

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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NO. 6

Foundation Principles

GUARDING THE GOSPEL

By JIMMY CATING

The Apostle Paul’s last written instructions were most likely found in 2 Timothy. Writing from a Roman prison cell, Paul communicates his final words to Timothy, his son in the faith. Paul laid on this young preacher some heavy news when he explained, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand” (2 Timothy 4:6). The announcement of Paul’s impending death was worsened by the news that many brethren, like Demas and Alexander, had forsaken him and turned their backs on the gospel of Christ (2 Tim. 4:10, 14, 16).

In an atmosphere of apostasy, Paul issued this critical warning. “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us” (2 Tim. 1:13-14).

The “good thing” of which Paul spoke, that which was committed into the hands of Timothy was the “good news” of the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:2). Among the last words of instruction Timothy would ever receive from Paul was the charge to hold fast the pattern of sound words and to “keep” the gospel. The word “keep” conveys the idea “to guard, watch, to keep by way of protection” (Vine’s, pg. 340). Paul instructed Timothy to guard the gospel. In an earlier epistle, Paul wrote, “O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge” (1 Tim. 6:20).

The instruction to guard and protect the gospel message is a consistent theme throughout the N.T. The Lord wants us to keep the faith (Rev. 14:12) and to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3). Paul commanded, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

We are to be on guard and watchful for things that threaten the purity and power of the gospel of Christ because only the gospel can provide forgiveness of our sins, transformation in our lives, and hope for our future. The apostle Paul knew the gospel was very precious and was worth living for, worth suffering for, worth dying for and worth guarding and protecting. It has to be protected from those without and sometimes from those within the church.

There are three types of internal threats to the gospel that Paul had to deal with and instructs us to guard against:

1. Guard Against False Teaching. One such threat to the gospel is false teaching. Paul compared false teaching to a deadly cancer that spreads and kills (2 Tim. 2:17). False teachers and false doctrines are often subtle and are disguised. That’s why Jesus warned, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Mt 7:15).

Paul warned the elders from Ephesus of these ravaging wolves and instructed them to be watchful guardians against those who speak perverse things, “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:28-31).

Paul begged and warned the leaders of the church to watchfully guard against those who speak perverse teachings. To the Galatians he said, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 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. (Galatians 1:6-8 NKJV)

continued on page seven

CONTENTS

Vol. LXXXIV No. 6



ADVOCATE

ANNOUNCEMENTS 9

Guarding the Gospel 1

Who Concerning the Truth have Erred?..... 2

Querist Column..... 3

Discipline in the Home..... 4

Pages from the Past..... 5

The Savage Bully 12

FROM THE FIELDS 11

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Editorial

“WHO CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED?”

BY: DON L. KING

In II Timothy 2: 15-18 Paul speaks of two men and tells us that they had erred from the truth claiming the resurrection was past already. He further mentioned that the false doctrine they had been speaking was, or would be, the reason some would lose their faith.

We cannot learn a great deal about those men of whom Paul spoke. Hymenaeus was apparently from Ephesus and was mentioned by Paul in the first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:20) along with Alexander. Paul said he had delivered both of those men to Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme. In 2 Timothy 2:17 Paul mentions Hymenaeus again along with Philetus. Both were false teachers who would cause the faith of some to be overthrown, or destroyed. Paul warned Timothy to shun profane and vain babblings, almost certainly referring to the men before mentioned.

Profane and Vain Babblings

Everything not authorized by God in the Scriptures may safely be placed under this heading. It refers to questions brought in then, and now, that diverts from the Word of God. That always causes strife or division and this was to be shunned. It still needs to be avoided. Paul said it would increase unto more ungodliness ((2 Timothy 2:16). This only shows how devastating false teaching is. It may not stop with the first teaching of it and continues to produce trouble. If it is not taught in the Scriptures, we have no business teaching it.

Brethren, how careful we ought to be about who is allowed into our pulpits. False teaching may not be recognized until later and by then has done irreparable damage to the faith of others. We recall an instance of obvious false teaching, and no one realized it until much later when concerned brethren began listening to the taped remarks. It was only then that concern arose. Unfortunately, by that time, others had believed it and trouble was among them. It is hard not to think of the proverbial frog placed in warm water and heated until he finally dies. Sometimes we sit in our comfortable pews and hardly listen while someone teaches because we are so confident he will do a great job. We know of folks who compliment the preacher and at times have been mistaken even about who had been speaking! Some are that complacent. Like the frog, they are comfortable

continued on page eight

QUERIST COLUMN

By Ronny F. Wade

This month we have three questions, all involving the eldership.

Question No. 1: May a man be an elder and an evangelist at the same time?

Answer: H. E. Phillips in his excellent book *Scriptural Elders and Deacons* answers the question “Can an elder serve the congregation as he should when he preaches at some other place on Sunday’s?” His answer: “No. His work as an elder is limited to ‘the flock which is among you.’ Preaching is a wonderful work. Certainly an elder who can preach should do so, but if he performs his work as an elder he must work with the church where he serves.” I agree with this statement. The work of an evangelist and the work of an elder are vastly different. I hardly see how one who does the work of evangelizing could do the work of guarding and feeding the flock if he is away from them. Some have gone to Peter, who was an apostle and an elder, in order to prove that one can function in both roles of evangelism and shepherding the flock. We do not know when Peter became an elder. Nor can it be proven that the work of an apostle interfered with his work as an elder. An elder could be a salesman or an electrician or hold any honorable position so long as it does not interfere with his duties as an elder. An evangelist, on the other hand, is often required to be away from home for extended periods. There is no way he can feed the flock or take the oversight of them while he is away. Someone might suggest that the other elders can do that while he is away. However, it is not the duty of “the other elders” to do the job for the elder who is away doing another job. It seems to this writer that if one wants to be an elder he should stay with the job and be an elder. If he had rather preach, then he should preach but not try to do both.

Question No. 2: How should elders be selected?

Answer: There are only five (5) possible persons who could do the selecting. God, the person himself,

the other elders, the evangelist, or the church. We know that God does not personally select anyone for the eldership. Nor does any individual have the right to select and put himself forward for the eldership. There is nothing in the scripture to suggest that other elders selected anyone to serve as an elder. Nor do the scriptures indicate that the evangelist selected the men in a church to be elders. Even the apostles did not choose certain ones for a special work, but turned the selection process over to the people who were served. That leaves only one group, the church. The church is to select those men among them who meet the qualifications to be elders or deacons. The church in Jerusalem serves as an example. The apostles said “Look YE out AMONG YOU” Acts 6:3. This places the responsibility for the selection process on the church, and no one else. Divine wisdom undoubtedly realized that those involved in the selection process would more likely yield to the oversight if they had been a part of the process. To argue that the current eldership knows what is best for the church and therefore has the right to choose additional elders, overlooks and disregards what the scriptures say about the matter.

Question No. 3: Who should ordain an elder?

Answer: By both example and statement we learn that preachers and evangelists appointed qualified men who had been selected by the church to the office of the eldership. “So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed” Acts 14:23. “For this reason I left you (Titus) in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you” Titus 1:5. The appointment of elders and deacons is merely setting them aside or designating them to the work which the office embraces. Since there is no indication that any elder, deacon, or anyone else ever ordained another man for the office, we should follow what we can read rather than substituting something we cannot read. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or rfwade36@gmail.com)

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN HOME
DISCIPLINE IN THE HOME
BY HOMER A. GAY

In the beginning God realized that there must be discipline in the home, for He said to Eve, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Gen. 3:16). And all through the ages God has expected the husband and father to be the head and ruler of the family. This does not mean that the wife has no say in things, for she is to "guide the house" (I Tim. 5:14). A home without discipline is like a country without a law.

With all of the teaching and training of children, there still comes a time when more stern measures must be taken. The now idea, that some smart people have, that punishment is the wrong way to handle children, is paying off now in the great surge of juvenile delinquency that blankets the country!

Christian parents, in trying to build a Christian home, should take the Bible as a guide instead of some man-made formula. And the Bible says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 18:24). When you try to make yourself, and others, believe that you love your child too much to punish him, when he does wrong, just remember the Bible says, instead, that you hate him. As I said before, it is not love that keeps parents from punishing a child, it is cowardice. Again let us read, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest with a rod he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod and shall deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:18-14). When children are not taught in the home to obey rules, they are thrust out into society to give trouble. They will be disobedient in the school room, will disobey and dodge the "law"; be troublesome neighbors, and finally, spend eternity in hell - and this, all because the parents "loved the children so much they could not spank them for not minding."

If parents were the only ones who ever had to put up with the disobedient, spoiled, undisciplined child, it might be different. But, remember that other people have to put up with that child for the greater part of his life. I have seen parents who were so ashamed of their child, when they would take it to church, or, when the preacher came, that they could not get through apologizing for it; but they would go right back home and spoil that child even more, never seeming to realize that "The rod

and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame," nor heeding the admonition "correct thy son and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight to thy soul" (Prov. 29:16 to 17). How true it is that a "child left to himself" will bring the parents down to shame! The main trouble these days is that most parents "leave the child to himself," too long before they begin to try to correct him. When it is a baby it is so little and sweet, and as it grows up it does and says so many "cute things," things that they intend to make it quit saying and doing after awhile, but they laugh at these things now, and encourage the little one in things that are rude and unbecoming, and finally when the child gets so large that these "cute" things are ridiculous to everyone but the parents, and they begin to try to stop it, the child can never quite understand just why the change in his parents. He is losing confidence in and respect for them. They will allow him to do and say so many things, never obeying them all the week and then, when they take him out to meeting and he takes in the whole place, disturbing everyone there and drowning out the preacher, they are ashamed of him and make excuses that he doesn't feel well and all of that; when in reality they, themselves, should make a public acknowledgement for neglecting their duty, and take the youngster back home and begin in dead earnest to try to atone for their neglect and try to get that child under their control before the next Lord's day.

To other people, those little "shut up," "let me alone," "go jump in the lake," and other like "cute sayings" of the child are just plain disobedience, and it surely is a grand mistake for parents to ever teach or allow their children to try to pull such on them.

Of the elder it is said that he must "have his children in subjection with all gravity" (1 Tim. 3:4-5), and the elder is to be the example for the flock; hence all the other members are to have their "children in subjection with all gravity," too.

It is true that "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12:11). And this is true in the correcting of children. Children should be made to understand that they are not just being beat on, but that they are being corrected for evil doing, and that it is because the parents want to save themselves and the children from shame and disgrace.

One final word about when a child is really corrected: too many parents just spank a child enough to make it mad and then let it go on to bawl and complain and fuss the rest of the day. I saw a young father trying to make a child pick up something that it had thrown on the floor, not long ago. The child bitterly refused to do it, and the father spanked it a time or two, and then took the child's hand in his own and picked the object up and put it on the table the thing he had commanded the child to do, and then turned the child loose as mad as a hornet, kicking, squirming and feeling assured that he had NOT minded his father. This child will be twice as hard to control next time. He should have been whipped until he was glad to do what his daddy told him to do - and just because daddy said to do it. The beating on the child is not what counts it is the causing them to obey commands.

Pages from the Past

BIBLE BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY (Part I)

By BARNEY OWENS

With the climate and talk in the religious world being conducive of division why would anyone wish to "rock the boat" making people think about unity, which surely will be disruptive? Commonly it is heard, "we are all headed to the same place, just going about it in different ways." Or, "God made us different, so, why try to work to make us think and act alike?" To make an effort to bring about unity is disdained, ridiculed and even condemned by the majority so why waste the time? Realistically, doesn't preaching unity just foster a formation of another sect, bringing further division? Does any real and lasting results come of such an effort?

Aside from such thinking, unity is a subject that needs to be approached often for many reasons-Bible reasons. Naming a few:

(1) Religious unity is good and pleasant "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together, in unity" (Ps. 133:1). Division is the fruit of the Devil as he first separated man from God, then divided men from one another. The word of God has the opposite effect as it first unites man with God and results in unity between brethren. It is

"good and pleasant." There are some things that are good but are not pleasant, then there are some things that are pleasant yet are not good. The word "good" was used by the Hebrews of "good land" that is, fertile and productive, of "good trees" that were fruit bearing and beneficial. Also, of "good gold" meaning it is pure. Unity is good meaning it is productive, beneficial and pure. Division has the opposite effect; it disrupts production, curses the race and is devilish. The Hebrew word for "pleasant" was used regarding music when all the cords were blended together resulting in harmony. Also of the sweetness of honey in contrast to bitterness. Such pleasantness is seen when brethren are in harmony with one another and with God.

(2) Religious unity occupied the last thoughts and wishes of Jesus before he was taken to Calvary "Neither pray for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (Jn. 17:20-21). The Lord did not pray for a superficial union contrived by men, but such unity as existed between the Father and Himself A unity so binding that they were counted as one. It was not as men practice today in their Ecumenical Meetings where Jews, Roman Catholics and Protestants sit on one platform and agree to disagree. The unity that Christ prayed for was not for members of the church to seek ways of getting along with denominations. The oneness of Jesus and His Father was not agreeing to worship in a diversity of ways with some using one cup, others two cups and still others individual cups, but engaging in fellowship. This unity contained power-power to cause the unbeliever to believe. Such unity existed in the early church as men were of one heart and of the same mind. Those breaking unity were immediately excluded from fellowship. The result was thousands obeyed the gospel, were united with the church and the truth spread to the entire known world in the first century

(3) Christ died to establish religious unity. The night of Jesus birth there were shepherds abiding in a near-by field watching over their flocks. An angel appeared to them along with a multitude of heavenly hosts "praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men." (Lk. 2:13-14). This peace would not be understood for more than thirty years. The Apostle explained its meaning to the Ephesians writing, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace who hath

made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.” (Eph. 2:13-17). The Jew and the Gentiles are spoken of in this passage. The Jew is represented as those who were “nigh” because they were given the Law of Commandments, which separated them from the nations (Gentiles), about them. Those “afar off” speaks of all apart from Israel (Jews,) as they were outside the Law which Paul calls the “wall of partition” (separation). Jesus’ death on Calvary broke down the wall by “blotting out the Law” (Col. 2:14), allowing the Gentiles a means of salvation and reconciliation to God. The children of Israel likewise come to God in the same manner—all are equal as the Gospel went forth into the world. So, the peace the multitude sang of at Christ’s birth was fulfilled in His death. Jew and Gentile are united in one body. Unity cost Christ His life. That surely in the mind of all makes it important and worth working for.

(4) Religious division is sinful The promotion of religious division as a good thing whether in sermon or prayer is a direct violation of the will of our Savior. Paul, the Apostle wrote to the Corinthians who had divisions among them “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that... there be no divisions among you.” Furthermore, division is a sure sign that spiritual things have been abandoned and carnal things have the upper hand, “For are ye not carnal: for whereas there is among you... divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” The result of carnality is approved heresies, “I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest. “ (I Cor. 1:10; 3:3; 11:17-18). Those promoting division are to be labeled and rejected, “mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine ye have learned; and avoid them.” When men set out to have their own way, at that moment, they have forgotten the plan and purpose of God sending His Son Jesus into the world. “For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Rom. 16:17-18).

GOD GAVE MEN A BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY

We are not left to wander in a fog or search a labyrinth

aimlessly to attain and maintain unity.

God has given us a blueprint to follow by which we can be assured unity will result. A blueprint is defined as, “any exact or detailed plan or outline” (Webster). Often there will be many pages contained in a blueprint describing the various things that are to be done to achieve the end result. These are called “mechanics.” If a building is to be constructed (for example), there may be a page for those laying the footer and foundation, another page for the framers, another for the electrician, the plumber, those installing the heating etc, etc. These are all different yet form the whole.

Any deviation by any of the workman spells disaster. For instance, if the electrician decides to put wall plugs in places not named in the blueprint it effects all the other workers and tradesmen. The one installing the kitchen cabinets cannot effectively do his work if the electric plug for the stove is not in a particular place or if the microwave or refrigerator plug is out of joint. So it is with the Lord’s blueprint, if one gives emphasis to a certain requirement then it throws the whole plan out of joint. For example, if one contends that there are as many faiths as men may desire, then that destroys the “one faith” concept and effects everything else. We shall notice some of these things as we go along in this paper.

THE BLUEPRINT

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 6:1-6). The blueprint (outline) is both simple and compelling. The wise will follow it to be blessed with unity. The foolish will reject it in lieu of their own wishes to the chagrin of the heavens and the faithful everywhere. Preceding, we shall together look intensely at the blueprint.

THE WAY WE ARE TO LIVE

Paul begins his exhortation by reminding these brethren of his imprisonment because he preached the Gospel to the Gentiles like them. This was not his choice but Christ’s, therefore he submitted to these chains of the Lord. To “beseech” means he begged of

them, but does not mean that they had the power to reject or receive his admonition according to their own wishes. He spoke by the authority of the Lord. If they had respect for Christ from whom the Gospel flowed, they would honor the Savior by living a worthy life. "Walk" is a term often found in scripture to denote the conduct of one's life, how one is to move about. The walk of these Ephesians (and ours) is a "worthy walk," meaning suitable referring to that which dictated their conduct. A conduct that magnified their "vocation." This comes from the word vocal, so a calling that was voiced. When acknowledged, accepted and professed it was to be obeyed and followed. This has reference to the Gospel voiced by the Apostles and later -recorded for Christians of all time to receive as we all have been "called." God's foreordained or predestinated purpose and plan included the Gentiles' adoption and reception. There is no reference to the modern doctrine that we are individually called, named and selected by the Heavenly Father.

The Apostle proceeds (in verse 2), to describe the way Christians are to conduct ourselves in the various relationship before and about us. Lowliness reminds us of the manner in which we are to regard ourselves-see ourselves as we really are. Pride is a great enemy of the soul. So vicious is it that John described it as a major component of the world (I Jn. 2:15-17). We need to keep in mind that pride is not of the Father, which means that it does not proceed from the Father nor does it lead to Him (Js. 1:17). The great problem with pride is that the proud most often fail to recognize it in themselves. Have you heard the statement, "he's proud of his humility?" The proud seek recognition, fail to access their ability or lack thereof, and commonly feel that others fail to appreciate them or are always picking on them. The disposition we must possess is the same as Christ took upon Himself (Phil. 2:5-8). If unity is attained and maintained in the church, Christians must learn to properly evaluate ourselves. Meekness speaks of our relationship to the Godhead. This does not speak to our littleness in the eyes of our fellowman. It does not describe one who is shy, downcast or shallow. The great difference between humility and meekness is that meekness is always-always devoted to the right (God's word). Where God has spoken all matters in that category is settled. The meek will not try to find a way around, a way to avoid, or a way to weaken the will of the Lord. When the storms of life enthrall us our devotion and trust in God will pull us through. Think about the courage of Moses as he stood literally between God and Israel, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were born upon the earth" (Num. 12:3). Christians that fail in all circumstances

to yield to God's word are a hindrance to unity. There are no lesser of two evils nor acceptance of one truth above another. Nothing can stalemate the meek-no doctrinal corruption-no false teacher-no vain worship nothing. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Longsuffering is the view and attitude we have in heart and actions toward others. This is placed here for the purpose of those who are contemptible in our eyes, get on our nerves and generally rub us the wrong way. We have no problem being patient with those we love and who love us or those who treat us kindly, but, it is a different story regarding those that abuse and misuse us. They become one of the great labors of life, cause a drooping in our spirit and a test to our faith. Tolerating the intolerable composes much of Christianity, yet this is the state the Lord calls us into, service He requests of us, and a striving He demands of all. Can you think of a person as the Lord described who continuously tries to "revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake?" What does longsuffering prompt you to do? "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven." Such people help us to grow into a Christian worthy of our calling, as Jesus would say, "Blessed are ye." "Forbearing one another in love" was especially needful since the animosity between Jew and Gentile was great and long-lasting. Various personalities still call for us to remember the admonition. **To be continued.** - Barney Owens 1205



GUARDING THE GOSPEL.....continued from page one

Still today the charge is to guard the gospel against anyone who may threaten to change it.

2. Guard Against Immorality Another internal threat to the gospel is when Christians live immoral lives. In 1 Cor. 5 we are warned against tolerating immorality in the church because "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (vs. 6). Such sinful behavior permeates throughout the church and can cause others to be lost and destroys the influence and credibility of the church in the community. When members of the church live unholy lives they are fighting against God and the gospel He uses to separate and save them. When a Christian lives contrary to the message he professes, that message loses its effectiveness and the name of God is blasphemed among unbelievers because of him. Before we can share the gospel we must live by it ourselves.

Paul often sighted his own life as a supplement to his teaching. For example, he wrote, "The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you" (Phil. 4:9). "Imitate me,

repenting and changing, he can then become sanctified and meet for the Master's use. In fact, Paul said that in verse 21, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." So all is not forever more lost, if a sincere change can be effected.

Every generation, from long ago has undoubtedly known those who left the faith. Some even became false teachers. In James 5:19,20 the Bible reads, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." It is plain that the fellow who leaves the truth and is not converted faces spiritual death. As much as we might wish things were different, the Lord will not tolerate a continuation of error. One may wonder what happens to cause someone who has been strong for the truth to change and begin to tolerate things unthinkable before the change. Is it pride, stubbornness, a haughty attitude, etc.? Only the Lord really knows, but it is certain the church suffers severely from such behavior. It is so sad to witness the fall of a person who once stood for the right and later tolerates things he once opposed. We are shocked and amazed. What has happened? It is just another case of someone "...who concerning the truth have erred." It has happened all through the years. Think on these things. DLK

Announcements

Bro Duane Permenter has asked that we mention a mistake he made in sending the wrong field report. It seems he sent one from last year rather than this year. If you were confused by this, he apologizes and so do we. -DLK

HAWAII WORK

It is with gratitude that we announce the Stockton, CA congregation will now be watching over the work in Hawaii. If you have questions regarding that work you can now direct them to GeneYoungblood1@sbcglobal.net Street address is: 2643 Summerfield Dr., 95209, or Bob Hansen, 6282 Morada Lane, Stockton, CA 95212. We appreciate their willingness to take on this work. Lord willing, Pat and I will make another trip to Hawaii later this year to perhaps hold a short meeting and be of help to them if possible. DLK

A NEW IDEA

Brother Roger Owens has suggested we consider publishing a special issue sometime in the future dealing with the doctrines and practices of the early

church. We mention this to our readers in hopes of getting your responses. Would you like to see the editors and other preachers write on this theme? Perhaps also some history of our preachers of today could also be included. Please, take a moment and let us know your thinking about this. If it is desirable, we may consider doing a special issue in the future. DLK

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE ON LINE OR BY MAIL

Quite a number of our readers have opted to receive the Old Paths Advocate on line. Bro Rick Martin, Terry Studdard and Brandon Steward have done a great job of doing this good work. If you want to receive the paper that way, feel free to contact Brother Martin at mmartin@bellsouth.net or write him at his address: 300 Clubview Terrace, Woodstock, GA 30189. The subscription rate is \$13 per year whether you receive the paper on line or hard copy by mail. If you prefer to receive the paper by standard mail contact Don L. King at 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550. Please, consider sending a gift subscription to a friend when you subscribe or renew. DLK

NEW SONGBOOK

Kevin Presley is taking orders for the new songbook Abiding Hope and accompanying demo CD. They are expected to begin shipping around the first of July. Abiding Hope contains some great new songs as well as a number of treasures that haven't been in a book in some time. The CD contains more than 40 songs from the book. The books are \$5 each and the CD's are \$10 plus shipping. Be sure to order this book for your congregation and your home! To order or for more information, visit legacymusicpublishing.com or email legacymusicpublishing@gmail.com You may also write to LMP, P.O. Box 1936, Dothan, AL 36302.

SULPHUR MEETING

From: Velda Hill g7v6hil@cablone.net Sulphur, OK - It's time to start planning for the annual Sulphur, Oklahoma 4th of July meeting. This will be the 75th year for the meeting. It will begin on Thursday, June 28th, with services conducted at 8:00 P.M. and at 10:00 A.M., and close on Wednesday, July 4th, after the morning service. Conducting the meeting this year will be Brother Bruce Roebuck from Hugo, OK, and Brother Brandon Stephens of Jefferson City, MO. Sulphur is in a growing stage right now and there are new listings for places to stay and/or eat. The Chamber of Commerce has a great website that gives more information than we could include in a mailout. Their website is www.sulphurokla.com. They have a lot of information and usually some pictures of the places to stay, and they keep it updated regularly. If you prefer, you may call

George Hill at 580622-2779 or Glen Vandever at 580-622-5213; or e-mail g7v6hil@cableone.net or gjvand@brightok.net and we can send you a list of most of the places with addresses and phone numbers on it. We are expecting a wonderful meeting again this year and have two very capable, dynamic preachers in charge. Any questions or suggestions may be directed to the numbers above. We will be sending out postcard announcements to congregations soon. George Hill and the Sulphur brethren.

Our Departed

BAKER - Mary Nadine Baker, age 78, daughter of William and Mary (Pelican) Poor was born August 21, 1933 in Licking, MO. She departed this life April 8, 2012, at Houston House in Houston, MO surrounded by her family. Mary had been a long time member of the Lord's church having been baptized at a young age. She remained faithful in service all her life. She was a delight to know. This writer spent many days and nights in her home and enjoyed her outstanding hospitality on numerous occasions. Her husband Ervin has served the church as an elder for a number of years. Mary was a prolific note taker. She kept notes of each sermon delivered at the Houston church. Most were so detailed that she could easily reproduce copies of the sermon if needed. Her life speaks for itself. Her three children rise up and call her blessed, Wyn, a gospel preacher, Cassie Gay, wife of Greg Gay a gospel preacher, and Marty a leader in the church at Houston. Mary became ill just a few weeks before her death. During her illness she resigned herself to whatever the future held. Her faith in God comforted her in the time of trial. She is survived by her loving husband, her three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. An overflow crowd gathered at the Evans Funeral home in Houston on a beautiful sunny day to pay their respects to her memory. This writer, assisted by Greg Gay, was honored to pay tribute to the life of this good sister in Christ. -Ronny F. Wade

HURD - Brother Carl Hurd, born February 19, 1922, passed from this life on April 29, 2012, at the age of 90. Brother Hurd, suffering with pneumonia, had grown very weak and was not able to fight off the results of this illness. Due to he and his wife, Nadine's, failing health, they were forced to move to the Atlanta, GA area to be near their family. A memorial service, on his behalf, was held at the Cedarhurst Church of Christ in Jacksonville, FL, where Bro Hurd served as an Elder for many years. He was laid to rest, until the coming of the Lord, at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA. Brother Hurd leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, of 71 years; one son, Mark Hurd (wife Patricia); one daughter, Susan Kemp (husband Larry); one grand-daughter, Laura Hurd; and many nieces and nephews. Brother Davey Sessions and I were both honored to speak words of comfort and joy to the family both at the Memorial service and at the graveside. Please keep the family in your prayers. Phillip G. Prince

BURTON, Vernon was born March 26, 1933 at West Liberty, Kentucky. He died February 29, 2012. He was the loving husband of Edith (Mink). To this union came three children, a daughter, Judy Girty, two sons, Danny and Donnie, they along with their mother mourn the death of their father. There are eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Vernon was very much a family man imparting the virtue of hard work, honesty and truthfulness to his children. He loved his children, their children and their children. His wife Edith has been a faithful member of the church for more than sixty years. A large and respectful crowd were reminded of preparing for eternity. -Barney Owens

MOORE - Ayna L. (Bryant). Ayna was born September 15, 1932 to Arthur and Winnie (Parrett) Bryant. She died March 17, at the age of 79. She was the devoted wife of Albert Moore for 62 years. To this union was born a daughter, Belinda Grimm and two sons, James and Darrell, all of whom mourn her passing as well as a sister, Loretta (Bo) Klaas, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers Rollie, Manual and Kenneth Bryant; two sisters, Ruth Bussell and Toy Anderson. Ayna was faithful to the Lord and dependable at worship, as long as she could attend. She suffered from ill health the last years of her life. Respect was shown her by a large gathering at her visitation and funeral. Words were spoken words of comfort to the gathering of family and friends and warning to the wayward. -Barney Owens

BURKETT - Bro. Jack Earl Burkett of Earlytown, AL suddenly passed from this life on Saturday, October 8 after falling from a scaffold on his property. He was 73 years of age. Jack was a longtime and beloved member of the Earlytown congregation. He lived in this small, rural community for most of his life where he was known and respected. He taught school for nearly 40 years and was well remembered by his students. More importantly, he was a capable and zealous teacher of the word of God. Jack obeyed the gospel as an adult and devoted his life to Christ and to the work of His kingdom. Rarely did Jack have a conversation with a neighbor or acquaintance without mentioning the gospel. He conducted home bible studies with countless people in need of salvation and supported the preaching of the gospel in every way he could. His constant admonishment to the church was to be busy telling people about the Lord and working to take the gospel to every corner of our little community and he practiced what he preached. He leaves a conspicuous empty seat in the old Earlytown meeting house and shoes that will be so very difficult to fill. Jack faced many trials and heartbreaking circumstances in his life but faced them with a smile and an unshaken faith in God. His family was dear to him. He leaves behind his daughter Joy and his son Jeff along with two grandsons, Ethan and Grant Burkett. His passing leaves us stunned but comforted in the knowledge that he was a child of God. Not knowing his heart and not precluding the judgment of Christ, we believe Jack lived every day as though it could be his last and have confidence that he is resting from his earthly labors. He fought a good fight and kept the faith. An overflow crowd

filled the Earlytown meeting house to remember him and I was honored to conduct the service for this good man. May his many works follow him. -Kevin W. Presley

Field Reports

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, May 14, e-mail old_paths@juno.com We just returned this morning from a very enjoyable meeting in Napoleon, AL. They hold a meeting the first two Lord's Days in May every year. Lynwood Smith held it for perhaps 40 years and many attend from various places. It was our pleasure to be able to hold it this year. We stayed with Ronnie and Brenda Prince and, as always, were treated in a wonderful way. Ronnie and Sidney Prince picked us up at the Atlanta airport and Rick and Jane Martin took us back when the meeting was over. The crowds were good with visitors from many places even out of State. Some preachers also attended, including Ronny Wade and Rick Martin. It rained some during the week but did not appear to discourage attendance. We went there the first time in August of 1974, when our children were young, and have gone back a number of times in later years. Pat and I have many fond memories of that congregation and those with whom we stayed. It almost feels like home to us. It will soon be time to go to the 4th of July meeting in Springfield, MO and then on to other meetings and we look forward to all of them. Preachers, don't forget to send your articles and field reports.

Roger L. Owens 1006 Freeman Road Neosho, MO. 64850 Greetings brethren. Things are going well with us and we pray with you as well. Terry Aldridge is now in a health care home and has stopped all treatments for her cancer. She is of good spirits and I believe is ready to go home. Our prayers to those of you that have lost loved ones. To increase our growth as a congregation I have a request to make of you. When you have baptisms, or a new congregation is started, or a new tract is ready please copy us in on that. The brethren here love to read about what is going on in the fields. If you have a new or current monthly news letter please forward a copy and we will use it in our monthly brotherhood history board. We are planning to put up a new board in our communications area that will display our material and yours. The summer is here and we have much to do for the Lord. Pray for us and the work here. Roger Owens 1-417- 451-0330, e-mail (rowens700@yahoo.com)

Douglas T. Hawkins 409 Worthington Pl Richmond, KY 40475 (606) 271-0529 douglast69@bellsouth.net May 10, 2012 - I recently have held meetings at Mitchell, IN and Sharronville, OH. I enjoyed both meetings tremendously. While in Mitchell, I made my home with Don and Jan White. That was

my first opportunity to be with them and I enjoyed them immensely. Brother Don has such a good perspective on the needs of the church. I was able to visit with a number of brethren during those few days including brother Walter Hunter. Walter's influence is seen all throughout Indiana. It would be extremely difficult to measure the value of his influence for the Church and the cause of Christ. In April, I preached in Sharronville, OH and enjoyed the company of brother and sister Barney Owens. I enjoyed visiting with Bro. Barney. He will be with us at Lexington, KY in June. We are very much looking forward to the meeting. It is always a delight to be with Stan and Ann Owens too. The meeting from my vantage point was well supported. We enjoyed the presence of a few gospel preachers - Richard Bunner and Michael Kidd. I am next looking to be with the congregation at Hartwell, AR. I always look forward to seeing the brethren there. Bro. Ronny Wade just closed his meeting at Walnut Grove, KY. It was good to hear him and see him. My aunt was visiting me that week and so she accompanied me to the meeting. She watches Ronny's program in the Oklahoma City area. Most of my kinfolk, on that side of the family belong to the "cups and Sunday school" church. As expected, He preached two fine sermons the nights we were there. Should you be interested, I am planning to be in Cable Ridge, MO (July); Weatherford, TX (July) Springfield, MO (August); Chapel Grove, TN (Sep) Athens, AL (Oct); Oakdale, CA (Nov); and Burkhart, MO (Nov). May the Lord bless us in his service.

Darrell Crawford, 208 E Baldwin Rd Unit S Panama City Florida, 32405 bugz1955@hotmail.com The work continues here in Panama City, Florida. We have had several leads here from people in other places, for this we are thankful. Several are interested in studying the one cup, while others aren't interested at all. We had our second "Friday Fest" in downtown Panama City last Friday night. This we feel is a good way to make the congregation known to the public. One couple stated last month that they thought we had been gone a long time. We are offering a drawing for a free Bible, and a correspondence course. Last month about 8 people signed up, this month about another 8 signed up. The Lord willing we will be doing this each month through November when it stops for the winter months. We have had several stop by the booth and express an interest in coming to worship with us. If anyone knows of anyone we may be able to contact in this area, please let us know. We are having more visitors now and we appreciate that very much, some from the community, others who are in the area visiting. We ask that you continue to pray for the work here, that the Lord will grant us wisdom in doing His work. May we all stay with the Old Paths, and may the Lord bless His church everywhere.

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THE BACK PAGE...

THE SAVAGE BULLY

BY CARL M. JOHNSON

Dan Savage was recently hired to speak at the National High School Journalism Conference to several thousand high school teenagers, advisors, and teachers. Savage is the founder of the "It Gets Better" project, a series of web videos devoted to helping victims of bullying that have reached more than 40 million viewers with contributors ranging from President Obama to numerous Hollywood stars. Savage also writes a sex advice column called "Savage Love."

The audience was expecting Savage to deliver a speech about anti-bullying, but what they received was a profanity-laced diatribe of the Bible and Christianity.

One teacher in attendance from Sutter Union High School in Southern California was extremely upset. He said, "I thought there was value in going to this conference... [But] this speech I thought was going to be about anti-bullying, and what we got was a vulgar, profanity-laced attack on Christians." He continued, "It's my responsibility to protect all students from being bullied...and I inadvertently or unwittingly took them to a place where many were highly offended, to the point where they wanted to leave ...So they took a stand, and you know what, this is what we teach kids to do when they're being bullied-to walk away, and that's what they did. When they got outside the convention center, he was basically still lobbing insults at them."

Savage focused on what he called the "hypocrisy" of Christians who wouldn't condemn "anti-gay bullying" because of Biblical strictures on homosexuality. Savage said, "We can learn to ignore the (profanity deleted) in the Bible about gay people ...the same way we have learned to ignore the (profanity deleted) in the Bible about shellfish, about slavery ... We ignore the (profanity deleted) in the Bible about all sorts of things ...People often point out they can't help with anti-bullying, because it says right there in Leviticus, it says right there in Timothy, it says right there in Romans that being gay is a problem. We can learn to ignore the (profanity deleted) in the Bible about gay people."

At this point as many as 100 high school students and advisors quietly stood up and walked out of the auditorium. As they were leaving, Savage used homophobic slur words to heckle them. Subsequently, Savage said to the cheers of other students, "You can tell the Bible guys in the hall they can come back now because I'm done with beating up the Bible."

Savage has a pledge on his "it Gets Better" website that calls on supporters to "speak up against hate and intolerance whenever witnessed, whether at school or at work. Everyone needs to be respected for who they are."

Yet, Savage displayed intolerance by profaning the Bible and mocking offended students who left the room. In that instance the anti-bullying expert became the biggest bully. The Bible not only condemns homosexual behavior, but it clearly condemns every kind of hypocritical behavior, including the practice of condemning something in someone else while doing the very same thing (Mt. 7:3; Luke 6:46; in. 7:23; Rom. 2:1, 21; Tit. 1:16; Jas. 2:15-16; 3:10).

Savage is actually a homosexual radical who has waged war against Christianity for years. He boasts that during the 2000 presidential election, he came down with a horrible case of the flu and immediately volunteered to work for a lesser-known candidate who was notable for his ties to religious groups. Savage had in mind a sort of biological warfare. He wanted to infect as many of the religious candidate's workers as possible with his flu. He says, "I wanted to seed his office with germs, get as many of his people sick as I could, and hopefully one of them would infect the candidate. I started licking doorknobs. The front door, office doors, even a bathroom door. When that was done, I started in on the staplers, phones and computer keyboards. Then I stood in the kitchen and licked the rims of all the clean coffee cups drying in the rack. When Savage eventually met the candidate he handed him a pen that he had just taken out of his mouth and asked for an autograph, hoping the saliva-coated pen would infect the candidate with the flu" (www.salon.com/politics/2000) Savage also bragged about voting illegally in the same election and being convicted of a misdemeanor. This guy is a national spokesman against bullying?

Bullying is a very hot topic in our country right now. Virtually every school in the country is trying to address the problem of bullying and inform our children and grandchildren about it and about how to deal with it. You would be well-advised to find out about the materials your school uses on the subject and the on-line references given to your children. Do your homework too about the speakers at anti-bullying conferences they may attend.

A lack of vigilance on your part could result in your child receiving moral advice from an amoral radical who is filled with such intense hatred for God, the Bible, and Christianity that he is willing to lick doorknobs and bully children. cmjthebackpage@gmail.com