

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

SENSELESS DIVISION

BY RONNIE F. WADE

NOTICE: The article below was published in the Jan 1964 Old Paths Advocate. It was sent in by Rick Martin for a "Pages from the Past" item. However, since we are publishing an article by my father "Can't We Agree on Something" on page 4 of this issue, I felt the two articles so complemented each other that I decided to use it on the front page this month. Compare the two and see if you agree. DLK

Division is a terrible thing, a work of Satan and the result of following the flesh. Whenever division occurs, sin is involved. I can think of no division in which all involved are free from guilt. Instead of being looked down upon and detested by all believers, it has become quite popular in some quarters. Many brethren, it seems, are taking the attitude of some young married couples, who, when they discover they have differences, instead of trying to work them out, just divorce and look for another mate. I am afraid there are far too many senseless divisions among us today. In fact, I am sure if we tried harder and loved more fervently, greater unity could eventually be achieved.

There are some brethren who are so intolerant of another's views, that the minute they discover he has such views, they do not rest until he is either driven away or the church is divided. This all being done in the name of "seeking a pure church." They immediately brand all as heretics who do not see things as they do; that is, if the subject happens to be a "certain thing." Many in a very charitable way can forbear and work with others even though they might disagree on such things as "The Gift of The Holy Spirit," "Worldliness," "The Ordination of Church Officers," etc., but when it gets to something else, well, that's a "horse of a different color." I say it is senseless. There is no reason, logic, or consistency in it; and what is more, it is sinful.

Seldom does a month pass but what some notice crosses my desk about a division in some part of the Brotherhood. In many instances, the sin of division is not the only one committed. Hatred is fostered in the hearts of many and feelings are harbored, which are never forgotten. Whereas, at one time brethren met, hug, prayed, and worked together, they now hesitate to speak to one another when they meet on the street.

Again, I say this is not only senseless, it is sinful. When will it stop? What is more, what will happen to us if it does not? Brethren, if this continues unabated, we will eventually end up a fragmented society with little or no staying power at all. Think what all of this does to the church, and its influence. Instead of being the shining example of unity that we should be to a divided religious world, we are presenting and offering them the very thing we condemn and say is wrong-division.

There are many, and I am sure that they are honest (though not very consistent), who foster and encourage division for the sake of what they call purity. Since purity is a very broad term, I hardly see how it can be limited to one specific sin, but seemingly satisfaction is had by them if the church is free from this one sin. To show you, however, how such a position leads to radicalism, I merely call your attention to the following facts. I can show you any number of congregations where division has occurred, not because immorality was there, but because brethren refused to allow others to differ with them, or because they forbade the use of any preacher who did not hold their views on certain subjects. I personally have begged and pled with brethren to work with me and my former home congregation only to be told that "this could never be," as long as I believed as I did. I have seen and witnessed the heartbreak, pain, and tears that result in such division. I know what they are. I have also known and worked with those who in the aftermath of such a tragedy pick up the broken pieces and try to make the best of it, but to the sorrow of all,

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Editorial**BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT***By DON L. KING*

In Proverbs 23:23 Solomon gave some wonderful advice to all who seek to go to heaven. "Buy the truth and sell it not, also wisdom and instruction, and understanding." This advice appears to have been given to young people from a God-fearing and wise king who would have the young of every generation become wiser. In fact, Proverbs 1:4 says so in few words. How important it is for young and old alike to "buy the truth and sell it not." If every young person beginning their lives as adults would heed the sage advice given here, it would serve them well to the end of life.

If truth is to be "bought" (secured). we must know what it is and how to recognize it. Truth is always the facts in whatever case may be under consideration. It stands in stark contrast to error and much higher than mere opinion or theory. Before we make a decision about anything, we must know the truth. Just think of the difference today if every person had learned the truth before deciding to follow the innovations many years ago. The innovations could never have secured a foothold in the Lord's church. We must remember that truth always remains constant. Our understanding of truth may be faulty and increasing. but truth doesn't change. It is always there waiting to be discovered.

Many times in buying the truth, we may expect to encounter hardships. Truth may force us to forsake our own wishes or needs if we insist on knowing the facts. Many years ago, Bro J.R. Stewart went to preach at a congregation some distance from where he lived at the time. He had only fifty cents to his name and a wife and baby at home. He wanted to put twenty five cents in the collection, which he did, believing the congregation would support him for his preaching. Instead, due to a fellow who needed to get some clothes out of the cleaners, the whole collection of \$2 was given to him, and Bro Stewart was not supported at all. He had hitch hiked to the place and did the same to get home, but now had only a quarter and no food for the family the next week. Hardship? Indeed it was, but he continued to preach the truth and never considered otherwise. What about us? How often do we see the truth sold out because of hardship? We have known families to move away from the church just to seek a better paying job.

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QUERIST COLUMN

By RONNY F. WADE

Question: Is it true that the word “covered” in verses 4-6 of 1 Corinthians 11 is different from the word translated “covering” in verse 15? If so, does this mean that a woman should wear an artificial covering, i.e. a veil in addition to her long hair?

Answer: The word “covered” in 1Cor. 11:4-6 in the original Greek is “katakalupto,” a verb which signifies “to be covered.” The word translated “covering” in 1Cor. 11:15 is from “peribolaion” and means “a veil or covering.” So it is true that the words in verses 4-6 and 15 are from different words in the Greek. Does this then mean that a woman should wear a veil in addition to her long hair? In answering this part of the question we need to go back to verses 4-6 which read as follows “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.” First of all we note that there is nothing in these verses that identifies the covering under consideration. They merely state that the woman is to be covered. Paul also states that if the woman is not covered she may as well shave her head. To say at this point that a woman must wear a veil, however, is unwarranted in the view of this writer. The Greek word kalumma, translated a veil, appears multiple times in the New Testament scriptures, yet never appears even once in 1Corinthians eleven. Note carefully that Paul did not say “every woman who prays or prophesies without a veil (or some type of artificial covering) on her head dishonors her head.” He did not say “if a woman does not wear a veil (or some type of artificial covering) she just as well be shorn.” The verses in question (4-6) only inform us that a woman needs to be covered when she prays or prophesies, but do not tell us with what she needs to be covered. Verse fifteen supplies us with that answer “But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.” The word hair in this verse is from “kome, which denotes the long hair of women (Arndt and Gingrich). Covering is from “peribolaion” which signifies “a veil or covering” W.E. Vine. “For” is from the Greek avti, meaning anti, instead of or to take the place of. Hence this verse teaches that a woman’s long uncut hair is given to her to take the place

of a veil. That raises the question: where is the artificial covering? Where is the veil? It is not there. The gist of verses 4-6 merely insist that a woman must be covered when she prays or prophesies. Verse 15 declares that her long hair is given her for that covering. Hence when she prays or prophesies her long hair provides the covering she needs and there is no need for a second, artificial covering. I might also add that there is no indication that these verses only apply in church assemblies, as some claim. Anytime a woman prays or prophesies she needs to be covered whether in a church service or any place else. To wear a veil only during church services flies in the face of the divine mandate. In the past some who advocate the need for a second covering have contended that anything worn on the head would suffice in fulfilling the divine mandate. However, “to be veiled” means more than a feather on top of ones head or an article so small that it is hardly noticed. If one believes in the need of a second covering in addition to long hair, that covering should really cover the head in order to be a covering. However in the view of this writer the need for a second covering in addition to one’s long hair is not warranted. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814)



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PAGES FROM THE PAST

The following article by Homer L. King appeared in the December 1932 Issue of the Old Paths Advocate. Many people call for unity in the religious world, but the question is how can this unity come about? Brother King answers that question in this article. Brother King tells us that when men ABANDON" the "UNAUTHORIZED" things we will then have unity.

Rick Martin

“CAN’T WE AGREE ON SOMETHING?”

Homer L. King

For the past few months, much has been written under the above caption in the “Apostolic Review” and other religious journals, in a proposed effort to bring about unity among the warring factions of the Christian people. Plans and proposals have been discussed pro and con, but it seems that not much headway has been accomplished thus far.

A sincere endeavor to bring about UNITY of God’s people is commendable, no matter who attempts it, and as for me, I feel just as David who said, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.” What a blessing if this could be accomplished according to the will of the Lord! But, unless this could be accomplished on the New Testament basis - by all bringing their wills into subjection to the will of the Lord, it would tend to make matters worse, by corrupting those who are now in favor of God. If we must sacrifice truth - matters of faith - in order to have unity, we are the losers. A human basis for unity, if accepted, would make all who accepted it wrong. Union without UNITY must be avoided. The Bible teaches “UNITY”, or oneness’, not “union”.

It would be a difficult task to itemize all the things, over which we may disagree, hence I shall not attempt it. First of all, there must be a love for truth, Christ, the brethren, and unity, in the hearts of the Christian people, before we can have that “UNITY” for which the Savior prayed (John chapter 17). Let the peoples’ hearts be filled with a sincere desire to please the Lord - let them say, “Not my will but thine, be done”, “Lord, speak, thy servant heareth; command and I will obey” Let them ask, how may I please God, that I may finally reach Heaven? With these motives in view and self and the desire to be popular, and I may add, the love of money, out of the way; the things that are standing in

the way of unity will vanish like a cloud. We can then have that unity taught by Paul - “no divisions among you perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Brethren, how much do you want unity? Are you willing to pay the price? It would be far better to pay the price of unity than to shoulder the responsibility of division. Let it be remembered that someone will have to compromise in order to bring about that much talked of unity. On what then may we compromise? Not on matters of faith, for we are exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3). There is but to contend for matters of faith, even if it should divide the church. Hence, there can be no compromise where the Lord has spoken. There is only one thing to do with any passage of scripture, and that is to BELIEVE IT WITH ALL THE POWER THAT WE HAVE, and should it be a command or example, DO OUR UTMOST (Abrahamic like) TO OBEY IT. Seeing we cannot compromise on matters of faith, we must look elsewhere, and that is to things, which are matters of OPINION things that are matters of indifference, or permissible. On these we can and must be willing to compromise or sacrifice.

To illustrate the difference between things of faith and things opinion, I give the following:

In John 3:2, it is said that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. That he CAME BY NIGHT, is a matter of faith, because the Bible so states. But, WHY did he come by night? The WHY is a matter of opinion, or indifference. We are commanded to SING (matter of faith), but the selections or number of selections are matters of permission. On the latter, we must be willing to compromise, while on the former, we must contend. On the things which are matters of permission, we must let 1 Corinthians 8:13 and Romans 14:19-23 govern. Are you willing to do that? The conscience of others must be respected, if we are to have and to maintain unity. I am sorry to state that the disposition of brethren, who have introduced innovations into the church, has been contrary to that commanded by Paul. Generally, they have said or implied, “we want it, and we are going to have it. If you don’t like it, you can get out”. How sad!

There is but one solution of this vital question, as I see it, and that is to get back to the New Testament order of work and worship. Let us go back to the first century, while the church was under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and there ascertain how the early church carried

on the work and worship. Certainly that will please every lover of truth. Those who are not willing to pattern after the primitive order in order to have unity, certainly do not have uppermost the desire to please the Master. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). If all would bind themselves by this rule, would it not solve the problem?

Is it not a fact that we are pretty well agreed on the things taught in the New Testament, but divided over the things not taught therein? Where in the New Testament do we read about the Bible college, instrumental music in the worship, the Sunday school with its human literature, division into classes and women teachers over those classes, the modern pastorate, the multiplied societies to do the work of the church, and a plurality of drinking cups for each congregation? Are not these the major things over which we are divided? Did the church in the first century, have these things? Was there ever a period of time in the history of the church, that greater progress was made? The following quotation from the pen of that gifted writer, Gilbert O. Nations, in the C. L. for September 6, is in order just here;

"The New Testament knows no ladies aid, no Sunday school, no Bible colleges to educate parish priests, no missionary societies, no 'selfsupporting' churches, no ordination of the Christian ministry, no ministry as a class, no financial program expect to care for the poor, no church suppers, no bazaars or other world traps to catch money for a venal priesthood." Again, "We must truly return to Jerusalem. We must restore the simple congregational life. We must abandon unauthorized congregational practices for the carrying on of which a trained parish priest is required."

Yes, "ABANDON" the "UNAUTHORIZED" things, and our Savior's prayer can be answered right now. Brethren, do you love the "unauthorized" things better than you do this unity? Why not give them up that we may be one? -Homer L. King

TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN COURTESY

BY RICK MARTIN

I recently attended a meeting where I observed a teenager approach an older brother and say, "how you doing, old man?" Now it wasn't as if these two attended the same congregation or were close friends, they only saw each other occasionally at a meeting. I may be picky, but in my teenage years, I would have never

thought of addressing an older brother in Christ, as "old man." I am aware that times have changed, but in my opinion, it shows a lack of courtesy and respect; it is rude. Now mind you I said, "in my opinion", so you can take this article for what it is worth.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines courtesy as "polite behavior; gracious manner or manners." When a person is courteous they are being considerate; thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others. Courtesy and kindness go hand in hand. Kindness is to be "of a friendly nature; generous or hospitable; warmhearted, good; forbearing; tolerant; charitable; courteous; thoughtful" When demonstrating kindness, we bear the influence of the Spirit in our lives; Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith" Rudeness is nearly, if not altogether, the opposite of kindness. It denotes "lacking the graces of civilized life; unrefined, uncouth; ill mannered; uncivil; discourteous" Love "does not act unbecomingly" (1 Cor. 13:5), or is not "rude" (ESV). Kindness is an attribute of God (Eph. 2:7; Titus 3:4; 1 Pet. 2:3). All of us have been blessed by the kindness of God. If our goal is to "partake of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4), we should develop this quality of God. Kindness is commanded. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" (Col. 3:12). Dorcas was commended because "deeds of kindness and charity" were abundant in her life (Acts 9:36). The wise man spoke from a practical standpoint when he said, "The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar"; (Pro. 19:22). Kindness is something we want to see in others. It is the application of the golden rule, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matt. 7:12). You do not want people to treat you rudely. You want them to be kind and courteous. We should, therefore, act in the same way. Parents, if you want your children to be kind and respectful when they are older you must teach them these traits at an early age. In this article, I would like to give three suggestions for making this a reality.

I) Teach Your Children to Be Courteous

The attributes of courtesy and kindness, must be diligently taught. Deut. 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Parents must make an intentional, determined,

consistent, and constant effort to instill these values in their child. We should show children that we serve a kind God by teaching them the stories of His kindness from the Bible. Teach your children to say, "Yes Sir/Mam" or "No Sir/Mam" "Please" and "Thank You" This should be a regular part of their vocabulary. I realize that some things change with culture, but these manners are still appropriate and need to be encouraged.

2) Insist That Your Children Speak/Act with Courtesy

As a parent, you have a right to insist that your children speak or act in courteous ways. This is where parents must be intentional, determined, consistent, and constant. Parents make sure you correct your children/grandchildren when they speak or act in a rude manner. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:" (Pro. 6:23).

3) Be an Example

Parents should be a role model of courtesy and kindness. If you are not courteous and kind, you cannot expect your children to be. Setting an example for them is very important. Open doors for others. Give others your seat in a waiting area. Speak kind and courteously. Some people act as though it is crime against humanity if you should let someone "in" in busy traffic! Be careful what you say and do when someone treats you rudely, and do not respond in kind. When people do some of these things for you be sure to say thank you. Remember, courtesy begins at home.

Kindness and courtesy will become important to your children when you lead the way. Your children will then see that kindness and courtesy are important to you. Courtesy may not always be an expression of faith, but rudeness is definitely a reflection of a lack of it.

The world could certainly use much more kindness and courteous behavior and, if parents will teach their children these attributes, we will be the better for it. "He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love" (Basil, A.D. 330-379).

BUY THE TRUTH continued from page two

Some may think little of missing a meeting or even the Lord's Day assembly if it means more money. Does that sound like buying the truth? It is so distressing to go

many miles, at large expense, to hold a meeting only to see those who should have been present, otherwise occupied by frivolous things. This sort of behavior makes a mockery of Solomon's advice. "Buy the truth and sell it not."

BUY IT

Notice that Solomon said nothing about the price of truth. He just said, "Buy the truth and sell it not." Regardless of the cost it must be purchased, and truth may be quite expensive. Jesus said, "... verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." (Luke 18: 29, 30) In Revelation 3:18 Jesus said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see." What is truth? We submit that it is gold tried in the fire. The great persecutions, martyrdoms, hardships, divisions, etc. prove that through the ages men have counted the possession of truth as pure gold. Thousands died to buy the truth. Dare we do less? Why do so many see little value in the truth? If we have the truth we have riches untold. Jesus likened the value of truth to a man "... seeking goodly pearls: Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:45, 46) When we consider the great value of truth, it is little wonder the disciples "left all" to follow the Saviour. (Mark 10: 28)

Sell it not! Again no price is mentioned. What is the lesson here? Don't sell the truth for ANY PRICE. Nothing else is equal to it in value. We all recognize this in medicine. If a fellow has some disease, he is never willing to trust a diagnosis that has not been proven. Oh, yes, we want the truth then. We are unwilling to take a chance on any treatment but the absolute best. However, if it is in reference to our eternal souls; men often take something completely false rather than insist on the truth. What has happened? The truth has been sold. Men sell out for pleasure, stubbornness and many other things as well. What a shame! I think the cheapest price of all is to compromise with sin, innovations, and denominationalism. To sell the truth in such a cheap manner is to squander a home in heaven with all the redeemed forever. Have we sold out? It is past time for every Christian to take a long hard look at himself.

Shakespeare once wrote:" Above all to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou

canst not then be false to any man." Nothing is sadder than to see a fellow who is untrue to himself and his eternal interests. He throws heaven away for a paltry sum. That is the picture of anyone who has sold the truth. Think on these things. DLK

SENSELESS DIVISION continued from page one

much like "humpty dumpty," it was almost impossible to do.

The best way to prevent a division is to stop it before it starts. The only way this can be done is to eliminate the cause. What is the cause? Well, I am sure there are many, far too many in fact for us to mention in this brief article. However, we mention what we consider to be a major cause of division today, and that is preachers. Since I am a preacher, I had rather not mention this but, I am afraid it is true. Brethren, know your preacher. Is he a peace maker or a trouble maker? I shall never forget what Bro. Gay said one time. The gist of it is as follows: "It is possible that sometime a Preacher might get involved in trouble, however, if trouble follows a preacher around everywhere he goes, you better mark him." I say amen! Check up on the Preachers you use. Do they ever have any trouble where they come from? Are they ever involved in division? Do they preach for those who are factious or who have caused division? You may say, "Well, what does this have to do with it?" Simply this: The fact that divisive brethren call a certain preacher or preachers to the exclusion of all others is evidence that he condones their actions. If he did not he would not go; and if he went in all good conscience and condemned them for their division and they failed to repent he would cease then and there to have fellowship with them in it. Do not be deceived by pleasing personalities or good public speaking. Many times the seed is sown in private only to spring forth unexpectedly months or years later, after the preacher is gone. Beware of those who work undercover or who preach loud and long about a certain subject at one congregation, but who are as silent as the tomb on it at the next one. Remember what Paul said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17).

In conclusion, brethren, let us all back off a few steps and take another look at the situation. Can we not solve our problems without division; hear Paul: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be

no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). Remember, too, that in the works of the flesh Paul lists seditions (divisions into separate factions) and heresies (party spirit, dissensions arising from differences of opinions and aims. Factions) and they that do such shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The above is submitted in the spirit of love, hoping that it will cause us all to think, and then act-with the help of God. -OPA-1964

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

BY PAUL O. NICHOLS

It is sad but true that some Christians are total pacifists when it comes to their spiritual lives. They want to get along with everyone, even to the point of compromising with error, and then many times have hard feelings toward those who do not agree. Many times the excuse of compromise is justified with a misconception, that if you oppose something that is not right, it indicates lack of love. But Jesus said to a congregation which was in error, "Whom I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore and repent." (Rev. 3:19). Also, He reminded people in no uncertain terms, "I tell you nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" Luke 13:3). Such statements show the love and concern the Lord had, rather than lack of love.

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his son in the faith, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on the eternal life..." (1 Tim. 6:12). Winning the battle depended on his fighting for what was right. Near the end of the life of this grand apostle of Christ, he wrote to Timothy, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7, 8). He could now face his executioner in the triumphs of a living faith. He had not been a coward in the fray, he had crossed swords with the vilest of the enemies of the cross of Christ and was now ready to lay his armor by and encourage those left behind to hold high the blood stained banner of Christ and to "fight the good fight of faith".

Jesus our Lord was no pacifist. He told people what they needed to hear. It was for their own good. And by warning people who were lost, He showed His love by exposing sin and letting His hearers know the danger they were in. That is true love. (Consider His teaching in Matt. 23).

The apostle Peter warned, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (1 Pet. 5:8). The devil is our adversary. The apostle Paul knew this and He fought “the good fight of faith.” He advised Timothy to do the same (1 Tim. 6:12). He also said, “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air” (1 Cor. 9:26). Paul was not guilty of shadow boxing. The adversary is real and the prize is eternal life.

The devil can't force anyone to do wrong. The apostle James wrote, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). This shows that the devil is a coward. He works on the weakness of man to get us to do wrong. But the apostle Paul assures us, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

We have to be careful and constantly on guard. If not, it is possible for the devil to use us to do his evil bidding. We become a tool in his hands. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the brethren at Philippi said, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things)” (Phil. 3:18, 19). And before our Lord died on the cross he told the people, “And a man's foes shall be they of his own household” (Matt. 10:36). At least twice we are told to mark people. We are told to mark people who are following the Lord and His will, and we are told to “mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17). The latter is not easy. The person might be a kinsman, a near relative, or a close friend or fellow Christian whom we have admired. But to keep from becoming an enemy of the Lord ourselves, we have to choose whom we will serve. Those who are enemies, we are told “whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame” (Phil. 2:18), “For they that are such serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17, 18). The decision is one that we have to make for ourselves. The apostle Paul suffered because of his determination to use Christ as his example. He said. “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me... Notwithstanding the

Lord stood with me, and strengthened me...” (2 Tim. 4:16, 17). If we choose to do what is right as did the apostle and as he teaches us, we are on the Lord's side. If not, because of our weakness, we are a tool in the hands of the devil.

Fight the good fight of faith. The apostle Paul did, and he said, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8).

Announcements

To Whom It May Concern:

I cannot take part in military service in any form, directly or indirectly, in combatant or noncombatant service. Below are listed some of the reasons:

1. My duty and obligation to God is superior to all other obligations (Acts 5:29; Matt. 23:37).
2. My God in the Bible forbids that I engage in carnal warfare in the following references: “Put up again thy sword ... for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” (Matt. 26:52); “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (II Cor. 10: 3-4); “Turn the other cheek” (Matt. 5:39); “Recompense to no man evil for evil” (Rom. 12:17).
3. To enter any military service, combatant or noncombatant, I would be compelled to “swear” (take an oath), but the Bible forbids that I do so. “Swear not at all” (Matt. 5:34).
4. To enter any military service I would be compelled to be yoked with unbelievers, which is forbidden. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (II Cor. 6:14).
5. To be in any branch of the military service in any way, I would be a part of an organization and would therefore have fellowship in the service, but such is prohibited. “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).
6. To serve in the military service in any way, I would be deprived of obeying the command to assemble on the Lord's Day to worship God in the Bible way, at least part of the time, hence would disobey God. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Therefore, I cannot conscientiously engage in carnal warfare in any form or branch, and for the above reasons, I ask that my name be listed in support of the above principles.

Mckenzie Martin
1808 Tara Court
Flower Mound, TX 75028
May 22, 2017

Announcement: Where the Saints Assemble

The 2017-2018 directory is now ready:

Price: \$5.00 each.

Shipping: 1-6 books-\$4.00, 7-12 books-\$6.00, 13-18 books- \$7.00, 19-24 books-\$8.00, 25-30 books-\$9.00, 31-36 books-\$10.00, 37-42 books-\$12.00, 43-48 books-\$14.00, 49-over books-\$35.00

You may order from: RAM Publications, 300 Clubview Terrace, Woodstock, GA 30189. Or send orders to mmartin@bellsouth.net. -Rick Martin

Our Departed

MERRYMAN - Brother Gary Brent Merryman passed away April 10th. Gary was 54 years old. He had suffered from a number of issues but mostly from lung problems. I had baptized him four years earlier. He had grown to be a good Bible student, teacher, song leader, and seldom missed services except for health reasons. This man could offer up a prayer that would bring you to the very feet of the Master. I was always impressed with his love for the word. He would meet new preachers and talk about their sermons for months. I loved his desire to hear and learn what the Master had to say to him. I was honored to speak a few words to those who gathered for the graveside service. Gary and I had become close friends. I met him in the hospital where we had prayer. I was in the hospital when he passed shortly after we had prayer. He was a very positive person and influence to others. He attended the West Highway 60 congregation following the close of the Freeman Road congregation. He had great hope of the resurrection and served as good as anyone in his condition could. He loved to pray and talk Bible. We will miss him but believe we shall see him one day again. -Roger Owens

DOUGHERTY - Sister Lorene Dougherty passed from this life into the next March 8, 2017 at the age of ninety-seven years, six months, and fifteen days. She obeyed the gospel in March of 1933 and remained faithful to her calling by the Lord for eighty-four years. God only knows how many are better people; because, they knew she and our Grandfather, Tim Dougherty. Over seventy individuals in their family became Christians being baptized into Jesus Christ from her life. Grandma and Grandpa were a great influence in marriage having spent over sixty-seven years together. They raised five children in the Lord. Although today my heart is broken, I do rejoice and celebrate the hope that is set before us! Grandma and Grandpa never had a lot of worldly

goods, but they always had God in their hearts. Heaven truly grows sweeter day by day. It is with thankfulness and appreciation that I write this note to inform those who may remember them from all the trips they made to Sulphur, Oklahoma, and up and down the state of California, to attend gospel meetings. They had a love for the church and spiritual things, and they instilled this same love to many of us in the Lord. When I left for Zambia in May of 2003, Grandpa with Grandma at his side said to me; "We do not want you to go; we do know that it is right. Since you're going, do all the good you can and someday we will talk about it." Brother Tim Dougherty passed away in January of 2014. I never saw him again. I was honored to remember my grandparents at the graveside and look forward to seeing them again.
-P. Duane Permenter

Field Reports

Roy Baagin - Palawan, Philippines - The labor of the Lord here in Poblacion, Balaraza continues to do well. I'm glad to report that yesterday, I had good opportunity to personal Bible studies with my two friends and invited them to attend our worship service on Sunday to observe the pattern of New Testament Pattern of worship. As a matter of fact, I already introduced to them the pattern of New Testament. Praying, singing, giving preaching and Lord's supper using a cup, not multiple cups.

Brother King, again, thank you for your love and concern for us here in the Philippines. Specially here in Palawan. I appreciated you so much for your big concern to the work of the lord.

Thank you so much .. hope that you have opportunity again to visit here this coming next year.

Your brother in Christ.

Roger Owens - P.O. Box 239 Neosho, MO 64850, Cell 1-417-766-8969 - The winter work in Wyoming went by fast. We were able to baptize one lady in Riverton. This lady had been baptized into the Baptist church years ago. During our study she knew her baptism of the past was wrong. Now her daughter wishes to be baptized as well for the same reasons. I hope to visit and study with her in June, Lord willing. We visited a number of TV leads while in Wyoming. The weather was very

cold. Our time and travels took us across Wyoming and into Nebraska. We have four new leads in the area of Scottsbluff Nebraska. One came from the TV program and one from our visiting with that first lead of a sincere woman. The woman's son has many questions and was interested in Bible study. We had a great study with him on my visit in February. I then placed a short newspaper article in the Scottsbluff paper which resulted in a number of phone calls early March. I was very excited to discover so many who want to learn more about the church and our beliefs and practice. By the time you read this article I will have conducted a week meeting in Gering just south of Scottsbluff. So much more to say but for now we just ask that you pray for the work and those who have made inquiry to us.

Carl M. Johnson - 1400 Northcrest Drive, Ada, OK 74820 cmjthebackpage@gmail.com. May 10, 2017 - We just closed an excellent meeting in Miami, Oklahoma. Heavy rains had much of the area flooded and many highways and city streets were impassable, but we had great crowds at each service. The Miami church is doing well and planning to ordain elders in June. May God continue to bless them richly. We also had an excellent meeting in Nashville in April. David Andrews, formerly an elder with the conservative "cups and classes" non-institutional Churches of Christ, and his wife have taken their stand with us. He invited folks from his former home congregation to attend our meeting and many of them came, including the remaining elders. A family from that group near Bowling Green, Kentucky, also attended most of the meeting. These developments look very promising. Frank Brancato conducted our spring meeting here at home and did a wonderful job. We all benefited. My next meetings include: Indiana, PA (June 21-25); Temple, GA (July 16-23); Bedford, IN (August 20-27); Shawnee, KS (Sept. 8-10); Springfield, MO Mission Hills (Oct. 1-8); The Odom, MO (Oct. 11-15). Our next meeting here in Ada is with Jimmy Cating (Sept. 17-24). We sincerely solicit your continued prayers.

P. Duane Permenter - Duane_and_laurie@yahoo.com (808) 600-5909 home (808) 773-5523 cell. May 8 - Things are good in Waipahu, Hawaii. We recently restored a sister that has been away from the church for years, and we celebrate her return. I have known Leah Bayani for around 20 years. In fact, during my first stay to help the church in Hawaii in 1994 the last two weeks I stayed in the home of Leah and her husband. I had to extend my stay and the hotel ran out after a month. I remember Kathy Kennedy from Stockton, CA

was a friend to her when she lived and worshipped at Stockton. The congregation continues in peace and it is growing both in spirit and in truth. Praise and glory belongs to Almighty God our Father! We were recently blessed with the preaching of Don King, his wife, Pat was with him too. Several others have been here of late as well and we always enjoy visitors from the mainland. Peace to all the brotherhood.

Don L. King - 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA, oldpaths@juno.com. May 13 - Our meeting at Fossil Creek congregation in Texas closed with no visible results. Of course, we pray good was done. Crowds were good with visitors from a number of areas and congregations. We appreciated Randy and Rhonda Cantrell allowing Pat and I to stay with them, and we certainly enjoyed the meeting. They are old friends and we enjoyed it very much. The church at Livermore, Ca recently closed a good meeting with Joe Hisle. He did his usual great job preaching the truth and we are the better for it. Crowds were good and a number of visitors from the community and other congregations came one or more times. We were happy Darlene was able to be with him as well. Allow me to remind our preachers and editors to send their articles and reports now. We realize many are on the road holding meetings but we need the material. Our next meeting, Lord willing, will be Broken Arrow congregation in Tulsa, OK. In June. Pat and I enjoyed being with the church in Waipahu, Hawaii last Lord's Day for both services. It was wonderful to be with the brethren again and also to visit with Duane and Laurie Permenter who are now working there. Lord bless the faithful.

Frank Brancato - 12718 Larkin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312. May 14, 2017 email: frankbrancato@sbcglobal.net - Since last reporting, I had the pleasure of holding meetings in Ada Oklahoma and Walnut Grove Kentucky. The meeting in Ada was well attended, and we pray that lasting good was accomplished. I especially enjoyed the time spent with Joe Hisle and Carl Johnson. These men have been a great encouragement to me through the years, and I love and appreciate them very much for all they do for the cause of Christ. The meeting in Walnut Grove Kentucky was also well attended, and it was a joy to be with my good friend Marvin Cromer once again. The work here locally in Bakersfield is also going well. Last month we had our 11th baptism in 11 months, and we give God all of the glory. We are still receiving a few leads from the TV program, but all of our new converts have come as a result of either a personal invitation to services, or to a private bible study. In addition to our

evangelistic efforts, the brethren asked me to teach on elders and deacons. The study is going well, and we pray that we will have men who are qualified in the future. Lord willing, my upcoming meeting schedule will be as follows: Columbia, MO (June 4-11), Marietta GA (July 9-16), and Richmond Ind. (August 4-6). Please pray for the faithful everywhere, and may God bless all of our efforts.

Mario M. Landas - Philippines. April 5, 2017 - Greetings: I and my family are doing well. The congregation at Mawig Balabag Kidapawan City, my home church is well, is steadfast in Christ Jesus and I greatly enjoy laboring with them.

Recently we had a preacher's study, February 20-23, 2017. Each meeting was a good effort. It was at Saguing-Makilala Church of Christ by Bro. Rodrigo G. Aguan. The preacher's brethren has enthusiasm for the enjoyable meeting and the association with the Brethren as always.

The proposed study was attended by several preachers and Church leaders from Town of Arakan North Cotabato, from Town of Makilala and City of Kidapawan. Preachers visited us from Ilocos del Sur, province of Luzon, in the persons of bros, Greg, Maluga, Roger Rivera, and Conrado Libertino from Dipolog City - who gave us knowledge of Spiritual teaching of the word of God.

February 23, 2017 - we scheduled to Puas Inda Amas Kidapawan City Church of Christ - I was service driver of my car. Bro. Libertino and company together Bro Aguan who lead us to guide - to the Congregation by Danilo Dapan, Ten (10) members of souls enlightened after service we baptized - immersed by Bro. Arcenio A. Laman.

The following day we in congregation of Bro. Arcenio Laman at Purok Dum Church of Christ. We enjoyed the hospitality of Christian members.

I think it is the best for me to have a companion in this kind of endeavor in behalf of the Lord's works here.

I would like to thank all the faithful everywhere who are praying for us and extending their continued generosity toward the work here the vineyard of the Lord in Mindanao.

May our heavenly Father beautifully ruminate them with his love and care...God Bless.

Steven R. Bowen - steven.bowen@redoakisd.org - With the arrival of May, we couldn't help but note the 10th anniversary of our work in Lexington, Oklahoma, a work the Lord has blessed abundantly (Ephesians 3:20). We are pleased that the work in Little Rock and Deer Park continue to go well, too. I think our "journey" through the Bible that originated with the Deer Park congregation has been particularly strengthening these past three years. We are now in the middle of the book of Acts, having "reluctantly" left John's sublime gospel in February; but we, of course, have to "move on to perfection." But the book of Acts is no let down. Lord willing, we will soon conclude by covering the great apostle's missionary journeys in May, then travel with Dr. Luke and Paul all the way to Rome in June. We closed out April with our second trip in six months to Foster, West Virginia for a 6 night meeting. On this trip we examined the theme "How's Your Faith?", a faith-building journey through John's gospel. We had supportive crowds of around 40 or more each night, and our good brother Doug Miller and his wife Karen kept Marilyn and me for the second time in their home, despite Doug's failing health. Doug made every service, amazingly, which was an inspiration to all. There were few dry eyes the second night when he dismissed the assembly, as Doug leads one of the most eloquent prayers a man can pray. We understand that- with Doug's kidney cancer and heart issues - he likely will leave us far too soon. But his and Karen's lifelong support and love of the gospel will follow them for generations (Revelation 14:13). We were blessed to have their son Jamie and wife Lisa - both newly baptized - come up again with their kids from London, Kentucky to share in the work of the gospel. On the last night of the meeting, one of the loveliest (and big-hearted!) sisters I know - a mom of two young boys - came back to her work for the Lord. That night dry eyes, again, were hard to find among that close-knit group of Christians. We also were able to work during the week with a young family of seven who came every night of the meeting. They currently use multiple cups in a small congregation not far from Foster, but this couple is diligently "searching the scriptures" on this key topic (Acts 17-11). We are convinced truth will win out and that we will be able to report good news in this matter soon! Please don't forget your prayers!



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THE BACK PAGE. . .

THE ANSWER MAN GETS IT WRONG

By CARL M. JOHNSON

Hank Hanegraaff, popular 67-year-old radio talk-show host known as the “Bible Answer Man,” shocked the Evangelical protestant religious world a few weeks ago when he announced he has changed his religious affiliation from the Evangelical brotherhood he has defended for many years and has joined the Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Church.

The Evangelical churches include many denominations such as Baptist, Pentecostal Holiness, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and others. They trace their roots back 500 years to the Protestant Reformation led by men such as Martin Luther and John Calvin. Evangelical churches have several basic beliefs in common. They believe salvation is the result of a conversion experience that involves faith alone, and that baptism is not essential to salvation.

However, they do believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures and that the Scriptures alone are the final authority on any doctrinal issue. Their slogan during the “Great Awakening” of the 1700s was “Solo Scriptura,” which means Scripture alone is sufficient as our supreme authority in all spiritual matters.

The slogan is in direct opposition to the claim of Eastern Orthodox Churches that believe Scripture alone is not sufficient. Orthodox churches believe that individual Christians cannot interpret Scripture for themselves, but only the church hierarchy—the “Patriarchs”—can interpret Scripture. After interpreting the Scriptures the church hierarchy establishes and codifies traditions that regulate all facets of the church, and the church traditions take priority over Scripture as the final authority on all issues.

This contrasting view of the authority of the Scriptures is just one of the issues that has separated Evangelical churches from Orthodox churches for 500 years, and it is one of the reasons the Evangelical religious world was shocked a few weeks ago when one of its best known defenders decided to defect to the other side.

Hanegraaff is obviously a very knowledgeable man. He is quick on the trigger as the “Bible Answer Man” on the radio, and is best known for arguing against cults, heresies, and non-Christian religions. His 20 books include *The Kingdom of the Cults*, which I have in my library. It is an expose’ of cults such as Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons.

In recent years, however, Hanegraaff says he began having misgivings about his spiritual condition within the Evangelical church and even wondered if he was a true Christian. He began a study that led him back to the early church. He sensed a longing to be part of a church with a rich history that could be traced back to the very beginning, and he believes he has found that church in the Eastern Orthodox Church (*Christianity Today* 4-12-17).

“Orthodox” literally means “straight way.” The Eastern Orthodox Church makes the bold and unapologetic claim that it can draw a straight, unbroken line all the way back to the original apostolic church established in Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago. It claims to be the one true church of Christ on earth, which alone has guarded right belief and true worship since the beginning.

Officially, however, the church can trace its roots back only to A.D. 1054, only 500 years earlier than the Protestant Reformation. The “Schism of 1054” marked the Orthodox Church’s official split from the Roman Catholic Church. The Orthodox Church also has many beliefs and practices that cannot be traced back to the original church. In addition to elevating tradition over Scripture as the final authority in all spiritual matters, the Orthodox Church has maintained the Roman Catholic practice of infant baptism. Infant baptism is not found in the Scriptures and did not become common until the fifth century, after the writings of Augustine popularized the theory of original sin.

Evangelical churches place very little emphasis on the Lord’s Supper, but Orthodox churches believe the Lord’s Supper is a fundamental priority of the church, along with baptism. Hanegraaff says he is attracted by the emphasis the Orthodox Church places upon the “Eucharist” (Lord’s Supper), and that it has had a great impact on him.

However, just as it has perverted the Scripture’s teaching about baptism, the Orthodox Church has perverted the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. One such perversion is its belief that when the bread and fruit of the vine are blessed they are miraculously transformed into the actual physical body and blood of Jesus Christ. This belief is usually called “transubstantiation,” and is also believed by the Roman Catholic Church.

I applaud Hanegraaff for his sincere longing to find the church whose roots can be traced back to the original apostolic church in Jerusalem. I am obviously disappointed, however, that Hanegraaff has settled his search on the Eastern Orthodox Church—a church that does not respect the authority of God’s Word and has perverted the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, along with many other abuses.

The church you read about in the Bible should not be that hard to find for the honest seeker, and it is bewildering to me how the “Bible Answer Man” could have gotten this answer so wrong. cmjthehackpage@gmail.com