

Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths... and walk therein."

(Jeremiah 6:16)

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Reviewing The NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION #2

Ben. F. Vick, Jr.

Inaccuracies Regarding Matthew 5:32 and 19:9

The NIV is not accurate in its translation of the Greek word *porneia*, which is translated "fornication" in a reliable translation. Both in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9, the NIV says, "marital unfaithfulness." Fornication, strictly speaking, means "illicit sexual intercourse in general" (Thayer). *The Analytical Greek Lexicon* defines the Greek word fornication, whoredom, concubinage, adultery, incest, lewdness, uncleanness. One might be unfaithful to his marriage vows and, yet, not be guilty of fornication. A husband might fail to provide for his wife, or a wife might refuse to obey her husband; but neither could be accused in such instances of fornication. They would be guilty of marital unfaithfulness but not fornication. The NIV opens the door for other causes for a divorce than on the ground of fornication.

DENIALS OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST

When the rich young ruler

came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus asked him, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:16-17). Jesus' response affirmed his being God. To put it in syllogistic form:

Major Premise: Only one is good; i.e., God.

Minor Premise: You have called me good Master.

Conclusion: Therefore, I am God.

However, the NIV, based on a corrupt text, changes the young man's address to Jesus and removes the Lord's argument on his being deity. It reads, "Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments"

(Matt. 19:16-17). The translators were wrong in perverting this passage (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19); our professors and preachers are wrong in promoting this version; and it is the acme of gullibility for brethren to accept it as a reliable Bible.

The words "only begotten" have been removed from the text in favor of the inadequate rendering "one and only" in the NIV (John 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9). It is a point that favors modernism. The Greek word *monogenes* from which the excised expression comes is a four-syllable, compound word. *Mono* means only; *genes* means begotten. Thus, "only begotten" is the only faithful English rendering that can be given. Neither "only" nor "one and only" carries the precise meaning of the Greek word. Someone can be an only son and, yet, not be the "only begotten" son. But if one says "the only begotten Son of God," that carries the sense in which he is the one and only. The expression "only begotten Son of

God” tells us not only that he is special but why he is special – it expresses his deity.

SALVATION BASED ON FAITH ONLY

The errors regarding the passages having to do with salvation are replete in the NIV. According to **Romans 1:17** in this version, salvation is based on faith only. *“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”* It is possible for a verse or passage to be incorrectly translated and, yet, no harm, in a sense, be done to the basic truth of God’s word. But this is not only an unfaithful rendering of the Greek text, but it also perverts the truth. **Romans 10:10** in this version teaches that salvation is at the point of belief and confession. The translators took the Greek preposition *eis*, which always looks forward, and made it into the present tense verb “are.” In **Ephesians 1:13**, according to this same perversion, the Ephesians were *“included in Christ when they heard the word of truth.”* That is not what the verse says in a reliable Bible. This also contradicts what Paul said in Galatians 3:27 – even in the NIV!

TESTIMONIALS VS. TESTIMONY

Some today in the Lord’s church are advocating the idea that we should preach the gospel records about Jesus which, according to them, is the substance of the Bible and to pay little, if any heed to the Old Testament prophets which, as per the view of some, are mere shadow. Likewise, we are told to ignore the book of Acts and the epistles and to focus on the gospel about Jesus. This approach seems to be permeating the church through young preachers and liberal professors among us.

The New International Version supports this testimonial type of preaching in **1 Corinthians 1:6**. It says, “because our testimony about [emphasis – BFV]

Christ was confirmed in you.” But the reliable King James Version renders the verse, “Even as the testimony of [emphasis – BFV] Christ was confirmed in you.” The testimony of Christ indicates that which belongs to Christ, a possessive relationship. It also could denote origin or derivation. Thus, “the testimony of Christ” means that which came from Christ or belongs to him. It is synonymous with the gospel of Christ or the doctrine of Christ. There is nothing in the Greek text to indicate that the preposition “about” should be inserted in lieu of the genitive “of” which shows possession or origin. To talk about Christ is not the same as to preach the testimony of Christ. To tell about God is not the same as to proclaim the testimony of God (1 Cor. 2:1). One might talk all day about Christ or God and never declare the testimony of either.

NIV SUPPORTS CONTINUATION OF MIRACLES

The NIV’s incorrect rendering of two passages in the context of the miraculous gifts allows for the support of continuation of miracles. The Pentecostal groups have more “ammunition” for their false views in the NIV than they do in the faithful KJV. In **1 Corinthians 13:9-10** the NIV reads: “For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.” The most that can be said in favor of this rendering is that it is ambiguous.

What “perfection” is under consideration? Did Paul have reference to the individual’s spiritual maturity? Or did he have reference to the time when the revelation would be complete. One cannot be sure in reading the NIV. However, the King James Version makes it clear by translating the expression “that which is perfect” which is in the nominative case and the neuter gender. It says, *“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away”* (1 Cor. 13:9-10).

Another passage dealing with miraculous is wrongfully translated in the NIV. **Ephesians 4:13** reads, “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” This shows the Pentecostal prejudice of the translators of this corrupt version. This rendering allows the miraculous to continue until we are united spiritually. This is handling the word of God deceitfully.

The King James Version or Authorized Version says, *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Eph. 4:13). The spiritual gifts endowed upon the offices cited in 4:11 were to continue until the system of faith, the gospel, was complete, entire, or whole. The word “till” is an adverb of time with the force of a conjunction, implying cessation of some action or thing at a certain point in time. The faith has been once for all delivered (Jude 3). Therefore, the miraculous has ceased. The prepositional phrases in Ephesians 4:13, “of the faith” and “of the knowledge of the Son of God” [emphasis – BFV] in the King James are correct, being in the genitive case in the original. There is no sound reason for changing them to the locative case as the NIV has done.

NIV TEACHES NOT UNDER LAW

The NIV is the Bible of the liberal mindset. Some will argue that we are not under law today. This is false. However, if one were to show them **Philippians 3:16**, they would deny the rendering in an accurate translation. The King James Version reads, “Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.” But the NIV mutilates this verse. It says, “Only let us live up to what we have already attained.” It removes from the text that we are under

the same rule and that we are to mind the same thing which have the support of the vast majority of manuscripts that are available today.

PERVERSION OF 2 PETER 3:10

Second Peter 3:10 is perverted in the NIV. It says that when the Lord shall come again, the earth will be "laid bare" rather than "burned up" as the KJV has it. The NIV reads, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10). The Greek equivalent for "laid bare" or "discovered" is found only in a third-century papyrus, the Sinaiticus, Vaticanus and four others of later date. Thayer says that the rendering by the fourth century manuscripts, Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, is "strange but improbable" (p. 261). Burgon stated that it "obviously makes utter nonsense of the place" (*Revision Revised*, p. 356). The overwhelming evidence supports the words "burned up." The majority of manuscripts plus some of the ancient versions sustain the King James Version's rendering.

CONCLUSION

This is enough to demonstrate to the honest soul that the New International Version is not reliable. This version should not be used in the pulpit or the classroom as a reliable version. It is full of denominational dogma. It will lead the ignorant and innocent into error. Faithful brethren should not use it except as a reference tool, being aware of its many inaccuracies and shortcomings.

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This two-part article by Ben Vick on the NIV is in tract form and can be ordered free of charge from the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ at the address above.

*In our June/94 issue we ran an article by Wayne Jackson entitled, "Should Women Function As Translators In The Assembly?" Also in June, we mailed a list of 50 questions regarding the use of women interpreters to some well-known and respected brethren. We asked them, if they deemed wise and prudent, to please answer these questions in view of us printing their answers in **Seek The Old Paths**. We thought this would provide a good means of studying the subject of women interpreters. Beginning with this issue, we plan on running these questions and the answers given by many of these brethren. Below, is a response we received from Dean Crutchfield regarding the first three questions on the list.*

WOMEN INTERPRETER QUESTIONNAIRE

Dean Crutchfield

For more than a quarter of a century it has been my privilege to preach the gospel in India and several other foreign nations. India alone, has 14 major languages and 1,652 minor dialects. The other nations all have more than one language. In all these places, over all these years, I have never found a single instance that necessitated the use of a woman to translate for me when preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ.

Until recent reports from countries that were formerly a part of the USSR, I have never heard, nor read, of brethren in any place, at any time, using women as translators, except when women were teaching other women. This includes other nations that were behind the former "Iron Curtain." It seems it has never been practiced until now.

Two conversations, two or three articles, and the Questionnaire received, all indicate that a change has occurred. For the first time ever, to my knowledge, some

preachers among us are using, advocating the use, and defending the use of women translators in gospel meetings and Bible classes in Russia, and other former members of the USSR. From what I am told the crux of their argument is necessity, expediency, and the good that may result. One statement claimed there were no men available. I am aware that the former USSR is dismembered, is destroying nuclear weapons, and exporting armaments to buyers around the world. I did not know that all the men had been exported as well.

The Questionnaire is a good one and will serve a good purpose. Those using women translators are obligated "...to give an answer..." (1 Peter 3:15). But, isn't it astonishing, and extremely sad, that such a Questionnaire is necessary for those who are Bible teachers and preachers, some for many years? How tragic it is to realize that preaching brethren who have edited papers, taught in preacher schools, and engaged denominational men in debate,

could allow themselves to be caught up in practices that would indicate ignorance of the Bible, or if not ignorant, then a self-willed rejection of God's Word. The apostle Paul, by inspiration, has made clear God's will in the subject of woman's place in the assembly (I Cor. 14:33-35; I Tim. 2:8-12). Where is the command, example, or necessary inference that teaches otherwise?

Coleman's Christian Antiquities tells us, "There were fanatical sects even in the ancient church, such as the Montanists and Collyridians, who authorized and encouraged women to speak, dispute, and teach in public. ...What impudence, says Tertulian, in these heretical women to teach, to dispute, to exorcise, and even to baptize. De Bap 17. Let no woman speak in public, nor teach, nor baptize, nor administer the sacrament, nor arrogate to herself any office of the ministry belonging to the other sex. De Virg. vel. c.9. Let not a woman, however learned or holy, presume to teach men in public assembly – is the injunction of the Council of Carthage, IV. 99. Let all the female sex, says Chrystom, forbear from assuming the responsibility of the sacred office, and the prerogative of men. De Sacerdotio, L. 11. The apostolic Constitutions declare it to be a heathenish custom, Liv. 3, C.9; and Epiphanius has a particular dissertation, in which he shows at large that no woman, from the foundation of the world, was ever ordained to offer sacrifice, or perform any solemn service of the church." One may logically conclude that these words of condemnation sprang from some source, and that was the teaching of Paul. Did they not write as they did because they clearly understood Paul's teaching?

The first three questions on the above mentioned Questionnaire go directly to the heart of the matter. If one has an honest heart, and truly desires to follow

God's will and way, the correct answers to these questions will bring an immediate end to the practice of men using women translators in the assembly. Let's note the first two questions:

1. Is Truth subjective?

2. Is Truth objective?

Here we are simply asked, do we do what God chooses for us to do, or do we do what we choose to do? Do we follow God's commandments or man's opinions? The choice has been man's from the beginning of creation. We see Adam and Eve making a choice in the Garden of Eden, and the

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horrific results of their choosing the subjective (their will, as tutored by Satan), over the objective (God's command). Shortly thereafter, Cain makes the same error, and history from that time forward is replete with such examples.

It is not necessary to cite myriad passages of Scripture to demonstrate God's answer to the first two questions. A few references are sufficient for any one who loves God, and respects His revealed Will. God's Word is Truth (John 17:17; Rom. 1:25). In Galatians 2:5,14, Paul writes, "...the Truth of the gospel..." Again, in Ephesians 2:13, "...the

word of truth, the gospel of your salvation." We have been guided into all truth "by...the Spirit of truth..." (John 16:13).

Does faith come from within or without? "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Those who shall enter into heaven are not the religious who followed their own, subjective will, but those who "...doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

It is nothing less than rebellion against God, and contempt for His Word to ignore His commandments while embracing and following that which originates in the "I think" of men. Yet, for many, opinions are more precious than a thus saith the Lord. Sadly, the history of the Lord's church from the First Century, has been a history of apostasy and disobedience. It has been a history of men elevating their thoughts above God's thoughts. It has been the making of opinions into creeds, and teaching men to follow the creeds.

Are brethren today ignorant of "What is truth?" Is Truth that which is convenient for the moment? Is it that which is less painful, and more pleasant to the majority? Does Truth change from place to place, circumstance to circumstance, country to country? Can baptism be sprinkling in the desert when only a canteen of water is available, but always immersion elsewhere? Can "fruit of the vine" be water where there are no vineyards, but always juice of the grape in other places? Can there be one plan of salvation in America, and a different plan of salvation in other parts of the world? Bible readers know that the answer is NO!

Let us now give some thought regarding the third question,

3. "Does the "end result" of a thing justify the "means used" which accomplishes that thing?"

The premise that good will result, not what the Bible teaches, has been the justification to quieten the conscience for many who wish to engage in practices for which they can find no Bible authority. Some were even affirming that Paul was teaching such damnable error, "Let us do evil, that good may come" (Rom. 3:8). No where on the pages of Holy Writ does God ever teach men and women to do such. There is never any time, or place, or circumstance where there is Scriptural justification to deviate from God's stated Will in the hopes of a good result.

No doubt Peter felt justified in his error of staying on good terms with the circumcision, by abandoning the Gentiles (Gal. 2:12). What actually motivated Peter to do this? Could it have been the hopes of converting more of them to Christ?

Uzzah thought he was doing a good thing in putting his hand to the Ark of God, but, "God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the Ark of God" (II Sam. 6:6-7). Why did Uzzah die? Wasn't he trying to do good and protect the ark? Yes! No matter how worthy his intention, he was disobeying God. God had forbidden them to touch the ark (Num. 4:15-20).

Jesus taught, "...every good tree bringeth forth good fruit" (John 17:17). However, we have some today advocating that a good tree, may at times bring forth evil fruit, and still remain a "good tree" if some sort of good is derived from the evil fruit. How absurd! While our brethren have not gone so far as to attempt accomplishing "good" at the point of a sword, or the torture stake, as some religious groups have done, we do see instances where their misguided zeal, lead by subjective authority, rather than God's Will, has taken them far afield. From voluminous examples of escapades into error we would cite a few that some have

promoted, defended, and fought for, because they felt the end result would more than justify their lack of Book, Chapter, and Verse. Interestingly, much has taken place overseas. There, things are done that brethren in the U.S. who support them would never allow to go on in the church in the U.S.

One place opened a recreation hall and chess club, supported by the church, to attract young people, because some opportunity might present itself to teach them. One man had churches buying coconut and

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orange groves, so that the profit from the sale of the crops could be used to support the work. One brother raised money to build secular schools, in order to try and convert the students and establish the church. A group of brethren led churches into building and operating vocational schools. An American in India, "wined and dined" government officials, spending a large sum of money in the hopes of obtaining a long term visa. Another brother, in order to obtain permission to enter a country, allowed himself and churches, to go along with a form of "blackmail" by the government of that country, and

build a hospital for them. One school operated by brethren over here, seems to have resurrected the "Missionary Society" and is imitating that folly in carrying on evangelism in Eastern Europe.

And now, our brethren are using women translators, telling us there is no alternative. There is always an alternative for God's people. It is not necessary to do evil that good might result. There is always a way, with God's help, to carry out His Will in the way He wants it done!

What brethren need to do is stop trying to improve upon God's way. Put aside opinions, personal reasoning, situation ethics, pride, and self-serving attempts to justify the mistakes that are made. Go back to the Bible, accept God's will and way and be obedient to it.

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Questions & Answers

Garland M. Robinson

NOTE: This is the third and final part of a letter we received from Celina, Tennessee. This brother asked several questions and made several comments to which we are responding (part one was in Nov/94 and part two in Dec/94). His statements are in bold.

Your paper is polluting a lot of minds and it's alienating many people from the Lord.

If the exposing of error and the setting forth of the truth pollutes minds, then there is no hope for any of us! Jesus said the truth sets free (John 8:32). Sin and error alienates one from God, not the truth. However, the truth only sets free when one embraces it. When one rejects the truth, then he continues to be alienated from the Lord.

When the truth was preached in Antioch, the Jews *"...were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that **the word of God** should first have been spoken to you: but **seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles**"* (Acts 13:46). People have always rejected the truth and always will – that's nothing new. As a matter of fact, *"...there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you"* (I Cor. 11:19). Heresies (dissension, disunion) come and go but it's how we deal with such that approves or disapproves us before God. One either goes along with error by their participation in it or their silence toward it or, one rebukes and reproves error as God demands.

Those who are approved of God make themselves known by their love of the truth and refutation of error.

I would not and can not even share your paper with a non-Christian because it would not lead him to the Lord. Do you think it would?

Every scripturally authorized work has a particular goal or specific purpose to fulfill. For example, the Bible authorizes the church to "visit widows and orphans" (James 1:27), evangelize the lost (Mark 16:15), edify the saints (Eph. 4:12), contend for the faith (Jude 3), etc. Should we do one to the exclusion of the other? What if we spent all our time in helping the needy or edifying the saints? Would we be balanced? Likewise, what if we spent all our time evangelizing the lost or contending for the faith? That too would not be balanced. Is one work of the Lord more important than another? How can I, or you, explain to the Lord at the judgment that we spent all our time evangelizing and left off the command to help the needy, or edify the saints, or contend for the faith, or any other commandment of God? Jesus condemned the obedience of one part of God's law while leaving off another and exhorted that all of God's Law should be obeyed (Matt. 23:23)!

The purpose of *Seek The Old Paths* is to edify the saints and contend for the faith. Are you denying that such has a place in the plan of God? If so, you deny the scriptures! From reading your letter, it would seem you are lacking balance because all you talk about is evangelism.

The church at East Corinth, of which I am a member and where I labor, is a very evangelistic congregation. A good portion of the contribution goes to missionary support outside our local area. An even larger portion is spent locally in evangelism: a weekly newspaper column, a daily radio program which is aired over four different stations in two cities, a 30-minute

weekly TV program which is broadcast over all of Northeast Mississippi as well as parts of Alabama and Tennessee, a 1-hr. weekly TV program that covers most of our county as well as teaching in both classes and pulpit and other printed work. We make visits, phone calls, send out cards and letters, conduct home Bible studies and go door to door. Let me ask you, what else can we do that we are not already doing? What avenues of teaching the lost can we use that we are not already using? Not that it matters in regards to the question at hand, but are you involved in as many works of evangelizing as we are? To be "balanced" in our over-all faithfulness to the Lord, we employ the printed page, namely *Seek The Old Paths*, to "reprove, rebuke and exhort" as we are commanded? Through what means or avenue are Christians to "contend for the faith?" The printed page is certainly one of those avenues and we are using it. How about you? What are you doing in obedience to Jude 3 and Ephesians 5:11?

Let me refer you to an article entitled "Occasional Criticism" which appeared in the Feb. 1993, issue of *Seek The Old Paths* which dealt with this same topic.

Let me also point out that though *Seek The Old Paths* is not primarily for non-Christians, it does serve a purpose in informing them that not everyone loves and obeys the truth, even among those who are members of the church of Christ. It helps them to see that error is still error and truth is still truth even when it comes to those who call themselves Christians. It helps them to know that when false doctrine and false practice is espoused, even in the church, that it can expect to be dealt with and refuted. It helps them see that faithful members of the Lord's church do not "sweep things under the rug" and pretend evil and error does not exist among some in the Lord's church. So you see, it can lead people to Christ and his word. (By the way, very, very few,

if any, of those on the mailing list are non-members. It is not for them. It is for those who are of the Lord's household.)

If you are going to "fuss" about the nature and content of *Seek The Old Paths* because it is devoted almost entirely to the exposing of error among brethren, wouldn't you also, to be consistent, have to "fuss" about a paper that devoted itself entirely to evangelism? That's not balance! See how absurd this becomes. There certainly is a tremendous need to have papers devoted entirely to evangelism but there is also a tremendous need to have papers devoted entirely to the refutation of false doctrine and the devil's insidious ways. If not, why not? We are to be aware of the devil's devices aren't we (II Cor. 2:11)? As we said before, different works have different purposes or goals, but all have a place because they are authorized by God.

I know LARRY WEST personally. ... I've seen him and heard him and I've never heard him preach or teach anything outside of the Bible, if so what?

As far as his teaching is concerned, I refer you to the May and June, 1993, issues of *Seek The Old Paths* where documentation is given regarding some of his teaching as well as his association and fellowship with the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ and their error.

You also raise an interesting question to which I need to make a reply. You, as well as others, have made the point that unless you "personally" hear or see someone teach error, you will not believe others when they validate and document the error someone has espoused. By such logic(?), you would not believe the Pope teaches error unless you heard him yourself! But even the Pope will teach some things that are true. I do not expect "everything" to be false that someone teaches. However, how much doctrinal error does it take for one to be a false teacher?

How much doctrinal error is needed before one will lose their soul?

Paul said the "contention" going on at Corinth had been reported to him by the household of Chloe (I Cor. 1:11). He did not know about it personally. Therefore, we do not have to hear someone ourselves before we can be convinced they are in error. Jesus said, "*Ye shall know them by their fruits*" (Matt. 7:16).

We should all work together to get the gospel to the lost of this world.

I certainly agree that brethren ought to work together (in love, Eph. 4:15) to teach the lost of this world. However, there are those who are lost both "in" and "out" of the church! The work we do is regarding both. How about you, don't you agree we all need to work in both areas? Why then won't you repent of not contending for the faith and exposing those in error and join us in teaching the lost and then continuing to teach them to observe "all things" the Lord has commanded (Matt. 28:19-20)? Are we not to do what we can to keep the saved, saved? When someone backslides, is he not to be rebuked and exhorted to repent (II Tim. 4:2; cf. I Tim. 5:20; Gal. 2:11)? Are others to be warned not to follow the false teacher's pernicious ways (II Peter 2:1-2)? Certainly they are!

I wish brethren by the thousands would repent and begin to work together in sowing the seed of the kingdom to the lost of this world. Let us pray that that day would soon come! However, until it does, we must build up the kingdom with one hand while we defend it with the other. When the wall was being rebuilt around Jerusalem during the days of Nehemiah, we read some words that appropriately fit our situation. "...*We returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the*

habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon" (Neh. 4:15-17). Brother, where is your weapon? It appears from your letter that you are not using it. Come on, let's work together in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to both those who have never named the name of Christ and those who are tearing down the Lord's beautiful bride.

The unity of the Spirit will not come by making every issue up for running down RUBEL SHELLY our brother in the Lord.

As I've said before, so say I now again, it is sad that so much of our time must be spent in refuting error that we cannot devote more time to evangelizing the lost, but I'm not the one teaching the error. We need to all be telling false brethren to repent and quit making up their devilish doctrines! The unity of the Spirit comes by following the Spirit's teaching, not false brethren.

In conclusion, let me say that I'm sorry, but I fail to see the kindness, love, care and concern in your letter that you have exhorted us to have toward others. However, let me say again that I do appreciate you raising these questions. It has strengthened my resolve to be ever zealous in obeying ALL of God's commands, even those that are not as pleasant for us to obey, namely, reproving, rebuking and exhorting. Please, won't you join in with us in the good fight of faith?

As Ephesians 4:15 says, "*speaking the truth in love,*" I have written these lines because of my interest in your soul and the millions of others who may eventually read these words. I have sought your best interest at heart, the salvation of your soul as well as so many others. Please consider the word of God.



SEEK THE OLD PATHS

the positions taken by your publication, positions attacking other Christians because their interpretations of Scripture differ from yours. How sad to see people spending time and resources attacking and dividing other Christians, when we should all be hard at work converting souls who will be lost if they do not receive the Gospel. Spending so much time chastising those who differ even slightly from your position is exactly what Jesus warned the Pharisees about. It's not about hate, and it's not about being the ONLY ones who know it all, it's about the death of a Savior and the joy and light and life He brings if we will embrace it" ...*Rick Walla, Tyler, TX.* [Editor's Note: I wish so much that brethren would come to the knowledge of the truth. The idea expressed that S.T.O.P. is attacking and dividing brethren instead of converting souls who are lost is an invalid and false charge. To examine false doctrine in light of God's Holy Word does not divide Christians! False teaching is what divides Christians and causes them to be lost. If we never said a word about error (error damns a person's soul), those who teach it and follow it will be lost. Such individuals are already divided and they don't even know it. God desires that we (every Christian) take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17), and "reprove" (expose, lay bare, show the end result of, Eph. 5:11) error wherever it is found, even among brethren! To show the damnable direction of error and those ensnared by it is an effort to snatch them out of the fire (Jude 1:23). To rebuke those in sin is the most loving thing we could do toward them (Eph. 4:15). There are many examples of the faithful doing just that: Jesus (Matt. 23:13-33), Peter (Acts 2:22-23), Paul (Gal. 2:11; I Tim. 1:20). Shall we do any less and expect to meet with God's approval? Jesus said the Truth is what sets free, not error (John 8:32). To never expose false doctrine and those teaching it is in effect saying we desire to let our precious brethren continue in their error and lose their souls eternally. God has never required that of his servants. If we truly loved people the way Jesus does, then we would do as Jesus did in rebuking error. Please turn to Ezekiel chapter 33 and read what Ezekiel was told by God regarding such. Why not join the "good fight of faith" instead of adding to the problem in making the Lord's work more difficult? Let's continue to read from the mailbag...) "From reading the Sept/94 issue it sounds like you all had a big spiritual feast at your lectureship in July/94. I wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed reading the back issues. My prayer is that the whole brotherhood will some day Seek The Old Paths and return to the doctrine that we have laid out for us in the Bible. May God continue to bless you with the strength and ability to stand for the truth and preach and teach to those of us who are hungering and thirsting after it" ...*Roberta Johnson, Indianapolis, IN.* "I appreciate very much the work you are doing. Thank you!" ...*Lawrence Roberts, Magnolia, AR.* "You are rendering a valuable service and I do appreciate the effort you are putting into it" ...*Ed Carruth, Greer, SC.* "Recently while visiting my Aunt in Batesville, Ms I was given a copy of S.T.O.P. I really enjoyed reading it and would like to be put on the mailing list. Keep up the good work" ...*James Baker.* "I thank you very much. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and shall pass it on" ...*Lois Smith, Tyler, TX.* "We enjoy very much the S.T.O.P. publication. We feel that this is an excellent publication and very important for the church and its leadership today. Some of our elders are on your mailing list to receive this publication at their homes each month. We would like to request that the remainder of our elders and deacons be added to your mailing list. I would also like to request a copy for the church library. We encourage you to continue your efforts in this good work of exhorting men to follow the truth contained in the Word of God" ...*Stephen Powell, for the elders, Pleasant View Church of Christ, Woodbury, TN.* "I read your Nov/94 pub-

"Please take us off your mailing list. We are doing our best to pray diligently, walk daily with Jesus Christ, and love other people the way He does. If there is a problem with that, we certainly don't understand what it is. We are concerned about

lication of S.T.O.P. I'm very impressed that the Gospel and God's teaching are so ably explained. Put me on your mailing list" ...*Ron Russell, Pace, FL.* "I enjoy S.T.O.P. I have several other people who would like it. Please add them" ...*L. D. Anderson, Baxter, TN.* "My beloved brother in Christ, I received my first copy of S.T.O.P. I enjoy reading it. It gives me the encouragement to talk to everyone I meet about the gospel of Jesus Christ" ...*Asbury Williams, Madison, GA.* "Thanks for sending me copies of S.T.O.P. They have been very helpful to me in fighting against false teachers. Keep up the good work!" ...*Jackson, TN.* "Thank you for your fine publication and standing for the truth" ...*Ray Weddington, McMinnville, TN.* "I would be pleased to have my name added to your publication. I have been preaching fifty plus years and admit I am not pleased in the change we are seeing today" ...*J. P. Williams, Merced, CA.* "Please remove my name from the mailing list. Thanks" ...*Jimmy Glover, Booneville, MS.* "I have read several issues of your publication and have found it to be enjoyable, enlightening, and encouraging reading. I would very much appreciate being added to your mailing list. I know that you offer this publication free of charge, but I would like to offer a little something to cover the costs of mailing it to me. Enclosed, find my check" ...*J. Scott Kronenwetter, Arnold, PA.* "We get S.T.O.P. and really do enjoy it. I've not liked the New International Version since day one. Thank you and God bless you all" ...*Mrs. Orlie Woodard, Campbell, MO.* "I'm sending a donation to help where you need it. We really enjoy reading the paper so much. Wish every Christian would read it. Keep up the good work" ...*Loretta Garrett, Abilene, TX.* "I had the pleasure and opportunity of reading your November '94 issue of S.T.O.P. and enjoyed it very much. I would appreciate being placed on your mailing list. Thank you for trying to restore what has been set aside" ...*Wilson Davis, Orleans, IN.*

Seek The Old Paths is a monthly publication of the East Corinth Church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. It is mailed FREE upon request. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; Titus 2:1; II Peter 1:12. All mail received may be published unless otherwise noted. Articles are also welcomed.

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