonettes that were preserved in the 6th era is quite small and limited, a World Tomorrow Broadcast/Telecast by Mr. Armstrong is often used instead of a sermonette. These messages are filled with doctrinal truth and are intended to keep one grounded in the established foundational doctrines.

The importance of the World Tomorrow Broadcasts/Telecasts cannot be overstated because we are living in a Church era where the truth has been compromised. The content of spiritual understanding found in these messages can only lead one to conclude that they were inspired by Jesus Christ and preserved for us at this time;

“Now, we were living in Portland, Oregon at the time. And in Portland, they have a very fine public library there, and they had a woman in charge of that department who was very highly educated. I finally wrote, and I didn't waste too many pages on it. I had just come right down. **I always had a tendency to want to get to the trunk of the tree. If the trunk of the tree is false, every branch on it is false.** You chop down the trunk of a tree, and you're chopping down every branch with it, aren't you?

“I have always been one that will stand right for the trunk of the tree. And so, I did, and I simply proved that there is only one possible thing that the evolutionists have put forward that could be a real proof. Now, comparative anatomy and selective breeding and all that kind of thing might tend to, well, sort of back up your belief of something already proved. But they're not in themselves proofs. A lot of those things will confuse people, but they are not really proofs. They don't prove it at all. And I disproved evolution.

“I took this paper to this woman and asked her if she would read it. I came back a couple of days later and she said, ‘Yes, I read it.’ And she says, ‘I have to admit you are right.’ **She says, ‘You have proved that. You have an uncanny knack of getting right down to the one crux of the thing, the trunk of the tree.’** And she said, “I've never seen it presented that way before.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “In Search of Truth”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now in the last century of that Millennium, there will be a lot of people born that are not yet converted. They will have been hearing the truth, but they have not made their decision yet. But they will have known the truth, and they are being judged! Now when we come down to the end of the

Millennium there are going to be millions of people that have not made their own decision yet, but they will have heard the truth. "The earth will have been full of the knowledge of the Eternal." They will know the law because it will have gone forth from Zion all through that Millennium.

"Now through the festival, you've been hearing a lot of details about the Kingdom of God and about the Millennium and the thousand year reign with Christ. I'm giving you just an overview today. If you notice, I usually stay with the **trunk of the tree**. I leave **the branches and the little twigs to the other ministers**, usually. So today, I'm giving you an overview of the whole thing, from the beginning of the earth and the angels upon it, the creation of man, up until the very end. I'm just giving you an overview, **the general trunk of the tree**, and I want you to get it. Then **you can put in the other sermons that you get and fill it right in with the middle.**"

Sermon, "God's Master Plan", Herbert W Armstrong, October 2, 1980

And because truth is timeless, meaning truth doesn't change, a plethora of the material that was published during the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong is also posted on the website. This material is another avenue to help ensure that we are receiving "meat in due season" and studying the doctrinal truths that are precious to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

We are the only group that I know of that is learning and being fed the true teachings exclusively this way. No other offshoot uses the sermons, the World Tomorrow Broadcasts/Telecasts, and printed material from the Philadelphia era of the Church exclusively and like we do.

There is one last item of major importance that needs to be mentioned that goes hand in hand with everything that has been included in this letter. We live in a generation where the Word of God is readily available in written form and in digital format as well. And with the material from the *Worldwide Church of God* so readily available, we live a generation that will have very little excuse for not studying the Holy Scriptures;

"Notice Second Timothy 3, in verse 15, our textbook that year we used 'Equipped for Every Good Work', which was a Jehovah's Witnesses book. We used 'All About the Bible', which is a textbook today by Sidney Collett. We used the Angus-Green Bible Handbook, Halley's Bible Handbook. You can get 'All About the Bible' in those. **People need to study. You know, Mr. Armstrong years ago said, 'God's people, above everything else, are lazy when it comes to study.** People pray, and people visit, and people go to Bible study or go to Spokesman's Club. **But when it gets right down to hungering and thirsting for the spiritual meat of the word of God, how many people really study?'**

"People say, 'Oh, well, I don't need all that background, all that. I just read the book, you know. I'm just going to stick to the book.' That's like finding a letter out here and not bothering to get the background of the writer or the receiver and trying to figure out what it's all about without knowing. You can't do that!

“When we put books in the Church libraries, I always write ‘Ambassador College Second Year Bible Textbook’ because I figure people ought to try to put themselves through college. You can read those books. You can read the Geopolitics book. You can read a lot of the textbooks we have at Ambassador College, **but we need to study, not just read the King James Version.**”

Sermon, “Proof of the Bible Part 1”, Dean Blackwell

It has been and continues to be an honor and a privilege to hear and learn the truths directly from a bonafide apostle who was known for not compromising.

With Love and in Christ’s service,

Luis Garcia

Minister

The Remnant of The Worldwide Church of God