

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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WHERE DIVINE WISDOM IS FOUND

By *BENNIE T. CRYER*

1 Corinthians 1:30 was written to some church members who were having a difficult time in getting along with their brothers and sisters in Christ. A few of the Gentile members had begun to lose their way to life eternal because, being Greeks, they considered themselves far better educated and much wiser than Paul the apostle to the Gentiles or any of the inspired evangelist and prophets with Paul and especially those members in Corinth who had had Paul's hands laid on them and were therefore able, by inspiration, to speak the words of life. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the church in Corinth. He is explaining to them about the source of wisdom in the true religion of God that has to do with saving them from their sins and maintaining the right relationship with God. God is the source of wisdom and revealed to man his wisdom in the New Testament first orally and then in the written form we still have today. The first cosmonaut that hurtled through space for a short time openly declared that he did not see God on his journey. Of course he did not see God. He was depending on his own education and human abilities that he had attained in order to discover the creator of the very space he was traveling through. Though he did not see God the creator God saw him and others like him from the time of the revelation of the scheme of redemption in the first century till this twenty first century. And you can extend this thought into

the future till the end of time and the destruction of this world and the space the cosmonaut was traveling through.

How do we know this? God knew this and revealed it to us in his inspired word: 1 Cor. 1:21, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” What the Greeks in the church in Corinth needed to pay attention to was the preaching of the good gospel sermons Paul and the other gospel preachers had given them. What the cosmonaut needed to hear was some good gospel sermons before he went into space. Then maybe he could have seen God was the cause of all he saw up there. What some of our brethren need today is to remember the good gospel sermons they heard earlier in their lives instead of delving into the silence of God and coming up with new things based on human wisdom that has troubled the brotherhood. Men taking advantage of the so called silence of God has created the divisions even in the denominational world. In Col. 2:3, “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” It is “in Christ” where God has “hid all” the wisdom and knowledge that has to do with the church and the salvation of our souls and the instructions about how we are to live. “In Christ” we are even instructed about how to enter into him. Gal. 3:26-27, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Do not ever forget this and chase after some new thing. For this purpose God “made unto us” Christ Jesus as our wisdom. --OPA

Field Reports

Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or ronnywade36@gmail.com April 8- We recently closed a very enjoyable meeting with the brethren who meet in the Hoyte community near Cameron, Texas. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay among these brethren. They have a mind to work and with their capable leadership are making a difference in the community around them. One could never find better hospitality anywhere than among them. Crowds were good throughout with one baptism. The Lord willing we go next to Fossil Creek in Ft. Worth April 16-20, then to Chestnut Ridge, KY April 23-27, London, KY April 27-30, Dardanelle, AR May 9-11, Witt Springs, AR May 21-25, and Greenville, SC June 15-22. We hope to see many of you at these meetings. We are also looking forward to the fourth of July meeting held here in Springfield. We hope you will be able to attend. The dates are June 29-July 3. May the Lord bless and care for each of you.

Bennie T. Cryer, 4635 Larkin Rd., Live Oak, CA 95953, April 14- I am happy to report that the doctor has told me that the Non-Hodgkins lymphoma cancer that I have had treatments for since February of 2013 has been eradicated. I am thankful for this and the hundreds of cards sent to me and prayers brothers and sisters have offered up to God in my behalf. My last chemotherapy treatment was on December 24 of last year and the last Petscan was two weeks ago. They will check me every 3 to 6 months to make sure that I am remaining cancer free. I am feeling good. I am still working for the Olivehurst church and we are growing in strength and in number and we thank God for this. We now have several young people in attendance and two of our new young men are leading songs and preparing and giving short talks. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers and thanks again for your concern.

Kevin W. Presley, 108 Mulberry Court Dothan, AL 36303 April 11, 2014. 2014 is off to a good beginning in the Lord's work. During the first week of April, it was my privilege to once again be with the good brethren in Fort Smith, AR. We were encouraged to welcome 92 visitors from the community during this 5-day meeting. Almost all of those visitors were directly in response to our television program which has been airing on Lord's mornings since 2009. One gentleman was baptized and a sister restored to the faith. I have, personally, never experienced such an outpouring of community interest in a gospel meeting. In fact, the television work has been more effective in NW Arkansas than any other place where I have been involved in such an effort. In 2009-2010, I recorded 68 broadcasts that the church has now aired 4 times through. We are laying plans, the

Lord willing, to return to production this summer with a quality, HD broadcast. We intend to become set up with our own broadcast equipment which will allow us much more flexibility and the opportunity to create a much higher quality, engaging product for people to watch. If you or your congregation would like to be involved in such a work, feel free to contact myself or Bro. Dennis Smith from Ft. Smith. We are excited about the potential this work holds, with the Lord's blessing. The month of March took me to Harrisonville, MO and Jamesville, MO. Both meetings were well attended and a joy to be part of. In January, the year began with a meeting at Freeman Rd. in Neosho, MO. These brethren may be small in number but they are large in spirit. Large crowds from the local area greeted us at each service and made for an uplifting time of worship and fellowship. My utmost appreciation to Roger Owens, Billy Dickinson, Dennis Smith, and Taylor Joyce - all gospel preachers who labor with these congregations. Their presence and encouragement buoyed my spirits along the way. May the Lord bless them in their respective works! A final note: I returned to full-time evangelism in March. I am thankful for this opportunity and hope good will be done here at home and where I may be called to preach the gospel. My upcoming meetings include Arlington, TX; Tulsa, OK; Lawrenceburg, TN; Springfield, MO; New Salem, MS and others. I hope to see many of you along the way, the Lord willing!

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA, 94550, April 10, 2014, e-mail old_paths@juno.com Pat and I have just returned from visiting the work in Hawaii. It was good to be with the brethren again and we pray good was accomplished. The church there is in such a beautiful place. We wish all could visit them. The church at Livermore continues to work together in peace and it is a pleasure to be here. The anticipated beginning of the new building project is now waiting for the City to furnish us with permits which seems to be slow in coming. However, we look forward to getting started soon. We are worshiping in a rented facility right across the street from where the building will be constructed. We are in the HBW building. It is located on Research Dr. Exit 1580 on Vasco Road and go south to East Avenue. Turn right and then immediately left on Research Dr. The HBW building will be the first building on the right. Go through the main entrance and all the way to the back of the hallway. The last door is where the church is meeting upstairs. Services are at 10:00 A.M. Lord's Day, 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Wednesday. We have had several visitors and all are welcome. May the Lord bless the faithful.

QUERIST COLUMN

By Ronny F. Wade

Question: How important is it that older women teach younger women those things listed in Titus 2:3-5?

Answer: The verses in question read as follows: “the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” Such teaching is not only important, it is commanded. The teaching is not public teaching from the pulpit, for women are forbidden to do that in I Timothy 2:11-12 “Let the women learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over the man” and I Corinthians 14:34-35 “Let your women keep silence in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is shameful for women to speak in church.” Hence the teaching here mentioned is that done in private settings. Who would be better equipped to do this teaching than older, wiser, and more experienced Christian women. It seems to me that there is a crying need for such teaching today. Why is it that so many older women seem reluctant to step forward? Could it be that some young women resent being approached by older women who seek to instruct and guide them in Christian conduct? Could it be that some older women feel inadequate to do such teaching? Could it be that many older women are guilty of the very things young women need to be warned to avoid? Notice the list that Paul enumerates: (1) to love their husbands, (2) love their children, (3) to be discreet, (4) chaste, (5) homemakers, (6) good, (7) obedient to their husbands. One might wonder just why young women need to be reminded to love their husbands. In a day when over half of all marriages end in divorce it seems evident that many don’t love their husbands as they should. Nothing such as fancy dress, costly jewelry, or educational advantages can compensate for the genuine love

and devotion that a wife must have for her husband. It seems almost unthinkable that any mother would need to be taught to love her children. Yet in our world today thousands of children are beaten and abused every day. Some are even murdered by the hands of the one who brought them into this world. There is no doubt that maternal affection is natural, yet even in Paul’s day he realized the need to admonish mothers to love their children. Mothers who love their children introduce them to the Lord at an early age and continue to school them in Christian principles with the word of God and a Godly example. Young women need to learn the lesson of being sober-minded and chaste. When I see young women dressed in clothes that cover very little of their bodies, it seems evident that some mother failed to teach her young girls the value and necessity of dressing modestly. Young women need to be taught the danger of yielding to the flesh and the necessity of keeping their bodies pure and free from the sins identified by Paul in Galatians 5:19. Married women are to be home makers. Literally Paul is saying that young women need to be taught to be workers at home to watch and guard the home. The home needs to be a pleasant place to those who live there. Young women not only need to be taught to keep the house clean and orderly, but to make the home a place where both husband and children long to be. The woman is truly the queen of the home and as such she deserves the love and respect of both husband and children. She is to be good and kind and to love her husband. These things clearly show just why older Godly women need to teach and train younger women. Young women who are trying to be the kind of example the Lord expects of them will gladly receive the instruction given them by older, experienced women in the church. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or ronnywade36@gmail.com)

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I hear is a specimen of teaching in general, I know we could do much better. Much of what I hear is dry and uninspiring. Some teach because they have to say something and some teach because they have something to say, and there is a big difference in the two. How long has it been since you have heard a lesson spoken with courage and conviction which calls upon the hearers to act and respond? And how long has it been since you have heard an "Amen" from one of the brethren? I realize that could be overdone but the last time I heard it, it was so rare and unexpected, I almost leaped out of my skin.

The great spiritual and political leader of India, Mohandas K. Gandhi, told of attending a church in South Africa when he was a young man. He said: "I attended church every Sunday. The church did not make a favorable impression on me. The sermons seemed to be uninspiring. The congregation did not strike me as being particularly religious. They were not an assembly of devout souls; they appeared to be rather worldly-minded, going to church in conformity to custom. Here at times I would involuntarily doze. I was ashamed, but some of my neighbors who were in no better a case lightened the shame. I could not go on like this and soon gave up attending the service."

We wonder what impact it might have had on the nation of India if he had found it inspiring and enthusiastic? And how often has that been the identical experience of young people in America?

Oh, brethren, let us "wake up, and strengthen what is left." Souls are at stake. The soul we save may be that of someone very near and dear, and it could be our own.

Announcements

Missouri Fourth of July Meeting

The annual Missouri fourth of July meeting will be conducted in Springfield under the direction of the Mission Hills church. The dates are June 29-July 3. Services at the church building Sunday morning at 10 A.M. Sunday night the services move to the Remington Center where the meeting will continue thru Thursday Night. Below we have listed Motel Information. For further information you may call Ronny Wade 417-766-2700, Mark Triplett 417-823-9665 Chad Smith 417-839-8222

Motels For The Fourth of July Meeting, Springfield, MO

Holiday Inn Express---Medical District (Formerly Comfort Inn and Suites) 310 E. Monastery St. Springfield, MO 65810 Phone: 417-887-8500 Rate \$99.00 plus tax per room per night Free Hot Breakfast

Sleep Inn---Medical District 233 El Camino Alto Springfield, Mo 65810 Phone: 417-866-2464 Rate: \$74.00 plus tax per room per night Free Hot Breakfast In order to receive these rates at either hotel, the guest must call the hotel direct and the rates will be honored based on availability. Tell them you are with the Church of Christ.

Hampton Inn---Springfield South 3232 5. Glenstone (Near the Battlefield mall) Springfield, MO 65804 Phone 417-882-6611 Rate: \$89.00 plus tax per room per night Free Hot Breakfast Must call the Motel directly and tell them that you are with the Church of Christ

Candlewood Suites 1035 E. Republic Rd. Springfield, MO 65807 Phone:417-881-8500 Rate: Studio Suite \$84.00 plus tax per room per night One Bedroom King \$119.00 plus tax per room per night Must call Motel directly and ask for Church of Christ rate.

There are other motels in the area that are available that can be reached by telephone or e-mail. Should you need assistance you may call or write any of the references listed in this letter of announcement.



50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday June 7th Irvin and Barbara Barnes will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

A reception will be held in their honor from 1 to 3 P.M. at The Muse in Chesterfield Village 2160 W. Chesterfield Blvd. in Springfield, MO

You may send cards of remembrance and congratulations to the Barnes at 3218 East Farm Road 88 Springfield, MO 65803.



NEW SONGBOOK ABOUT READY

I am happy to announce the soon-publication of the 2014 songbook 'Ceaseless Praise.' The book should be available by or before the annual 4th of July Meetings. This book contains a number of wonderful new songs, beloved hymns and a host of favorites from yesteryear. The price will be \$5 per book, plus shipping. A companion CD will also be available this summer. I want to take this opportunity to apologize for the binding problems with the last book "Abiding Hope" that many congregations experienced across the nation. The printers are aware of the problem and are identifying the cause. They have assured me that the issue will be corrected in this new publication. I appreciate your use of these past songbooks and I appreciate your patience and loyalty to the effort we have tried to continue since the passing of Bro. Lynwood Smith. Purchasing the books is a wonderful way to keep high interest in the good singing in your congregation and allows

know we have a great love for the Lord's church- both you and I. Truly she is that great "Ship of Zion." She is the beautiful bride of Christ whom our Lord one day will "present (to) himself as a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:26). I am so thankful for those who left us that grand heritage of the church of Christ, that "great speckled bird" (Jeremiah 12:9). Words fail us in trying to express our gratitude in having the breath and ample passion to proclaim the story of Jesus and His glorious church wherever we can, as well as the energy, at times, to help her overcome her struggles. We all often grow weary at times both in spreading the seeds of the gospel as well as limiting the spread of the fires of trouble.

It is because of that love for the church that we share some sobering thoughts on this "front porch" visit. The truth is, I am afraid many of us within the church of our Lord are in trouble, and the trouble often stems from that one powerful, loaded word: Attitude.

I am afraid that many in the Lord's church- many three-times-a-week members, leading citizens - are going to be surprised on the Day of Judgment because of attitude. Matthew 7:21 applies to us as much as it applies to the denominational world.

The problem of having the wrong spirit or attitude is nothing new. If you go through each of the epistles, you may be a bit surprised to see the inspired writer of each book warns brethren, in various ways, not to "bite and devour one another" (Galatians 5:15) but rather "by love serve one another" (v. 13).

It seems strange that the apostle would have to warn church members against such behavior. But you do not have to study long to realize the way we treat and love one another was a soul-threatening issue then even as it is now.

This problem is what leads the apostle in Galatians to sketch two portraits that are as contrasting as heaven and hell. He tells the brethren, "But if bite and devour one another, take heed that be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (15-16). The apostle establishes the contrast clearly in the outset of his sermon, and it becomes more pronounced as he moves on through Galatians 5.

But notice in verse 17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would?"

That last statement grabs us and demands attention - "that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Being guided by the flesh, what we WOULD do is demand that we have our way. But because we "walk in the Spirit," we, instead, consider our brother so that our actions do not cause our "weak brother (to) perish, for whom Christ died" (1 Corinthians 8:11).

After the flesh, what we would do is dig our heels in until chaos develops on every side. But what we do - because we walk in the Spirit- is "follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). It is by the Spirit of Christ we learn that "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17) - in other words, we learn that the old Ship of Zion is a vessel of peace and joy. Our lives and attitudes change when we sail the high waters that ship sails on.

In the flesh, what we would do is demand we have our rights, even if demanding our rights causes division and grief all around. But what we do when we walk in the Spirit is adopt the attitude of the great apostle who says, "... if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (1 Corinthians 8:13).

I am convinced that if every Christian would adopt the attitude of 1 Corinthians 8:13 that the chasms in the Lord's church would be repaired as smoothly as a seamstress sewing a garment. If everyman will have the mind of the apostle and the mind of Christ-whether he be scholar or journeyman, conservative or liberal, in the right or treading precariously on the edge - peace in the Lord's church will flourish.

What we will NOT do when we walk after the Spirit is say, "That's just the way I am. People will just have to deal with it." Instead, we will develop this attitude, "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

Good friends, when you lay the pleading words of the apostle carefully alongside the self-will attitudes we often develop within the doors of the Lord's church, tears and regret may soon follow.

In essence, here is the apostle's powerful message: "I have learned - through a life of much difficulty- to humble myself enough that I can become weak to those

to produce new programs. The plan is to build a small room for a recording studio and purchase the necessary equipment to again get back into full production of his program. I, whole heartedly, endorse his plan, and would encourage as many as can to contact brother Kevin and help to support such a great work. Yours in the Lord, Dennis . dsmith46@sbcglobal.net P. O. Box 10868, Fort Smith, AR 72917 (479) 452-5896 - home; (479) 285-3106 - cell

**WANTING THE BENEFIT
WITHOUT THE COST**

By DARRIN WHITTAKER

In Luke we have a man clearly in need of help. We find people who knew there was a problem; this man needed help to be freed from the demons that tormented him. Any attempt by the people to help him did not alleviate his torment. Jesus entered the picture, healed this man of his tormentors and demonstrated both His compassion and power. What was the cost of this man's healing? As Jesus cast the demons into a herd of swine, they ran off a cliff to their death. There were eye witnesses to this miraculous event, and the news spread throughout the whole town. No doubt those witnessing this man's torture had compassion for his suffering. Yet, the cost of his healing was simply too great. "Solve our problems but save my pigs." Said another way, " 'Lord, I want the change, but don't let it cost me anything.'"

I had a college professor who had an open door policy for any student who wanted assistance. He did require one thing; the student needed to bring in his text book. If the professor heard the binder of the book "crack", he would hand over the book and have the student exit the office. He knew the student had not studied the text book prior to requesting help. "Help me with my problems, but don't ask anything of me."

Do we bring that same mentality when we approach God? "God, I want a change, but don't ask anything of me. God, I want my relationship with my spouse to be better, but don't ask anything of me. God, I want my relationship problems with my children solved, but don't ask anything of me. God, I want (fill in the blank) but don't ask anything of me."

If we want better family relations, what does the wisdom of God's word ask of us?

HUSBANDS; 1 Peter 3:7, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." The word "understanding" means a general and objective knowledge. I remember having an old Ford pickup that had so many quirks that everything had to be "just so" even to get it started. The choke had to be pulled out a specific length and the gas pedal pressed just so far in order for the engine to start and that was when the temperature wasn't too cold or too hot. Because of my experience with the pickup, I gained a general and objective knowledge of all the special aspects of how it worked. Peter instructs every husband to have that type of intimate knowledge of their wives. If you want to push your wife's "CARE BUTTON," what can you say or do? Can you generate a list of things you can do for your wife that shows her how special she is to you?

Peter further explains that each husband is to "give honor" to their wives. The concept of giving honor means to treat as precious, or to bestow a mark of honor. Are you willing to use your intimate and objective knowledge of your wife to make her feel precious and show that she holds a place of honor in your heart? Husbands, do you want a better marriage? Are you willing to pay the cost?

WIVES; Col 3:18, "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord." Submit means to subject oneself and obey; to submit to one's control. A wise and Christ-honoring wife seeks her husband's best-serving, helping, comforting, and supporting him as he assumes the God given role as head of the household. The role of a wife at home is so important that God saw fit to direct, older woman to teach the younger woman how to be a loving wife (Titus 2:4,5). Wives, do you love your husband, not as you think he should be loved, but as God instructs you to love? Do you submit yourself to his authority, subject yourself to his role as head of the family, and place his needs above your own. Wives, do you want a better relationship with your husband? Are you willing to pay the cost?

PARENTS; Deut. 6:6-9, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk