

May 2010

Dear Brethren:

Why did a change in the doctrine of Pentecost in 1974 become so significant to the Worldwide Church of God? After all, it seemed like such a small change at the time—really just an inconsequential *adjustment*. Why should it even matter whether that particular Holy Day is observed on a Monday or on a Sunday? To many church members in 1974 it *did not* matter, and that very fact subtly set the stage for a cascading chain of unexpected events which would reverberate through that organization over the next twenty years.

To those who disregard Herbert Armstrong's work as having any divine inspiration from God, the 1974 Pentecost change is *still* highly relevant, historically. Forget (for the moment) that we are talking about God's true Church—His *peculiar treasure*. Anyone who wants to understand how the Worldwide Church of God ultimately became a Protestant, Sunday-keeping, "born-again" group by the mid-1990s *must* look at 1974 for context. The historical dynamics were quite amazing, whether you believe God was involved or not. Yet very few have really recognized this fact, especially among those who still believe Mr. Armstrong was a legitimate servant of God. Most of the remnant groups today—that emerged from that parent body in the 1990s to preserve "traditional Armstrong teachings"—*still* do not get it. Yet the history is right there in black and white for anyone to see. Without the change in Pentecost in 1974, the later changes to repudiate the seventh-day Sabbath, the doctrines on the nature of God, the nature of man, and the hope of human salvation *could never have been made!* Most people focus upon the late 1980s (after Mr. Armstrong's death) as the most *transforming period* in that church's history. They fail to recognize that, truly, the most pivotal event affecting that church's future was a seemingly innocuous decision to change the counting rule for the day of Pentecost twenty years beforehand. The ultimate dismantling of that church in the 1990s was only the final act in a play whose storyline unfolded slowly over two decades. What is the proof?

A Forty-Year Precedent

What is true is that before 1974, major doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God had always been *certified as true* by claiming God's divine guidance. Technical explanations of Hebrew and Greek words—as well as a good dose of historical exposition—were always part of "the evidence," but in the end, the supreme reason any contentious doctrine was resolved

in a particular way related to *God's divine inspiration*. How did we know we had the truth? Not because our technical scholastic process was better than any other church, but because *God picked us* to be His peculiar treasure, and with that special calling came the gift of *miraculous understanding*. Why miraculous? Because the very best capabilities of natural human wisdom can still never lead to real Truth. If that is not so, all of these brilliant minds on this earth would agree on the meanings of the Bible. But *they do not*. There are as many contradictory conclusions about "Bible truths" as there are men with prestigious degrees to write papers and lead symposiums. Experts are everywhere, but virtually *none of them* are in agreement. So much for the ability of human intellect and the scientific method to lead to indisputable spiritual truth. In the end, whose interpretation will we trust? Which "expert" opinion will prevail? In every religious organization, *someone* makes that call. Within the Radio Church of God, Herbert Armstrong held that authority, and he made those decisions claiming *God's divine guidance* for legitimacy. In doing so he raised up a religious movement which thumbed its nose at every sacred cow of mainstream Christianity. He was unapologetic, insisting he had the backing of God for everything he was teaching, even though the collective body of this world's Bible "experts" opposed him. Here are two examples of his intrepid independence and claim of divine inspiration in opposition to the world's scholars:

And so I say to you, as the Apostle Paul said to those at Galatia: I certify you, brethren, that the GOSPEL which is 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. . . . When it pleased God, who . . . called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him to the world; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood—neither went I to any sect or denomination or human theologian, but I went directly to the WORD of GOD, on my knees, corrected, reproved, and instructed in God's righteousness and TRUTH! (*Co-worker Letter*, Herbert W. Armstrong; November 29, 1954)

This world rejects God's TRUTH -- God's WAY OF LIFE. It follows the way that leads to curses. . . . Instead of the true spiritual waters of life that would satisfy, they try to quench their thirst on excessive strong drink that brings spiritual drunkenness. And truly, they are SPIRITUALLY DRUNK! Their spiritual eyes are so blurred and out of focus by the false spiritual wine of pagan myths, superstitious religions, atheistic concepts, and vain philosophies, that TRUTH is completely blurred to their sight -- they are UNABLE to grasp it! (*The Plain Truth*, "Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor," August 1961)

The Radio Church of God was founded as a reactionary religious movement, asserting its disdain for traditional ecclesiastical dogma and the foolishness of this world's lofty, howbeit *blinded*, "experts." Those who came into the church in those early years were *escaping* their past indoctrinations of "nominal churchianity"—*casting off* the bonds of "accepted" Bible scholarship—having found it miserably unsatisfying and totally lacking in substance. Here is an example of that *culture of disdain* for traditional religious conformity as it was expressed on the topic of Pentecost:

The New Testament Church was not founded on Sunday. But it did start on the annual Sabbath day called "Pentecost" or "Feast of Firstfruits." Also called the "Feast of Weeks." . . . It is of very grave importance that we figure the right day. This day, and this only, is made HOLY by the Eternal Creator (*Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*, 1957, p. 13, 14, Herbert W. Armstrong).

Almighty God is NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION! (I Cor. 14:33.) He has placed specific offices in His True Church today to determine just such things as how to count Pentecost (Eph. 4:11-13). Pentecost ALWAYS FALLS ON A MONDAY, there is NO OTHER DAY ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT! (*Ambassador College Correspondence Course*, Lesson 35, 1969)

This claim of divine inspiration is certainly no proof to anyone who doubts Herbert Armstrong's ecclesiastical legitimacy. But among those who *did* believe it was the work of God—not of man, the final claim of authority for *any doctrinal teaching* was that God *actively guided* Mr. Armstrong through the forest of religious confusion to confirm *miraculously* the correct answers to doctrinal questions. Members were taught that the true Church of God is founded upon a Rock—a sure foundation—which is Jesus Christ Himself. Therefore, it is accurate to say that during the first forty years of that work—from 1934 until 1974—the culture of the church was permeated with the idea that God *guided* His church into all Truth from the beginning: "Howbeit when [it], the Spirit of truth, is come, [it] will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). This is exactly what Mr. Armstrong claimed had happened, and he continued to make that very bold and provocative claim, even through 1973:

God has led his church and has not let His church be deceiving so many people all through these years . . . and I say that by the authority of Jesus Christ (transcript of Bible study, Pasadena, CA, Herbert W. Armstrong, April 17, 1973).

The 1974 Change in Precedent

Yet, less than a year after making this statement about God leading His Church into Truth, he approved a change in the date for Pentecost, citing new availability of *better technical scholarship* from worldly religious "experts," and thereby destroying a forty-year precedent! Here is what he wrote in April 1974 in the 79-page "Pentecost Study Material," distributed primarily to the ministers:

It is the fact that one of the translators of the RSV, who is Chairman of the Revision Committee now revising the RSV, said not only that [that is, that the Hebrew *mi* or *min* should never be translated "from" but "beginning on"], but that he will strongly recommend the revision will so translate it, that caused me to CHANGE the Pentecost from Monday to Sunday (A Simplified Note from Herbert W. Armstrong, para. 4).

Compare this *very new precedent* with his previous claims of *divine guidance* for all such decisions. For the first time related to a *major teaching* of the church, no longer did Mr. Armstrong claim God had guided him through *divine revelation* to resolve a sticky doctrinal point. Instead, the entire authority for changing Pentecost from Monday to Sunday hinged upon *improved understanding* of Bible passages through the wise counsel of *more knowledgeable experts* in the world. Regardless of whether you believe this approach makes more sense or not, what is significant is that 1974 marked the first time such a device was employed to repudiate a prominent, long-held teaching within the Worldwide Church of God. It ushered in a brand new era—akin to opening Pandora's Box—which would *transform* that influential religious organization within twenty years.

Gone, hence, was the claim that God was at the helm from the beginning, steering attentively, and preventing the natural weaknesses of His human crew from precipitating gross navigational errors. Now was introduced a brand new paradigm: The church was told that God never really prevented major doctrinal error from becoming imbedded in those foundational teachings. Jesus Christ was, in essence, a distracted skipper who let his inexperienced first mate—Herbert Armstrong—navigate a loose and wandering course, getting it right sometimes by chance, but winding up off target just as often.

Most compelling was Mr. Armstrong's own change in writing and speaking, as evidenced in his statements to those prominent church ministers who gathered for the dedication ceremony of the new Ambassador Auditorium in May 1974:

Now how God would let His own Church go several [thirty-five or so] years in error may be a little difficult for some to believe. But the more important thing is your attitude (Ambassador College Auditorium dedication ceremony, May 6, 1974, p. 62, reel 2).

Having taught for nearly forty years that the human scholars of this world—none of which ever advocated a Monday Pentecost—were wrong, and that only the true church possessed this precious truth, now the church was told that human scholars were actually our best source for *real wisdom*, and we should not dwell upon the fact God had let His true church get it wrong all this time. A *good attitude* was now our best ally.

With that change, a host of doctrinal publications had to be rewritten. Here are some of those former writings which were immediately edited or discontinued:

Yes, Jesus founded His church on the day of Pentecost—not before then! . . . Was the true church founded on a Sunday in A.D. 33 as the Catholic and a few other churches claim? REMEMBER, if any church which claims apostolic authority has erred in the traditional date of its founding, how can we believe that its other traditions are true? . . . *Pentecost in 31 A.D., the exact day upon which the true church was founded by Jesus Christ, was June 18. This day was a MONDAY* . . . God's true church—the church that Jesus built—has been observing the true day of Pentecost to this day. That is why it has not forgotten the right year in which it was founded. All other churches have resulted from apostasies [sic] and have accepted pagan doctrines. They have forgotten the right year and the right day. They are not the churches that Jesus promised to build and *which He promised to guide into all truth!* Only the *true* church which has kept the *true* day of Pentecost could remember when Jesus founded his church (*The Good News*, "Which Is The True Church?," Herman Hoeh, May 1953).

The Day of Pentecost or Firstfruits is a SIGN. It identifies those who have God's Holy Spirit, those who are God's elect, those who will be resurrected when Jesus Christ returns to this earth! The Day of Pentecost identifies God's ONLY TRUE CHURCH! Only God's true Church keeps the day of Pentecost at the right time in the right way -- with the understanding of God's plan. That is because ONLY GOD'S TRUE CHURCH RECEIVED HIS HOLY SPIRIT AND WAS FOUNDED BY JESUS CHRIST ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST IN 31 A.D.! (*Ambassador College Correspondence Course*, Lesson 35, 1969)

The Aftermath of That Change

Why was the 1974 change in Pentecost so influential in the resulting history of the Worldwide Church of God? Because it marked the beginning of a whole new philosophy for determining what that church would accept as doctrine. But could not the Pentecost

decision simply stand alone as an exception? Could not all of the other doctrines just continue to be confirmed as they were beforehand without impact?

Impossible! Why? Because for the first time, like it or not, every single doctrinal position now came into question. How could they not? If confidence in those original teachings had always rested in the belief that God *miraculously guided* Mr. Armstrong to "get it right"—even in spite of his human limitations—the "necessary" change in Pentecost after four decades proved that, in reality, "The king has no clothes!" If Mr. Armstrong could be so wrong about Pentecost, what else might he also have gotten wrong? *Nothing* now could be taken for granted. *Everything* was suddenly subject to question. And so it *was* questioned—all of it.

One by one, every single doctrine of the church was "reexamined" by a committee of the "best scholars" of the church. Here is that *doctrinal committee* described by Mr. Armstrong in his letter to the church on February 11, 1974, announcing the Pentecost change:

In a former letter, I told you we had called a special team of Ambassador College's most scholarly researchers to reexamine all evidence on setting the day for Pentecost. . . . A committee of our best researchers and scholars at Pasadena Headquarters was appointed to reexamine for me this subject in depth. . . . To assist Mr. Armstrong, we contacted world-famous translators—scholars who actually rendered the Hebrew. . . . We did not have, at that time [in early years], access to all of the scholarly research that we have today. . . . Ambassador College has indeed provided an educated ministry. It has developed a scholarly research team (pp. 3, 7, 5, and 6 respectively).

Having now "gotten their feet wet" by correcting the "long-held error" on Pentecost, *what else* needed to be reexamined for veracity, just in case Mr. Armstrong erroneously assumed God had guided him into Truth on *those doctrines* also? Do you see how this one change set a new precedent which necessarily called *everything* into question? And what was the result of that *progressive* reevaluation?

Before he died in January 1986, Mr. Armstrong seemed, first of all, to *acknowledge* that this philosophical change *actually did occur* in the 1970s. Then secondly, he seemed to concede in retrospect that it was a mistake to begin pandering to the scholars of the world. From *The Worldwide News*, June 24, 1985, in his very last article to the church, entitled, *Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God*, he stated:

A small few Ambassador graduates who had become ministers in the Church were somewhat scholarly inclined, especially one who had a specific problem. He suffered from an inferiority complex. Because some of our graduates at the time were enrolling in outside universities for higher degrees, a few came to conceive that a "scholar" was in the loftiest position of humanity. If this inferiority sufferer could feel in his own mind that he was a scholar he would feel elevated above other people and therefore delivered from feelings of inferiority. He began to question some of the established doctrines of the Church of God, such as counting the day of Pentecost, divorce and remarriage, tithing and others. Soon he was entering into what he considered a scholarly research to DISprove some of the Church's basic teachings. Gradually one or two others, then even more, joined in a self-appointed "scholarly research" to DISprove plain biblical truths. It became evident that those attending other universities came to consider Ambassador College as inferior and substandard intellectually and academically because of our belief in God. Secularism and the anti-God approach of evolution seemed to them far superior to the revealed knowledge of God.

Mr. Armstrong never advocated returning to a Monday Pentecost before he died, at least not publicly. Even if he had wanted to, it would have been virtually impossible by that time to take that organization back. But it sure appears he came to regret the entire movement which surfaced in the early 1970s to elevate those worldly scholars.

The unnamed man whom Mr. Armstrong highlighted in the quote above was Dr. Ernest Martin, one of the very first ministers of the church to resign during that era, in January 1974. Dr. Martin soon repudiated much of what he had once accepted, believed, and taught as a minister under Mr. Armstrong. He had been an early advocate of a Sunday Pentecost—writing a technical paper on the subject as early as 1961. He was only one of many ministers who apparently harbored contrary ideas about church doctrines, but ideas which they kept under wraps for years. After the change in Pentecost was finally achieved in February 1974, the table was set for a feast of controversy concerning *all* of these previously suppressed agendas. All of a sudden, it was open season on the teachings of the church.

The final result of that act in 1974 was manifested after Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. His successor, as pastor general, used the very same arguments about *growing in grace and knowledge* through the "reevaluation" of long-held doctrines as a means to repudiate the rest of those teachings which had separated the Worldwide Church of God from mainstream Christianity, including the seventh-day Sabbath, the Trinity, and man's very purpose for being created. The entire body of church doctrine was completely

guttled. But those who believe the culprit was the new pastor general fail to recognize the real history. None of those later changes to dismantle fundamental doctrine could ever have been foisted upon the membership if not for the precedent of 1974. Even as Mr. Armstrong later regretted it and fought a losing battle against liberalism through the 1970s and 1980s because of it, so did his successor use that same precedent to dismantle the church altogether. The tools had already been handed to him.

Remember what Mr. Armstrong was quoted earlier as saying in 1961 concerning the so-called wise of this world and its scholars?

And truly, they are SPIRITUALLY DRUNK! Their spiritual eyes are so blurred and out of focus by the false spiritual wine of pagan myths, superstitious religions, atheistic concepts, and vain philosophies, that TRUTH is completely blurred to their sight -- they are UNABLE to grasp it! (*The Plain Truth*, "Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor," August 1961)

What was not given to you earlier is the sentence Mr. Armstrong wrote *immediately following* that statement, concerning the grave accountability of those *who do see*. Here is what he said:

But, if God has opened OUR eyes -- set them in sharp, clear focus -- permitted us to comprehend, through His precious Spirit, what the world is not able, yet, to see, we need to remember this is DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE -- for God will hold us accountable for what we do with it! (Ibid.)

What did the Worldwide Church of God do with that charge they once believed God had given to them through the gift of divinely revealed Truth? In the end, they decided those teachings were really not of God, had never been of God, and that they had all been deceived to ever think they were true. Thanks to turning to the real scholars of this world for truth beginning in 1974, they eventually repudiated everything Herbert Armstrong ever taught. That was the *real gift* which "better scholarship" brought to that organization.

What if Christ Was the Foundation?

If Herbert Armstrong was just another man who found a clever way to make a name for himself through religion, then it really does not matter what eventually occurred in that organization. But what if that body of believers keeping those unique and controversial doctrines *really was* the true Church of God in this age—God's peculiar treasure? What then would be true about that pivotal change in Pentecost in 1974?

Wherever the true Church exists, it is a Body founded upon Christ Himself as the foundation, not upon any man.

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16).

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone* (Ephesians 2:19–20) [emphasis mine].

In all times that God performed a work through chosen servants, whether with ancient Israel or the New Testament Church, it was established from the beginning upon a sure foundation, and then those servants were commanded to hold fast and refuse to depart. They were specially called, and they received the Truth—not through better access to human scholars—but by the miracle of divine revelation.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy (1 Peter 2:9–10).

The world would view these special ones as fools, and only the truly called would have a chance of showing real respect for Jesus Christ. All of the others would show disdain and contempt for His revealed teachings:

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed (1 Peter 2:7–8).

Given what the Bible tells us about all of these dynamics, also confirming that the true Church of God would indeed reject its spiritual foundation—Jesus Christ—what would it mean then if the Worldwide Church of God turned out to be God's inspired work in the twentieth century? It would mean that the change in Pentecost in 1974 from Monday to Sunday was not the minor or trivial "adjustment" so many thought it to be.

Jesus Christ Rejected by Israel

If God did indeed use Herbert Armstrong as an instrument to deliver inspired Truths to the true Church in this era of time, then what that man taught did not come out of his own thoughts or through his own acquired wisdom. Though absolutely fallible humanly—and definitely no accomplished Bible scholar—God must still have been the One inspiring him every step of the way and making sure that the true foundation of that Body was sound—Jesus Christ, the Word of Truth. If Jesus Christ is the One who guided and inspired Mr. Armstrong to confirm a Monday Pentecost for so many years—even against the ridicule of every other religious body in the world—then rejecting Monday Pentecost was no mere "adjustment." That act was a slap in the face of the Revelator who gave it to the Church through divine inspiration.

And is it not interesting that—according to Mr. Armstrong's teachings—the Day of Pentecost pictures the gift of the Holy Spirit to the true Church: those who are the firstfruits of God's work with mankind? According to that teaching, God took a people who by nature could achieve nothing of themselves and freely gave to them knowledge and power to confound the whole world:

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt (Deuteronomy 7:7–8).

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence (1 Corinthians 1:26–29).

The whole point of God's Work with man was to use a very small body of believers as a forerunner, toward the ultimate end of offering salvation to the whole world. That true Church would receive its power from God, not from man, and its teachings would be the gift of Jesus Christ, their foundation. Pentecost embodies *the whole idea* of that small true Church as the firstfruits of God's Work, and the Holy Spirit as *the singular element* given to set them apart. God gave that Spirit for the very first time on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21), the day the New Testament Church was

founded. And if Mr. Armstrong was correct in saying that only the true Church keeps the correct day—Monday—and that Monday Pentecost is a *special sign* which sets that true Church apart from the deceived, what did the change to Sunday in 1974, based upon "better knowledge" from worldly scholars, signify in the eyes of God? If that work was truly the work of Jesus Christ from the beginning, then that very change would epitomize the prophesied rejection of the true Cornerstone by those who should have known better.

Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts (Malachi 2:11–12).

The Book of Malachi is a prophetic book written to confirm what would happen very soon before the return of Jesus Christ. It was not written for ancient Israel, but for those who would become *spiritual* Israelites (of all nations and races) through begetting of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 10:11)! And what did this Malachi prophesy say would lie at *the root* of Israel's departure from God—an act which would cause God to reject them and to withdraw His special inspiration and protection?

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your *solemn feasts*; and *one* shall take you away with it (Malachi 2:1–3) [emphasis mine].

What does this passage tell us? God's own people—the true Israel—would follow their leaders—the priests—into commission of an abomination. Why would God become so unhappy with them? Because those leaders would stop giving glory to Him, and begin giving it instead to men! How would they perpetrate this act of gross disrespect towards God? The last portion of verse three tells us that *one particular solemn feast* would be at the heart of their provocation, "and one [feast] shall take you away with it."

Which commanded feast of God would spiritual Israel profane, and how would this act become such a stench in the nostrils of God? Whatever the answer is, something they would do to corrupt *a particular feast* of God would give glory to man, and no longer to God. What could it be?

If you come to believe that the Worldwide Church of God was the manifestation of God's true work in this time, and that Herbert Armstrong was the legitimate instrument of God to do that work, and if you come to believe that God withdrew His protection from that body *at some point*, allowing that church to be destroyed by the mid-1990s, what will you conclude became the catalyst which set these events into motion and ultimately fulfilled this very prophecy of Malachi 2?

Might it not have been the change in Pentecost from Monday to Sunday in 1974? After all, did not that change meet the criteria for an act of disrespect toward Jesus Christ, *if He had indeed revealed a Monday Pentecost through Mr. Armstrong*? If Monday was the correct day all along, what would God think about His chosen ministry changing it to Sunday after nearly forty years, based upon "better scholarship" from deceived human theologians of this world? Is it just possible that God foretold that it would be *Pentecost*—the annual feast representing the miraculous gift of God's Spirit to the Church—which they would corrupt, becoming more than just a simple "adjustment"? Is it possible this change would signify *a whole new precedent* to reject Jesus Christ as the true foundation of that work, as they thereafter turned to the wisdom of men for their source of knowledge? You be the judge. But it is a possibility which most former members of that church will still not countenance today, even though they advance *every other explanation* for why the church organization they loved as God's true work ultimately ended in such confusion.

Again, regardless of whether you believe Herbert Armstrong was inspired by Jesus Christ to do a unique work in God's name—or not—no one else has documented the profound effect that the 1974 Pentecost change had upon that church over the ensuing twenty years. It was indeed a turning point. Without the change to a Sunday Pentecost based upon *more credible human scholarship*, there could have been no effective argument for the rejection of the weekly Sabbath in 1994, based upon the expertise of "real Bible experts." The first change begat the last, and all of those changes which occurred in between.

Those continuing to believe that Pentecost is a commanded festival of God to the true Church in this age need to weigh seriously how God wishes us to keep it. Does the day upon which you keep it reflect your thankfulness for the revelation of Truth through *a divine gift of God*, or does your choice of day and manner of practice espouse reverence for the prowess of men? How does God view what you are doing? Never underestimate the importance of the correct day. After all, Mr. Armstrong said:

It is of very grave importance that we figure the right day. This day, and this only, is made HOLY by the Eternal Creator.

May your celebration of Pentecost be a glory and an honor to the Creator God, and a blessing of inspiration to you in the knowledge of its meaning for the true Church of the last days.

Yours with love and deep affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jon W. Brisby