

**“And the Gospel shall be Preached”
The Biblical Doctrine & the Pattern**

Preface

This purpose of this article, as well as all of the articles that have been written, is to restore the key doctrinal truths that were revealed by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia Era of the Church on a specific subject. In order to accomplish this, as much pertinent information as possible is been gathered, researched and cited to paint a complete picture and to provide a accurate representation of the truth that was once delivered unto the saints, on the topic being covered. This is the way that every subject on a Biblical truth should be studied:

“Now I just want to pause to remind you of one little point here in how to understand the Bible. You know, a lot of people think they find contradictions in the Bible because one writer will mention something that another doesn’t.

“One will mention a certain fact and another, a different fact and they say there’s a contradiction. Oh, there’s no contradiction. They don’t all tell all of the same facts and you have to add the writings of the different writers on the same subject. Add them up and then you have the correct attitude, the sum total of all of it...

“And that’s why we need to read all of the gospels to know what Jesus said. **We need to read all of the passages on any one subject, anywhere in the Bible, if you would know the truth of that part of the Bible.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Christ’s True Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong

During the 20th century, a vital truth was revealed by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia era of the Church on the method by which gospel is to be proclaimed to the world. This understanding has been lost to the splinters and to the scattered brethren.

The manner in which this commission was accomplished in the 20th century involved restored truth, which is doctrine. The way in which the gospel was proclaimed in the last century also involved a pattern. And when the gospel was preached in the 20th century according to the doctrinal manner and according to the pattern just mentioned history reveals that it yielded much fruit and that the Church of God was blessed by the almighty God.

The preaching of the gospel to the world is a work that an apostle, or one that has been selected to serve in this capacity, is commissioned to accomplish by God and is responsible for its overall supervision. Any person or any group who deviates from this Biblical doctrine has deviated from a key truth that Jesus Christ restored to the Church during the Philadelphia era.

But I don’t expect anyone to believe me just because I say this. You should believe the truth on this subject that is found in your Bible and the words of a faithful apostle who was selected to lead the Philadelphia era of God’s Church, an era that had phenomenal growth.

It is important to remember that Biblical doctrine and truth are synonymous words. They both mean any teaching that originates from the Bible. The Bible contains the teachings that come from God the Father which he passed down to Jesus Christ who in turn restores and reveals them to the Church of God. And these doctrines and truths cannot be altered or modified by man. An entire article on this subject has been written and posted for all to read.

Introduction

Have you ever stopped to think about the incredible work that took place in the 20th century, i.e. the proclamation of the gospel to the world? It was an era that began with 19 members during the Great Depression, but before the work was over, there were over 150,000 people in attendance in the *Worldwide Church of God*, and it was a direct result of great work that took place during that century.

The gospel was being proclaimed by way of the *Plain Truth Magazine* which had a hardcopy distribution that surpassed 8 million. The World Tomorrow was broadcast throughout the world by radio and in the 1980's it was telecast on national television every Sunday morning. And for 2 decades, it is estimated that God's apostle met with one third of the world's heads of state and proclaimed this message to them. And hundreds were being baptized every month throughout the globe as a direct result of this message.

But what made this possible? Why was there such stunning growth in the *Worldwide Church of God*? The key to finding the answer lies in the ministerial office of the one who is commissioned by God to proclaim the gospel to the world and in the pattern that he used to accomplish this task.

Many of the groups that splintered from the *Worldwide Church of God* profess that they are proclaiming the gospel to the world. Even individual members and others are posting and announcing this message in their social media accounts such as Face book, chat groups, and material relating to the gospel is also being posted on YouTube and other outlets.

A truth that was once restored to the Church by Jesus Christ has been widely overlooked and ignored by many and it is no longer being adhered to by the offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*, or by those who are or who were once members of these groups. Is it then a surprise that such phenomenal growth has not occurred in these groups as history proves it happened during the Philadelphia era of the Church in the 20th century?

The proclamation of the gospel is a commission that is not to be taken lightly. It is an assignment that is given by the highest authority to a select few who are first trained and who have special abilities to fulfill this mission. And this commission must be accomplished according to the doctrinal truth that Jesus Christ restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church.

The truth of the Bible on this subject will soon come to light and all that is involved in fulfilling this special mission. You will hear from a faithful apostle who was known for not compromising one inch on the Biblical truths entrusted to him. And this is why God was able to use Mr. Herbert W Armstrong to fulfill the greatest work that has ever been accomplished in the history of the Church of God.

It should be noted that the truths contained in this document on this subject are part of the “original truths” that many in the *Worldwide Church of God* once understood and once adhered to. May the spirit of God help everyone to remember the “original truth” on this subject:

“Many of you have read the Bible through many times. Yet, none of you could really understand God's Word as Christ did. It was by means of the Holy Spirit and the way He constantly exercised it day in and day out that He was able to remember, recite and apply scripture!

“Notice what Christ Himself said, ‘But the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, he shall teach you all things, and [shall] bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you’ (John 14:26). God's Spirit will give you the power to understand His word!

“But you need to do your part. You need to study scripture daily, concentrating deeply on it as you study. Ask yourself questions about application of what you read to daily Christian living. As you do, the Holy Spirit will begin actively to guide your thoughts as it in turn is nourished by what you read. Gradually you will realize with amazement that you do remember verses, chapters and books of God's Holy Word. That blueprint of Christian living will become an open book to you!”

Good News Magazine, “What You Need to Know About the Holy Spirit!”, Selmer L Hegvold

What is the Gospel?

The first brick that must be laid is the understanding of what the true gospel entails. The true gospel was revealed to Mr. Armstrong and then to the Church of God in the 20th century. The true gospel is the gospel of the kingdom of God. This is the same gospel that Jesus Christ preached (Mark 1:14) and that He committed unto the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20) in the 1st century.

Once the true gospel was revealed to Mr. Armstrong by Jesus Christ, it was obvious that traditional christianity was not professing this gospel. Furthermore, Mr. Armstrong learned that a false gospel infiltrated the Church of God only a couple of decades after the Church was founded. Throughout history, men have altered the true gospel that was once bestowed unto the original apostles.

The true gospel, as it was restored to the Church of God in the 20th century, is the gospel of the kingdom of God. No other subject matter, other than the kingdom of God, is what encompasses the true gospel. The following is the gospel that was proclaimed to the world by Mr. Armstrong in the 20th century, just as it was prophesied in Matthew 24:14 and in Revelation 3:7-8:

“Does it make any difference which Gospel we believe? Listen to the answer of the Eternal God as inspired in Paul's letter to the Galatians, the first chapter, the 8th and 9th verses:

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.’ And it is made a double curse! For the next verse says: ‘... So say I now again) if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed’!

“Jesus then said: ‘He that BELIEVETH and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned’ (Mark 16:16). Notice! Jesus said, ‘He that BELIEVETH.’ Believeth what? Why, BELIEVETH that which they PREACHED, of course - THE GOSPEL! Not a gospel. Not any gospel. THE Gospel! **On the authority of Jesus Christ, it is necessary to believe THAT PRECISE IDENTICAL GOSPEL in order to be saved! And to BELIEVE the true Gospel, we must first come to KNOW what it is!**”

Booklet, *What is the True Gospel?*, Herbert W Armstrong

“Well, brethren, ALL THOSE THINGS have been restored and **there is a mission for this Church that never applied and has never been done by any other Church, ‘This gospel of the kingdom’ has been restored and ‘shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations’ [Matthew 24:14]. Has that been done? Has that been restored? Is that gospel going out to the world? You listen on television tomorrow...**”

Sermon, “Mission of the Philadelphia Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 17, 1983

“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.”

Book, *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

"The apostles later preached that same message of the coming world government of the Kingdom of God. This is the *only* gospel message acceptable to God. 'But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed' (Gal. 1:8).

"Strong words those! But it does show just how important it is to God that His Church be preaching the right message. No other gospel will do! ..."

Booklet, *Where is God's Church Today?*, Ambassador College Publication, Page 34

Note: In the 20th century, the *Worldwide Church of God* produced a booklet that was written by Mr. Armstrong on the subject of the true gospel. The booklet is titled *What is the True Gospel?* and it explains what the gospel is about. One can use this booklet to compare and to confirm whether the authenticity of the true gospel is being proclaimed by the offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*.

"Sent Forth"

The special commission of preaching the gospel to the world is not a mission that just anyone is authorized to engage in, it is a work that is specifically assigned to a living apostle or apostles, or those who will at one point in time serve in this office. And this duty is assigned to them by the living head of the Church, Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong came to understand this Biblical truth during his life. But it was Christ who truly revealed this

knowledge to him. He learned that the word apostle means one who is “sent forth” and more specifically, one who is “sent forth” with the gospel.

This is the special commission the original apostles were assigned, including the apostle Paul. The gospel of the kingdom of God was revealed to Mr. Armstrong during his initial calling. He began fulfilling this endeavor over the radio for the first time in 1933. By the end of his life, the preaching of the gospel spanned the entire globe. And thus, it became apparent that Jesus Christ had “sent forth” an apostle with this message in the 20th century:

“What does the Bible reveal about the office of an apostle in the Church of God? How many apostles — are listed in the New Testament? What does apostleship have to do with the Church today?

“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

“The Apostle Paul, telling us under God's inspiration of how he came to KNOW God's Truth, said: **‘But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is NOT AFTER MAN. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.’** He received it, as he implies, from an appearance of the living Christ, in person, even after His resurrection and ascension.

“I, too, received Christ's Gospel NOT from MAN. I, too, certify that the Gospel I have taught and proclaimed is NOT AFTER MAN. I entered no theological seminary, where I would have received a particular denominational teaching and set of doctrines and practices. I was not taught by MAN. But I was taught, as was Paul, by the revelation of Jesus Christ — Paul from the living Christ IN PERSON — who is the Word of God in PERSON — but I from the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD — which is the SAME revelation, now set in print.”

Tomorrow's World, “The 19-Year Time Cycles - What HAPPENED January 7 - What My Commission IS!”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 1972

Selected for a Special Mission

People have different abilities and varying talents. Some are born with unique gifts and special capabilities and others gain these abilities by way of training. In addition, the spirit of God grants those whom God has called the ability to fulfill the various functions that may be needed in the Church including any special missions that God deems necessary. It gives Gods people special capabilities to help them serve in the capacities and in the assignments required by God. The office of an apostle is no exception:

“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 Corinthians 12:1-2, 4-6] **‘Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren’ that's to the people in the Church, ‘I would not have you ignorant.’ Now he says ‘there are diversities of gifts, but only one Spirit the same Spirit of God.** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.’

“Now you notice there that there are different administrations and different operations. For these different operations we have to have different administrations, in other words a different group of people administering those operations, In other words different departments, and each department is an administration.

The World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Gospel and the Church are Concerned with Government”, Herbert W Armstrong

Trained for a Unique Commission

Once a man has been selected to serve in the office of an apostle by God, they are ready to begin the special training that will help them fulfill their mission. The first century apostles, including the apostle Paul, were specifically chosen and educated by Jesus Christ for this special mission. They spent three and a half years with Christ as He preached the gospel to the masses. After their training was complete, they were entrusted with the gospel and were instructed to take this message to the masses.

Just like the original apostles were selected by God and trained by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the world, Mr. Armstrong was also selected and trained for this mission. This specific commission entailed announcing the gospel of the soon coming kingdom of God to the world at the end of the age:

“During Jesus' 3 and a half year earthly ministry, He called out, chose and trained, to begin with, the second co-foundation, His original 12 apostles.

“During His human earthly ministry, Jesus announced publicly the future KINGDOM OF GOD. He taught and trained His apostles as He proceeded...

“The apostles were chafing at the bit to GET STARTED — to go forth proclaiming the Gospel Message. But God has wisely used restraint, with patience, taking a proper step at a time. So Jesus cautioned His apostles to WAIT! ‘Tarry ye,’ He commanded (Luke 24:49), ‘In the city of Jerusalem, UNTIL ye be endued with power from on high.’”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 9”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1981

“Jesus spent 3 ½ years teaching and training His disciples to become His apostles and He was preaching the kingdom of God to thousands of people. And of all those thousands that heard him speak, how many do you think really believed Him, and really followed Him at the end? How many were still with him after those 3 ½ years? Only 120, you read that in the 1st chapter of the book of Acts, only 120. In the 15th verse of the 1st chapter it says the number of those together, all that were still there together after Christ’s 3 ½ years of preaching was 120, only 120.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “The Church and Its Purpose”, Herbert W Armstrong

“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

“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

Imparted with Power and Authority

As we have learned, a man is specifically selected and trained to serve in the highest ministerial office. Once this man is selected and trained for this special service, he is "sent forth" with the power and by the authority that comes from the living God and Jesus Christ to proclaim the message that he has been entrusted with, the announcement of the kingdom of God to the world:

"God made me the leader. And God works through one man, he doesn't work through committees. God almighty is running this Church and He is running it through Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ called me and appointed me. You didn't. I wasn't elected. **I was appointed by Christ and the authority within me is from Jesus Christ and the power of Christ through the holy spirit.** It didn't come from you. God never deals through committees."

Sermon, "God's Government Top Down Period" Herbert W Armstrong, FOT October 9, 1976

"[I Corinthians 5;3] 'For though absent in body that, as he was not there in person, I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment, in the name of the Lord Jesus'. Now, I want you to notice something there the apostle can pronounce, judgment. **The apostle has authority. And that authority is to act in the name of Christ. In other words, he has been given the authority of Jesus Christ,** and it is Christ that is back of His order, when he said here, I have already pronounced judgment, in the name of Jesus Christ.

"A man comes banging on your door and says, 'open up in the name of the law'. What does he mean in the name of law? He is himself and not the law. The law is something that was passed by a state legislature or by Congress or some lawmaking body. He is a representative of the law, but he is the same, has the same as power of attorney to act for the law.

"It's just like I give an attorney representing me power of attorney to act for me. And when he does it, he does it in my name and it's just as if I did it, and it's just as authoritative. **So I want you to notice there's authority in the church and the apostle bears that authority. Now some of them don't like that today in the Church, either. We've got them in the Church today that don't like that.**"

Bible Study, "I Corinthians 5-6", Herbert W Armstrong, August 8, 1980

"Chapter one, verse one, the book of I Corinthians 'Paul called to be an apostle'. Now notice this, Jesus said, 'No man can come to me, except the Father which sent Me, draws him'. God had drawn Paul,

knocked him down blind, opened his eyes, and he was one of the called. Many are called, but few are chosen. **Paul was one of the called so, he says, 'Paul called' and what was he called? To be an apostle of Jesus Christ.** He didn't call himself, God did, through the will of God. You see, not through his own will, through the will of God...

"This is just an introduction 'Grace be to you and peace from God our Father'. **Now notice He has the authority to tell them that God is sending them grace and peace. He's speaking for God.** He is God's spokesman. When he says grace and peace under you, from God our Father, he's speaking for God as God's representative. **If I am God's apostle, that's the way I speak to you, as His representative.**

"You know, a man might come to your door, and he represents a certain vacuum cleaner corporation. Now, he's a representative of that company. But he has authority to speak for that company. He represents that company. **Well, now in the same way, Paul represented God, and I represent God.**"

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

"Came the crucial Monday morning. I was well prepared. One minute before that zero hour I was nervous. I had never spoken through a microphone before.

"'If I need any instruction, you'd better give it to me quickly,' I said to the announcer. 'I've never been on the air before.'

"'Just stand before that mic and begin talking when I give you the signal,' he said indifferently. That reassured me. I said to myself, Why, I'm not a bit nervous now.

"The announcer announced me and gave the signal. Suddenly nerves gripped my whole body and mind! But somehow I began talking, and after 30 seconds or a minute the 'mic-fright' was gone. My mind was absorbed with the subject. **The GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God was ON THE AIR for the first time!**

"I began with God's promises to Abraham. The whole true Gospel is based on those PROMISES to Abraham. Soon I was revealing to listeners that the promises were NOT heaven, but this EARTH as an everlasting possession, coupling other scriptures with God's promises beginning in Genesis 12.

"Through the week I carried on the theme of the WORLD TOMORROW — the KINGDOM OF GOD! That message had not gone out to the world publicly since about A. D. 53! **But my heart was in it, and it began coming in POWER!"**

Good News Magazine, "The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 4", Herbert W Armstrong, August 1980

The Role Evangelists, Pastors and Ministers have in the First Commission

In God's Church, including the *Worldwide Church of God*, the proclamation of the gospel was and is primarily accomplished and spearheaded by a living apostle or apostles. Mr. Armstrong was the one who met with the heads of state of this world. He was the one who primarily announced the gospel message by radio and by television through the World Tomorrow Broadcast and Telecast. He wrote articles that appeared on a monthly basis in the *Plain Truth Magazine*, the *Good News Magazine* and in the *Youth Magazine*. This is not to mention the numerous books and booklets that he wrote.

There are a number of ministerial offices that are given in the Church for various reasons. Some of these offices may be provided to fulfill the various spiritual and administrative functions of the Church. Offices such as evangelists and pastor rank ministers may be used by an apostle to help him with the first commission. But when they assist an apostle in this work, they are limited in the functions that they may perform. The reason is because the great commission is a work that is assigned to and must be fulfilled by a living apostle or apostles:

"Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, **the word apostle means 'one sent forth.'** **Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the gospel.** They were called to support and encourage the apostles in getting out the gospel message, as GOD'S MEANS of developing in them God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!"

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

"It's the same spirit working in each one of us. Now that is explained a little more explicitly in Ephesians 4 where it says in verse 11 that God gave some or Christ gave some 'apostles and some prophets', now then there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets were, as I say, Old Testament prophets. 'and some evangelists and some pastors and some teachers'.

"Now, the preaching of the gospel is primarily to apostles and evangelists. An apostle is one sent forth with the gospel, one sent forth. **Well, an evangelist is one who also carries the gospel out.** And they're called evangelists in the New Testament who went out preaching the gospel to the world. But pastors are pastors over a local Church and preach to those who are already in the Church. **But a pastor even can carry the gospel into the world in his own community or neighboring communities.**"

World Tomorrow Broadcast, 'Gospel of Government', Herbert W Armstrong

"This first and great commission was given to the apostles. To a lesser extent evangelists were used in carrying forth the message. Other leaders—ordained ministers—were stationary, yet even the local pastor of a church may hold evangelistic services in his area—not the 'soul-saving crusade' type, but

lectures ANNOUNCING and PROCLAIMING as a witness the coming KINGDOM OF GOD (the true Gospel)!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 1981

Supervision of Gospel

Not only are the apostles selected for their commission, trained for this duty, and imbued with the power and authority from above, they are also responsible for the supervision of the gospel. The apostle or apostles are the ones entrusted with and responsible for delivering the most wonderful news the world will ever hear.

They are the ones that are accountable for ensuring the true gospel is proclaimed to the world in the manner that was revealed to them and in the way that they were trained. This is why they are not only accountable for the success of this mission, they are also responsible and given the supervision over those who are used to assist them in this work and in the manner that this message is delivered to the world:

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (1 Cor. 16:1). The apostle Paul had oversight over the churches of the Gentile world (II Cor. 11:28)...”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“To administer these many operations, God — not a vote of the members — ‘hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.’ Or, as stated in more detail in Ephesians 4:11 (Revised Standard Version): ‘And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.’

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's Gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (I Corinthians 16:1, II Corinthians 11:28).

“The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of the New Testament and Gospel teaching and functioning. The word prophesy is often used in the sense of ‘to preach, or proclaim’. So some of the preachers might well be termed ‘prophets’ — but no prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.”

Book, *A Voice Calls Out Amid Religious Confusion*, Herbert W Armstrong

The Role of the Membership

The greatest news the world will ever receive is that a time of peace and happiness is coming. The pain and suffering that are a result of the diseases that plague this world will be gone. And a utopian society will quickly

spread and engulf the earth. The members in the Church, those who are called by God, play a crucial role in supporting an apostle as he proclaims this message to the world.

The work of God that is assigned to an apostle is made possible through the tithes and offerings, prayers and words of encouragement that come from the membership. Without their support, the gospel could not be announced to the world in the manner and power that was accomplished by the apostles:

“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

Note: What you have read thus far are some of the “original truths” that Jesus Christ restored to the Church during the Philadelphia era. The true gospel, the commission assigned to the apostles to take the gospel to the world, and the role of the membership were all doctrinal truths that were once understood and adhered to by the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong. Any deviation from these original truths is a departure from doctrinal truth. Remember, “truth” is any doctrinal teaching that comes from the word of God, John 17:17.

The Pattern used to Proclaim the Gospel in the 20th Century

In the 20th century, a 3 point program for spearheading the gospel was established by Mr. Armstrong. It yielded an amazing amount of fruit. This 3 point program is the pattern that was used and it included a broadcast/telecast of the World Tomorrow Program, the circulation of a hardcopy printed magazine called *The Plain Truth Magazine*, and personal evangelism which later blossomed into personal visits with numerous heads of states and world leaders.

It was a pattern that was blessed by the almighty God because there was a living apostle present who was “sent forth” to preach the true gospel to the world and who did not compromise or deviate from the truths that were entrusted to him by Jesus Christ, including the truth on how the gospel should be proclaimed to the world:

“I had planned a ‘**Three-Point Campaign**’ — spearheaded by the **radio broadcast**, followed by **The Plain Truth** and reinforced by **personal evangelism** holding six-nights-a-week meetings...

Good News Magazine, “The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 5”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“The World Tomorrow grew from 1 program at a 100 watt station to a radio and television program that is now heard and seen on hundreds of stations around the world.”

“From an even humbler beginning, The Plain Truth has steadily increased in quality and circulation until today it reaches unto nearly every country on earth in many languages with a readership of millions.”

“The third part of the 3 point plan also began small. Mr. Armstrong held meetings in rented halls in the towns and villages of the Willamette Valley. As the work grew, he planned campaigns in other parts of the United States, and eventually overseas. But God had even bigger plans for this part of the 3 point plan. The turning point came in 1968. As the world grew closer to its destiny, God thrust his servant into the international arena.”

Presentation, “Behind the Work 1981”, Herbert W Armstrong, First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1981

“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.”

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

Note: An important comment is needed here. The 3 point program that was just mentioned is part of the pattern that was used by Mr. Armstrong, by God’s apostle of the 20th century, to announce the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God. The pattern used, the 3 point program, is not doctrine, but it is certainly a pattern that worked extremely well, yielded much fruit, and was blessed by God.

The Proof of an Apostleship

So far, we have seen the Biblical doctrine and the pattern that was used in the 20th century to be announced gospel to the world. But a couple of natural questions that need to be answered arise at this point in time. Since it is a Biblical truth that there has to be a living apostle to proclaim the gospel to world, how does one know whether the office of an apostle has been given?

And the second question that comes up is who ordains an apostle into this office? These are questions that all of God's people need to understand. The office of an apostle is the highest office in the Church of God and it is essential to understand how one can tell whether this office has been given. The ordination into this office is not something that is visibly seen or conducted by a man. It is an office that is given by Jesus Christ.

The only proof that the office of an apostle has been given are the fruits that become apparent from the one who is serving in this office, Matthew 7:16. These fruits are a direct result of proclaiming the true gospel to the world. It is the only way that one will know whether this office has been given and/or whether an individual has been "sent forth" by the authority of God to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God:

"Now, you say I am Christ's apostle for our time now today. The first time I ever heard that was Dr. Herman Hague 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 German, 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

"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

"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 Fruits of an Apostle

We have just covered that the only visible sign to God's people that an "apostle" has been "sent forth with a message" are by the fruits that proclaiming the gospel yields. So what are these fruits? What fruits reveal the presence of an apostle? The fruits that reveal that a true apostle has been sent is directly connected to the message that this office is "sent forth" to deliver.

The fruits of a true apostle are the conversions, the baptisms that are a result of announcing the greatest news that mankind will ever hear which is the good news of a soon coming kingdom that will bring peace to this earth. You and I are the living proof and the fruit of an apostle. The apostle Paul referred to these living fruits of an apostle as the seal of an apostleship in I Corinthians 9:2. The fruit that was evident during Mr. Armstrong's apostleship was truly stunning:

"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

God Gives the Increase

The *Worldwide Church of God*, when it was led by Mr. Armstrong, has a well documented history of what occurred in an era that proclaimed the gospel to the world according to the Biblical doctrine and according to

the pattern that was revealed to a faithful apostle. The gospel was spearheaded by a living apostle and a ministry and membership who understood and adhered to their role. And the gospel went out in a number of spectacular ways including broadcasts/telecasts, a printed magazine, and by way of personal meetings with the heads of state of many nations in the 20th century.

All of this history is proof that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was “sent forth” and proclaimed the message that was entrusted to him by Jesus Christ in the Biblical manner and in the pattern that was revealed to him. He did not falter, waiver, compromise, deviate or fail in his commission. This is why God was able to bless the Church of God in the 6th era and give it such a large increase.

No other Worldwide Church of God offshoot or splinter in the Laodicean era has been able to accomplish even a fraction of what the Philadelphia era achieved, even though the Biblical doctrine, the pattern, and the historical evidence of how the gospel is to be proclaimed was left behind for the 7th era to continue in. And even with all of the advancements in technology and communication, the 7th and final era of God’s Church remains splintered, scattered and with little to no fruit.

Remember the 6th era began with 19 members and it started during the Great Depression which was one of the most difficult times in the history of the United States. In addition, there were only 2 or 3 doctrinal truths still intact from the Sardis era. This was a most humble beginning to a Church era that is given no criticism by God.

The growth in the 6th era was all made possible because the *true* gospel was proclaimed to the world, unaltered and unfiltered from the way it was received from Christ, and it was spearheaded by the ministerial office that God has appointed for this message to be proclaimed and supervised. In addition, the Church was kept on track and in the full truth by a faithful apostle who led the Church for over half a century. And this is why it was possible for God to call so many people and to give such a large increase to the Church of God:

“And Peter said, ‘Repent, and then be baptized’ and be baptized meant believe in Christ and believe His message. Now, it was Peter’s message that he had given them that pricked them in their hearts. In other words, he gave them a little bit of God’s knowledge, that otherwise, we would never even want. **Now you can’t do it unless God Himself opens your mind to receive a little bit of that because no man can come to Jesus.** Now there’s only one way you can get to God and that’s through Jesus Christ. **But you can’t even come to Jesus and get started on the way to get to God the Father, unless God the Father calls or draws you. Jesus said so...**

“But he doesn’t call them all, all at once. **Now then, when we have been converted God has called us.** Somehow it’s like the sower and the seed, the seed has been sown and some of it took root in our minds and brought us to the place of repenting and being baptized, and we received the Holy Spirit.”

"[I Corinthians 3:5] 'Paul, Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each of you to believe'. In other words, as God called you. That makes that meaning a little more plain there in the Revised Standard. **Now, he said, 'I planted, Apollo's watered, but God gave the growth'. In the King James it says, 'God gave the increase' or it means that God gave the growth.**

"Alright now Paul went out and planted. Here, he's talking about planting in a garden or a field. Paul took the seed. The seed is the Word of God and Paul planted some of that word of God. However, you just plant. If a farmer plants corn in Iowa, and he just lets it alone, he's not going to have a very big crop of corn.

"Now I have had uncles and aunts or uncles rather that were farmers in Iowa and I'd go down as a boy and I'd watch them and I know they would plant their corn in the spring but boy, believe me, they had to plow and harrow and they had to even water it or the rain had to come and water it. But in a lot of countries, they have to use irrigation and they have to humanly water it and see that there is enough water and do all that. But that doesn't cause it to grow. That doesn't make the corn grow.

"Now notice how he says it here 'Apollon watered' or maybe he harrowed it or plowed a little bit, but **God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything but God who gives the growth and causes it to grow. God is the one who's really doing the big thing, we're not doing much.**"

Bible Study, "I Corinthians 3-4", Herbert W. Armstrong, July 25, 1980

"It is GOD the Father who adds to the Church such as he calls to be saved (Acts 2:47). It is GOD who sets members in the Church (I Cor. 12:18) - not the emotional oratory of the evangelist in the emotional altar call!

"God sets individual members in his Church in order that his holy, righteous perfect CHARACTER may be developed in them. And WHY? To prepare them to become GOD BEINGS in the KINGDOM (family) OF GOD, to GOVERN and RULE the whole earth with the government of God!"

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

The Timeline of History

It is worth noting the timeline of the main events as they occurred in history of the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by the one who was "sent forth" to deliver a special message to this world, the one fulfilled the commission described in Matthew 24:14 and who was given the open door that was prophesied in

Revelation 3:7-8. This brief history is found in an article titled “After 54 Years – Christ’s Apostle Was Still Ahead of His Time!” which came out in the 1986 May issue of the *Good News Magazine*:

- 1927 - Mr. Armstrong is called
- 1931 - Mr. Armstrong is ordained into the ministry.
- 1933 - God used Mr. Armstrong to raise the parent Church of the *Worldwide Church of God*, and thus, the Philadelphia era of God’s Church came to life.
- January 1934 - The broadcast of what would become The World Tomorrow Program went over the airwaves.
- February 1934 - The first 250 copies of the *Plain Truth Magazine* were produced.
- 1947 - Ambassador College was founded in Pasadena California.
- 1953 - Doors open to preach the gospel to Europe by radio.
- 1955 - The World Tomorrow program went on Television.
- 1968 - A turning point in the personal evangelism of Mr. Armstrong’s 3 point program began as he was thrust into the international stage when visits with world leaders started to take place.
- 1985 - Mr. Armstrong completed what might be considered the most important book of his life, *Mystery of the Ages*.
- January 16, 1986 - Mr. Armstrong died.

The Preaching of the Gospel *Was* to Continue After the Death of Mr. Armstrong

One final point remains to be mentioned and it is an important item that needs to be disclosed. The most wonderful news that this world will ever hear is the good news of a soon coming kingdom that will bring peace, happiness and salvation to this earth. The kingdom of God is a government that will be established on the earth that will end all of the suffering, all of the injustices and all of the horrible things that now plague this globe and this kingdom will usher in a utopian civilization on the earth.

The work of God, which is the preaching of this incredible wonderful news, was a top priority in the life of Mr. Armstrong. Even in the final years of his life, he did everything within his power to announce the only real hope for mankind. He dedicated his life to accomplishing this goal because he was truly concerned for the welfare of humanity. And he made sure that the Church understood that this work was to continue in the event of his death:

"Until the present moment I felt that God might provide a way for complete recovery, and he still may. So I have withheld this statement until now, but I feel it is better that you all know the condition. I am now in my 94th year. God may grant that I continue in this very limited manner to direct the work for some time, but the occasional severe heart pains that I have endured have made me feel the necessity of letting our co-workers know of the condition as it is.

"Remember, this is the work of the living Creator God. We are now very near the end of this present age. **I will continue to give my all to the work of God up to the last breath.** I hope you will all realize the seriousness of the time in which we live and that nothing is important any longer other than to be close to God and assured of a place in his very soon-coming Kingdom.

"This world is not God's world, and of that we may all be thankful. It is now in its very last days. This illness has impressed heavily on my mind, more than ever before, the uselessness of this present evil world. Thank God we are all very near to its end. And closer to God's wonderful world tomorrow. I thank you, beyond words to express, for your loving concern and for the many thousands of cards and well wishes that have been coming in from great numbers of you from all over the world.

"I thank God that he has organized this present work of his so thoroughly that regardless of the outcome of my present illness, the work will continue right on to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, dear brethren and co-workers, I and the work of God, need, as never before, your continued fervent prayers for the continued progress of this great work. Christ is the Living Head of this work, and He will continue guiding those He has chosen right up to His Second Coming, which grows daily nearer at hand."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, December 23, 1985

"This is my first letter to you in 1986, and could very well be my last. Now in my 94th year I am in a very physically weakened state enduring severe pain and with virtually no strength whatsoever. I briefly described my condition in last month's co-worker letter to you, and now it has worsened. **It may be that the Work God has given me to do is complete, but not the Work of God's Church, which will be faithfully doing God's Work till Christ, the True Head of this Church, returns.**"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 10, 1986

"Brethren, this world is being destroyed for lack of knowledge of and from GOD, as we read in Hosea 4:6. **Through my personal visits, and the PLAIN TRUTH magazine, on TV and radio and through other literature, we are proclaiming that knowledge in POWER and AUTHORITY. Some listen. It is God's last witness against those who do not. BUT WE MUST DRIVE RIGHT ON UNTIL CHRIST COMES!**

“More than ever I need your earnest prayers. God's great Work needs your generous support. And YOU need the great matchless blessing that comes from having YOUR PART in such a wonderful Work.”
Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, November 18, 1984

The Biblical Doctrine and Pattern

It is worth clarifying that there is a difference between the Biblical doctrine and the pattern by which the gospel is to be proclaimed. The Biblical doctrine involves an apostle who is commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the world. It involves the direct role that an apostle plays in proclaiming this message and the supervision over the method in which this message is announced to the world. And it also involves the supportive role that the membership plays in the work of God.

The pattern that Mr. Armstrong used to proclaim the gospel was a pattern that was extremely successful in the 20th century. It was a 3 point program that involved proclaiming the gospel by print, through a radio and television broadcast, and personal evangelism which later blossomed into meetings with the heads of state of this world.

The pattern that was used in the 20th century to proclaim the gospel is not a Biblical doctrine. It is a pattern that proved to be extremely successful in an age where the printing press as well as broadcasting and telecasting and even high speed travel became avenues by which knowledge and information could be transferred across the globe.

The pattern that was used by Mr. Armstrong was not the same pattern that was used by the original apostles. It is obvious that the advancements in technology such as the printing press, radio and television and even the methods of travel that are available today were not available in the 1st century to the original apostles.

Proclaiming the Gospel in all the World as a Witness

Some of the offshoots of the Worldwide Church of God claim they are proclaiming the gospel to the world as a witness and not preaching it to yield conversions. They take a statement that Mr. Armstrong made in a sermon out of context to justify the preaching the gospel to the world without an apostle being “sent forth” to proclaim it or to supervise it and without adhering to the doctrinal truths that were restored to the Church on this subject.

The only time Mr. Armstrong mentioned that the gospel was proclaimed only as a witness was when Christ taught His disciples. He said that Jesus Christ preached the gospel to the people during his ministry only as a witness. And that only 120 were called, which included the 12 apostles, as a result of His ministry. The following is what he said:

“But now I want you to notice the Great Commission. Jesus taught those apostles for 3 ½ years. Now they went to school. They didn't sit in a classroom. It was a little different. They didn't follow Satan's system of a building, with seats, and a teacher with a desk up front. No, He followed His own system. They went from city to city, and they all went along with Him. They had to walk most of the way. I don't know how they slept. It doesn't say very much about that in the Bible.

“But Jesus taught them, and they were listening. Jesus preached to the people, but as a witness. He didn't call them to be converted. He only called primarily these twelve. However, to those He preached He said, ‘Repent you, and believe the gospel, the good news, of the Kingdom of God.’ **It is recorded that on the Day of Pentecost there were a total of 120, including those twelve, that had come and were there ready to receive the holy spirit when the Church was founded on that day.**

“Now Jesus taught them so they could become teachers. I want you to get this principle! He didn't start a Church with a lot of members. He only started with a few students, so they could become teachers, and He could start the Church around them, and they would be the foundation of the Church.”

Sermon, “The Church is a New Civilization”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 6, 1982

The groups or the individuals who profess they are preaching the gospel to the world **as a witness** without a living apostle, without adhering to all of the Biblical truth on how this work is to be accomplished, are taking a statement Mr. Armstrong made out of context and are deviating from the doctrinal truth that was restored to the Church through him on this very important subject and are assuming a commission that they were not sent forth to proclaim.

The following is the instruction God's people must take when they come across such men or such groups, “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed”, II John 10.

The offshoots or individuals that state they are proclaiming the gospel to the world **as a witness** by posting this information on a website, or by posting videos or audio messages from the *Worldwide Church of God* on a YouTube channel are not truly proclaiming the gospel to the world. For the gospel to be proclaimed to the world, it must go out to the world and this requires a vast amount of work and organization. This is why it is called the *work* of God.

There are millions of websites and there are millions of videos that are posted on YouTube and the chances that people from the various nations of the world will find these websites or these videos is extremely unlikely. The *Plain Truth* was printed in 7 different languages and Mr. Armstrong personally visited numerous foreign countries and their heads of state in order for the gospel to go out to the world. Taking the gospel to

the world entails a large operation and not just posting material on the internet, not to mention, it needs to be done according to the Biblical truth restored through Mr. Armstrong:

“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

History has proven that these groups do not yield fruit which are new conversions when they deviate from the doctrinal truth, especially on the truth on how the gospel is proclaimed to the world. This of course means that God cannot bless their efforts. God simply cannot provide the increase when He has not “sent forth” an apostle with this commission.

The individuals or groups who do this take a single statement Mr. Armstrong made out of context and do not apply all of the other doctrinal truths that were restored on this matter and thus violate one of the 12 rules of effective Bible study that were established in the *Worldwide Church of God*. This rule states that we are to study all of the scriptures on a single subject, not just one, to acquire the true meaning of a Biblical truth:

“No one scripture can OF ITSELF, taken OUT OF CONTEXT, be used to establish the Truth. ‘Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any PRIVATE interpretation’ (II Pet. 1:20).

“God has put His Bible together in a very unusual manner. He has written it so that men could study it intricately in its original languages, pouring over its pages for their entire lifetime — AND YET NEVER COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH. Many people have memorized great sections of the Bible and

yet not come to realize what those sections mean. **You must take the whole Bible in its entire context, getting ALL OF THE SCRIPTURES in that Bible ON ANY ONE SUBJECT BEFORE you can come to the knowledge of that particular subject from God's point of view.**

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little....”

“That is how the converted mind is to study the Bible. Yet, when the unconverted study God's Word a little here and a little there they are STILL NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND the Message of God's Truth because they do not have His Holy Spirit guiding them. That Holy Spirit — the very mind and understanding of God — is the power that inspired those words in the first place, and WITHOUT THAT SPIRIT TO INSPIRE THE UNDERSTANDING, THE DOOR TO THE WORD OF GOD REMAINS SHUT!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “TWELVE RULES for Bible Study”, David Jon Hill, August 1964

When the gospel is proclaimed to the world according to the doctrinal truth that has been mentioned in this article and when the Church of God is on track, God will bless the Church by providing the increase. This increase will in turn produce a membership that can, with their tithes, offerings, and prayers support the Work so that it can grow into a worldwide work:

“A better translation is 'you have ONLY a little strength.' We are very weak physically. **Now speaking over in Zechariah about Zerubbabel in the Old Testament, it's 'not by power' [Zechariah 4:6] He wasn't such a strong man either, but he says, 'by My Spirit, says the Eternal'. It is by the power of the Spirit of God that this Work must move forward, not on human power.**”

Sermon, “Microwave from Tucson”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 2, 1981

Mr. Armstrong never once stated that he expected the Church of God or individuals who are not apostles, to proclaim the gospel to the world, only **as a witness** without adhering to the Biblical doctrine that was restored to him on this subject. But he did state that when the Church is not doctrinally on track, and this includes the Biblical truth on the subject of how the gospel is proclaimed, that God will ***not*** bless their efforts to proclaim the gospel because they are simply functioning on human strength alone, as Mr. Armstrong just mentioned, and not by the power of God:

“The ‘fruits’ of the rebel leaders and ‘liberals’ of the 1970's should now be clear to all. After some 35 years of steady growth in all facets of the Work of God's Church, the rate of growth began to slow, then ceased entirely in some areas, and, finally, even decreases began to be experienced in the number of radio and television stations, Plain Truth circulation, number of prospective members,

number of co-workers, amount of income for the Work, etc. — all under the ‘leadership’ of the liberal element. These are well-documented facts that cannot be denied.

The Worldwide News, “Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God”,
Herbert W Armstrong, June 24, 1985

A Special Note

It should be noted that the preaching of the gospel after the death of Mr. Armstrong did continue into the Laodicean era by the *Restored Church of God* (RCG). The **true** gospel was announced in the 7th era by RCG according to the Biblical doctrine that was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church. And the pattern used in RCG to announce this message most closely matched the pattern that was used in the *Worldwide Church of God* in the 20th century. This of course was true up until another gospel, a strange and unusual teaching referred to as “The Greatest Untold Story” TGUS infiltrated RCG in 2015.

Many in RCG gave everything they had so that the world could hear the wonderful message of the kingdom of God when this group was on track. No other group of people in this age have done what some of the membership did in RCG. In this way, the preaching of the gospel was fulfilled by God’s people in the final era of the Church.

It should be noted that the mission of *The Remnant of the Worldwide Church of God* is to hold fast to the “original truths” that were restored to the *Worldwide Church of God* by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong. And it is our goal to assist anyone who is willing to attain this objective.

For a number of reasons, the preaching of the gospel is not an endeavor that can be engaged in and fulfilled, at this point time, according to the Biblical doctrine and according to the pattern that was used in the 20th century.

One reason is that most of the brethren that are holding fast with us are from RCG and have given all that they have so that the gospel could be preached in this final era of the Church, and now we have very little left to give.

Another reason is that there is no longer a significant membership or ministry left that is holding fast to the full truth, the “original truths” that were restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church, who can be used to fulfill this work again according to the doctrine and the pattern that was once used.

A third reason is that there is not enough time left in this age for anyone to begin this commission again this late at the end of the age. This is because an apostle, or one who will serve in this office, would have to fulfill this commission and thus, would have to produce a significant amount of fruit that would be evident for

everyone to clearly see, know and acknowledge that an apostle has been sent forth. This would require a significant amount work and time.

A fourth reason is that a certain amount of character is necessary to qualify for the kingdom of God, especially as a firstfruit. The development of character takes time and involves making the right decisions, overcoming sin and enduring hardships. It is something that does not happen overnight. And once again, as was just mentioned, we are deep into the Laodicean era to begin this work again so that it can go out to the entire world. That is not to say that those who are not called now are lost. Those who are not called in this age will be given their chance on the Last Great Day.

And the final reason is Romans 9:28 which states, "For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." This scripture indicates that the work of God, which has always been understood to be the preaching of the gospel, will be cut short at the end of the age.

Conclusion

An "original truth", a Biblical doctrine that was restored to the Church of God in the 20th century is the truth that the commission to preach the gospel is given to the apostles. The apostles are the ones who are "sent forth" with this "special message". There has to be a living apostle, or one who will serve in this office, who is sent forth to engage in the preaching of the gospel. This is the Biblical doctrine that was established in the Philadelphia era of the Church. Any deviation from this doctrine is a deviation from a key truth that was once delivered by Jesus Christ unto the Church of God.

The apostles are the ones who are specifically selected by the living God, who have the special skills and abilities, and are the ones trained by Jesus Christ to preach this message. And it is a living apostle who is responsible for overseeing and directing how this message is delivered, according to the pattern that is established by him.

The presence of an apostle is made manifest to the Church by the fruits that this man yields. The fruits or seal of an apostle are the conversions that occur as a result of this commission. This is how God's people can know that this special office has been given. And this is how those whom God has called can be assured that an individual has been vested with the authority from above to engage in the first commission.

Evangelists, pastors and ministers may assist an apostle, to some extent, with proclaiming the gospel. But this must occur under the supervision and direction of an apostle, since it is the apostle who has been entrusted by Jesus Christ with this unique mission and message.

The membership plays a vital role in proclaiming the gospel to the world as well. Their function is to support an apostle with their prayers, words of encouragement, and with their tithes and offerings so that this message may reach its intended audience. Even though their responsibility is a supportive one, it is a task that is absolutely necessary because the gospel could not be announced to the world by an apostle without their help.

And there was also a pattern that was used in the 20th century. The pattern involved the printing press, broadcasting and telecasting, and personal evangelism which later blossomed into meetings with the leaders of nations. And it was a pattern that yielded much fruit and was blessed by God.

The commission of proclaiming the gospel to the world should not be taken lightly. This mission is not one that just anyone should engage in. It is a work that one must be selected for from above. It is a commission that one is trained in by Jesus Christ. It is a task that takes place under the authority and by the power of the living God. And when one has been “sent forth” with this mission, it will be clear and evident to all of God’s people that the extraordinary office of an apostle has been given and that an apostle has been “sent forth” with a “special message”. One final excerpt is in order. It comes from a man who was a first hand witness to the proclamation of the true gospel that took place in the 20th century. The following is what he observed:

“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.**”

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

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



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