

The Things Assured Of

The information contained in this document was included in the article “How the Teachings of RCG *Now* Differ from those of Mr. Armstrong – A List of 30 Changes in the Truth”. It was Jesus Christ, the living Head of the Church that restored the truth to the Church of God in the 20th century through His faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong.

As the list of 30 changes in the truth that occurred in RCG was compiled, it became apparent that the documentation of these changes would not be complete without some sort of assurance that the truth that was revealed to the Church in the 20th century is valid and correct.

And so, what you are about to read is from the conclusion of the article “How the Teachings of RCG *Now* Differ from those of Mr. Armstrong – A List of 30 Changes in the Truth”. You will hear the voice of Christ, the living HEAD of the Church, as he led and assured Mr. Herbert W Armstrong of the authenticity of truths that were restored to the Church through him. May God help everyone to understand the assurance that we have been given:

You have now seen a fraction of the changes in the truth that have occurred in RCG. Many more could be documented. And more will undoubtedly continue to appear. The changes here are enough to help one understand the severity of what has happened. And what one must do to remain in the truth.

And now, I want to share with you a heart-felt sentiment, a personal feeling from the bottom of my heart. The “Old Teachings”, the doctrines that were taught in the Worldwide Church of God are the only truths that I can understand. They are the only teachings that make sense to me. They are the only truths that I can see and prove from the Bible. I was not able to understand the new teachings in RCG, let alone prove them from scripture. This was the reason my family and I left RCG.

If there is a most important doctrine in the Bible, the truth is arguably it. It is what defines us as the Church. In an era with so many Churches of God and with so many variations of the truth, the following question has to be asked by everyone who has been called by God; “How can one be assured of, the correct teachings that come from God, i.e. the truth? How does one know that he is holding fast to the full truth?”

In one of his letters to Timothy, the apostle Paul gave Timothy some extremely valuable advice regarding the truth. The following is what Paul told him “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*”. The apostle Paul was talking about the doctrines that he had taught Timothy. He was “assuring” Timothy that these were the correct teachings. You see, the apostle Paul received the truth directly from Christ (Galatians 11:24 and I Corinthians 9:1-2). This is how he could assure Timothy that he had the correct teachings of the truth. Undoubtedly a defection from the truth was occurring in their lifetime as well.

In the same way, a wise apostle by the name of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong left us with at least 4 “assurances” of the truths that he taught the Church of God in the 20th century. These “assurances” are intended to guarantee that he what he taught are the true teachings that emanate from God. Here is what they are:

1. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was the end-time Elijah who restored “all things”, meaning the truth to the Church. Therefore, the doctrines that he taught are the correct version of the truth.

“In the process of restoring the government of God in the Church through the modern Elijah, God used him to restore many related truths. Of primary importance was the restoration of Christ’s true gospel of the Kingdom of God! ...”

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, “Proclaiming the *True Gospel*”, Lesson 18, Pages 11 & 14

“There was an Elijah to come and to restore things in the Church. That has happened. And what has been restored is THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD and many of the truths. At least 17 or 18 principle, vital, doctrines of truth have been added to about the three that had survived in the Sardis era of the Church that they still had.”

Sermon, “Feast of Trumpets 1985”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 16, 1985

2. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong served in the office of an apostle. It is only through the office of an apostle that truth enters the Church. And what was restored and revealed to the Church through Mr. Armstrong were the truths that came from the living HEAD of the Church, Jesus Christ.

“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, Page

“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

“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

3. It is stated in Revelation 3:8-10 that the Philadelphia era of the Church of God kept the “word of Christ”. One cannot keep the “word of Christ” unless he has the “word of Christ”. The “word of Christ” is defined as the truth in John 17:17 “Thy word is truth”, and it is what the Church of God consist of, I Timothy 3:15 “the pillar and ground of truth”. Therefore, the doctrines that were taught during the Worldwide Church of God under the leadership of Mr. Armstrong were the correct teaching of the truth.

“We come to the latter part of the era of the ‘Sardis Church’ (Rev. 3:1-6) and the beginning of the Philadelphia era (Rev. 3:7-13).

“The Sardis era of the Church had greatly deteriorated by 1927, when I was converted and first came on the scene, searching for the one true Church of God.

“The Philadelphia era was to take on new life, vigor and vitality, restoring truths that had been lost.

“Again God raised up one man through whom the living Christ would work. Since God called me and used me in an unusual manner ...”

Good News Magazine, “The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 1”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 1980, Page 25

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

“Continue with verse 8: ‘I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, **and hast kept my word**, and hast not denied my name.’

“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.”

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

4. Jesus Christ said “Ye shall know them by their fruits”, Matthew 7:16. God blessed the Church and the work, unlike any other time in the history of the Church, during the Philadelphia era when it was led by Mr. Armstrong. This is the final “assurance” that the doctrines revealed to that era were.

“Christ Himself gave an 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!

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

“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

“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

But what if a new truth is learned that does not contradict what Mr. Armstrong taught. Are we to accept the new teaching? And if so, who has the authority to introduce a new truth? There are 5 Biblical parameters that must be met when a new truth is introduced to the Church. Here is what they are:

1. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong fulfilled the role of the end-time Elijah who restored “all things” to the Church (Matthew 17:11 and Luke 1:17) meaning the truth. He was an apostle and truth only enters the Church through the office of an apostle. He led the Worldwide Church of God during the Philadelphia era, an era that kept the “word of Christ”. But it was Jesus Christ who restored the truth to the Church through Mr. Armstrong. Therefore, all of the doctrines that were restored to the Church through Mr. Armstrong cannot be altered, changed, or removed because the author of these truths was Jesus Christ:

“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.”

Worldwide News, “WATERING DOWN – OR BUILDING SOLIDLY UP?, Herbert W Armstrong, June 11, 1979

“Thus the living God began RESTORING through me much true biblical knowledge and UNDERSTANDING that had been lost through the centuries.”

Where Is the True Church?, Booklet, Page 20

“... Of myself, and of my own volition, I would never have discovered these GREAT TRUTHS.”

“How, then, did I come to understand the precious knowledge of the TRUTH? Certainly not on my own, or because I sought it or because of any virtues of my own. But Jesus Christ struck me down in a manner quite different from the apostle Paul's experience, yet nonetheless painfully and effectively.

“Such basic TRUTHS are revealed, not thought out in any human mind. **They come from God, not man!** And in all biblically recorded cases the initiative was God's!”

Mystery of the Ages, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 12

2. God the father is the author of all truth (John 17:17). Jesus Christ receives the truth from the Father (John 12:49). These doctrines are put into the Church by the living HEAD of the Church, Jesus Christ through his chosen apostles (Acts 2:42 and I Timothy 1:3). Therefore, all new truth must enter the Church through the office of an apostle:

“Paul warned that ‘the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine’ (II Tim. 4:3) and **charged Timothy and other ministers that they teach no other doctrine than that Christ put into the Church through His apostles** (I Tim. 1:3).

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son’ (II John 9).

“True Christians practice what God's Church teaches, and will be blessed by God for so doing. Notice Paul's compliment to the Romans: ‘But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you’” (Rom. 6:17).

Good News Magazine, “See You Next Year”, September 1981, Page 37

“Jesus taught the early apostles. **Where did the Church get its teaching?** It didn't get it from Jesus, and it didn't get it from Satan. **It got it from the APOSTLES, and the prophets and the writings of the prophets.** That's why you read in Ephesians the 2nd chapter that the church was ‘founded on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets’ of the Old because there were no prophets in the New Testament that had anything to do with the founding of the Church, or the teaching of the Church, or the setting of policies, or the giving of truth to the Church.

“I think there are only, I believe, 4 or 5 prophets even Mentioned in the New Testament, and not one of them had anything to do with the administration or the revealing of knowledge to the Church. They were not prophets in that sense at all. So it is referring definitely to the prophets of the Old Testament and they are constantly quoted in the New Testament and by the apostles. **The apostles received their knowledge, which they taught the Church, they received it from Jesus** in person AND from the writings of the PROPHETS.

Sermon, “50th Anniversary of the Eugene Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 24, 1983

3. If the living HEAD of the Church Jesus Christ reveals new truth to an apostle, it will never contradict established truth, i.e. truth that has been set in the Church by another apostle (Amos 3:3 and I Corinthians 1:10-13). This is because Jesus Christ is not divided and therefore, the body of Christ cannot be divided (I Corinthians 12:12). Therefore, a true apostle will never contradict the doctrines that were set in the Church or taught by another apostle.

“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

"But the Bible does teach we must be like minded. We don't have to be like Abraham, but we must be likeminded. Now I didn't marry a 2nd time until I found out that we were likeminded, **and likeminded in the Lord. We must all speak the same thing.** That's just another way of saying the same thing, one toward another according to Jesus Christ. 'That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God'. You see we have to speak the same thing. **But we can't have one believing this and one believing something else."**

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

4. God the Father, who is the author of all truth (John 17:17), has established only one body of beliefs (Ephesians 4:4-5). And Jesus Christ teaches His Church, through His apostles, only the doctrines that the Father gives Him (John 12:49). And this body of doctrines creates one harmonious picture. Therefore, if an apostle introduces a new truth in the Laodicean era, it will make the truths there were established in the Church by Mr. Armstrong, stronger, more binding, and it will enhance and support all established doctrines. It will be in complete agreement with all established truth.

"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

"Let's note carefully the meaningful words Jude used [Jude 3]. He was urging them to defend the original faith they had been given. Many of these people had been converted by the preaching of Christ's apostles. Some may have even heard Christ Himself. They got the truth firsthand - directly from the apostles who had obtained it from Christ who had faithfully delivered it from God the Father. There was no question about what the faith was. It had been faithfully given to them!

"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. Together with the prophets, the apostolic teachings form the foundation of God's house – Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Any superstructure not built upon this foundation is false; it will not stand (I Cor. 3:10-15).

"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

5. And finally, it is true that Mr. Armstrong stated that one must prove the doctrines taught in the Church before attending services with the Worldwide Church of God and definitely before being baptized in

the Church and must agree with them. He also stated that once a member is baptized, there is no need to prove the doctrines that are revealed to Christ's apostle. Understand that he said this in the Philadelphia era of the Church which was an era that was led by a faithful apostle known for holding fast to the truth and not compromising.

But we now live in a different era. The era we live in is divided in doctrinal truth. The leaders of the various Church of God groups cannot agree in doctrine. It has been estimated that there are over 400 various splinters and slivers. Furthermore, the era that we now live in, the Laodicean era, is known for blindness, Revelation 3:17. In addition, there are numerous warnings in the Bible that some of God's people (those in the faith) will be deceived at the end of the age. The following are just a few of these scriptures; I Timothy 4:1, II Thessalonians 2:1-4, II Timothy 3:1, 7-8, & 13, and II Timothy 4:3-4. These are sobering verses.

Therefore, it is prudent to practice the instruction in I Thessalonians 5:21 in this era, which states that we should prove all things. This includes prior to attending services and becoming members of any Church of God group and it is also wise to follow this instruction when one is in a Church group and the leader of the group introduces new truth. This is not contradicting what Mr. Armstrong stated because what he said held true for the Philadelphia era known for having kept the "word of Christ" (Revelation 3:8 & 10) which is the truth.

All 5 parameters must be met before a begotten member accepts new truth. These are the 4 "assurances" and the 5 "parameters" that one can use to keep from being deceived in the Laodicean era. An era that failed to "hold fast" to the truth as commanded in Revelation 3:11 and has now lost, compromised or altered the correct doctrines that Jesus Christ restored to the Church in the 20th century, Revelation 3:8 & 10.

It is only fitting to conclude with the words of Mr. Armstrong. The timing of the words you will soon read occur right after a period in the Church when there were errors in doctrine, when there was division, and when liberal teachings had infiltrated the Church. It was written in 1979, shortly after Mr. Armstrong began to put the Church back on track. As you read his words, ask yourself, how much more meaning do they have for us today. May God help everyone hold fast to the "old teachings", the true teachings that came from God, the doctrines that were "once delivered" to the saints!

"Brethren, WE HAVE NOT OBEYED THAT COMMAND OF JESUS CHRIST! We have not *all* believed the same thing! There *HAVE BEEN DIVISIONS* among us for that very reason!

"We therefore have been GUILTY before God of DISOBEYING HIS EXPLICIT COMMAND! I said, '*have been.*' But God's time of trial and test is upon us! God says, through Daniel, that at 'the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried' (Daniel 12:9-10).

"God's sifting time is upon us! God is allowing those duped by Satan to bring upon us the GREATEST TIME OF TRIAL AND TESTING that His Church has undergone in our lifetime!"

Good News Magazine, "And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally", April 1979,
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*With sincerity and love
And in Christ's service,*

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