

FULL TRANSCRIPTIONS (TRUE CHURCH SERIES TAPE # 5)

**ONE TRUE CHURCH**

HWA 0006

By HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG -- (27:15 MIN/SEC).

00: 24 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, we're continuing, where did the true Church Go? Where is it and why is it, my friends, that we find people today coming up in what we believe is a Christian world, and coming up to believe as Christianity things exactly opposite that what you find in the Bible. Coming to believe things that are not the same gospel as the one that Jesus Christ taught. Practicing customs that we label Christian that were forbidden and were condemned by the early Church. The Church Jesus said He would build; the Church He did build..., by the Apostles. Now in looking in Church history to see what did happen, and to see how the Church, the visible Church, the professing Church..., the church of this world, the church that became known and visible and great, how it got off the track and started the opposite direction. We've had to look for things that most historians never looked for. They've never known what to look for; you have to know what is the True Church of God.

01: 29 MIN/SEC

HWA: And that Church is the very body of Christ and it is the Church that has and is led by the holy spirit of God. Those that have repented of their ways and the ways of this world and have come out from this world and are separate. And that are living by every word of God. That look on the Bible as authority. And who fear and tremble before His word..., instead of saying, oh well, I don't think that makes any differences. I know, the Bible says so and so but then I don't see it makes any differences. And here is the way that I look at it. On that kind of human reasoning, my friends, the popular religions of this world that we call Christianity has been built! No wonder, it's gotten so far away. Do you know that the holy scriptures are not only given by inspiration of God but they are profitable to correct us and reprove us and they are described, the Bible itself says, that its own words, are like a sharp two-edged sword that's going to cut both ways. Now, if there is anything that people do not like, if there is anything that goes against the grain of human nature, it's to be criticized. It is to be corrected and reprovved. We don't like to be criticized even where we are wrong. And even if we're right, we don't like it. But above all, people do not like to be corrected where they are wrong. It's the last thing that a normal man wants to do, to admit it where he's wrong..., and that's why.

02: 53 MIN/SEC

HWA: They wanted to continue with their pagan ways as they began to come into Christianity, now we've shown you how the visible, political organized Christianity, got away from the truth and got away from the word of God, got away from the gospel, but now we're tracing the real True Christian Church. Jesus said it would be persecuted, if they persecuted Him, He said, they'd persecuted His own disciples and His people. The prophecies of this Bible said that it would be scattered. That it would be despised by the world. And that it would be a little flock..., small in number. Now, we began tracing this Church in history and in the preceding program.

03: 33 MIN/SEC

HWA: I've shown you; in the book of Revelation are two church groups, two religious bodies, both professing to be Christian, yet two altogether contrary and different bodies pictured. The one, the popular religious groups of this world..., pictured in Revelation 17. And there under the symbol of a fallen woman and the woman is the symbol of a church. A great Church. Fallen, sitting upon many waters. Ruling over many nations. Speaking many different languages. And called by the name Babylon the Great! Oh, this a great church, this isn't some little despised church you can't find and can't identify. This is a great one. Babylon the Great but Babylon is confusion. And here is the mother of confusion. And the whole world is drunk; drunken on her false teachings; false doctrines. Now, spiritual drunk. Do you know what that means, my friends? And the world is spiritually drunk. As a matter of fact, most of us need to wake up and realized we've been born into such a world that we've come to believe in many of these things. Why do we believe what we do? How did you come to believe, my friends, what do you believe, why you always heard them, you've accepted them, you've just swallowed these things hook, line and sinker because other people believe them. You know that's how you came to believe nearly everything you believe. That's how I came to believe what I believe..., mostly.

05:05 MIN/SEC

HWA: But, you know, years ago, God woke me up. And He struck me down in a different manner than the Apostle Paul, but just as surely. And He brought me to my senses and caused me to begin to check up on what I had come to so carelessly believed and caused me to look into His word and He opened my mind and my understanding to His truth. And I saw that what I had believed was wrong and I had to repent. And I had to throw it out. And I had to acknowledge that I did not have the truth.

05:33 MIN/SEC

HWA: And I want to tell you that there can be no true minister of God, no true minister of Jesus Christ, who has not gone through that identical experience. Unless he has come to realize that he has been wrong, that he has been miss-taught and has

learned wrong things, that he has accepted and just assumed things that are not true, and has been willing to take the truth. And if I was going to accept the truth, I had to suffer the scorn.., of the very important people that I had known, and of relatives and of friends and that's the first thing that anyone thinks of and most people fear people and they fear friends and relatives, they fear associate in clubs members and that sort of thing so much. And they're so close to their eyes that they can't see God, they don't fear God. Well I had to make the decision and I made the decision finally that I was a little more afraid of what God thought than what people thought and so, I had to surrender to God's word. And I had to begin to study it. And I had to let it correct me and prove until I found so many, many things that I had assumed to come to believe that most of us have come to believe in this world were wrong. And to come to accept the truth.

06:41 MIN/SEC

HWA: I don't preach the things I do to you because it's what I wanted to believe. What I grew up accepting carelessly. The things that I preach to you are the very things that you will find recorded in your Bible and the things that I've had to come to accept the hard way. Because I've had to be made to willing to repent.., and to put the precious word of God above my ideas and above popular customs and what people think. And whether people will condemn me or not.

07:12 MIN/SEC

HWA: Yes, there's a lot of good in human nature and there's also a lot of evil. And it seems the evil predominates. Well now, in the twelfth chapter of Revelation we find another pictured and that is the Real True Church and it is a persecuted Church, its scattered; it's driven away. It is the Church that the devil so angry with and it's the Church, it says in the last verse that keep the commandments of God; that obeys God. And they have the testimony of Jesus Christ and the faith of Christ.

(Rev 12:17) Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring-those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. NIV.

07:36 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, we found, that back in second and third chapters of the book of Revelation is the history of the True Church, this despised Church. This Church that would be small in number. The Church that would be persecuted and driven away from organized society even in order to survive and to live. As a matter of fact, my friends, there were millions of this Church that were martyred. Your Bible says so. It's in prophecy. And whatever is prophesied is true. And the time for this prophecy is past therefore it has happened and history records the fact. There were

millions who gave up their lives for the very Word of God because they loved what the Bible said. You know today, even today, I can show., many of you in my radio audience what the Bible says and some, some people, are going to say, well, yes, I know, that what the Bible says but then, I don't see where it makes any difference. Is that what you're going to say? Well, that your right and privilege. But I want to tell you there's a judgment day coming and you're going to stand before the very judgment bar of Christ. And how are you going to answer then? You're going to be judged by this Word let me warn you. Don't treat it carelessly. I've come to tremble before this word. I hope you have.

08:48 MIN/SEC

HWA: Alright, in the second and third chapters of Revelation, you'll find the history of the Church pictured under the seven literal churches that did exist on a mail route there in Asia Minor at the time and the conditions pictured here are the conditions that did exist in those seven churches but they were merely a type foreshadowing the condition that God who knows the end from the beginning knew would happen in the continuous history of His True Church. This despised, this persecuted Church, this scattered Church, small in number. The Real Church that Jesus did build, its history from that time until the second coming of Christ down in our day and it's going to happen in our generation. So, the Church at Ephesus was the symbol of the Apostolic Church as it was in the days of the Apostles and even in that Church as the Apostle Paul wrote, the Mystery of iniquity did already work. And so, apostasy was setting in. And even of there own selves some rose up trying to lead a following the wrong way and away from the truth of God.

09:58 MIN/SEC

HWA: Because it would be easier, you know, human nature, likes to go contrary to God, the natural mind of man, which is human nature, as you read in Romans 8, the eight chapter of Romans, the carnal mind, the natural mind is enmity against God. That is it's antagonistic, it doesn't believe God's way. And it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. It always wants to go the other way just as a young man along from oh, 18 to 21 or so. Perhaps even a little younger with some men, they believe their father's all wrong and their dad doesn't know much. And, now I know at that age, even at age 16, I knew a lot more than my dad, I., my father didn't know very much at that age., I had thought he did know something before that time and I discovered that my father didn't know very much and I knew a lot more than he did. I've told you before how when I was 20 I believe it was that my folks moved away, why we were living in Des Moines, Iowa, and my folks moved out on the West coast and I didn't see them again until I was about 33 and we came out to the West coast and I saw my father then for the first time in about 12 or 13 years and I've told you

how amazed I was of how much my father had learned in that 12 or 13 years because now I found out he knew more than I did.

11:12 MIN/SEC

HWA: Well, some of us grow up spiritually but most of us seem to think that we know better than God; our heavenly Father. We think that we know more than He. And the natural mind is that way and it will turn away from the things of God if we don't overcome.., and control our own minds. Now, in the preceding program we were going through the history of this Church at Ephesus. We saw that it was the Apostolic Church. Now, verse 8, and under the angel of Church at Smyrna write; these things saith, the first and the last, which was dead and is alive, and that's Christ, He's the alpha and omega, the first, He's always existed. Now, here's what Christ says, to this Church, I know thy works and tribulation, here's the Church that was persecuted and living in tribulation, it was a great popular church living in ease and luxury, and popular in the world. I know thy works and tribulation and poverty. But thou are rich, spiritually, just poor physically. And I know the blasphemy of them that say they are Jews and are not but are of the synagogue of Satan. Who is that?

12:24 MIN/SEC

HWA: You know, some people today are trying to tell you, some people that have an anti-Semitism in their minds and who have hatred for the race of Jewish people will try to tell you today's race of Jewish people are the people here meant and that they're not real Jews at all. That they are some foreign breed and they're only pretending they're Jews. Now, my friends, there's not a word of truth in that. I don't know why we have to have such bigotry and race hatreds and things of that sort. I want to tell you that people that have that are not Christian. The very first thing in Christianity above everything else is having love in our hearts for other people. And I want to say to you, my friends, I don't care who you are, I don't care if this makes you angry, if you do not have love in your heart for the Jewish people, if you have hatred in your heart for the Jewish people today, you're not a Christian. I don't care how much you profess. Jesus Christ told us we have to learn to even love our own enemies. And I don't think you have a lot of Jews that are your enemies either. There're a lot of false accusations going around saying that the Jews control the world and they got a strangled hold on all of us and all that kind of poppycock. You know, it's about time it's branded for what it is. Now I don't love the Jewish people any more or any less than I do other people. But I not going to love them any less either. I just want to have love in my heart for all people and I think you better join me and have the same thing.

14:02 MIN/SEC

HWA: You know, I don't care how much faith you have. You can have enough faith to move mountains, and if you haven't got charity and love for people you haven't got anything. Turn to I Corinthians, the 13th chapter and read the first verse or two and you'll find there and that's what God says and it's true.

([1 Cor. 13:1-2](#)) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And it's going to judge you some day. Alright, now we're going to see who these people are, that are the synagogue of Satan and say they are Jews and are not. Alright, let's get into that now; let's look up the history this particular Church at Smyrna. It was the one that arose next after the Apostolic, original, Apostolic Church. It was a Church that suffered persecution and poverty. But, it was [a Church that had works](#). Now today, they try to tell us there aren't any works in the Christian Church. Well, there were works in this Church and [every one of the True Churches](#). Jesus says, I know thy works, and there were works.., and they were good works. But a little later, He always had something wrong with them.

15:00 MIN/SEC

HWA: He said, fear none of those things which shalt suffer. They were going to suffer even more. Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison.. That you may be tried and [you have tribulation ten days](#), be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life. Overcome, endure to the end; be faithful to death. He that has an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the Churches. Now that is one stage of the True Church of God as it was coming along in history. Alright, this pictures God's Church during more than four centuries, more than four hundred years (400) under the persecution under the old pagan Roman Empire; in the Days of Nero, and before and after of course, too.

15:43 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now beside the True Church, there was also, as you read here, [a synagogue of Satan developing in this period](#), that is, a church of Satan, and Satan is the God of this world and [Satan masquerades as God](#) and has palmed himself off as the True God and has millions, yes, millions of people believing that he is God..., and turning the word of God and the true Bible upside down. I want to tell you, my friends, you need to look and see if you've been deceive by this thing. And I started to say a moment ago that, when a person is spiritually drunk, what does it mean? Well, when a person is literally drunk, on alcohol, you know what happens? When you get drunk, your eyes don't see very well. You become, as they say, blurry eyed and your eyes

are all out of focus. And things are all blurred and so blurred you can't see them. And you can't tell whether there's one or two or five things in front of you. Like the fellow that was found out late at night, on a nice clear night, and he was counting. He'd get up to four or five and then He'd start all over, He'd get up to three and He'd start again, get up to maybe six or seven and He'd start again and someone says, what in the world are you doing? He told them to hush up and he said with a thick tongue, he was pretty drunk, he said I'm counting the moon. You know, he just couldn't see it very straight.

17:03 MIN/SEC

HWA: And that's the way with things. Now, when you're drunk, you can't see physical things plainly. They're all blurred, they're out of focus and when you are spiritually drunk as the whole world is according to your Bible on these false teachings, I want to tell you that your spiritual perception is so blurred and so out of focus you can't see the truth of God clearly and plainly. And even when you hear it, so plain, so clear, that a little child could understand, the people that are spiritually drunk just somehow can't see it. And those of us who have gotten our spiritual eyesight and cameras into nice clear focus, we just can't understand how it is that the truth which is so plain, so clear, so simple a little child can understand it and yet educated people and mature grown up people..., they just don't get it. Well, that's the answer. And that the reason.

18:00 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, let's get at this 'synagogue of Satan.' What is this? Now, synagogue is merely the Hebrew word for church. That's all, it's the Hebrew word for church. So, then, this is Satan's church. Satan palms himself off as the God of the world, he has his churches, and in II Corinthians, the eleventh chapter, you read he has his ministers and they pose as the ministers of Christ. They don't say I am a minister of Satan the devil. They say that I'm a minister of Jesus Christ. And he's had them, my friends, from that time way, way back there centuries ago. It's no new thing. This is something that has been going on a long, long time. And it's in your Bible and it's in history.

([2 Corinthian 11:13-15](#)) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Then Jesus, is not speaking here of a race, He isn't speaking of a race of Jewish people, He's speaking about a church, a synagogue or church. And it's the church that belongs to the devil. It's in symbolic language, in other words, and it's speaking

of a church. Now, this church claimed that they are Jews. Now why do they claim they are Jews? Well, now listen, in Bible language, and this is speaking symbolically. Alright. In Bible language, Jesus said, "Salvation is of the Jews." That's ([John 4:22](#)): And then the Apostle Paul said ([Ro 1:16](#)): "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Yes it was opened up to the Gentile too but what about that.

**19:22 MIN/SEC**

HWA: Now in Romans 11, and if you'll notice especially verses 16-27, the Apostle Paul explains that Israel and the Jews to whom salvation belonged had been broken off, that is, individually, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God so that those are Israelites born, or born Jews.., because they have sinned have been cut off from their natural olive tree and Israel there is pictured as an olive tree and Gentile nations and Gentile races as the wild olive trees. Now all of the promises of God are to Israel and in this natural olive tree. Yes, [that's where the olive oil is](#), not in the wild olive trees. But here they are, they're branches of that tree, each individual, and they have all been broken off because of unbelief. So there's no salvation just because they were born as Israelites.., none whatsoever.

**20:17 MIN/SEC**

HWA: And Gentiles are pictured here if they are in Christ, if they have repented and accepted Christ and become begotten children of God, then they are they are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. And then they are pictured in Romans 11 as being grafted.., as twigs or branches of a wild olive tree, Gentile, that are cutoff from their Gentile citizenship and grafted contrary to nature into the Israel tree; the natural olive tree. Read that in Roman 11, verses 16-27.

([Ro 11:16-19](#)): For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

([Ro 11:20-23](#)) Well; [because of unbelief they were broken off](#), and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the [goodness and severity](#) of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: [for God is able to graft](#) them in again.



(Ro 11:24-27) For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

**20:48 MIN/SEC**

HWA: Alright, but once they're grafted in they're no longer Gentiles because in Ephesians 2:11 the Apostle Paul says that you, you Gentiles, being in time past Gentiles. Then in times past were Gentiles but they're not anymore. Now, they're all one in Christ Jesus and as He says in verse 19, Ephesians the second chapter, You are no more strangers and foreigner from Israel, but now you're fellow citizens with the saints. And those in Israel, filled with the spirit of God, those that are converted, and put in Israel, they're the Real Church. And they're the saints. And now, the Gentiles are fellow citizens with the saints. Now, Paul said to the Gentiles, in Romans 2:29, Paul said, He is a Jew which is one inwardly. He was speaking religiously; of the Church. He is a Jew who is one inwardly and circumcision is of that the heart. In the spirit and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men but of God. Now, you what He's means by a Church that has called Jews? He is a Jew which is one inwardly. And all of the promises were given to them and even the Gentiles became spiritual Jews when they were in the True Church.

**22:01 MIN/SEC**

HWA: Now then, these people called themselves Jews but they were liars. They were not. They were of the synagogue of the church of Satan and not of the Church of God that's what he is speaking of there. And here was this Smyrna Church and they hated those people that said that. They had separated themselves from this popular delusion and snare and error that was deceiving the world. So, here was a Church made up of Gentiles, claiming salvation, claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading as the Christian Church as the Real Church of God, but its God was Satan and was merely Satan's crowd, Satan's group not God's Church. It was the Church of Satan; not the Church of God. This synagogue of Satan.., simply is the political, religious, organized groups that developed immediately after the Apostolic age. And that's the way God brands that. Now, the world, at this time, did not recognize the True Church.., as you read in (I John 3:1), ...the world knowest us not.

([1 John 3:1](#)) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: [therefore the world knoweth us not](#), because it [knew him not](#).

23:05 MIN/SEC

HWA: And the world has never recognized the True Church, so, the historians, in trying to check the history of the Church, and find out what happened. They look here at this Church in Revelation 2 of Ephesus, and Smyrna and Pergamos and Thyatira and then in Revelation 3 it's Sardis and Philadelphia and Laodicea and they try to fit the visible, political, organizations of this world, a political-religious organization..., they try to fit them into this thing. [And it never fits](#). And no wonder, it doesn't, it wasn't intended to they're looking at the churches that says they're Jews and are not..., they're the synagogue of Satan and trying to fit into this. No wonder they've never found it. They haven't known what to look for. Yes, as the Bible says, the world knowest us, the True Church, who knowest us not. Now, it is from the organization of this world that we still have to go to though for the scanty records of [God's people](#) who are now [maligned as heretics](#). And you're going to find them branded as heretics but when you find what they're branded for and what they believe and find that they believed the same things Jesus did, the same things that are in the Bible, then you know they were the True Church and [that's the way you have to find it in history](#).

24:18 MIN/SEC

HWA: Now, for centuries, worldly writers, mentioned remnants of the True Church within the bounds of the Roman Empire. And sometimes, they were [individuals](#), and sometimes they were [scattered families](#), and [sometimes larger groups](#). And, there were still a few local congregations preaching the Real True Gospel, the same on Jesus had preached and that the apostles had believed in keeping the commandments of God, realizing [God is the supreme ruler](#), and that we have to [surrender to Him](#) and [repent](#), that's the first beginning of [salvation](#). [And they had that truth!](#) Then, as late as the [beginning of the fifth century](#), in Asia Minor, the Bishop Christison, bewailed members of the world's church, the most popular church in the world, who upon learning the truth from the scattered remnants of the True Church, had repented of their ways and had begun to observe the same things that Jesus had, the same things that the apostles had, the original Apostolic church. They began to observe as you read in Begums antiquities of the Christian Church, in book 16, and chapter six, in this history, this authentic history. They begun to observe the Feast of Trumpets, the Feast of Tabernacles, and Feast of the great day Expiation., that where you read it. They got right back to the things that [the world sneered at as Jewish](#). And the world had taken up pagan celebrations instead and branded the ways of Christ and the ways of the Apostles as being Jewish.

25:48 MIN/SEC

HWA: Well now, my friends, from the time of Constantine along in the fourth century, the True Church fled into the valleys and the mountains, in Europe. And John, the Apostle, John describes this flight in the book of Revelation for over a thousand years. It's the twelfth chapter of Revelation and I read it in one or two broadcasts back here, where he pictures the True Church as a woman fleeing for her life..., from persecution. Now, we come to the next one, the Pergamos church, and I hope to get two or three of these today but time about up again and we're coming now to Pergamos, in verse twelve, of Revelation 2. The next stage in the history of the True Church.

26:31 MIN/SEC

HWA: Well I'm ready to show you now, Christ said of this Church, I know thy works, here's another church that had works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is. I'm go to give you the actual historic truth about that on the next program and that they had not denied His faith and what happened to them and we're going to come right on down and I want to tell you my friends, that True Church of God has existed in every generation from then until now. And we can trace the history and I'm going to give it to you, in brief, of course, a complete history would take a whole book and it would take two years of these broadcasts to give it to you. But I'm going to give you the high spots of it and the whole history. I want to tell you that the Real Church of God has existed and it's time we got our eyes opened and search the scriptures for the truth -- (27:15 MIN/SEC).

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