

# 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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## No Place For Spiritual Cowardice!

Robert R. Jackson

*Why is it that more of our so-called "faithful" brethren have not defended the faith as one might have expected them to do?*

**W**hy aren't more people speaking up? Do we no longer care? As Lamentations 1:12 states, *"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"*

For the past fifteen years or more, most of us have been aware of the rank liberalism running rampant among us; heretical false teachers having sprung up in nearly all places wherein the Lord's church exists! There are many who know the truth better than to allow such to take place and should be avidly opposing such blatant error, but we find instead that they have chosen to remain as silent as the stars. Why is this the case? Why is it that more of our so-called "faithful" brethren have not defended the faith as one might have expected them to do? Here are a few reasons that I might suggest for your consideration:

1) Could it be that we are afraid to speak up because we are ashamed of the gospel, the Truth of God's Word? In Romans 1:16 the apostle Paul states, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* Then in Acts 4:19-20 we read, *"But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have*

*seen and heard."* Let me ask you this, Are you ashamed of the Cause of Christ?

2) Could it be that we are afraid to stand up and defend the truth because it would cause us to have to disagree with those we know and those with whom we frequently associate? However, Paul informs us that he was *"set for the defense of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:7,17). We should be as well! The apostle Peter says we are to *"...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"* (1 Peter 3:15). Are you set for the defense of the gospel?

3) Could it be that we are afraid to speak up on various doctrinal issues because we fear that we might lose some of our close friends? Revelation 21:8 states, *"But the fearful...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* Are our friendships more important to us than Truth? To whom do we owe our loyalty — God or friends? Who and what will judge you in the last day (see John 12:48)?

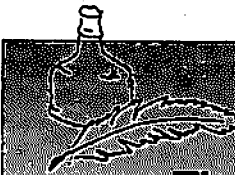
4) Could it be that we are afraid to speak up because of a family member [who was a good person, either living or deceased] we feel we would be "condemning" in so doing? The apostle Matthew wrote, *"Think not that I am come to send peace on*

*earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me"* (Matt. 10:34-38).

5) Could it be that we are afraid to speak up because we feel we would no longer be accepted by the so-called "in-crowd"? Was Jesus concerned about such? No! Then neither should we! Then, there are those among us who seem to "go-along-to-get-along." Timothy was told in 2 Timothy 4:2, *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."* The phrase, "be instant in season, out of season" has the connotation of preaching the truth when people want to hear it and also when they do not!

There is absolutely no place in the Lord's church for spiritual cowards! **It is high time for all of us to stand up and speak out on behalf of the truth. Can the Lord count on you?**

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*Editorial...*

## The A.D. 70 System of Kingism #5 The Second Coming Of Christ Occurred In A.D. 70

According to the Max King doctrine, we read:

There is no time period between the fall of Jerusalem and the second coming of Christ. They are synchronous events time-wise. ... There is no scriptural basis for extending the second coming of Christ beyond the fall of Judaism. (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, p.81, 105).

In his debate with Gus Nichols, King said:

I affirm the VISIBLE coming of Jesus Christ in the destruction of Jerusalem. And I affirm the ACTUAL coming, and the REAL coming of Jesus Christ in the destruction of Jerusalem (p.48). ... I affirm that Jesus came REALLY and TRULY and ACTUALLY and VISIBLY the second time (p.49)!

As with the other points of departure from the Truth in the Kingism Cult, the idea of the Lord's second and final coming occurring in A.D. 70 is shocking and shameful. And, like the other points we have examined, is easily shown to be utterly false from the Scriptures.

That the second coming of Christ has NOT occurred and is yet in the future is clearly set forth in many passages. We shall examine a few.

**Hebrews 9:28** is the only text that specifically uses the word "second" in referring to the Lord's coming again after He left the earth in Acts 1:9-11. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the *second time without sin unto salvation.*" The Lord's appearance the "first time" was a literal appearance. He shall appear the "second time" in a literal appearance. His second appearance will not be a spiritual or figurative appearance.

The Lord will come the "second

time" to: raise the dead (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15), judge the world (Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 14:10-12; Acts 17:31), sentence the wicked (2 Thess. 1:7-9), reward the righteous (Rev. 22:2; Matt. 25:46), and deliver up the kingdom (church) to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24). According to Kingism, all these have already taken place in A.D. 70!

Let's note what the Bible says will occur when the Lord comes again. If these things have not come to pass, then we know the Lord has not come again. That ought to be simple enough.

**First Corinthians 15:23-24** says that when the Lord comes again, "*Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*" The kingdom is His church. And, since the church/kingdom is still in existence today, the Lord either has not come or failed to do that which this verse says He would do. The Lord's purpose cannot fail. Therefore, the Lord has not come!

This passage also says that when He comes He would "*have put down all rule and all authority and all power.*" However, authorities and powers still exist today and remain under the influence of Satan (cf. Eph. 6:12). Therefore, the Lord has not come.

Further, the text here says the Lord will raise the dead — all will be "made alive" (v.22) at His coming (v.23). Yet, the cemeteries are still full and mourners continue to bury their dead day by day. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

In **Philippians 3:20-21** we read, "*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his*

*glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*" The Lord is now in heaven and has a glorious body — not the body He had on earth. When He comes again, He will change our vile body, the body we have now, to be like His — a glorious body (cf. 1 Cor. 15:35-54). But, we still have our vile body — the body of our humiliation, our low estate. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

**Second Thessalonians 2:1-12.** Some at the church in Thessalonica apparently had the mistaken idea that the Lord's second coming was "at hand" — that it was near or soon. Paul wrote them concerning the "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v.1), the "day of Christ" (v.2) saying, "*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first...*" (v.3). Here is a prediction of a "falling away" — a general and major departure from the Truth. The text clearly says the Lord will not come until this departure from the Truth comes first. It is believed this was written in late 53 or early 54 A.D. If the Lord came in 70 A.D., then there had to have been a "falling away" — an apostasy — of the Lord's church between 54 A.D. and 70 A.D. There is no record of a "falling away" during that time. Therefore, the Lord did not come in A.D. 70. The "falling away" came, as we all know, in the forming and existence of the Catholic Church which recognized its first pope in 606 A.D.

In **Second Thessalonians chapter one**, Paul mentions the hardships and persecutions inflicted upon the brethren (vs.4-5). He reveals there will be a time when they will be able to rest from such tribulation when He says, "*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels...*" (v.7). When would they be able to rest? When "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven" He will inflict punishment upon those who "know not God" and those who "obey not the gospel" (v.8). Are the saints of God today at rest? Do they still suffer persecution? Yea verily! Therefore, the Lord has not yet come.

In **First Corinthians 11:26**,

Paul said, in speaking of the Lord's supper, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." One of the purposes of eating the Lord's supper is to "shew the Lord's death." How long will the saints of the church eat the supper? They will eat it "till he come." Do we eat the Lord's supper today? Yes. Therefore, the Lord has not come. If He came in A.D. 70, then saints of God have no business eating the Lord's supper today. Do those who espouse the King doctrine eat the Lord's supper? Yes.

**John 14:1-3** holds great significance to the subject of the second coming. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye

may be also." Jesus said when He comes again He would receive the disciples to be with Him in that place He was preparing for them. That place was in heaven, not on earth, for He said "I go" and "I will come again." Are we now in heaven or on earth? We are on earth. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

**Matthew 25:31-46** describes the judgment scene that will take place "when the Son of man shall come." "All nations" will be gathered before the Lord to be judged. Were all nations gathered in Jerusalem in A.D. 70? Were those living in North and South America there? They are a part of all nations (cf. Rev. 5:9; 14:6). No, they were not there. The scene described in Matthew 25 has not yet occurred. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

**Revelation 1:7** says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also

which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." When the Lord "cometh with clouds," every eye, every person, would see him. Have you seen the Lord coming in the clouds? Neither have I. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

**Matthew 16:27** says, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Have all men/women been rewarded for their works? The very fact that people continue to live on this globe is evidence that such has not occurred. You nor I have been rewarded according to our works. Therefore, the Lord has not come.

Need we continue? How many verses will it take to convince you that the Lord's second coming is yet future, not in the past?

5th of 6 parts

## MIRACLES

Charles Ivie

Many today are confused about miracles and the miraculous gifts that were given in the first century church. This confusion is brought about because many have not rightly divided the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15). Passages are taken out of context in order to bring things of another time into our time.

In Exodus 3 (in the matter of the burning bush that was not consumed) God worked a miracle to impress upon Moses that God was the one speaking. God worked more miracles to convince the Egyptians and the Israelites that Moses and Aaron were sent from God to deliver the Israelites (Exod. 4:1-9). He performed even more miracles to convince Pharaoh to let the people go and to get the Israelites to follow Moses.

We read of many other miracles in the Old Testament, such as the healing of Naaman's leprosy. In 2 Kings 5:8, we see one effect of this miracle. Elisha said, "Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Mira-

cles were done to show God's power and thereby prove that one was sent from God.

There was the same purpose for miracles in the New Testament. Jesus did many miracles to show that he was sent from God. Some, seeing these miracles, believed, and some did not. Since miracles would not always exist, some of Jesus' miracles were written down so we, who have not seen miracles, would believe (John 20:30,31).

When the church was first established, the apostles performed miracles and bestowed miraculous gifts upon others (by laying on of their hands, Acts 8:18) in order to show that they were sent from God and were speaking the inspired Word of God (Mark 16:16-20).

These miracles and gifts were only meant to guide the Christians until the Word was complete. Paul said these miracles and gifts would cease (1 Cor. 13:8-10). The knowledge (which was "in part" because each person only spoke as God directed) was to cease. The prophecies and tongues also were to cease.

But, when were they to cease? Notice what the text says.

At the time of the writing of First Corinthians, Paul said knowledge was "in part" (v.9). Yet in the next verse (v.10) he continued, "But when that which is perfect (complete) is come, then that which is in part will be done away." The knowledge that was "in part" became complete when the New Testament was completed. James describes God's Word as "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). John wrote the book of Revelation in approximately 96 A.D., and since that time, no miracles can be demonstrated by undeniable evidence.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-14 that the miraculous gifts were given to build up the body of Christ till "we all come in the unity of the faith" unto a perfect (complete or mature) man. Upon the completion of the New Testament, God had given all that was necessary for us to become complete.

Therefore, the miracles were done to confirm the word (Mark 16:20). The Word has been con-

firmed (Heb. 2:3,4). Enough miracles were written in the confirmed Word for men to believe (John 20:30,31). The Word was given by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). The Word is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). The Word is all we need for information on how to please God (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16,17). The Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12). Therefore, *we listen to the Holy Spirit by reading God's Word* that was written in the New Testament. Then we must also *do God's Word* (James 1:22). The works we do are those given in the book of Acts to become Christians and those given in the epistles tell how we should live as Christians in being led by the Spirit (doing the things that are taught in the Word).

Today, many claim to speak by inspiration and speak in tongues (know in part and prophesy in part). Paul and others prophesied in part and all that they spoke harmonized completely. Those claiming today to speak by inspiration speak many things contrary to others claiming the same power. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), nor is he the author of the many contradictory statements spoken by those claiming to speak from God. If there is power involved in these "prophesies and tongue speakings," it must be the power of Satan.

It is my prayer that this article would be of benefit to those who are confused by miracles. I do not want you to take what I say as fact, but simply take these scriptures and see what God says concerning miracles.

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# NOW IT IS DIFFERENT

Steve Miller

**I**n the front cover of the little book, my grandfather had written down page 22. After turning to that page, one quickly sees an arrow pointing to the following paragraph.

It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism," and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights and privileges of full membership. In that sense, "baptism was the door into the church." Now, it is different;...

This quote is taken from the 1946 edition of *The Standard Manual For Baptist Churches*, authored by Edward T. Hiscox.

My grandfather used this quote, along with various others in his sermons to expose the denominations and their unscriptural practices. In those days it was common practice for gospel preachers (and men like my grandfather, who filled the pulpit from time to time), to fulfill Paul's advice to Timothy to "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (2 Tim. 4:2). Besides preaching the gospel when it is wanted and when it is not, preachers are told to *reprove*. To "reprove" means to expose error. Jesus warned in Matthew 16 to "beware" of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Paul also warned to "*mark them which cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*" (Rom. 16:17).

The Baptist attitude of "now it is different" is now heard in many churches of Christ. A digressive effort that would like to be referred to as "a scholars movement" is advocating bold change concerning everything from the way we interpret the Bible to the way we worship. We are told that in order to keep the "baby boomers," the women and the young people, we are going to have to "give

in" and allow "special music" (solos, choirs, quartets), women preachers and who knows what else. To do this, would be to change the body of Christ into a harlot.

We are told, "now it is different" concerning: **The Bible as the pattern**. A pattern is "something to be imitated, a model, guide, plan, something representing a class or type; example; sample." We know that a pattern is something to follow. In religion, there is only one true pattern to follow that will lead us to heaven, that is the Bible. If the Bible is our pattern, then which part of it do we follow or imitate?

In the Bible, there are three different periods, ages, or systems of religion: Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian. These three systems come within the borders of the Old and New Testaments. In the 39 books of the Old Testament, we find both the Patriarchal and Mosaical time periods. In the 27 books of the New Testament, we find the Mosaic law being nailed to the cross and the new law coming into effect. The New Testament is the rule, guideline or pattern for people to follow today who desire to please God (Heb. 9:15). Jesus Christ had to die before the new covenant could be in effect. Therefore, the New Testament is our Divine pattern. However, those who desire to change the church say the New Testament is not a pattern. They say it is just a love letter! Some very influential people among us are saying "now it is different" regarding the Bible as our pattern.

The words "**according To**" was the pattern in the Old Testament. It was "according to" that Noah built the ark. God left Noah a pattern by which to construct the form, fashion, and frame of the ark. He also gave instructions as to the kind of wood, length, breadth, height, number of stories, etc. The main point of the whole story is found in Genesis 6:22. Noah did ALL that God commanded. Which item or detail did Noah leave out? Not a one! To be right, Noah simply observed (did, obeyed) what was in the pattern.

It is essential for us to follow the

New Testament pattern for our salvation, worship, and living. The New Testament is the only place where we find God's divine pattern today (Acts 7:44; Rom. 6:17; Titus 2:7; Heb. 8:5).

The New Testament, being our pattern, is a matter of authority. God gave Jesus "all authority" (Matt. 28:18-20). God told us to "hear" him (Matt. 17:5). We are to "hearken in all things whatsoever he shall speak" (Acts 3:22). He is the head of the church (Eph 1:22) and now he is back in heaven (1 Peter 3:22). Christ's authority is placed in his Word (John 12:48) and that Word is permanent (Matt. 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25). God's Word in the New Testament is our guide, pattern, example, form of doctrine, and blueprint. It is perfect, complete, authoritative, and final. We must be in complete submission to it.

#### Women's Role in the Church.

The feminist movement that has plagued the world for ages is now causing great havoc among many churches of Christ. Some women want to be in leadership roles (preaching, teaching mixed classes, leading public prayers, etc.), and sadly, men are found in the church who want the same. Many attempts are made to try and sway our thinking about the role of women in the church. One says it is just a cultural problem, another says we have not really understood what the New Testament teaches concerning the role of women, and yet another alleges it is time to change the work and worship of the church, so we should let women do everything men can do. We must always ask, what does the Bible say?

Does the Bible tell us, "now it is different" concerning the role of women in the church? No! The Bible has not changed and will not change its teaching on this important subject. We must realize the chain or pattern of authority. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). God has not given the leadership roles to women, as many people teach. The Bible reveals that women are not to be in a position of authority over the man. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a

woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim. 2:11-12). A qualification of a gospel preacher is to "rebuke with all authority" (Titus 2:15). Paul did not forbid a woman from teaching the gospel, but he did prohibit her from preaching the gospel. Women are also forbidden to serve as elders and deacons (1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 3:2).

**Worship.** We are told, "now it is different" regarding our worship to God. Brethren, we are being told that congregational singing is no longer the way to sing to God in our worship. We are told that choirs, solos, duets, and all sorts of "special singing" is acceptable to God in our worship. Is this true? Have we limited ourselves all this time? I think not! As one digressive writer put it, "I believe that all types and formats of vocal music are scriptural and can be used as needed or desired" (*Wineskins*, Vol. 1, No. 10. p.26).

We are told by these advocates of change that 1 Cor. 14:26 justifies solos in worship. It is claimed that "every one of you hath a psalm," refers to solo singing. Brother Dave Miller presented the truth in an arti-

cle entitled, "Special Music? No." "But what of 1 Corinthians 14:26 — "Each one has a psalm?" It is far from provable that this passage refers to solo singing, let alone whether it gives authority for solos in the assembly today." Peter talks of those who would "wrest" the scriptures, "unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16).

Wayne Jackson has ably written concerning 1 Cor. 14:26 and the idea of solos, "why would anyone extract this admonition from its context, and employ it as a proof-text for solo/choir singing? The answer is obvious; the authority is found nowhere else, and this passage is appealed to in a time of desperation" (*Christian Courier*, Vol. XXIX No. 1. May, 1993).

Not only is there a rising, compromising attitude to the use of instrumental music in worship, along with the "special music" that is being advocated, there is also drastic change being made in worship assemblies. Brother Curtis Cates summarizes very well what Rubel Shelly and Randall Harris promote in their creed book for new

## Abortion Of Truth

Bill Graddy

From embryo to manhood, the **Family Life Center** has come of age. A principle, as life, will grow if not aborted. Gradually, we have watched recreation invade the church. Recreation is an important part of life, but it is the responsibility of the home to provide it.

Although there is some overlapping between the church and the home, the church is not the home, and the home is not the church. Salvation is in the church, not the home. The church is not to feed, clothe, educate, and direct the affairs of the home (benevolence is an exception, 1 Tim. 5:16). Parents have this responsibility (Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:8,16). The failure to distinguish between things that differ is leading many brethren to rob the parents and homes of their duties and saddling the church with an unscriptural role. "Let not the church be charged" is the point (1 Tim. 5:16). The principle of recreation carried to its logical extreme would allow the church to have a grocery store, a department store, and an automobile agency. In short, the holistic philosophy permeates the premise (Gestalt Psychology).

Do the Scriptures explicitly or implicitly authorize the church to provide recreation for members? If so, where? Using the same hermeneutics, where do the Scriptures authorize mechanical instruments of music in serving God? The silence of the Scriptures prevents the church from both practices. If we do not respect the silence of the Scriptures, then we have license for things not explicitly or implicitly forbidden. A floodgate erosion would wash us out of existence.

Monies of the church are to be used for spreading the gospel, benevolence and edifying the members spiritually. All else is an abortion of truth.

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churches, *"The Second Incarnation."* How do we rid ourselves of the "scandalous...spoil(ing) of worship...(which is)...dull and boring to ourselves and unattractive to non-Christians," as they charge (p. 139)? Well, we must have "raucous celebration," "spontaneity" (p. 139), "hubbub," "written prayers," "planned and spontaneous services," "individuals, groups, and entire congregations" singing (p. 132), "unavoidable" worship, "shouts," "dances" (p. 119), "jubilation...with applause and cheering" (p. 140), "one person or a small group (singing) to the larger" (solos and choirs in the assembly) (p. 136), "dramatic celebration of God" (p. 124), "a narcotic trip into another world" (p. 125), "dramatic presentations by men and women" (p. 9). (*The Second Incarnation, A Pattern For Apostasy.* p. 46)

**Salvation.** Faithful gospel preachers still preach and believe that a person must obey the gospel plan of salvation before he becomes a Christian. A disturbing number among us are now saying "it is different." Salvation by grace only or saved by faith only is a common doctrine in the denominational world. This belief clearly overlooks what the Bible actually teaches about salvation. To suggest that man doesn't have to do anything to be saved is wrong. The Bible is full of passages that show man is to be obedient to God and Christ in order to be saved. Obedience implies action (Matt. 7:21), Jesus himself said, *"If ye love me keep my commandments"* (John 14:15; 2 John 6).

Through keeping the Lord's commands, we are saved by the grace of God. Grace is unmerited favor; however this does not mean unconditional favor. God's grace brings salvation to all men, but all men will not be saved (Titus 2:11-14). If one is saved he must accept the grace of God (Titus 3:1-6). *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Eph. 2:8-10). When Paul speaks about works being excluded he does not exclude what God requires of man. The apostle

excludes the old law of Moses and meritorious works. It is through a working faith that man has access into God's grace.

This gift of grace is obtained by obeying God's commands; to believe (Heb. 11:6), to repent (Acts 3:19), to confess Christ (Rom. 10:10), and to be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:28; 22:16). These are not works of merit, but are requirements, prescribed by God for man to be saved by God's grace (James 2:24-26; Rom. 5:2,21).

It is a gross error to affirm that man is saved by faith or grace only when the Bible teaches man must be obedient in order to receive the grace of God (Rom. 1:5). Brethren, even though some will say "now it is different" concerning the grace of God, we must move forward and preach the faithful message of salvation by grace through faith!

Even though denominational creed books, manuals, catechisms, heretics, and preachers who no longer preach the Gospel say that certain beliefs are different, God says they are not! Though the majority may go into error and travel the broad way to hell, we still have divine precedent to *"speak as the oracles of God"* (1 Peter 4:11) and do everything with a *"thus saith the Lord"* (Col. 3:17).

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Earl Case,  
elder at East Corinth

[Editor's Note: We apologize for not printing this article sooner. It was an oversight on my part.]

Thanks for all your response to the article, *"A Way To Detect A False Teacher,"* which appeared in the June, 1996 issue. Requests have been so numerous for copies of the questionnaire that we are going to print it in this issue of *"Seek The Old Paths."* I will, in future issues, deal with some of the erroneous answers we have received in the past. These questions are some we first used with our Bible class teachers and covers a number of false teachings going on in the brotherhood. In order to be successful with the questionnaire, let me urge you to include all questions pertaining to error you are aware of being taught. For example, when you hear of a preacher teaching there are apostles and prophets in the church today or that it is a sin to have florescent lights in the church building, then you need to word a question accordingly. If you hear of a false teacher coming to your area to teach the young people of your area, or coming for a Gospel Meeting, you should check them out on what they are teaching and if it is error, stop their mouths through the use of the Word of God.

Elders, if we will guard the flock where we shepherd, in a short time we will see the false teachers flock together with the denominations where they would like to drag the Lord's church.

Brother Charles Pledge said the only problem he saw with a questionnaire is that "False teachers are not usually honest and straightforward. Anti's, in the past, denied they believed that doctrine. Cross-roads and their sympathizers deny the fact." Brother Pledge answered the questionnaire before we agreed to oversee the work in the

Rocky Mountain region. It makes our task easier to know he is qualified for the work.

I received a letter from Klang, Malasia, requesting a copy of the questionnaire and all the material we have on the Crossroads or Boston movements. The letter said they were causing a lot of trouble in that part of the world.

Elders in the USA need to wake up!!! The battle against all error must never stop. The devil will never bother any elder he already has in his hand.

Please review the questionnaire. Your comments and questions are always welcome.

*2009 Liddon Lake Rd.  
Corinth, MS 38834*

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS

1. Do you believe the Bible is the verbally, inerrant, plenary, inspired Word of God? yes  no
2. Do you believe the Kingdom and the church are one and the same or different? same  different
3. Do you believe a person can become a Christian without becoming a member of the church of Christ? yes  no
4. Do you believe there are Christians scattered among the various denominations? yes  no
5. Do you believe that someone worshipping in a denomination can/will be saved? yes  no
6. Do you believe that at Christ's second coming he will set up a kingdom on earth and rule personally from Jerusalem? yes  no
7. Do you believe the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is sinful and that one will be lost for using them? yes  no
8. Do you believe one can sing with a mechanical instrument of music and meet with God's approval? yes  no
9. Do you believe the Holy Spirit works in an alien sinner and Christian through the Bible alone or through the Bible and some other means? Bible alone  Other
10. Do you believe God made all things through the process of evolution or the process of special creation? Evolution  Special Creation
11. Do you believe God created all things in six literal (24 hour) days? yes  no
12. Do you believe the Lord's supper may be observed on any day of the week or the first day of the week only? any day  first day of the week only
13. Do you believe that any unbaptized person of accountable age can or will be saved? yes  no
14. Do you believe it is permissible to participate in any kind of joint activities with denominations? yes  no
15. Do you believe men are lost unless they hear the gospel and obey it? yes  no
16. Do you believe a Christian can drink alcoholic beverages in moderation (small amounts) and be pleasing to God? yes  no
17. Do you believe a Christian can use tobacco in any form and be pleasing to God? yes  no
18. Do you believe it is permissible for Christians to dance? yes  no
19. Do you believe Christians can participate in mixed swimming? yes  no
20. Do you believe that women (girls) can lead prayer or teach in the presence of men (whether in worship or not)? yes  no
21. Do you believe women (girls) can be used as an interpreter/translator in a public worship assembly where men are present? yes  no
22. Do you believe the church can help people financially who are needy but not Christians? yes  no
23. Do you believe two or more churches can cooperate with one another (financially) in preaching the gospel? yes  no
24. Do you believe a person can divorce their mate and marry again with God's approval? yes  no  If yes, please explain.
25. Do you believe a person who has been divorced (but not because of their mate's fornication) can remain in a second marriage with God's approval? yes  no
26. Do you believe the use of modern versions of the Bible are good? yes  no
27. Do you believe the New International Version is a good and/or reliable translation? yes  no
28. What version of the Bible do you use in teaching and/or preaching?  
\_\_\_\_\_
29. Do you believe all the lost will suffer annihilation or spend eternity in hell? suffer annihilation  spend eternity in hell
30. Do you believe the use of Bible study workbooks (as long as they are scriptural) in Bible classes are permissible? yes  no
31. Do you believe the elders have the final authority in making decisions that pertain to the optional matters of the local congregation? yes  no
32. Do you believe miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit still exist among Christians today? yes  no
33. Do you believe it is possible for some to "speak in tongues" today? yes  no
34. Do you believe those who are "disorderly" should be withdrawn from if they will not repent? yes  no
35. Do you believe fellowship can be maintained between two individuals (or groups) who believe and/or teach/practice differing views on matters of doctrine (faith)? yes  no
36. Would you be in favor of appearing on the same program with a man (or group) that taught mechanical instruments of music were a matter of opinion? yes  no
37. Would you be in favor of having someone preach where you worked that believed Christ's law concerning marriage does not apply to non-Christians (even though their lessons would not deal with that subject)? yes  no
38. Would you be in favor of using films with denominational people as the speakers? yes  no
39. Do you believe individuals who teach contrary to New Testament doctrine should be publicly named (marked) and avoided? yes  no
40. Do you believe the Boston/Crossroads, Multiplying Ministries, etc., is a good way to evangelize? yes  no
41. Would (could) you fellowship men who do not see anything wrong with the Boston/Crossroads, Multiplying Ministries, etc., and who frequently appear on their programs? yes  no
42. Do you believe it is proper to extend fellowship, or leave the appearance that we are fellowshiping, one in error while we are trying to teach that person? yes  no
43. Do you believe we must have Bible authority for all we teach and practice in religion? yes  no
44. Do you believe the New Testament is our sole source of authority from God to act in religious matters? yes  no
45. Would you "hedge" on any of the answers you have given? yes  no  If yes, please explain.



## SEEK THE OLD PATHS

are elders, preachers, and other people who hold to the view that their only responsibility is to the local congregation where they attend services, unless they are directly affected by what is happening in other congregations or other states. I have not been able to find any scripture that limits the exposing of false teachers anymore than there is a limit on fulfilling the Great Commission. Thank you for the good work and may God continue to bless you. Enclosed is a check" ...Myron Morris, Elba, AL.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You have mentioned a good point in saying that many do nothing unless it affects their congregation directly. Sad to say, I fear that many will do nothing about error even when it does invade the local congregation. Usually, by that time, its seeds, roots and tentacles are so deeply implanted in many that correction cannot be made without a church split and souls being eternally lost. Who was it that said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?" "To be forewarned is to be forearmed." To ignore a medical problem in our physical body until it has gone so far it cannot be reversed, will do no good when our family passes by our casket! "Preventative maintenance" is a norm in the world of mechanics and other industries. Why many brethren refuse to see the Lord's instructions regarding it in the church is beyond my comprehension. "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle" (2 Thess. 2:15). "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10). "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1 Peter 4:1). Will you be forewarned? Don't wait until it's too late!

"I enjoy reading each issue of *Seek The Old Paths*. You and those who work with you are doing a good work. The reason for my note is not just to encourage you but so I won't miss one, I'm moving" ...Tom Sturgeon, Davison, MI. "I have just read *Seek The Old Paths* for the first time and was very impressed with the articles" ...Larry Cook, Omaha, AR. "Don't send *Seek The Old Paths* to this address" ...Tolbert Watson, Arapaho, OK. "I appreciate *Seek The Old Paths*" ...Gordon Morrow, Beeville, TX. "Please no longer send your bulletin, I'm moving overseas. Thanks" ...Michael Houston, Tyler, TX. "Keep up the good work" ...Bob Kadil, Athens, MI. "Please remove my name from your mailing list" ...Gary Francisco, Kingsport, TN. "I would like to be put on your mailing list for *Seek The Old Paths*. I enjoy it very much" ...T. A. Smith, McComb, MS. "Please remove us from your mailing list" ...J. Spell, Tyler, TX. "I would appreciate receiving *Seek The Old Paths*. I was introduced to this publication by Bob Kadil of Athens, Michigan. I have just finished reading William Woodson's book, *Change Agents in the church of Christ*. I am very concerned about this matter" ...Cathleen Waites, Reading, MI. "Thanks for mailing your fine paper. I have been able to grow and profit from your labors and articles" ...Bob Dodson, Hemet, CA. "I received my first issue of *Seek The Old Paths* a few days ago. I signed the mailing list at Indianapolis at the Garfield Heights Lectureship" ...Charles Henley, Muncie, IN. "I enjoy reading *Seek The Old Paths* and find it a wonderful paper" ...Diana Copenhaver, Crockett, VA. "I enjoy reading the articles. Thanks" ...Ray Capers, Jonesboro, GA. "Thank you for having included me on your mailing list for probably the last couple of years. It is now my desire to be dropped from your mailings. If you will kindly remove me from that list" ...E. Larry Brady, Tyler, TX. "I have been given a copy of your July, 1996 *Seek The Old Paths* which I have read entirely. I appreciate so much the fine articles and your apparent stand for the truth. Do you provide bound volumes for past years? and if so, what is the charge for them?" ...V. N. Thompson, Orange Park, FL.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** the only bound volume available is 1996, cost is \$5, which includes postage. Send order to: Old Paths Publishing, 304

"I look forward eagerly for each publication of *Seek The Old Paths*. It is a much needed publication among the brotherhood today. Fortunately, you and a few others are willing to let everyone know what is happening, where it is happening and who is teaching error. Unfortunately, there

Ripley St, Corinth, MS 38834. Single copies of most past issues are available for the asking. They are free — Editor].

"I just read a copy of *Seek The Old Paths*. Will you please send me a copy each time it is published. I have heard brother Robinson preach and like him very much. I will be glad to subscribe to the paper" ...William Cooke, Monterey, TN. "We came across an issue of your paper, *Seek The Old Paths*, while visiting a congregation of the church of Christ. We read the articles in it and is so sound and scriptural. We would appreciate a paper such as this. If available, would you please put us on your mailing list" ...Paul & Lois Doughty, Columbus, OH. "Remove from mailing list" ...Jim Hunter, Asheville, NC. "Please remove my name from your mailing list. Thank you" ...Gerald Wilson, Tyler, TX. "Keep up the good work and may God continue to bless you for your bold stand for his truth" ...Lamar Johnson, Athens, GA. "I'm writing you about our address change. We enjoy the paper very much and would like to continue to get it. I think you do great work. Thanks" ...Marvin Dulaney, Fulton, MS. "Here is my check for \$10 for the paper. Keep it up" ...IA. "I'm a member of the church of Christ in Gallipolis, Ohio and have seen a copy of *Seek The Old Paths*. Would you please add me to your mailing list? I would love to receive this very good literature. Thanks so much" ...Marie Barrett, Patriot, OH. "Please put me on your mailing list" ...Virgil Poe, Katy, TX. "I would like to keep receiving *Seek The Old Paths*. Thank you again and God bless you in His service" ...Timothy Williams, Ruston, LA. "Please take my name off mailing list" ...Wayne Kennemer, Elk City, OK.

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