

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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The Narrow-Mindedness Of Liberalism

Ronnie Whittemore

Liberalism demands certain behavior and concessions from others toward liberalism, but turns a deaf ear to the words and pleas of those who oppose it

Liberalism, whether social liberalism or religious liberalism, often boasts of its broad-mindedness and willingness to accept a diversity of people and ideas. During debates in which they extol their "virtues," liberals often speak of their love for everyone and their acceptance of people who conduct themselves in ways contrary to normal standards. However, these same people often criticize others for their "narrow-mindedness." The sole criteria for their analysis is that their religious or social counterparts will not accept their philosophies or ideals. It is the contention of this author that liberalism is actually narrow-minded because they are unwilling to accept a true standard whether it be a moral code or legal law in the political realm or the Bible in the religious sphere. Though political liberalism and religious liberalism run parallel as one influences the other, we will restrict our remaining remarks to liberalism as it relates to religion.

Liberalism is narrow-minded because it rejects the authority of God. No realistic debate can occur without an agreement to some standard of authority. Otherwise, discussions will center around what


one person thinks versus what another person thinks. If the debate comes down to mere opinion, then how can anyone determine what is right or wrong? But alas, that is exactly the goal of liberalism. Their philosophies flourish on the concept of relativism and culturalism. The darkest period of Israelite history occurred during the days of the judges when "...there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:15). If liberalism has its way, there will be room for every deviate behavior known to man, including homosexuality, because according to them, no one has the right to declare anything to be wrong. How narrow-minded that is! Why? Because they will not consider the Word of the Lord and righteous behavior as the acceptable conduct of man in the eyes of the Lord and for the benefit of society.

Liberalism is narrow-minded because it is hypocritical. On one occasion, Jesus stated, "...That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20). The primary sin of the Pharisees and other sects of the

Jews was hypocrisy. Jesus reviewed their hypocrisy in great detail in Matthew 23 and warned His disciples, saying, "*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi*" (verses 2-6). Likewise, liberalism demands certain behavior and concessions from others toward their position, but turns a deaf ear to the words and pleas of those who oppose it. While labeling some people as unloving and unkind while they reject false teaching and promote the Truth, liberals can be some of the most vicious and unkind people in the world as they practice

(Continued on page 3)

Narrow-Minded Liberalism...



Church Attendance Strengthens The Home

Garland M. Robinson

Church attendance is essential in obeying God. It is unthinkable for one who has embraced the Lord's Way to forsake even one of the assemblies of the saints. The Bible is clear regarding this sin and the severity of it. Hebrews 10:24-26 says, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we *sin wilfully* after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, *there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.*"

Far too often, members of the Lord's house see church attendance as an unpleasant obligation. It is often viewed like bad tasting medicine, something that is not enjoyed but necessary for one's health. What a shame such individuals have so little faith! I'm convinced they do not see the severity of sin and the eternal destruction it brings.

To be able to worship the God of heaven, the creator and sustainer of all living, to commune with brethren of like precious faith, is a blessing enjoyed by far too few — even among those who have "named the name of Christ." This article will explore just a few of the blessings and rewards of faithful church attendance.

Faithful church attendance strengthens not only the individual but entire families as well. One evidence of this is seen in the number of couples that have happy marriages. Statistics prove that families who worship together are far more likely to remain together. Rare are the occasions where such homes are broken and end in divorce. When families are constantly instructed in the way of the Lord, it becomes

harder for them to rebel against that which is right. The prodigal son removed himself from family worship and influence and fell into the depths of sin and folly. Only after returning home did he once again enjoy the pleasure and company of those who truly loved him (Luke 15:11-24). Lois and Eunice brought Timothy up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (2 Tim. 1:5; Eph. 6:1-4).

Church attendance places one in the midst of the best people in the world. It is a place of safety and comfort. There's no worry about someone seeking to take advantage of you. You don't have to worry about turning your back for fear someone may steal from you. You have confidence your children will not be bombarded with foul language and obscene gestures. Such fills the TV, school and neighborhood. You don't have to worry about "perverts" looking for a chance to molest you or your children. With all the crime, lust, greed, outrage, abomination, obscenity and lewdness in the world, why would families not seek to escape such and provide that which is wholesome, good, honorable, generous, beneficial and positive? These good things and many more are found in the assemblies of the saints (Gal. 5:22-24).

Church attendance strengthens one's faith. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). The more you hear the Word of God, the more you grow in faith when you apply the lessons learned. Multitudes are those who often say, "I wish I were stronger in faith." Yet

these same people do little, and many times nothing, to make it so! A stronger faith is directly related to the study of God's Word. The more you attend the assemblies of the saints, the more you hear God's Word, the more you grow in the faith!

Church attendance provides the proper example. Had you rather your children find their heroes on TV or at church? I observed godly men and women as a child who reverently: bowed their heads in prayer (1 Thess. 5:17), partook of the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7), gave of their means (1 Cor. 16:2), sang praises unto God (Eph. 5:19), listened to the Word of God (Acts 20:7). They served to teach me how to worship God (John 4:24). It impressed upon me the reverence and respect due unto God. I learned the seriousness of holy things. I'm no doubt a Christian today because of those early years and being shown such wonderful examples.

Who will deny the blessings of families worshipping God together? Who will step forward and say that such does not strengthen the home? No one can do so!

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Narrow-Minded Liberalism...

(Continued from page 1)

intolerance and ridicule men and women seeking the Truth of God. Paul wrote, "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal" (Rom. 2:21)? The narrow-mindedness of liberalism rears its ugly head through its own hypocrisy.

Liberalism is narrow-minded because it is slothful. Liberalism is a lazy approach to political and religious life. It is easy to be liberally minded, but it takes hard work and diligence to read, study, meditate and investigate the Truth. The Bereans were commended for their open mindedness coupled with their open "Bibles" (Acts 17:11). Liberals feel good about themselves because they talk a good game and claim to be so compassionate when in reality they are too lazy to investigate the real Truth of God.

One must remember that liberalism, as used in a religious context, is defined as "loosing what God has bound."

1. Liberalism promotes the *use of mechanical instruments of music in worship* and therefore rejects the commandment of God to sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). This issue is easy to comprehend if one will exercise his mind, remove his prejudices and accept what the New Testament teaches.

2. Liberalism promotes the *use of women in public worship* despite the clear teaching of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2.

3. Liberalism promotes the *hypothesis of theistic evolution* although the Bible clearly teaches that God created the world in six days.

All of these subjects, as well as a host of others, are easily understood through honest investigation of the teaching of the Bible and common sense. However, the narrow-mindedness of liberalism will not allow the consideration of such possibilities because of prejudice, arrogance, ignorance, hypocrisy and slothfulness. Friends, please remember, Christianity is just as narrow or just as broad as the Lord and His Word.

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THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

Jesus has given the command to go and preach the gospel. Mark 16:15-16 states, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." When Jesus used the word "preach" in this passage, he used a word that conveys a unique concept. Preaching is a proclamation of a message. It is a declaring of one's position. Therefore, it is a very common form of presentation that is heard day after day by someone somewhere peddling their positions, whereas genuine Bible preaching is a very unique thing. Nothing can take the place of real Bible preaching, nor can its power really be measured.

BIBLE PREACHING REFUTES FALSE IDEAS

Over and over again Christ and the apostles challenged the false positions of their day through preaching. Jesus refuted the false teachings of the Jewish teachers of His day. Notice His rebuke of them in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23 is but one example of many incidents of the Lord's hatred for false doctrine. Though He had supreme love and compassion for the sinner, he hated every false way, for He knew that such would cause souls to be lost. Peter, in his sermon on Pentecost (Acts 2) as well as Paul's sermon on Mars Hill (Acts 17), are two illustrations of how Christ and the apostles used the medium of preaching to expose error. We must do the same.

BIBLE PREACHING EXPLAINS THE SCRIPTURES

Bible preaching comes from the Bible. It is a presentation and an explanation of the greatest book in the world, the Bible. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, filled his sermon with quotations from the Old Testament. But, notice that it was not just a Bible quoting session; rather he went on to explain the scriptures which he used. There was no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to how these scriptures should be applied (Acts 2:16,25). Gospel preaching must be Bible based and centered (Acts 2:17-21), but it must also let the people know what the scripture means and how it applies today. A person can read the Bible at home for himself. He can memorize every verse in the Bible, but if he misses the Bible's proper explanation and application, then he has gained nothing toward growing in faith (2 Peter 3:18). Bible preaching is based on God's Word and is a correct explanation and application of that Word.

BIBLE PREACHING CONVICTS MEN OF SIN

In Acts 2, Peter let his audience know they were sinners (Acts 2:36). There was no misunderstanding him about the matter. He exhorted them to do something about their spiritual condition (Acts 2:40). Peter stirred their consciences (Acts 2:37). Paul's sermon to Felix caused Felix to tremble (Acts 24:25). Bible preaching is to convict men of their sins and exhort them to turn to the living God.

We need a revival today of the preaching that we hear. We need a return to first century preaching — the kind of preaching that is filled with the Bible — preaching that causes the hearer to realize his condition and urges him to do something about it. Then we will see, as the Word of God instructs, that it is indeed "quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12).

Author Unknown

WHAT DENOMINATION ARE YOU ARE MEMBER OF?

Dan Goddard

Hardly a day passes without someone asking me, "Of what denomination are you a member?" to which I reply that I am not a member of any denomination, and would not belong to such an organization. Then the person will usually ask: "What's wrong with denominationalism?"

There are many things wrong with denominations, any of which things make membership in any of them impossible as long as one abides "*in the doctrine of Christ*" (2 John 9-10). Let us thoughtfully consider a few things wrong with denominationalism.

NOT AUTHORIZED BY CHRIST

Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18), and consequently did build it in 33 A.D. (Acts 2). More than 500 years after the Lord established His church the first denomination, the Catholic Church, came into existence in 606 A.D. with Boniface III as the first pope. Crystallizing into its present form at that time, it exists today as the mother of all denominations. Jesus did not build denominations, he built his church. Denominations were started by teaching and practicing things not found in the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, denominations are neither authorized nor sanctioned by the Lord. They are plants which the "Heavenly Father hath not planted," and "shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13).

FOSTER RELIGIOUS DIVISION

The religious world is divided into sects and parties with at least 300 different denominations in America alone, each claiming to be the church of Christ or a denomination of the church of Christ. Yet, they contradict themselves as well as each other in much of their teaching (2 John 9-11; Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 1:3; Titus 3:9-10).

God is opposed to such discord (Prov. 6:16-19; 1 Cor. 14:33). Jesus prayed for unity among believers (John 17:19-22). The apostle Paul pleaded for unity and condemned division (1 Cor. 1:10-12; Eph. 4:3-5). But denominations say that unity is impossible and thank God for division — "for the many different ways to heaven" (See Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 16-17; Heb. 10:19-20). Such division is a prolific cause of unbelief (John 17). After observing the divided state of religion, some have concluded that if the Bible is responsible for such a condition they want no part of it. To be a member of a denomination is to help promote such sinful conditions.

UNSCRIPTURAL TEACHING AND PRACTICE

Denominations teach and practice many things not authorized in the Will of Christ, and exclude many things, commanded in the New Testament (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19).

1) They reject God's plan of salvation, and teach "salvation by faith only" (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Peter 3:21).

2) They refuse to follow the apostolic example to eat the Lord's supper every first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:33).

3) Mechanical music has been added to their worship without divine authority (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

4) Their organization and government are without divine authority, being ruled by majority vote and/or unscriptural officers (Acts 14:23; 20:17,29; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

5) They encourage people to join the church of their choice, whereas the Lord adds all the saved to the church of His choice (Acts 2:41-47).

6) Each sect has its own man-made creed or rules of faith and practice, when in fact the Bible is an all-sufficient guide in religion (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 3).

ANOTHER RELIGION

The church of Christ, as spoken of in the universal sense, embraces all children of God everywhere (Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim. 3:15). When it is referred to in the local sense it is applied to a congregation in a local community (1 Cor. 1:1-2; 1 Thess. 1:1). In the plural sense it refers to a group of churches in a certain area (Rom. 16:16; Gal. 1:1-2). These were not denominations; they were a part of the church or body of Christ, and were all alike in doctrine, name, faith, worship and practice.

A denomination is a religious body larger than a local New Testament church, yet smaller than the body or church of Christ. Hence, no denomination is a part of the church built by Christ. No one can become a member of a denomination while following the Bible; he must either do more or less than the Lord requires of him in becoming a Christian and a member of His church.

Membership in a denomination is not necessary in order to be a Christian and go to heaven. This fact is admitted by denominational authorities. However, in order to practice the system of faith and worship set forth in the New Testament, one must be a member of the church of the Lord — the church of Christ.

Therefore, denominations are not part of the church of Christ. They are not Christianity. They are another religion. Since denominationalism began and exists today without divine authority, it is contrary to and in competition with Christianity. It is an enemy of the church Jesus purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

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Place the scripture which
authorizes women interpreters here.

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They Printed The Truth, But It Was A Mistake!

Jesse Whitlock

What an embarrassment to the A.D. 70 errorists of our day. Recently I received the January (1996) issue of Max R. King's theology called *The Living Presence*. When I receive my copy each month I announce the latest issue of the "Lying Pestilence" has arrived. So imagine my surprise upon reading Jack C. Scott, Jr.'s opening statement on the front page of his on-going (and on and on and on...) article: *Eschatology:101*. His explanation immediately draws attention:

Before beginning this article we need to correct a misprint from our last article that was important to the meaning of the argument being made. In Vol. 6, No.3, page 8, in the first column, the first full paragraph, the last sentence reads: "It is obviously set within some imagined time..." It should have read: "It is obviously not set within some imagined time...then this eternal covenant and physical time would be brought to an end." It is hoped that the reader saw this as a mistake. The futurists believe that the eternal covenant will some day end. The point was intended to show the opposite." (Emphasis on not supplied by J. C. Scott — JLW)

Upon reading these lines I immediately thought about the writing of Holy Writ in 2 Peter 3:16, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction." One must be "unstable" in order to accept the heresy that the cross of Christ and the day of Pentecost must somehow take a back-seat

to the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. In reading the previous article by this author (Vol. 6, No.3, pp.6-12), I noted the usual diatribe, this time, based on Isaiah chapters 24-28; 51; 65-66 and advocating "the subsequent establishment of the new heaven and earth and Jerusalem. It is obviously set within some imagined time when this eternal covenant and physical time would be brought to an end." And, this is where he is most anxious to add the needed "NOT"!!!

Perhaps Scott and company can take a lesson from the Jehovah's Witnesses. Judge Rutherford's followers quickly found that they could not convince people that Peter's plain statement in 2 Peter 3:10 was somehow in error. So, they came out with their own translation called *The New World Translation*. Then they changed the words of Peter to read, "...and the earth and the works in it will be discovered" (Emphasis mine — JLW). However, they still found it hard to be consistent, the NWT still stated "the chaff he will burn up with fire..." (Matt. 3:12) and "...a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees was burned up, and all the green vegetation was burned up..." (Emphasis mine — JLW). 2 Peter 3:7 caused trouble for Jehovah's Witnesses and the A.D. 70 errorists of our day as well. The NWT still says by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire...." Shades of contradiction — what shall the false teachers do?

When I compared the two issues of the "Lying Pestilence" and noted the desperate attempt to be among that number "Who change the truth of God into a lie..." (Rom. 1:25), it struck me that they need to produce their own translation of the Bible. They could take their direction from Gen. 2:17 and 3:4, "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely

die, ... And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Did you note the not? Isn't this precisely the position of Kingettes today? They could call this perversion the "New International Covenant Eschatology" (N.I.C.E.) version.

Imagine some of the passages that could be included to keep up with Max King's unproven and unprovable theories:

2 Peter 3:10, "But the day of the Lord will (NOT) come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall (NOT) pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall (NOT) melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall (NOT) be burned up." (N.I.C.E.)

Acts 2:16, "But this is (NOT) that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." (N.I.C.E.)

John 5:28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is (NOT) coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall (NOT) hear his voice, and shall (NOT) come forth..." (N.I.C.E.)

Acts 1:11, "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall (NOT) so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (N.I.C.E.)

2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must (NOT) all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..." (N.I.C.E.)

Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it (NOT) out of the way, (NOT) nailing it to his cross; and (NOT) having spoiled principalities and powers..." (N.I.C.E.)

Acts 17:31, "Because he hath (NOT) appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness..." (N.I.C.E.)

John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will (NOT) come again, and receive you unto myself..." (N.I.C.E.)

I Corinthians 15:26, "The last

enemy that shall (NOT) be destroyed is death." (N.I.C.E.)

1 Corinthians 11:26-27, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do (NOT) show the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall (NOT) be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." (N.I.C.E.)

Certainly you can see where the possibility for a new perversion on the market is feasible. Every A.D. 70 preacher and church would surely

need such a tool to give credibility to their error. Obviously, no clear thinking individual can take a reliable translation of the Scripture, study it and conclude that the final coming of Christ, the establishment of the church, the day of judgment, the end of the world, and the resurrection of the dead all occurred with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Yes, the truth was printed — but it was a mistake! P.S. — *The AD 70 Theology*, written by brother Cur-

tis A. Cates is an excellent refutation of King's heretical system of theology. A copy may be ordered from Cates Publication, 9194 Lakeside Drive, Olive Branch, MD 38654 for \$4.50 + postage and handling. I am confident that no A.D. 70 advocate can meet or refute the powerful argumentation put forth in this mighty work!

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HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS?

Kent Bailey

The prophet Elijah was truly a man of great courage. Living in a time when compromise was the name of the game, Elijah stood both firmly and forthrightly for the cause of God's Truth stating: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (1 Kings 18:21).

In noting this particular situation we observe that those individuals, being God's covenant people, were without excuse for their compromise. They had adequate evidence to draw proper conclusions with regards to God, the law of Moses, and the exclusive nature of Israel's covenant relationship with Jehovah God. They did not need an endless amount of time to "study the issue" as such relates to Baal-ism, nor did God grant them the prerogative to determine the issue of fellowship with Baal-ism upon the basis of these false prophets being both "sincere and honest" in their convictions. The time had arrived for immediate action! They need to make up their minds! Would they follow God or Baal?

As we note the condition of spiritual Israel (the New Testament church) in today's setting; we note the same attitude as that of Old Testament fleshly Israel. Among those involved in sinful practices there are two basic classes: 1) The outright

Elders COLUMN

apostate who openly avows false doctrine, and 2) The unstable double-minded compromiser, who alleges to believe the Truth, yet his actions speak to the contrary.

Can one imagine the godly prophet Elijah refusing to oppose the false prophets of Baal coming in to speak to an assembly of Israel on the pretext that "They have agreed not to preach or teach their views regarding Baal here?" Furthermore, could one possibly imagine Elijah extending fellowship to a fellow member of the nation of Israel compromising with his brethren in allowing a Baal worshipper to speak to an assembly of God's people with the mental rationalization, "Well, we don't agree with him on his views, but he is a man of integrity, so let's show him some patience and tolerance?" Or, perhaps, "Yes, I'm aware of his past association, but I believe he's backing off from Baal-ism?" Brethren, "backing off" will not solve the sin problem. Repentance is what really is needed!

The same situation of compromise exists within various congregations of God's people today. Have we grown so ignorant of the Word of

God that we have forgotten that compromise with sin is just as wrong as the sin itself? In fact, the act of compromise causes one to be a partaker of sin, and is within itself a sin as well.

Elders, how long will you tolerate weak-kneed, worthless, spineless, generic preaching that would never offend the devil himself and that never distinguishes Truth from error?

Preachers, how long, while professing to believe the Truth, will you continue to promote false teachers as men of integrity and cease to oppose their coming in to assemblies of God's people? How long will you continue to attend apostate gatherings and, while in attendance lead a prayer of blessing upon the enemies of God's Truth?

Church members, how long will you continue to support such open rebellion with time, talent, and hard earned money all because of your emotional attachment to brick and mortar?

When the final curtain of God's judgment falls, those among us who failed to be individuals of courage and conviction and have rather chosen to walk the paths of silence and compromise will certainly be held accountable for their failure to stand (Judges 5:23; Eph. 5:11; 2 John 9-11).

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WHAT IS LEGALISM?

Paul M. Wilmoth

Being righteous involves obedience to the commands of God

Faithfulness, by definition, is obedient trust and loyal compliance with the stipulations of God's will (James 2:17-26). Righteousness, by definition, is right doing. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35). "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (1 John 3:7). Being righteous obviously involves obedience to the commands of God. Does teaching that one must be righteous make one a "legalist?"

Outcries of "legalism" serve as convenient smoke screens to justify departure from the faith and to cloak innovations in the Lord's church. Sure, we must avoid legalism; but, who would have dreamed that the day would come when God's demand for obedience would be set aside as legalism? Let us not mistake "legalism" for loving obedience to the will of God in every aspect of our life. Let us carefully do ALL things which are commanded (Luke 17:10) recalling Jesus' words in Luke 6:46: "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Let's stake our lives upon the grace of God — but then let's love Him — remembering that, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:3). Brethren, that is not

legalism. That's LOVE! Abraham understood this (Gen. 26:5; Heb. 11:8). Moses understood it (Deut. 4:2; 6:17; 11:8,13,22,27-28). Joshua understood it (Josh. 23:6; 24:14-15). John understood it (1 John 5:3). Paul understood it (Rom. 6:16-17).

Legalism is NOT: 1) Seeing a bear behind every tree except your own. 2) Defending the faith. 3) Contending earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). 4) Warning of false teachers and/or false doctrine. 5) "Marking" those who cause division with their false teaching and/or practices (Rom. 16:17). 6) "Writing up" (as they call it) a brother who is promoting a doctrine, publicly and/or in print, which will send his soul and those who accept his teaching to hell. 7) Teaching the distinctiveness of the Lord's church; the necessity of baptism for the remission of sins; and the necessity for authority in everything we say and do.

Brethren, we must have balance in our preaching and in our lives. BUT, we must be sure that it is the balance of the New Testament. Let us avoid any extremes in our teaching; but, let us not be deterred by the false charges of "legalism" just because we teach that one must lovingly obey all of God's commandments. Satan has many devices. This is only one of them.

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SEEK THE OLD PATHS

Sain, Glenn Colley, Jeff Archey, William Woodson, Keith Mosher, Curtis Cates. Russell M. Kline is the preacher.

"I'd like to send you my change of address. I don't want to miss any of your papers. I hope I don't miss out on the January issue. I moved the last of December and haven't had time to write to give you my change of address" ...*Thelma Clark, Wilmer, AL*. "It is learnt that you have published a good Christian Literature periodical *Seek The Old Paths*. Thank you so much this wonderful publication. We are impressed by the approach of the present day issue of church problems like liberalism and new Hermeneutics of Neo-Pentecostalism that trouble the church. We are really in need of such good Christian literature for our defence of the truth. Brethren if you can honored foreign request please include my name in your mailing list. It will help in my personal study and teaching in the Bible classes. Presently I am studying the correspondence of Elders and Deacons Course from Southern California School of Evangelism under the guidance brother Cox. May God bless your ministry" ...*Ngulkhopao Thomte, Manipur, India*. "We had \$25 left-over that we didn't know what to do with. Decided you can use it anyway you choose" ...*Joe & Alene Britt, Baxter, TN*. "We appreciate so much your publication, *Seek The Old Paths*. You all stand for the Truth and you have the courage to tell it! Enclosed is \$20. Please continue the good work. Thank you" ...*Bill Farley, Marion, OH*. "We really appreciate the work you do" ...*Roger & Donna Zink, Bloomington, IN*. "My family and I receive *Seek The Old Paths* and always enjoy the articles. We want to continue to get it. Here is a small contribution" ...*Douglas Goff, Quebeck, TN*. "Please remove my name from your mailing list" ...*John Stephens, Tucson, AZ*. "I was given one of your papers recently and was really impressed with it. Would you please put me on your mailing list. I've been in the church for 67 years and have seen a lot of questionable things taking place, especially in the last few years in the church. May God bless and keep you in this effort" ...*Mary Smith, Amory, MS*. "Would you please send me *Seek The Old Paths* on a monthly basis? Enclosed please find a small check to help cover the cost of postage. Keep up the good work and don't let the "heat" keep you from printing the truth" ...*Gary Cagle, Hopewell, VA*. "Thank you for sending the paper to us" ...*James Lockhart, Murray, KY*. "I very much appreciate receiving *Seek The Old Paths* and I also appreciate your stand for the truth. May God bless you in 1997" ...*Danny Pritchett, Dexter, KY*. "Sincerely wishing you good health and happiness in the new year and may *Seek The Old Paths* grow and reach many. It's an excellent paper. I read it "cover to cover" as soon as it comes" ...*Lois Schmidt, Meridian, ID*. "Thank you for sending the paper. Enclosed is a check" ...*Parker French, Hazel, KY*. "Please remove my name from your mailing list" ...*Tommie Nell Gray, Tyler, TX*. "Remove this name from your mailing list" ...*Marion Mitchell, Tyler, TX*. "A friend gave me a copy of your paper the other day and I enjoyed it very much. There are not too many that will stand for the truth any more. Will you please put me on your mailing list to receive your publication? Thank you" ...*Harold Wood, Mt. Pleasant, TN*. "Just a note to thank you and the members there for the good work you are doing for the Lord. Hope to see you in July. May God bless your work and all the faithful" ...*T. W. Meredith, Coldwater, MS*. "Thank you so much for all your dedicated efforts in spreading the borders of the kingdom and your concern in keeping your eyes on the heavenly goal set before us. With great appreciation!" ...*Lewis & Christina Blair, Pensacola, FL*. "I appreciate your stand for the truth. A friend gave me a copy of *Seek The Old Paths* and I would like to receive it" ...*Garland Wilson, Lebanon, TN*. "I don't know how I started receiving *Seek The Old Paths* but thank you for sending it" ...*Jeff Glover, White Salmon, WA*. "Included is a \$10 contribution for this publication. Keep up the good work and may God continue to bless you for your bold stand for his truth" ...*Lamar Johnson, Athens, GA*. "May God bless you in 1997 as you labor under the banner of Jude 3" ...*Donald Layman, Moulton, AL*. "A Christian friend of mine gave me the November 1996 copy and I am impressed with it. Could I be added to your mailing list to receive it?" ...*B. B. LaFan, Texarkana, TX*. "Thanks so much for your great publication" ...*Milton Mathers, West Jefferson, NC*. "I have just read your *Seek The Old Paths* Dec/1996 which a friend had received. I enjoyed it very much. It brought back memories. I was involved in trying to keep unqualified men from being appointed elders. It is sad I was like

I am writing you this letter to inform you of the coming of the **Madisonville Church of Christ Bible Lectureship, April 26-27, 1997**. The theme is: **Angels, Demons and Other Spirit Beings**. The address is: 1035 N. Main St., Madisonville, KY 42431. Ph. (502) 821-3544. Speakers are: Paul

brother Ray Dutton, I didn't succeed" ...*James Neal, Houston, MS*. "Please send me a copy of *Seek The Old Paths*. I feel this paper will help me grow stronger in the word of God" ...*Toni Arnold, Union City, TN*. "Please send me your monthly publication. I am a Christian wanting to grow stronger" ...*Kenton Jones, Philippi, WV*. "I am the new minister at the 39th St. church in Zachary, LA. I found a copy of your paper in the office and enjoyed reading it very much. I would appreciate your adding my name to your mailing list. Thanking you in advance" ...*Loy Hardesty, Zachary, LA*. "Please remove my name from your mailing list. Thank you" ...*Bob Center, Tyler, TX*. "Keep up the good work of informing God's people of problems that are arising within the brotherhood so we can take steps to make them less effective. Thanks again" ...*Carl Thomsen, Texarkana, TX*. "I am thankful for the inspiring material you put together in *Seek The Old Paths*. I read every line of every issue" ...*Ed Caruth, Greer, SC*.



"As I was surfing the Web today, I came across the "on-line" version of *Seek The Old Paths* and knew that I had found another pearl of great price. I downloaded copies of S.T.O.P. for the months available and printed them off for further meditation and thought. Judging from what I have read so far, I definitely want to be added to your mailing list to receive the "snail-mail" copies monthly. I was even impressed by the "MailBag" section of your publication as I found the names of several people I personally knew that had written in to you in the past few months. Just as they were, I too am impressed with the forthright articles and subject matter your publication covers in combating the liberalism and false teaching infiltrating our brotherhood today. Keep up the good work. I look forward to being a regular reader of S.T.O.P." ...*Jerry Pritchett, Chattanooga, TN*. "I appreciate your pages and search them regularly. Thanks for being there with the conservative word" ...*Istewart@Istarnet.com*. "Thanks again for your fine publication and web site. Keep up the excellent work" *Joe Spangler, West Plains, MO, jpspangler@townsq.com*

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.

Editor: **Garland M. Robinson** / Associate Editor: **Jimmy Bates**

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