

You May Have Been Deceived About Herbert Armstrong's List of Restored Truths and WCG's Earliest Changes!

By **B. Thiel and J. Thiel** (This article was originally published in 2005 and some updates were added later)

Throughout the years, many people have made many statements about the earliest changes imposed by the the initial Tkach administration of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). Some of the first changes were so subtle that almost no one noticed them and thus nearly everyone in WCG had been, to some degree, deceived.

Perhaps the first change involves what is commonly referred to as 'the 18 truths' restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church of God. Herbert W. Armstrong once wrote, "1933...At least 18 basic and essential truths have been restored to the True Church since that year" (*Mystery of the Ages*, Dodd & Mead, 1985, p. 251). The *Worldwide News* ran a listing purported to be those truths in 1986 (and though some have hinted that these truths are "tradition," it should be noted that we believe that they all have proper biblical support--some related articles are at the www.cogwriter.com website).

Earlier this year, we ran across a transcript of a sermon titled *Mission of the Philadelphia Church Era* by Herbert W. Armstrong given on December 17, 1983. We have also listened to the audio tape to verify that the transcript is authentic. Herbert Armstrong's sermon seems to have been given shortly before he wrote the aforementioned comment in *Mystery of the Ages*. He lists approximately 18 truths that he felt that God led him to restore to the Philadelphia era of the Church of God that had been lost and no longer understood by the main group of the Sardis era. This sermon may have been the first place this amount of identified restored truths were listed in one place.

The Listing in the *Worldwide News*

However, the listing in the *Worldwide News* was somewhat different. In the *Worldwide News* article, the following quote preceded its listing of 18 truths:

"The Editorial Services staff has compiled here, for the first time in any of the Church's publications, 18 essential, basic truths that God restored to His Church through our late Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong. 'As you prepare spiritually for the coming Feast of Tabernacles, please spend time with this important article, reviewing each of the 18 truths and thanking God for restoring them to His Church.' - Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach" (God restored these 18 truths: How thankful are you for them? *Worldwide News*, August 25, 1986, page 5).

While it was true that this compilation was 'the first time in any of the Church's publications', the article did not mention that Herbert Armstrong had listed many of the truths he felt he restored to the Philadelphia era of God's Church in the aforementioned sermon (which he had given less than three years prior to the *Worldwide News* article). Having repeatedly read the transcript of that sermon, as well as having listened to the actual audio of that sermon, it is our belief that WCG must have had this sermon available when it decided to publish the 18 truths article. However, it is also our belief that WCG intentionally omitted the last three truths listed in that sermon.

Sermon Begins

Except otherwise noted, all of the quotes in this article from Herbert Armstrong come from that sermon.

"Greetings, everybody! This afternoon I want to speak on the mission of the Philadelphia Era of the Church, this

Church today in comparison to the first era of the Church, the Ephesus Era of the Church. It's been seeming more and more to me, as the years go by, that the Bible was written primarily for the Philadelphia Era of the Church... Today's mission of the Church you will find in Matthew 24:14. And this gospel of the kingdom... that is the same gospel that Jesus preached... shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Thus, Herbert Armstrong begins the sermon by comparing the Church at Ephesus (the apostolic Church of God) to the Philadelphia era of the Church of God. He then states that the mission of the Philadelphia era of the Church is to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to the world and then the end shall come. It may be of interest to note that 'the end' has not yet come and that mission is the one that those who truly accept these truths would logically accept as their church's top priority.

Why Restored Truths in Modern Times

Herbert Armstrong continued, "Verse 19, the third chapter of Acts. Peter said, 'Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. Now He's ascended up to heaven and the heavens would receive Him UNTIL a certain time; until the times of restitution of all things, which God had spoken to them out of the mouth of His Holy prophets since the world began. Now 'restitution.' Look that word up in the dictionary. Restitution means restoring to a former condition, a former state or condition. Restoring what had been taken away, restoring what had been taken away. So now I ask you, what is Christ coming to restore that had been taken away? What had been taken away was the government of God, the government of God."

Restored Truths

The truths Herbert Armstrong stated God used him to restore to the Philadelphia era of the Church of God are listed below in the order he listed them as restored in that sermon.

1. True Gospel

Herbert Armstrong stated, "Now in Romans 5 and about verse 5, you will read that by the blood of Christ we are reconciled to God. Now the gospel was suppressed and, as I say, they turned to a gospel ABOUT Christ, but they have not talked of His message. And His message talked about God as being the supreme ruler, and His message had to do with the government of God and God is the lawgiver, and when you sin, the sin is the transgression of the law, and that has cut you off from God, the Father. And what was restored? The world had lost the gospel, they didn't know what the gospel was. I came among the true Church of God of the Sardis Era. They didn't know what the gospel was, they thought it was what they called the third angel's message. They didn't know what the gospel really was. They called it a third angel's message. God revealed it to me and through me, to the Church. That the gospel is the Kingdom of God, that is the gospel Jesus preached, that's the gospel Paul preached to the Gentiles, that's the gospel that Peter and John preached. You'll find when Jesus sent them out and sent out 70, He said preach the Kingdom of God. That is the only gospel, is the gospel OF Jesus Christ. The world preached and has a gospel ABOUT Christ. Now the first thing to be restored to the Church is the true gospel. The world has lost the purpose of God. They have lost all knowledge of the gospel of Christ, which is the Kingdom of God. They have lost all of these things."

2. Purpose of God

He immediately continued with, "And the second thing to be restored is the PURPOSE of God. And the gospel

has to do with that. That God IS reproducing us and that MAN CAN BECOME God! ... And now let me tell you, I'm going to reveal to you, now, things that have been restored in this Church. Let me tell you, THESE ARE ALL THINGS THAT SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MINISTERS IN THIS CHURCH IN HIGH OFFICE, HAVE GONE OUT AND NOW ARE SAYING, AND SAYING PUBLICLY, THAT WE ARE DEPARTING FROM THE FAITH AND THAT WE ARE GOING FARTHER AND FARTHER INTO ERROR BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE TRUTHS THAT GOD HAS BEEN RESTORING INTO THE CHURCH. God's purpose is that He's reproducing Himself and that we, ultimately, become God."

3. God's Plan Through the Holy Days

He immediately continued with, "Now another thing that has been restored is, through the Holy Days, God's plan, His Master Plan for accomplishing that purpose, and the annual Holy Days. And no other Church has had those Holy Days, and understands them."

It is quite possible that Mr. Armstrong felt that keeping the Holy Days and what they meant were two separate restored truths, yet in this sermon he mentions those together here as well as later when he states, "The fact of the annual festivals, that they represent God's plan." He did not separate them into separate truths quite like he does with the other ones listed in this article. Also, it should be recognized that most in the Church of God, 7th Day kept the Passover while Mr. Armstrong affiliated with them, and some kept the other Holy Days--thus this may be why he did not clearly separate this point into two truths.

Insert Comment Herbert Armstrong then added, "All right, what's the next thing restored? I don't think these are in any special order". He did not number any after the first two in his sermon, but this article will continue to number them for clarity sake. It is certainly possible that Herbert Armstrong may have numbered them differently than this article shows them, but major efforts have been made to list them as he did in this 12/17/83 sermon.

4. Government

He stated, "But to go on with the things that have been restored...The government of God has been restored to the Church, and the government of God has been placed in the Church. You read that in Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians 12. Christ is the head of the Church and under Christ in the administration of the government are an apostle or apostles, then evangelists, then pastors, then all are called elders, all ministers all the way up clear down to the lowest. So then there are teachers and elders both speaking elders and preaching elders, deacons and deaconesses. And the Church is restored in that form of government. The Sardis Church even didn't have the right form of government". He also wrote "The government of God is of necessity government from the top down. It cannot be 'government by the consent of the governed' " (*Mystery of the Ages*. p.49).

5. Who and What God Is

He immediately continued with, "Who and what God IS. NO RELIGION ON EARTH KNOWS WHO AND WHAT GOD IS! NO RELIGION ON EARTH! BILLY GRAHAM DOESN'T KNOW IT! JERRY FALWELL DOESN'T KNOW IT! ROMAN CATHOLICS DON'T KNOW IT! GOD IS NOT A TRINITY! GOD IS NOT A SINGLE PERSON! God is a family of persons, and the family began with God and the Word. You read of that in John 1:1-5. And you read of it in Genesis 1 beginning with verse 1. You should learn about God first, and it begins first both in the New Testament and the Old, because many experts feel that, so-called experts, that the book of John should be placed first in the New Testament, although it was not written first. That God is a family and it began with the two, and we can be born into that family."

6. What and Why is Man?

He immediately continued with, "Now the next thing that's restored to the Church — what and why man is! WHAT IS MAN? WHY DID WE COME TO BE ON EARTH? The Sardis Church didn't know, they didn't know in the Middle Ages. Man was made from the dust of the ground. Man was made with one spirit and he needs another spirit, the Spirit of God which unites him with God, and is the impregnation of God-life in him, and he will be born of God." Later in that sermon he states, "The knowledge that he that is born of the flesh IS flesh, mortal, that's what we are", which seems to clarify the 'what' portion of this truth.

7. Spirit in Man

After the term 'God', he immediately continued with, "Next the human spirit IN man. No other Church knows about that. That has been revealed to the Church. That is knowledge that has been restored to the Church of God. And this Church has that knowledge."

The Bible teaches that "there is a spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding" (Job 32:8) which God did not give to the animals (e.g. Job 39:17). "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him" (I Cor 2:11). Mr. Armstrong wrote, "This 'human' spirit imparts the power of intellect to the human physical brain" (*Mystery of the Ages* p. 105). This spirit is not the same as the spirit of God which humans need to understand the things of God, but this spirit is needed to understand the things of humankind (Job 32:8; I Cor 2:11).

8. First-Fruits

He immediately continued with, "Another, the next piece of knowledge that has been restored to this Church, that the rest don't know and no other Church knows it, that this Church is the first-fruits, that God is not trying to save the whole world now. He's calling us out now and He'll use us as teachers to help save the others in THEIR turn, and they in turn, from the Millennium, will help save all the rest in the great White Throne of Judgment. And ultimately, God's going to go after the saving of everybody who ever lived. But no Church understands that, that we are the first-fruits, we are the embryo of the kingdom of God. The fact that we have to be called by God, and salvation is not open to just anyone, whosoever will. The whosoever will may come is found in the last chapter of the Bible, and does not pertain to this time at all. And no other Church seems to know that. That knowledge has been restored to this Church."

(Before listing any restored truth he also earlier stated, "And it is only the called who can come"--which is consistent with this truth.)

9. Knowledge of What the Millennium Is

He immediately continued with, "The knowledge of the Millennium and what it is. Now the Sardis people knew that Christ would rule a thousand years. They knew it would be a Millennium. They had NO IDEA IN THE WORLD about what would happen in the Millennium. They HAD NO IDEA WHAT IS THE PURPOSE of the Millennium. We know when we assemble at the Feast of Tabernacles, that's what we're celebrating, and we know what's going to happen in the Millennium and that salvation will be open, then, to all that are still alive. But it is not open to all now. No other Church knows that. These are things that YOU, brethren, are privileged to know. YOU, God has blessed you with this knowledge, has restored this knowledge to you."

10. Truth About the Holy Spirit

He immediately continued with, "Now truth regarding the Holy Spirit", but did not in this sermon go into it in depth. He had previously emphasized "GOD IS NOT A TRINITY!"

This is about all he mentioned about the Holy Spirit in this sermon, and thus it is possible that he may not have intended it as a separate restored truth, though his context suggests otherwise. Furthermore, he did write, "No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the human mind to understanding this Word of God, without a complete repentance. There was a time, when those two Personages coexisted and NOTHING ELSE did. No third Person is mentioned--no "Ghost"...The Holy Spirit came from heaven, audibly, sounding like a mighty wind, "and it [the Holy Spirit] filled all the house where they were sitting." Next, the Holy Spirit appeared--WAS VISIBLY SEEN--manifested--"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it [the Holy Spirit in the form of divided tongues] sat upon each of them" (Acts 2:2-3). In verse 18, Peter is quoting from the prophet Joel: "I will pour out...of my Spirit..." The Holy Spirit, like water or a fluid, can be "POURED OUT." Can you pour out a person from one into another--as from God into those assembled there? John 7:37-39: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy [Spirit] was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" Again in Acts 10:45, "...on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy [Spirit]." (*Mystery of the Ages* pp. 5,44,56-57).

11. Begotten Now

He immediately continued with, "And the fact that we are begotten now. You're not born yet, only begotten".

He did not mention much else about it in that sermon, but did write the following, "Now, as the physical male sperm finds its way to, and unites with the nucleus in the ovum, so God's Spirit enters and combines with the human spirit and MIND! There is, as explained before, a spirit IN man. This human spirit has combined with the brain to form human MIND. God's Spirit unites with, and witnesses with our spirit that we are, now, the children of GOD (Rom. 8:16). And God's Holy Spirit, now combined with our human spirit in our MIND, imparts to our mind power to comprehend SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE (I Cor. 2:11)--which the carnal mind cannot grasp.

"Now we have the presence of ETERNAL LIFE--God-life--through God's Spirit. In like manner the human embryo was an actual human life as yet undeveloped. But we are not yet immortal spirit beings--not yet BORN of GOD--just as the human ovum was not yet born of its human parents--not yet inheritors, and possessors, but physical HEIRS (Rom. 8:17). But IF God's Holy Spirit dwells in us, God will, at the resurrection, "quicken" to immortality our mortal bodies BY his Spirit that "dwelleth in us" (Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:49-53)" (*Mystery of the Ages* pp.260-261).

12. Born-Again at Resurrection

He stated, "You're not born yet, only begotten, that we will become born at the time of the second coming of Christ, when this mortal puts on immortality, when we won't be human any longer, we'll be divine. The knowledge that he that is born of the flesh IS flesh, mortal, that's what we are. That that is when you're born in the Spirit you BE Spirit. Someone please go tell Jerry Falwell that, so he'll know he's not born again (laughter)."

13. Identity of Israel

He immediately continued with, "Another thing restored to us is our own roots, our identity, who we are. We are the tribe of Manasseh of the lost ten tribes of Israel, and no other Church on earth knows it. That knowledge has been restored into this Church, and God restored that to me 53 years ago."

14. Identity Opens Up Understanding of Bible Prophecy

He immediately continued with, "Our identity. And that opens all the doors...and the understanding of prophecy has been opened to this Church. That has been restored to this Church."

15. Second and Third Tithe He stated, "The second and third tithe, what other Church knows about that? And that was restored by this Church, that knowledge restored by this Church."

Though not mentioned further in that sermon, second and third tithes are discussed in Deuteronomy 14:22-29. God specifically calls third tithe a "holy tithe" (26:13).

16. Identity of Babylon and Her Daughters

He immediately continued with, "Then the great deception, the counterfeit of Revelation 17:5, Babylon, the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, her daughter churches and who they are...Those people in the Catholic Church and the Protestant churches have been deceived."

17. Satan Has Deceived the Whole World

He stated, "And the fact that Satan, the devil, has deceived the whole world. Brethren, Satan is the one who is guilty. Those people in the Catholic Church and the Protestant churches have been deceived. And I think they really believe. God just hasn't opened any more truth to them. We don't sit in judgment of them. We're not judging them YET. We're going to do it and when WE judge them, then all truth will be opened and God will take away the blindness from their eyes so they can understand if they're willing. Today they couldn't understand it, even if they're willing. I don't think they're willing, either, as far as that goes."

18. We Are to Be Separate

He immediately continued with, "And how in Revelation 18:4 that God has called us out from among them, to be separate."

This, combined with his initial statement about the Bible being written primarily for the Philadelphia era, suggests that he is also stating that PHILADELPHIANS ARE NOT TO BE UNIFIED WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD ALL THESE RESTORED TRUTHS. (However, it does not forbid having any contact with others.)

HWA's Next Comments

Getting back to the sermon, Herbert Armstrong then immediately continues with, "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 statement of Herbert Armstrong shows that the truths mentioned in this article are at least part of those he felt were restored to the Philadelphia era of God's Church.

It is telling, because it reveals that he believed that the last 3 truths were restored truths. Those are three that were not in the *Worldwide News* (though the [Continuing Church of God](#) specifically teaches them as part of the 18 restored truths). Since the listing of the restored truths in the *Worldwide News* is so similar to those in this article, we cannot believe that those composed it did not have access to this particular sermon. We feel that they intentionally left out the last three, essentially because separation from the Catholics and Protestants was the opposite of what the new leadership apparently wanted.

Comparison of the Two Lists

The following is a comparison of the restored truths that Herbert Armstrong listed in his sermon and the 18 truths article in the *Worldwide News*:

| HWA Sermon..... | Number in WWN Article |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. True Gospel..... | 2,8 |
| 2. Purpose of God..... | 3 |
| 3. God's Plan through the Holy Days..... | 16,17 |
| 4. Government..... | 1 |
| 5. Who and What is God?..... | 4 |
| 6. What and Why is Man?..... | 5 |
| 7. Spirit in Man..... | 6 |
| 8. Firstfruits..... | 7,9, Alluded to in 10 |
| 9. Knowledge of What the Millennium is..... | 11 |
| 10. Truth About the Holy Spirit..... | MISSING |
| 11. Begotten Now..... | 12,13 |
| 12. Born-Again at the Resurrection..... | Alluded to in 13 |
| 13. Identity of Israel..... | 14 |
| 14. Identity Opens Up Understanding of Bible Prophecy.. | 15 |
| 15. Second and Third Tithes..... | 18 |
| 16. Identity of Babylon and Her Daughters..... | MISSING |
| 17. Satan has Deceived the Whole World..... | MISSING |
| 18. We Are to Be Separate..... | MISSING |

Actually, in 1997 J. Tkach Jr. wrote an article where he specifically rejected all of the 18 truths listed in the 1985 *Worldwide News* article (he did not address the other four as his father's administration did not list them as 'restored truths'). In our opinion, this furthered the deceit in this matter.

How Can Some Still in WCG Claim to Be Faithful?

All with ears to hear should realize that when WCG joined the Evangelical Association years ago, it declared that it was not separate, did not believe the professing Christian world was deceived, and declared itself Protestant-- a clear repudiation of the last three truths that Herbert Armstrong said he restored.

Herbert Armstrong separated himself from the Church of God, Seventh Day (CG7) because one of their leaders stated that HWA was correct on parts of two of the restored truths (listed as numbers 3 and 13 above), but that CG7 would not teach them--he was not put out of CG7 until about a decade AFTER he left them (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, 1973 ed.).

There is no way that HWA would have tolerated the repudiation of all these restored truths by J. Tkach, Jr. and remain part of WCG. How can one send tithes and offerings to such a group? Those who claim to be faithful to the teachings of Herbert Armstrong and who are still affiliated with WCG need to carefully (and prayerfully) study those last three restored truths and separate themselves. To do otherwise, is a clear contradiction--YOU CANNOT HONESTLY BE FAITHFUL TO THE TEACHINGS OF HERBERT ARMSTRONG AND POSSIBLY REMAIN IN WCG! TO DO SO WOULD BE TO IGNORE THREE OF THE TRUTHS HERBERT ARMSTRONG CLAIMED TO HAVE RESTORED TO THE CHURCH.

Carry Out the Work

Although Herbert Armstrong maintained cordial relations with those in Sardis, he separated himself from the Sardis era of the Church and refused to be part of any Church of God he considered to be of the Laodicean era. He warned about being an 'independent' Christian as well (*Mystery of the Ages*, p. 270), but wanted Philadelphians to be "A TEAM TOGETHER" to "carry out the work of God" (pp.266).

In the sermon, he then immediately continues with, "This gospel of the kingdom has been restored and shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations."

This statement shows that Herbert Armstrong believed that the Philadelphia era was to continue to preach the whole gospel as a witness including all that was restored. That statement is also consistent with his last letter, "Remember brethren, this is not the work of Herbert W. Armstrong...The greatest work lies ahead...Never before in the history of the Church has it been possible to reap so great a harvest. It has only been made possible through modern technology, beginning with the printing press, radio, television...Each of you must commit yourself to support God's Work...God's work must push ahead as never before. God is opening up new doors in television" (Letter, 1/10/86).

Another Deception: The 'Autobiography'

The elimination of some of the 18 truths was not the only possible deception. Perhaps the first deception was what was omitted from the title or description of the article. That these were the truths restored to the PHILADELPHIA ERA of God's Church. Not only is that what Herbert Armstrong said in the sermon previously cited, we recently discovered that **all references to the 'Philadelphia' or 'Sardis' eras of the Church were edited out of the hardcover edition of *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*** that WCG put out in late 1986! This edition was edited by the Tkach administration after Herbert Armstrong's death.

We are not the only one to have noticed edits in that edition. The following comments were posted at amazon.com from a review concerning *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, "The most available edition of the Autobiography of HWA (1980's) is not, in fact, an Autobiography. It was edited after his death, and so should have been correctly called a Biography. That said, the edits and choice of photographs reflect a specific bias on the part of the editor(s) concerning how they saw HWA, as opposed to how he saw himself. The edition to find, if you can, is the one published by the WCG in 1973, while Armstrong was still alive. --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition."

The 1986 version eliminates certain points which we believe were done to make it easier for WCG to join with outside churches (some of its earliest cooperation after HWA's death, was for example with CG7). It also seems have deliberately been done so that WCG members would not remember that HWA felt they were called to be part of the [Philadelphia era](#) of God's Church.

Quotes Removed in the 1986 Autobiography

While in most places the two editions are identical, here are some prominent quotes from the 1973 edition that have been edited out of the 1986 edition:

"This is a photographic reproduction of Elder A. N. Dugger's letter of July 28, 1929, endorsing truth of the United States and Britain identity as 20th Century Manasseh and Ephraim, Birthright tribes of 'Lost' Ten Tribes of Kingdom of Israel. Underscoring words 'You surely are right' is ours." (1973 ed., page 372; missing from page 377, 1986 ed.) Note: The entire letter is also missing.

"Events of the 38 years since that time have revealed that this was the transition from the 'Sardis era' (Rev. 3:1-5) into the beginning of the 'Philadelphia era.'" (1973 ed., page 448; missing from page 526, 1986 ed.)

"Now the living Christ began opening DOORS! Later research into church history identified where we stood, at the moment, in the prophecy concerning the seven stages, or eras of God's Church from the time of the original apostles, up to Christ's return to earth and establishment of the Kingdom of God. I had been fellowshiping with, working with, the latter part of the Sardis era, as described in Christ's own words in Revelation 3:1-5. The time had come for the Philadelphia era to begin. It did begin a week later, with the ending of the Firbutte meetings, and establishment of a *new* local Church of God starting out with 19 members! It is to the Philadelphia era that Christ said He would OPEN DOORS that His Gospel might be worldwide, into all nations, in power. This could not have started as long as I was being employed by MEN, ruled by MEN, not free to serve God FULLY, His way!" (1973 ed., page 450; missing from page 528, 1986 ed.)

"Actually, although we did not know it then, Christ Himself had started the 'Philadelphia' era or phase of His Church with the organization of that little Church of God now meeting at Jeans school, following the meetings in the Firbutte school, and following the rejection of the salary and authority of men resulting from the 'All-Day Wrangle.'" (1973 ed., page 473; missing from page 561, 1986 ed.)

[after the word 'ministers'] "in the two branches of the 'Sardis' phase of the Church." (1973 ed., page 474; missing from page 562, 1986 ed.)

Conclusion

So it seems that WWN "18 Truths" article was NOT a "last gasp" of doctrinal orthodoxy to which the Philadelphians should adhere. It can be seen (thanks to the absence of Philadelphia reference) as the "first shot" in WCG's apparent campaign to take the Church out of the Philadelphia era (which also suggests that WCG was intending on making changes when it said it was not). The REAL "restored truths" are a SUPERSET of the Tkach sanctioned article, which through careful omissions helped set the stage for what came next.

It is not astounding that with the apparently planned actions by WCG to obscure the 18 truths and to attempt to re-write history, that most in the COGs do not seem to realize that Herbert Armstrong did not teach that he was simply part of the COG, but that he was used to lead the Philadelphia era of the Church of God. In this area, we believe most have been deceived.

The group that most clearly teaches the same 18 truths and has the same priority of the Philadelphia era of the Church of God is the [Continuing Church of God](#).

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