



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

On this day, twenty-five years ago (January 16, 1986), Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong died at the age of 94. His long life saw two world wars, the Korean War, and Vietnam War; the formation of the failed League of Nations and the supposedly more successful United Nations; first man on the moon; 18 U.S Presidents; the Atom Bomb; the Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain; and other world events too numerous to list. He was a pioneer of radio evangelism and, in 1933, began preaching over the airwaves of KORE in Eugene, Oregon. This infant entry into radio led to *The World Tomorrow* radio program, which made him a household name throughout the US and Canada. In 1934, he and his wife Loma began publishing *The Plain Truth* magazine that eventually reached 8 million copies read around the globe in seven languages. He founded the *Radio Church of God* in 1946, which was eventually renamed the *Worldwide Church of God* in 1968. In 1947, he started *Ambassador College* with the goal of training ministers and wives to care for the new church congregations that were springing up due to his radio and publishing evangelism. In 1952, *The World Tomorrow* program started airing on Radio Luxembourg throughout the European continent. He founded the *Ambassador International Cultural Foundation* in 1975 to promote the arts and initiate educational, archaeological, and humanitarian projects around the world. He preached the Gospel of Jesus' Kingdom for over half a century up until the day he died!



Herbert W. Armstrong 1800-1986

I personally had the privilege of working for him in the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation the last three and a half years of his life. Some would claim he had become senile the last years before he died. I know better. Yes, he was elderly and his sight, hearing, and mobility were hampered by old age, but his mental powers were sharp and clear. The spring before he died, he was visited in Pasadena, California, by Queen Sirikit of Thailand. My wife Gloria and I accompanied the Queen to his home where he sat down at the piano and played Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata without a mistake.

No—he was not senile. But he was human and he made mistakes, just like I make mistakes and you make mistakes. The point I am emphasizing is that God still used Herbert W. Armstrong to preach God’s Gospel message to the world for over 50 years despite his human weaknesses. He served God as a weak human being with human nature like we all have. He served God and his ministry led to the conversion and spiritual growth of tens of thousands of men and women of many different ethnic groups, cultures, and languages around the world. He served God and then he died. He never stopped and he never quit. That is the way God works on the earth. He works through weak, imperfect, and sometimes foolish humans to complete His work. In so doing, God is glorified. Remember what Jesus told the Apostle Paul:

**2 Corinthians 12:9** *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

On that first Pentecost nearly 2000 years ago, do you think that God poured out His Holy Spirit upon only those that were perfect? Of course not! Were the righteous patriarchs of the Bible all perfect? No! Did they all make mistakes? Yes! But God worked miracles through them and accomplished His work on the earth through them! Look at each and every one of the faithful listed in Hebrews 11. Then go back and read their stories. Each one displayed human nature and weaknesses that remain documented in the Holy Scriptures forever.

Today I am writing this letter to you because God called me to His work over 40 years ago through the imperfect works of Herbert W. Armstrong. Through weakness God is glorified.

There are many, many examples I could use to make my point. These examples are in the Bible and in our Church history since the time when Jesus walked the earth. Mr. Armstrong’s example is personal to me because of HOW and WHEN I was called.

It is no different today than it was in David’s time, or Paul’s time, or in Herbert W. Armstrong’s time. God continues to do His perfect work through imperfect and mistake-making human men and women. Church leaders are no different today than in the first century or 1955. The important thing to ask is, “What are the fruits of their lives?” Are they dedicated to preaching the Gospel? Are their works bearing fruit?

Jesus said: **Matthew 7:16-20** *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Jesus taught us the way to judge whether or not someone is doing the will of God. We must look at the fruits of his or her life. If we focus on human weaknesses, we will not see the fruits—we will only see human weaknesses and faults.

Jesus also told us that we have to take a good look at ourselves before we look at another. This levels the playing field and allows us to see clearly.

**Matthew 7:2-5** *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote (splinter) that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

If you are looking for a church organization or human leader that is perfect—well, all I can say is: “happy trails!” You will spend the rest of your life looking and you will never find the perfection you are searching for. Again, evaluate the fruits.

God said that He does not work with the perfect, but the imperfect.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29** *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 nothing things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

God certainly did not choose me to do His work here in Asia because I am perfect! He certainly did not call me out of a sinful way of life because I was so righteous that a golden halo always emanated from around the top of my presently bald pate!! I am an imperfect tool of God’s glory to work with and serve other imperfect people He is calling to glory.

What does God look for in the people He calls to do His Work?

**Isaiah 66:2** *But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

God is our Father. He will deal with us as His children. If we are weak, He will make us strong. If we make mistakes, He will correct us—even as we correct our own children.

**Hebrews 12:5-10** *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our*

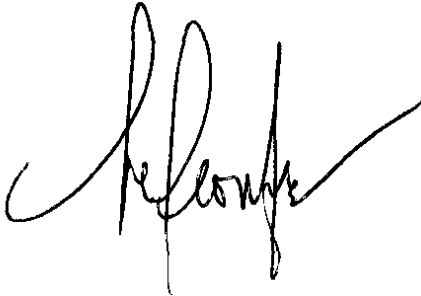
*flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, **that we might be partakers of his holiness.***

Most of us have been hurt by someone in authority in the Church. I know that I have. With the help of Almighty God I have forgiven them and moved on. I have my own God-given responsibilities and my own human weaknesses to be concerned about. I pray that God will forgive my weaknesses and offenses to Him, Our Lord Jesus. And those He is bringing to glory. I pray that His Holy Spirit will produce fruits through all of us that result in Everlasting Life for many others He is now calling and will call in the future before The End.

Look at the fruits, and forgive others their weaknesses.

*So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, “**He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**”* Lord Jesus the Christ (John 8:7)

In Jesus’ service to His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a stylized, flowing script.

T. Leon Sexton

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