

December 30, 1995
Joseph Tkach, Jr., President
Worldwide Church of God
Box 111
Pasadena, CA 91123

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This letter is in reference to the many instances of spiritual abuse that has taken place in the Philadelphia Church by Dave Gilbert - pastor of that area.

Let me begin from the time when Mr. Tkach, Sr. made a major change in doctrine (January, 1995) - the elimination of the Feast Days and Sabbath which Herbert Armstrong - a false apostle - bound on members as requirements for salvation. Many members were confused or angry, mostly the ordained members. On the other hand, you had a group of member, including myself, who understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, conflict arose between various members, including Dave Gilbert. Dave Gilbert apparently thinks that this is God's Church and Herbert Armstrong made a few mistakes, but brought many people to Christ. I told him that we were preaching a false gospel! And for the record, I became a born again Christian at the age of 16 1/2 and deceived by Herbert Armstrong at the age of 24. I was bewitched and fell from Grace. He and his wife became very angry with me. They told me how they ate dinner with Herbert Armstrong - so what! Also, they told me that I was not showing Christian love by conversing with members about the Gospel. His definition of charity is lying to people - or maybe he really believes what he is saying? A case in point: During a sermon he misquoted Herbert Armstrong from the booklet "Which Day is the Christian Sabbath" that there are Christians outside our organization. The truth of the matter is that Herbert Armstrong taught you had to become a member of the "Worldwide Church of God" and submit to God's Government! Dave Gilbert also has the habit of putting down Christians in other churches. For example, he stated that this week's sermon would be longer than usual, and if you wanted a shorter sermon go down the street.

The real conflict started when I would talk or hand out information about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Information such as the commentary on Galatians by Martin Luther, tapes,

The final episode happened in August. I mailed information to Bob [REDACTED], a member from the Trenton church, pertaining to the Gospel of Christ. Bob apparently wanted to ask Larry Wooldrige, pastor of the Trenton area, some questions about Earl Williams. I had sent information to Bob for some time, especially supplemental information from Pasadena. Larry Wooldrige told him that Earl Williams disagrees with God's government. As a result, Larry Wooldrige called Dave Gilbert about the incident. Dave Gilbert immediately called me and expressed his displeasure about the information that I sent him. (I think that the ministry just does not want to talk about the real issues - they are in denial.) Dave Gilbert said he has been very patient with me - I think I have been very patient with him! I asked him what he meant (from the last conversation) that he is in control. He told me that I had to submit to his authority. I told him that I will submit to Jesus Christ, not him. I will not tolerate this cult behavior from Dave Gilbert. He suspended me from the Philadelphia congregation. I can not attend anyway - I am working. He said by the authority of two to three witnesses. I asked him who are the witnesses. He would not say. I also called Bob [REDACTED] the next day about the incident. He stated that he was not upset, and did not understand why Larry Wooldrige called Dave Gilbert. He thanked me for the information, but said that Larry Wooldrige told him not to listen to Earl Williams' tapes. He does want me to continue to send supplemental information from Pasadena to him; such as, the study paper on the Festivals (February 14, 1995). Dave Gilbert also tried to use Steve [REDACTED] - a member of the Philadelphia church - as a silent witness against me. Apparently Steve called Dave Gilbert in April of 1995, and asked him some questions. Steve never mentioned my name in the conversation, but Dave Gilbert blamed me for the questions Steve asked. Steve [REDACTED] is still a close friend of mine, and is very upset, angry and distrustful of Dave Gilbert over this incident and the way he conducts the congregation.

In conclusion, you have local ministers that are in denial and control freaks. They do not understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are like robots, and only preach the Gospel when ordered from Pasadena. Also, they only repent when Pasadena tells them to. (A false humility indeed.) I think they understand the changes from an intellectual point of view. I will continue to pray for them that God will open their hearts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

etc. I only handed this information to members who were understanding the Gospel of Christ and not hostile toward the changes from Pasadena. The information helped many members. And for the record, I never went around the congregation telling the members that Herbert Armstrong was a lying cult Leader! When members come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, this will become very clear!

The second incident involved Mike Sharp (a member) who spoke with Dave Gilbert - telephonically - about the Gospel. Dave Gilbert accused me of upsetting Mike Sharp. When Mike Sharp asked him to explain the following scripture from Galatians (1:8): "But even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed". Dave Gilbert blew his top. He waited until next Saturday to confront me because Mike Sharp agreed with me that Herbert Armstrong was preaching a false gospel. It should be noted that Mike Sharp knew about the Feast Days and Sabbath not being binding on Christians before I did! He actually helped me in 1994 with a book that is published by the Church of God (Seventh Day) - a study of the Feast Days given to Israel. Also, a Earl Williams tape entitled "Leadership of the Holy Spirit" was given to me by another member. This was also the same week that my grandmother [REDACTED] passed away (April 24, 1995). I asked Dave Gilbert to speak at my grandmother's viewing - he refused to speak there. He stated that he did not know my grandmother and what the audience or family believed in! Is this a sick man or what! I also told him that when you preach grace - the true Gospel - you will most likely be persecuted. He also disagreed with me and the correspondent department that members rejecting the changes are really rejecting Jesus Christ. The changes involve the true Gospel verses our old doctrine - which is a false gospel. Of course, he contradicts himself on the podium. He stated that the members who left for United Church of God were rejecting God's government. He shouted "Yes, God has a spiritual government and they are sinning"! It sounds like Dave Gilbert still believes in the old way - Herbert Armstrong's false government - not the leadership of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the conversation, he turned his head and shouted: "I am in control"! I do not know what he is in control of. I do know that Jesus Christ is the one in control. Dave [REDACTED], a member, witnessed the conversation.

and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. The local ministers seem insouciant of the past and their conduct. They refuse to renounce their past beliefs and practices. After you renounce your errors, you need to announce the truth of Jesus Christ. The only local ordained person I know that truly understands the Gospel is Don [REDACTED] from the Bethlehem, Pa church. The following is a list of witnesses you may call to verify the abuses and problems with Dave Gilbert:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | 2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] |
| 3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | 4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] |
| 5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | 6. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] |
| 7. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | |

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

P.S You are doing a great job preaching the true Gospel - keep up the good work, and God bless you!

cc: Mr. Phillip Arnn, Watchman Fellowship, Inc.