

Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

ON RECEIVING CFTF FREE

The new website for CFTF was launched in March and continues to be in the early phases of its development. You can see it now at cftfpaper.com. The new site supports browsing from desktops, laptops, tablets, and smart phones. When a new issue is available, you will be sent an email notification to access the website. There the PDF document can be printed, and forwarded to friends.

*To receive the **free version** of CFTF, go to our new website cftfpaper.com, click on the tab, “REGISTER” and sign up. Please feel free to sign up other brethren to receive CFTF electronically. **If one does not desire to receive CFTF, select the “CONTACT” tab to send us an email to remove you from our database.***

*For those who choose to continue receiving CFTF in its paper format the subscription prices will be **\$25.00 for a one year sub. and \$45.00 for a two year sub. These prices will take effect immediately.***

The Lord willing, we intend to make the **2013 July/August edition** of *Contending for the Faith* the issue that formally changes *CFTF* from a paper edition to an electronic PDF format, emailed free to all who desire it.

Some of you (we hope most of you) will choose to receive *CFTF* free in its PDF format via email. We trust that those of you who use the Internet will visit www.cftfpaper.com to enter the email addresses of brethren you desire to receive the free electronic edition. Someone may have subscribed for you. ***If that is the case, but you do not desire to continue receiving CFTF, select the “CONTACT US” option to send us an email asking to be removed from the database.***

CFTF is unencumbered by any entangling alliances. Thus, we owe allegiance to no one but our Lord. Please help us reach as many brethren as possible with the news and articles, dealing to a great extent with what certain brethren refuse to print.

IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>ON RECEIVING CFTF FREE</i> —CFTF STAFF.....	1	<i>THE OLD PATHS PULPIT—WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER—</i> DANNY DOUGLAS.....	13
EDITORIAL— <i>CREATION SCIENCE IN CONCERT WITH ACAPELLA</i> —DPB.....	2	<i>WELCOME TO SCRIPTURECACHE.COM</i>	17
<i>WHY HYMENAUS?</i> —Gary W. Summers.....	4	<i>THE CRAFTY OLD DEVIL AND EMAIL ATTACHMENTS</i> —CHARLES POGUE.....	18
<i>DEVIATIONS FROM THE TRUTH</i> —ROELF RUFFNER.....	7	<i>TWISTABLE TURNABLE MAN</i> —BROCK HARTWIGSEN.....	19
<i>HISTORY OF EFFORTS TO DEBATE MAC DEEVER</i> —MICHAEL HATCHER.....	8	<i>THE COMPLETE FIRM FOUNDATION (1884—2010) AVAILABLE IN PDF</i>	20
<i>THE “GIFT OF TONGUES”</i> —DUB McCLISH.....	11	<i>2013 BELLVIEW LECTURES (JUNE 7–13)—INNOVATIONS</i>	21

Contending FOR THE Faith™

David P. Brown, Editor and Publisher
dpbcftf@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS received by *CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH* and/or its Editor are viewed as intended FOR PUBLICATION unless otherwise stated. Whereas we respect confidential information, so described, everything else sent to us we are free to publish without further permission being necessary. Anything sent to us NOT for publication, please indicate this clearly when you write. Please address such letters directly to the Editor David P. Brown, P.O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383 or dpbcftf@gmail.com. Telephone: (281) 350-5516.

FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE

To receive CFTF free, go to www.cftfpaper.com and sign up. Once done, you will be notified when the current issue is available. It will be in the form of a PDF document that can be printed, and forwarded to friends.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE PAPER EDITION

Single Print Subs: One Year, \$25.00; Two Years, \$45.00.

NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS OF PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ADVERTISING POLICY & RATES

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH exists to defend the gospel (Philippians 1:7,17) and refute error (Jude 3). Therefore, we advertise only what is authorized by the Bible (Colossians 3:17). We will not knowingly advertise anything to the contrary and reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.

All setups and layouts of advertisements will be done by *CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH*. A one-time setup and layout fee for each advertisement will be charged if such setup or layout is needful. Setup and layout fees are in addition to the cost of the space purchased for advertisement. No major changes will be made without customer approval.

All advertisements must be in our hands no later than one month preceding the publishing of the issue of the journal in which you desire your advertisement to appear. To avoid being charged for the following month, ads must be canceled by the first of the month. We appreciate your understanding of and cooperation with our advertising policy.

MAIL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383-2357. COST OF SPACE FOR ADS: Back page, \$300.00; full page, \$300.00; half page, \$175.00; quarter page, \$90.00; less than quarter page, \$18.00 per column-inch. CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line per month. CHURCH DIRECTORY ADS: \$30.00 per line per year. SETUP AND LAYOUT FEES: Full page, \$50.00; half page, \$35.00; anything under a half page, \$20.00.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH is published bimonthly. P. O.

Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder
August 3, 1917-October 10, 2001

Editorial...

“Creation Science In Concert With Acappella”

What About Brad Harrub?

Recently it was called to our attention that Brad Harrub, PhD in anatomy and neurobiology from the College of Medicine at the UT, Memphis, TN, co-founder and Executive Director of Focus Press, and co-editor of *Think* magazine, has teamed with the singing group “Acappella” of “Acappella Ministries” to present what is being billed as “*Creation Science In Concert With Acappella*.” The event will be held at the Helena Montana Civic Center. According to the brochure advertising the program, the “promoter” of the event is Rocky Mountain Christian Institute.

Dr. Harrub primarily addresses topics concerning Christian evidences. He regularly conducts weekend seminars advertised as “Truth About Origins” and has written extensively regarding the same. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member of Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver, CO.

What About Acappella?

The singing group “Acappella” is advertised as “believing in the awesome versatility and flexibility of the human voice.” It is also billed as “the renowned vocal group” that can ... “fill a large concert hall with beautiful, intricate music without ever plucking a string or beating a drum.” They are also promoted as a group “with passion for God and hearts for music ministry.” Their “ministry” accomplishes its “work through high energy concerts all of over the world.”

What About “Rocky Mountain Christian Institute”?

The following letter from the organization’s web site sets out what it is and does.

Rocky Mountain Christian Institute
1938 Belt View Drive
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-6798
www.RockyMountainChristian.org

We are happy to present you with the Rocky Mountain Christian Institute Membership packet. You may obtain additional information on the Internet at our Web address.

The Rocky Mountain Christian Institute is an association of Churches and was formed in May of 1998 for the following purpose:

To provide support materials, services, facilities and software for Christian Churches, Christian Schools, Christian Activities and Christian Individuals. To support Christian Education by developing and distributing Correspondence Courses and Christian Education Materials for Christian Schools. To support and provide Christian youth activities for communities that have access to RMCI facilities. RMCI is a 501(C3) tax exempt organization

which means all contributions are tax deductible.

We currently manage a Mountain Retreat Facility that is located near Dearborn, Montana. Our hope is to conduct youth activities, campfire devotionals, Christian marriage encounters, weddings and many other Christian fellowship activities at the Retreat. Andy Sorenson is the Facility Superintendent and camp host. RMCi maintains a World Wide Internet Support Ministry and is dedicated to continually improving this Ministry.

The Officers of RMCi are:

Richard L. Subry, President

Shaun Peterson, Vice President

Margaret Ramsey, Secretary and Treasurer

The Board of Directors are:

Jerry Christison

Shaun Petersen

Tom Anderson

Roy Ramsey

Mike Roucheleau

Richard Subry

Brian Christensen

Bob Alfred

Jim Ward

Scott Falley

Please look over the attached material and let us know what you think.

In Christian Love,

Richard L. Subry, President /s/

Preceding the Helena Montana Civic Center event with Brad Harrub (9/20/13), Acappella will perform at the First United Methodist Church in Stanton, TX (9/11/13), and Abilene Christian University (9/15/13). Clearly bro. Harrub is in fellowship with Acappella and Acappella has no problem being in full fellowship with denominational churches.

Acapella's Former Members--Where Are They Now?

Wikipedia informs us about the work of previous members of Acapella. We have chosen from the Wikipedia list only some of the former members of Acapella who are working with churches. Please notice what some of them are doing and where they are doing it.

Tony Brown – Worship minister at Grace Harbor Church in Rogers, AR. Official Website.

Dale Carpenter – Worship minister at Highland Park Christian Church in Tulsa, OK.

Terry Cheatham – Counselor; Also serves as worship minister at Western Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, TN.

Todd Dunaway - Nashville, TN. Also sang bass for Watershed Worship.

Brishan Hatcher – Worship minister at Highland Church of Christ in Memphis, TN Official Website.

Aaron Herman – Worship minister at Church of the King in Mandeville, LA.

Chris Lindsey – Worship minister at Rochester Church of Christ in Rochester Hills, MI. Also sang with Watershed Worship.

Wes McKinzie – Director of communications marketing at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, OK. Now, Wes sings bass with Acappella.

Steve Reischl; Senior Worship Minister at Harvester Christian Church.

Bret Testerman – Worship minister at Metro Church in Winter Springs, FL.

Since we have no reason to doubt the veracity of pre-

ceding list, obviously some of its former members are not only members of denominational churches, but they occupy leadership positions in them. Dr. Harrub is not abiding by God's law on fellowship when he extends fellowship to Acappella and those who support them, or any group like them (2 John 9-11). *In view of the fact that Dr. Harrub is in fellowship with those who are not in fellowship with God, how can faithful members of the Lord's church scripturally fellowship him?*

“WHATEVER IT TAKES”

When people, especially brethren, take the position that the New Testament of Jesus Christ is not a divine blueprint or pattern (infallible, complete, and final authority) in determining what is right and what is wrong in matters spiritual and moral, they will teach doctrines that loose their disciples from what the Bible, especially the New Testament, binds on them. Thus, obligatory matters (those things necessary/essential to man's salvation) are presented to their disciples as optional, or as non-binding matters of preference—regarding man's salvation one can take them or leave them, for they make no difference to God one way or another. With their mouths they confess Jesus to be Lord, but in works (authorized acts of obedience) they deny him. (Mat. 15:8; John 14:15; Jam. 1:25; Tit. 1:16; Heb. 5:9).

These brethren of the loosing kind (The so-called “scholarship movement”, the “new hermeneutic” advocates, the Bible is a “love letter,” etc.) adamantly refuse to accept that the natural communicative element of a language is found in its direct statements, what it implies, and examples. Even as they speak/write in high-sounding words, attempting to deny the foregoing regarding language, they find themselves forced to use direct statements, implication, and examples in their self-contradictory attempts to refute that direct statements, implication, and examples are natural communicative elements of language whereby Jesus revealed His will to man (Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; John 12:48). Thus, rather than prove that direct statements, implication, and examples are only human inventions invited by certain members of the church of Christ, their efforts prove the direct opposite from what they dogmatically, absurdly, and ludicrously affirm. But, out of their foolishness they have concluded and declared, “Whatever it Takes,” as they go about to loose men from what God in His word has bound on them—obligations that man must discharge (doing what God said, in the way He said it, and for the reason(s) He said it in order to be saved from sin, remain faithful to God, and be saved eternally in heaven. This is what it means to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:17; also see Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6)

Comes now another church where for a long time such loosers have had their way. It is the Heritage Church of Christ (?), Ft. Worth, Texas. Brethren are not strong in the Lord one day and apostates the next. How long ago it was that the Heritage Church made its primary turn from the nature of
(Continued on page 12)

WHY HYMENAEUS?

Gary W. Summers

The name Hymenaeus appears twice in the New Testament. The two passages are provided below:

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage a good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme (1 Tim. 6: 18-20).

But shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:16-18).

Before getting to the main point of discussion, the reader might wonder, “Is this the same Hymenaeus in both passages?” Most commentators believe that the individual is the same, although the evidence for such a conclusion is circumstantial—same author, same recipient, same name, in letters written perhaps 2 or 3 years apart. On the other hand, nothing compels us to think they are two separate individuals; so the assumption will be that the majority is right on this one.

What do we know from these texts about this individual? From 1 Timothy comes the charge that Paul’s son in the gospel should wage a good warfare. How many Christians today consider this military aspect of Christianity? Surely, we cannot have overlooked the Christian armor as it is described in Ephesians 6:10-17. That passage is addressed to all who are members of the church. We are to fight against “the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).

Why? The reason we need the Christian armor is that we are under attack. Satan is leading the assault against individual Christians at a personal level and toward the church collectively. Timothy needed to take heed to himself personally, as in Paul’s command to: “**Flee youthful lusts....**” (2 Tim. 2:22). However, as a preacher of the gospel, Timothy also had to wage war against Satan and all of the false doctrines that Satan introduced into Christianity.

Timothy was to keep the faith, as Paul would later say that he himself had done (2 Tim. 4:6). Timothy also needed a good conscience—one that confirmed that he had preached the truth—and one that told him he had done what he could to spread the gospel. Hymenaeus could not do that. In order to explain apostasy, Paul uses the metaphor of a shipwreck, with which he was personally familiar, having been involved in one a few years earlier on his way as a prisoner to Rome (Acts 27). Imagine a ship sailing toward some treacherous rocks, as the Costa Concordia did, which sank on January

13, 2012. This sad event occurred about 62 miles northwest of Rome in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The ship struck a rock, and water began immediately to flood the engine room. Some passengers lost their lives. The same thing can happen spiritually to those following a careless captain.

Paul gave Timothy a specific charge which cannot be overly emphasized: “**Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you**” (1 Tim. 4:16). If the one who preaches to others veers off course, he will suffer shipwreck, and those on board with him stand in jeopardy of losing their lives, also. This is what happened with Hymenaeus and Alexander. They had not taken the appropriate heed and had run aground. What caused a departure from the true course? Was not the teaching of Jesus and the apostles sufficient for them?

Motives

No hint of their reasons for taking the wrong direction are given to us here. Were they siding with another false teacher, or was this error one of their own devising? They do not seem to have been sincerely mistaken about something (which Paul would have corrected). It is possible that Hymenaeus could have been a preacher or one of the elders Paul had spoken to before he was imprisoned. When he met with the elders of Ephesus, where Timothy was when he received this letter (1 Tim. 1:3), Paul had warned them:

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves (Acts 20:28-30).

Hymenaeus could well have been one of those men who, in conjunction with Alexander, had decided to have his own following. The ambitious do not care about the truth; having men follow them is worth teaching an error or two. Faithful preachers of the gospel do not want anyone to follow them personally. Their goal is to preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 1:21). For some, however, merely pointing the way to Christ is not enough. Unlike John the Baptizer, they have no humility that enables them to acknowledge that Christ is the great one and that they are just servants.

Like Diotrophes, they love the preeminence and do not care what outrageous doctrine they must teach in order to obtain or maintain it. The sad thing is not that they crave adoration but that they actually receive it from willing brethren who either cannot discern the difference between truth

and error or are so attached to such men that they will follow them anywhere. Thus the body of Christ becomes fractured, and the unity for which the Lord prayed stands in jeopardy.

The Withdrawal of Fellowship

Just as in the case of the man living with his father's wife in Corinth, Paul knew that this situation had to be dealt with. He withdrew fellowship from them. It would be helpful to know how he went about accomplishing this necessary action. Did he meet with them personally? If so, it must have occurred when Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3). Was Timothy already aware of what Paul had done and is just being reminded of it? Did Paul bring this matter before the church at Ephesus, and they all participated in delivering these men to Satan? When the church withdraws fellowship from someone, it is the equivalent to delivering them to Satan. If all the righteous (those in the kingdom of God) withhold their fellowship from someone, then the only kingdom left for them to be a part of is the one over which Satan rules.

Why did Paul say that the goal of what he had done was that they might learn not to blaspheme? There was something in their teaching that was contrary to God or to Jesus. Or their teaching, whatever it was, may have violated the plain principles taught by Jesus and the apostles, in which case by implication they were speaking against the Holy Spirit by disagreeing with what He had revealed. The goal of someone being out of fellowship with Christ is always to allow them to see the seriousness of their actions, repent, and bring them back into the fold. This goal was obtained in the case for the man in Corinth, but if the Hymenaeus of 2 Timothy is the same one, it obviously did not work in this instance.

The teaching that Paul sets forth in this passage agrees with what he had taught elsewhere. He wrote to Titus, for example: **“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition”** (3:10). Of course, a person can be divisive without being in error. He might be perpetually cantankerous and searching for molehills to make mountains out of. He might even misrepresent what one person said to another, just desiring to create friction between brethren. But in light of the lengthy warning Paul gave against the gainsayers—those who subvert whole households for some financial and dishonest gain—he is probably considering idle talkers and deceivers (Titus 1:9-11). Paul also taught brethren to mark or **“note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine”** they had learned, **“and avoid them”** (Rom. 16:17).

The Second Timothy Passage

In this warning, which couples Hymenaeus' name with Philetus, Paul is talking about those who utter profane and vain babblings. One might think that these men are to be pitied rather than censured, but such is not the case. Whatever

they were teaching led to ungodliness (like those concerning whom Peter wrote in 2 Peter 2 and Jude in his epistle). Furthermore, their teachings, if not confronted and checked, would spread like cancer, which is clearly a dangerous situation. For this reason Paul said concerning those in Crete that their **“mouths must be stopped”** (Tit. 1:11).

Many brethren have expressed the opinion that we should just leave false teachers alone, citing what Jesus said concerning the Pharisees in Matthew 15:14: **“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”** Did the Lord mean that false teachers and hypocrites should be left alone? He cannot mean that because that is not a doctrine He practiced. He utterly denounced the Pharisees and called them hypocrites all throughout Matthew 23. Certainly Paul calls for the exposure of such men in several of the passages already mentioned in this article. Is there a contradiction here? J. W. McGarvey explains what Jesus means in Matthew 15: **“Let them alone, not in the way of ceasing to expose their errors, but in the sense of making no effort to appease them”** (*Commentary on Matthew – Mark* 136).

Paul knew that a false doctrine, if left unopposed, would sway many brethren to stray concerning the truth. Therefore, he had identified Hymenaeus and Alexander as false teachers previously and withdrew fellowship from them that all might know they were in error. Now he again identifies Hymenaeus as one who is in error (and Philetus along with him). Only this time a specific false doctrine is identified. They were teaching that **“the resurrection is already past.”** What? The resurrection of Christians from the dead had already occurred? What are the results of this teaching?

Specifically mentioned is that this doctrine overthrew the faith of some—probably because all who were yet alive must have therefore missed that great event. In Corinth, some had taught that no resurrection would occur, period. Paul pointed out that if no one can be raised from the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. Then he teaches the truth about that great day. Now, just a few years later, some men had come along and just modified that error. They said that Christ was raised, and many saints were raised, but the resurrection had already occurred. One wonders how and when that event happened, and only these two men knew about it. What special insight they must possess! (And they would be among the first to admit it, no doubt.)

To take away the coming resurrection promised to all the faithful saints is to remove one's hope for the future. What happens to the incentive given to all Christians concerning the hope of eternal life? “No, the resurrection has already happened, but you missed it,” they had to claim. Why would anyone teach that? It gives them their own following because they are the only ones who can answer that question. Those teaching the truth could have no answer because the position is false. Perhaps they promised them something almost as

good (like the Jehovah's Witnesses who are more excited about the false idea of living on a renovated earth than being in heaven itself). If we never know what the advantage was, nevertheless we know that the doctrine overthrew the faith of some and discouraged them from continuing the life of a Christian.

But there was also an opposite effect. While genuine Christians would be left desolate, carnal Christians would receive comfort. If the resurrection was already past, then there was no standing before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in the body (2 Cor. 5:10), so one could engage in various pleasures of this life without fear of retribution. Truly, this teaching would lead to more ungodliness. Some in the first century were very clever in trying to spread corruption among Christians, who had just escaped from that kind of thinking and living when they obeyed the gospel (2 Pet. 1:1-4). This teaching contradicted all of the passages of the New Testament that taught that the Day of Judgment was yet to come (2 The. 1:6-10). One would need a new revelation in order to propagate this doctrine, and that may be what was claimed. Some may have failed to realize that God does not reverse Himself.

Why Hymenaeus?

The important question to ask, however, is, "Why was anyone listening to Hymenaeus?" If both references are to the same man, Paul had already delivered him to Satan; so how did he retain any credibility? Why do brethren listen more to a "slick" user of words than to an inspired apostle? How does this happen? Paul was in Ephesus for three years. He started the church there and in all the surrounding region. They knew Paul and his character. Paul and various brethren had marked Hymenaeus; he was even "written" up" in a letter. Did some just attribute it to a "personality" clash? Could they not see the difference in the results of the doctrine?

When word got around that Hymenaeus had been withdrawn from, how is it that some Christians refused to honor that action? Why did some refuse to be warned? The result of his teaching was that some brethren's faith had been overthrown; the effect of Paul's teaching was that disciples were

encouraged to be faithful and live in joyous anticipation of the wonderful future that God has in store for us. Should not a tree be known by its fruits? Paul's teaching resulted in greater spirituality; Hymenaeus' caused people to regress to what they were (or worse) before they became Christians.

Furthermore, Paul was an inspired apostle, selected by Jesus as an apostle to the Gentiles. Who was Hymenaeus, but some self-proclaimed "great" one, who had his own dogma and agenda? Why didn't brethren refuse to fellowship him until he repented of his false teaching? How was he even in a position that anyone would give him any kind of credence whatsoever?

Where is the Church Today?

Is the church today any different? Some preachers, elders, and congregations today are so ill-informed that they would not know a false doctrine from a kumquat. They would not recognize a false teacher even if he wore a sign around his neck. While it is the case that we do not have inspired apostles today, we do have the inspired Scriptures that they gave us, which teach us some important things about fellowship. In years past, most faithful brethren would take issue immediately with false teachers, but such no longer seems to be the case. He will be invited to hold gospel meetings and accorded every hospitable act that someone ought to receive who is still standing for the truth.

Back in the early 70s Max King revived the Hymenaeus and Philetus doctrine that the resurrection was already past. Gus Nichols and others immediately challenged it and him. Would that happen today? Whatever it was that caused some brethren to fellowship a withdrawn-from false teacher in the first century has revived itself in the twenty-first century. Have the principles concerning the fellowshiping of false teachers changed? Has there been some new revelation? When those who teach error are left alone, their doctrine will spread as cancer. Too late some may see that a distorted sense of "balance" has caused them to fall.

—5410 Lake Howell Road
Winter Park, FL 32792

SIGN UP NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO *CFTF*

*To receive a free PDF version via email, go to
www.cftfpaper.com and sign up.*

*Also visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cftfpaper>.
The new site is made to fit multiple internet browsing device sizes.*

Deviations From The Truth

Roelf Ruffner

From an article by David Cloud, a Baptist preacher.

Max Lucado

Max Lucado threw his hat into the contemplative ring with the publication of *Cure for the Common Life*. In this dangerous book he promotes the Buddhist-Catholic monk Thomas Merton who taught pantheism and universalism.

Merton was “a strong builder of bridges between East and West” (*Twentieth-Century Mystics*, p. 39). *The Yoga Journal* made the following observation:

Merton had encountered Zen Buddhism, Sufism, Taoism and Vedanta [Hinduism] many years prior to his Asian journey. MERTON WAS ABLE TO UNCOVER THE STREAM WHERE THE WISDOM OF EAST AND WEST MERGE AND FLOW TOGETHER, BEYOND DOGMA, IN THE DEPTHS OF INNER EXPERIENCE. ... Merton embraced the spiritual philosophies of the East and integrated this wisdom into [his] own life through direct practice (*Yoga Journal*, Jan.-Feb. 1999, quoted from the *Lighthouse Trails* web site).

Merton was a student of Zen master D. T. Suzuki and Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. The titles of Merton’s books include *Zen and the Birds of the Appetite* and *Mystics and the Zen Masters*. Merton said: “I see no contradiction between Buddhism and Christianity. The future of Zen is in the West. I intend to become as good a Buddhist as I can” (David Steindl-Rast, “Recollection of Thomas Merton’s Last Days in the West,” *Monastic Studies*, 7:10, 1969, http://www.gratefulness.org/readings/dsr_merton_recol2.htm).

Merton adopted the heresy that within every man is a pure spark of divine illumination and that men can know God through a variety of paths:

At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God. It is like a pure diamond blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody. I have no program for saying this. It is only given, but the gate of heaven is everywhere (*Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton*, 2007, DVD).

Merton said that monks of all religions are “brothers” and are “already one.” At an interfaith meeting in Calcutta, India, in 1968, sponsored by the Temple of Understanding, Merton said:

“I came with the notion of perhaps saying something for monks and to monks of all religions because I am supposed to be a monk. ... My dear brothers, WE ARE ALREADY ONE. BUT WE IMAGINE THAT WE ARE NOT. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are” (“Thomas Merton’s View of Monasticism,” a

talk delivered at Calcutta, October 1968, *The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton*, 1975 edition, appendix III, p. 308).

Merton used the terms God, Krishna, and Tao interchangeably.

In June 2009 I visited the Abbey of Gethsemani, where Merton lived and where he is buried. Many books were on display that promote interfaith unity. These include *Zen Keys* by Thich Nhat Hanh, *Bhagavad Gita* (Hindu scriptures), *Buddhists Talk about Jesus and Christians Talk about Buddha*, *Meeting Islam: A Guide for Christians*, and *Jesus in the World’s Faiths*.

For Lucado to quote Merton and to refer to him in a positive way is inexcusable and is evidence that he has made a total commitment to contemplative mysticism, regardless of what lame excuses he might make.

Lucado also quotes New Age mystic Martin Buber’s *The Way of Man*. Lucado promotes Buber’s New Age heresy that every man has a “divine spark.” He further quotes Catholic “saint” Thomas Aquinas, Eugene Peterson, and Richard Foster, the most prominent popularizer of Catholic mysticism today.

Lucado tries to package Catholic contemplative mysticism as an innocent and Scriptural evangelical practice. He even says it is not “mystical,” but this is false as we have proven in our book *Contemplative Mysticism*.

—2530 Moore Court
Columbia, TN 38401

FREE CD AVAILABLE

Contending for the Faith is making available a CD-ROM free of charge. **Why is this CD important?** **ANSWER:** It contains an abundance of evidentiary information pertaining to Dave Miller’s doctrine and practice concerning the re-evaluation/reaffirmation of elders, MDR, and other relevant and important materials and documents directly or indirectly relating to the Brown Trail Church of Christ, Apologetics Press, Gospel Broadcasting Network, MSOP, and more.

To receive your free CD or make a financial contribution toward this important CD’s distribution you can reach us at **Contending for the Faith, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, TX 77383-2357**, or request the CD by emailing us at dpbcftf@gmail.com.

The following is Michael Hatcher's editorial from the April 2013 Defender. It is a review of attempts over the last few years to arrange a debate with Mac Deaver concerning his doctrine by which he teaches that in the process of becoming a Christian today one must be baptized with and/or in the Holy Spirit. —David P. Brown, Editor

I wanted to give an update to our readers regarding the proposed debate between Daniel Denham and Mac Deaver. If our readers recall, brother Deaver came to a new, novel idea regarding the Spirit's work on the Christian's heart in his preparation for a debate on the indwelling of the Spirit with Marion Fox. In that debate, Deaver used *supra-literary* regarding the work of the Spirit on the Christian. He stated, "there are some things that the Holy Spirit does for me in a supra-literary fashion." This began to raise some red flags, however most brethren gave him the benefit of the doubt. Mac was not content to remain in this first stage of digression. That debate was dealing with how the Spirit dwells in the Christian; such had never been a fellowship issue among brethren and is not now. However, Mac went beyond the indwelling to the working of the Spirit upon the Christian. This correctly had been a matter of fellowship among brethren.

Through the years Deaver went beyond his simple statement of "supra-literary" work of the Spirit on the Christian stating more explicitly that the Spirit works in addition to the Word of God on the heart of a Christian. He claimed that the Spirit helps the Christian to overcome sin, live a Christian life, and that the Spirit directly gives the Christian wisdom, etc. However, Mac was not content to remain teaching such Wesleyan doctrines as these, he continued to progress in his teachings to where he now teaches that all Christians today are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

For several years *Defender* had been exposing Mac Deaver as a false teacher and one with whom we could no longer fellowship as a result of these teaching. After publishing several articles in 2009, Mac Deaver wrote to us challenging us to a debate. I accepted that challenge that either I or a representative of my choosing would debate Mac. I also placed the conditions that the debate be held at the Sherman Drive Church of Christ building in Denton, TX (where Mac Deaver preached at the time), and it be on the subject of Holy Spirit baptism.

Mac and I began negotiations for the debate, but there was a problem as the ungodly elders (Joe Chism—who has since died, Harry Ledbetter, and Randy Morse) at Sherman Drive (the former Pearl Street congregation) refused to allow "certain brethren" in their building. Those brethren were Dub McClish and any who agree with him. Since everyone that would be involved in the debate on our side are in agreement with brother McClish, they would not allow any of us in their building. As a substitute for the Sherman Drive

building, Mac said, "We can obtain public facilities for the discussion. Perhaps we could have it at the Denton Civic Center." I then agreed stating, "I do not have a problem with the location being the Denton Civic Center."

Mac and I continued in negotiations and finally signed propositions with Daniel Denham being my representative for the debate (it had been agreed that I would do all the negotiations with Mac for the debate). However, as we reported before, Mac never contacted the Denton Civic Center, even though that was the location I agreed to accept (not some other location). The Denton Civic actually had a conflict with the dates to which Mac and I had agreed, thus it would have been impossible to have the debate there. Mac, in obtaining a location should have contacted them after I agreed to that location and when it was found out that the debate could not be held there, contacted me to negotiate another location. However, he did not do this. Thus, upon learning of the impossibility of using the Civic Center, we urged Mac to find a location, but he decided to no longer correspond or negotiate with me. We finally placed a time limit upon Mac for negotiating and finding a location for the debate. Mac allowed that time limit to pass, thus cancelling the debate. I dealt with all this in the October 2009 issue of *Defender* and documented everything at that time.

Since Mac sabotaged the debate by failing to negotiate and obtain a location for it, brother Denham began dealing with Deaver's material and book he had written promoting Holy Spirit baptism today. These articles demolishing Deaver's material were published in *Defender*. In response, Deaver brought out a special issue of *Biblical Notes Quarterly* and made a feeble attempt at answering a small portion of what had been dealt with in brother Denham's articles.

However, we continued to hear word that Deaver was wanting the debate, thus in the August 2012 issue of *Defender*, we decided to provide an opportunity for Mac to have the debate. We listed five requirements for us to resume negotiations for the debate. In the fifth requirement, we placed a time limit for obtaining a location for the debate that would be agreeable to me by November 30. That time passed without a word from Mac.

David Brown asked brother Denham to speak on the subject "Christ Confronted Error About the New Birth" at the 2013 *Contending For The Faith*, Spring Church of Christ lectureship. Brother Denham again dealt with Mac Deaver's false doctrine regarding the new birth of John 3:3, 5 in the

lesson (and the chapter in the book which I would encourage all to obtain a copy). Deaver watched part of Daniel's lesson and then ranted in a letter to brother Brown trying to get brother Brown to get brother Denham to debate him. After some discussion, I wrote Mac on March 18, 2013, as follows:

Mac:

This was placed in the August 2012 issue of *Defender* on page 3.

Debate

Since brother Deaver is still longing for a debate, we are willing to resume negotiations for a debate with him. However there are certain requirements we will insist upon before resuming negotiations with Mac. These are requirements, not suggestions, not things to negotiate, but requirements for us to resume negotiations.

1. Mac must repent of sabotaging the original debate arrangements.
2. Mac must repent of lying about the debate in *Biblical Notes Quarterly*.
3. Mac must direct all correspondence to me, as he had agreed to do when negotiating previously.
4. Mac must agree to the propositions for the previous debate.
5. Mac must obtain a place in Denton, Texas, for the debate that would be agreeable to me by November 30.

If Mac is willing to do these things, then the debate can still be held and I will enter into negotiations with him again. If he is not willing to abide by these requirements, then everyone will still know that Mac (1) sabotaged the first debate, (2) he is the one who is not willing to do what is necessary to have the debate, (3) there will be no more negotiations with him for a debate, and (4) Mac does not really want to engage in a debate with brother Daniel Denham on Holy Spirit baptism after all.

Since you are still clamoring to some (I read your diatribe to David Brown) about having a debate, even though we believe you still need to take care of the first two points, we are willing to forgo those first two points to get the debate accomplished. We will agree to the propositions that were previously signed along with all the details to which we previously agreed. That will leave only two details to be worked out: the date and the location.

Please send me some dates for us to consider. Additionally, you will need to find a location in the Denton/Fort Worth area that will be agreeable to us by the end of June (if this is too much of a hardship on you, I will be willing to check on a couple of places).

Mac, while I know how much you detest me, these 2 aspects are simple enough to accomplish, so let's get this debate scheduled. We are trying to remove the obstacles to get it done. Now do you really want to have the debate?

We were trying to get the debate accomplished, but also doing so according to the agreements to which Mac had pre-

viously agreed.

Instead of writing to me and resuming negotiations regarding a location and date for the debate, he instead writes another tirade to brother Brown (dated March 21, 2013). In this letter he steadfastly refuses to negotiate the debate with me. Then he sent a letter directly to brother Denham (dated April 2, 2013) trying to resume negotiations but not keeping his original word that all negotiations would take place with me. Thus, after some discussion and after I received a letter from brother Denham, I again (and for the last time unless he resumes negotiations with me by the time frame set forth in my March 18 letter) wrote Mac a letter dated April 10, 2013, in which I wrote:

Mac:

I am in possession of your renewed attempt to make an end-run around the agreements you previously made. Brother Denham sent me a letter detailing his views of such skullduggery. I am including brother Denham's letter with this response.

Mac, you still have time to negotiate a date and location for the debate if you really do want to debate brother Daniel, as you claim you do. That time frame is the end of June. If that date passes and you have not negotiated a date and location with me, then there will never be any debate between you and Daniel. We were willing to remove two of the requirements we had made simply to get the debate done. If you are not willing to negotiate the date and location of the debate with me (and return to all the original terms to which we had previously agreed), then there will be no more attempts, and there will be no debate.

Mac, the ball is in your court. You can negotiate a date and location with me before the deadline we have imposed, or you can let it pass and never have the debate you claim you want—you might as well, as brother Denham states, "file-thirteen" anything else. Now, what is it going to be: negotiate with me, or never have the debate?

As I stated in the letter, I enclosed Daniel's letter he wrote to me. I believed it would be profitable for Mac to see how Daniel felt about his letter. That letter is below:

Dear Brother Michael,

Mac adamantly refuses, as if by royal decree, to correspond with you on our side of the issue. But I will only correspond with his highness through the means to which he originally agreed which was based on the fact that he challenged you and the brethren at Bellview, and I am and have been all along simply your representative in this matter. The fact that he refuses to do so illustrates perfectly the truth of the accusations that he is untrustworthy, as he clearly refuses to keep his original word despite being the one who issued the challenge. Thus, one cannot, just as clearly, trust him to keep his word in any future negotiations if there were any even contemplated. As to his sophomoric attempt here to once more do an end-run around what he signed to do originally, he can just file-thirteen them as far as I am concerned. He is and will remain under obligation to keep his word, even if he

doesn't think so. Morality and ethics are not limited to Mac's feelings in the case. If he had lived in the time of Christ, Mac, as he is now, could not have been accused of being an "Israelite," like Nathaniel, "in whom is no guile."

As to the proposition he submitted in his most recent letter, it is fascinating that while he was doing that in writing to me, his minion, Marlin Kilpatrick, was arguing to a brother that all of the original arrangements, including Mac's proposition, were now off the table. According to the other party, Marlin claimed that Mac now was no longer obligated to that proposition—never mind, of course, that we have Mac's signature affirming belief in it from both 2009 and now. But we also had his signature accepting the terms of the debate and my place simply as your representative, but we see now what real value Mac's signature really holds. The carrot he attempts to hold out on the proposition here can just as easily be removed as he did his agreement to deal directly with you on the debate details. He has no credibility left to his name. We gave him too much credit. We put more value in his signature than he does.

He also claims that he has been falsely accused of hiding out in Sheffield. But the facts show otherwise, despite his feckless attempt, to which he alludes, to play to the gallery back in 2009, after having refused to keep his word. The facts have indeed not changed. He sabotaged the debate. The emails showing this fact have not disappeared.

Furthermore, even his loyal minion Marlin Kilpatrick has admitted in writing to another brother in a letter currently in my possession that the debate was cancelled after Mac withdrew from the negotiations for the original debate agreement in 2009. All of Mac's posturing since then simply is cover for the fact that he fled from the debate. Furthermore, it is a matter of record that I have been to Texas on at least two occasions (to Spring in particular) to deal with Mac's heresy almost in his backyard. He had more than sufficient opportunity to confront me on the matter at those venues after I had traveled almost half-way across the country to deal with his teaching. His buddy Marlin refused even to show up to discuss matters at Ocala, which is indeed Marlin's backyard. Also, I have written numerous articles on his error, including a lengthy serial consisting of several articles, of which Mac dealt with but part of one and acted as though he had answered everything I have written, when in fact he did not even address everything in that article. But such deception seems to have become commonplace with Mac. Mac has also never addressed the two large and well-documented manuscripts refuting his errors published in the Spring lectures. Yet Mac has Marlin running around demanding that others and I answer the supposed "sound arguments" that Mac postulated in the Vick debate. I have pointed out to Marlin that Mac has yet to put forth any genuinely sound arguments. I even noted several things to Marlin that Mac cannot prove and yet must in order to even begin to formulate a sound argument on Acts 2, 8, 10, and 19, much less John 3:5 and Titus 3:5-6. But objective evidence does not seem to play into Marlin's concept of what constitutes a "sound" argument. I suspect that he really does not know what makes an argument sound. Assertion appears to be sufficient for him right now, especially if Mac is the one making it. If Mac says it, it

must be so regardless of how specious and fatuous the claim.

It is also fascinating that Mac admits that he did not read Michael's letter (or "all of it," as he now vacuously claims), despite the obvious fact that he tried clearly to leave the impression with Marlin that he did in fact read all of it. He got caught in his own deception on the matter, but instead of repenting we see just more alibis from Mac on the matter. He simply refuses now to take responsibility for his own failings here and admit the obvious. Even Marlin at first admitted that Mac had lied to him about the letter. Only after Marlin checked with his new mentor did he change his conclusion. This is the same Marlin who claims to not be taking sides, but whose letter to brother Jim Driggers back in February certainly does so without any hesitation.

Marlin also ran to Mac to get his ex cathedra declaration on the "in Christ" question, after Marlin had originally answered "true," to find that the phrase is just not precise in meaning, according to Mac. I have since asked Marlin if one can receive the remission of sins today without being in the spiritual body of Christ. We'll see how he answers, if he does. One thing, however, is certain; he will run to Mac first to get his imprimatur for his answer.

In fact, when a good brother asked Marlin about the "in Christ" question, Marlin told him to contact Mac first and he would enlighten the brother on the matter, even as Mac had enlightened him that the phrase was "not precisely stated." Pity, poor Paul, who used it so repeatedly without Mac's advice to guide him! Of course, if Mac can teach by implication that Philip, an inspired preacher, messed up in Acts 8, then why doubt that he would implicitly indict Paul, a mere apostle of Jesus Christ, for his "imprecise" statements in Ephesians 1? So, it must now be the case that the Brotherhood has to go to Mac first to get the newest answer on such questions while he is still evolving in his doctrine.

Mac states a number of times in his letter that he is the victim of "false accusations" supposedly made by me, especially in my most recent lecture at Spring. Of course, he has yet to show wherein such has actually occurred as he does not give any specifics. As I was dealing with the implications of his doctrine, he needs to address those matters rather than making his own patently false accusation that I falsely accused him. For one so trained in logic, he evidently now has profound problems dealing with the matter of implication when it comes to his theories, as we have seen in our articles abundantly documenting the same. He needs to show that the implications of his doctrine I addressed really are not entailed by it. As of yet, all he has done is throw dust in the air and rant against my presentation, which he admitted he had really only seen in part. (I suspect that he has not bothered at all to look at the manuscript documenting some of his quotes, etc.)

Mac has a tendency of operating in such devious ways, as shown back in 2004 wherein the claim was circulating among his followers that I had been challenged by him to debate and was hiding from the same. Of course, Mac had failed to contact me about this supposed debate, and I had to bring it to his attention by letter that no challenge had even been given to me by him or any of his cronies. Yet they were

strutting and preening as though they had just put Goliath and the Philistines to flight.

This brings up another salient point. His reference to me as “Goliath” in his letter to David is an interesting comparison in that I am 5 ft. 8 and one half in. in height (maybe 5'9" if I stretch a bit). Barbara got a good laugh out of that one. But, you will recall, David came down and met Goliath on the battlefield where Goliath stood. Well, here I stand (Goliath or not) on the same ground of agreement we all originally made back in 2009 and to which Mac affixed his signature, but where, oh where, is Mac?

Mac claims that throughout his evolution in this doctrine he has had the wisdom of God directly and immediately guiding him all along the way. But we are cause to wonder why the Spirit allowed him to teach what he now claims to be the false doctrine that Spirit baptism does not occur today?! We also pause to wonder why the Spirit did not correct him much earlier on the meaning of John 3:5 and the supposed transitional aspects of Acts 2, 8, 10, and 19 pertaining to Spirit baptism as Mac now proclaims?! We scratch our heads in astonishment as to why the Spirit did not tell him early on about Philip’s blunder, Simon’s and Luke’s misperceptions concerning the laying on of the apostles’ hands, and, now, of course, Paul’s terrible imprecision in the use of the phrase ‘in Christ’?! Either Mac wasn’t paying very good attention to the proddings, leadings, slappings, pokings, zap-pings, whammies, or whatever other means the Spirit has supposedly laid upon Mac’s mind in guiding him to his current confusions and contradictions. (At least Todd is trying to be consistent with the new informational insights he claims as being from the Spirit!) And how many more such special

revelations will come through Mac’s being guided by this wisdom?

I pray that he will repent, and give up his error. The memory of his good father is a precious one to me, and Mac has sullied that memory and his father’s good name. But I believe we are witnessing the beginning of yet another cult, just as with Crossroadism and Kingism. I pray that Mac and his followers will wake up as to where they are headed with this. If he lives ten more years, he will be teaching the full-blown second-work of grace heresy of John Wesley. Already he is teaching things comparable to where Wesley was early on in his speculations on Spirit baptism, which ultimately led to the Holiness, Pentecostal, and Charismatic Movements. But “there is none so blind as he who will not see!”

Yours in Christ,

Daniel Denham /s/

Brethren, here we stand! If Mac Deaver desires the debate with Daniel Denham, then he can do what is outlined in the letter to him and negotiate with me a date and location (I will even help find a location if he desires) in the Denton/Fort Worth area to hold the debate. He must do this by the end of June. At that time, nothing else will be done regarding any debate with Mac Deaver. This is his last chance—there will be no more. At that time all we will do is to continue to expose his false doctrine.

—4850 Saufley Field Road
Pensacola, FL 32526



THE “GIFT OF TONGUES”

Dub McClish

One of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit was the gift of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 19:6; 14:2; et al.). What were these tongues in which some of the early saints were empowered to speak?

The first reference to this gift is in Acts 2:4, which describes an effect of the apostles’ baptism in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The context clearly states that the tongues in which they miraculously spoke on that day were simply identifiable, recognizable, foreign languages.

The amazed multitude said concerning the tongues in which the apostles spoke: “**And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?**” (vv. 7–8), and “**...we hear them speaking in our tongues...**” (v. 11).

The second and third occurrences recorded in the New Testament merely state that certain ones spoke “**with tongues**” (10: 46; 19:6). Nothing in these two cases indicates that the tongues thus described were anything other

than various identifiable human languages, just as those on Pentecost were.

We next read of the gift of tongues in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. He lists “**kinds of tongues**” and “**interpretation of tongues**” among the nine spiritual gifts (12:10, 28, 30). Paul declared that these miraculous tongues would cease when God completed His revelation (13:8), which He long ago did (Jude 3). In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul discussed the abuse, purpose, and correct use of tongues, referring to them fifteen times.

Were the tongues described in 1 Corinthians 12–14 different from those described in Acts, which, as noted, were various human languages? If we allow the Bible to define its own terms, there is no reason to assume that the tongues in 1 Corinthians are anything else. Unfortunately, many assume they are. The *KJV* translators curiously (and inexplicably) supplied unknown before tongues six times in 1 Corinthians

14. Various later Bible versions have gone further, inexcusably substituting their subjective interpretations for translation of the word for “**tongues**” (e.g., ecstatic utterances, ecstatic speakings, language of ecstasy, et al.). Uninspired men have thus tampered with the inspired text. The modern concept of the gift of tongues came from men—not from the Holy Spirit. The gibberish nonsense of modern “tongues”—often resembling monosyllabic baby talk—is an insult to the

Holy Spirit. If the Biblical gift of tongues were still available, faithful evangelists would not have to learn foreign languages. Be not deceived: The New Testament knows nothing of “ecstatic utterances.”

—908 Imperial Drive
Denton, TX 76209



(Editorial—Continued from Page 3)

truth, the natural communicative element of language, and the authority of the New Testament to take the wide gate and broad way, we have no way of knowing. But at some point in past time and space they had a radical change of mind toward said matters. And, the turn they made became the foundation on which the rest of their apostasy is built.

“WHATEVER IT TAKES” appears in a frame every second or two on Heritage’s website (www.heritagechurchofchrist.org, last accessed 5/22/13). Clicking on that frame one is carried to the following message. This information was originally announced to the Heritage church on Sunday morning May 19, 2013.

...Among the suggestions we received for reaching more people was adding an option for worshipping with musical instruments. We realize that a cappella singing has been a long-standing tradition in our church, so we have spent a great deal of time studying the issue and praying for God to reveal his will as to what we should do. The shepherds are in unanimous agreement that scripture does not prohibit the use of instruments in our worship, but we also recognize that many of our members would still prefer a cappella singing.

Therefore, after much prayer and deliberation, we have decided together that the addition of an instrumental worship service would be beneficial to our quest to reach the lost. Beginning this fall, we plan to add a 3rd service on Sunday evenings that will include instrumental worship but otherwise will be fundamentally the same as the morning services. The two Sunday morning services will continue to be a cappella.

We realize this will be uncomfortable for some of our members, as it is for some of us. Further we are saddened that some of our leadership felt compelled to step down from their position during this process even though we all agreed it was not a biblical issue. However, we are convinced that God has called us to a mission that requires us to consider the needs and preferences of others above our own. Leaving the two morning services unchanged while adding an instrumental service allows people to focus on worshipping God in their own way, without binding. (www.heritagechurchofchrist.org/#/myhcc/special-announcement, last accessed on 5/22/2013).

Concerning Heritage Church, Dub McClish observed:

The Heritage building is only about 25 miles from my house. It was the former Midtown congregation that was near downtown Ft. Worth before it moved to the country, a few miles north of their old location, about 8 years ago. The preacher, Jim Hackney,

has been a liberal’s liberal for many years (see quotes from him in Goebel Music’s *Behold the Pattern*). Midtown/Heritage has been surging left for at least 25 years, apparently trying to at least keep up with its nearby neighbor, Richland Hills (now The Hills), so this development should be no surprise to anyone. It proudly hosted the likes of Max Lucado and Glen Owen 20 or more years ago. ...

Note the grounds for introducing the instrument: (1) “Our elders studied and prayed for God’s guidance,” and (2) the NT doesn’t forbid it.” The first one has become the mantra for any congregation that wants to innovate and ignore the Bible. The second one has been the mantra of denominations for decades, if not centuries, for their varied apostasies. Heritage “Church of Christ” is a denomination, pure and simple. It long ago adopted denominational hermeneutics, which has turned it into a denomination, while still parading itself deceptively as a “Church of Christ.”

Bar Church

Several weeks ago we were treated to the following announcement from the Southern Hills Church of Christ (?) in Abilene, TX.

Southern Hills is a church committed to the vision of being God’s Community Front Porch: Inviting, Including and Involving people in the life of Jesus. As we’ve grown into this vision, God has repeatedly led us to follow Jesus outside the walls of our church building to serve and share life with people—many of whom are not connected to God or a church family.

Recently, God led a group of Southern Hills members to make plans for something we’re calling Bar Church. The mission of Bar Church is to take the gospel of Jesus to people who are unwilling, as a result of feelings of unworthiness or prior negative experiences with a church, to participate in a traditional church gathering within a traditional church setting. We believe it’s something Jesus might do. ...(<http://www.sohillschurch.org/get-connected/events/bar-church/>, last accessed 5/22/13).

Please notice that Southern Hills, Abilene, TX, the Heritage Church, Ft. Worth, TX, and all other such churches are on the same page of the book of *Whatever It Takes* in determining spiritual and moral right and wrong. It will be interesting to see how far these new denominations will go in repudiating the pure doctrine of Christ and how many other churches will follow their lead in doing the same thing. We are convinced the sooner they do it the better it will be for the cause of Christ.

—David P. Brown, Editor



THE OLD PATHS PULPIT

Sermon Outline

Danny Douglas



WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER

Matthew 19:4-6.

Introduction.

1. Examples of some things God has *not* joined together.
 - a. The Truth of God & The Doctrines of Men;
 - b. Two Adulterers who have been married under civil law after an unscriptural divorce, etc.
2. Yet, God has joined together certain things, or certain things are joined together by their very nature in the eyes of God.
 - a. These are inseparable, regardless of man's efforts.
 - b. For example, one may civilly divorce his wife without a scriptural cause.
 - c. Yet in God's eyes, he is still married to the wife that he divorced without authority from God.
3. That which God has joined together, man is not to tamper with, or attempt to put asunder.
4. Those who tamper with, or oppose the work of God, will lose their souls eternally (Rev. 22:18-19).
5. God has revealed in His word that which He has joined together.
6. We must respect the authority of Jesus Christ and His word (Col. 3:17; Mat. 28:18-20).
7. We must respect and uphold the work of God, and oppose any who would oppose it (Tit. 1:9-13).

**“What therefore God hath joined together,
let not man put asunder”** (Mat. 19:6).

I. Husband and Wife in a Scriptural Marriage.

- A. God in the long ago ordained the marriage institution (Gen. 2:21-25).
- B. Jesus declared God's original plan for man and woman in marriage (Mat. 19:4-6).
 1. They would be one flesh.
 2. God would join together male and female.
 3. This holy union is not to be tampered with by anyone.
 - a. Not by in-laws.
 - b. Not by another man or another woman.
 - c. Not by the husband or wife themselves.
- C. There are those today who are seeking to desecrate the marriage institution.

1. By promoting homosexual “marriage.” God said, “man” and “woman” (male and female) are to be joined together in marriage (Gen. 2:22-23; cf. Gen. 1:26-27; Mat. 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-8).
2. God did not authorize marriage between any other living beings—Not two men or two women.
 - a. This is abomination (Rom. 1:26-27; Jude 7).
 - b. Not between a human and an animal. This is bestiality and is a perversion (Lev. 18:23; 20:15, 16).
 - c. Anything contrary to God's plan is sinful (1 John 3:4).
- D. Only certain people have authority from God to marry (Col. 3:17).
 1. Those who have never been married before (1 Cor. 7:28; Mat. 19:4-6).
 2. One whose husband or wife are deceased (Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:39).
 3. Those whose marital mates have been put away for the cause of fornication (Mat. 19:9).
 - a. Not the guilty party.
 - b. Not one who has been guilty of fornication himself—in the marriage relationship.
 - c. Jesus does not authorize these to remarry in Mat. 19:9, or in any other Scripture.
 - d. Although man “winks” at fornication and adultery, God does not! (Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19-21).

II. Christ and the Church.

- A. Some cry, “Give me Jesus but not the church;” or: “I can be a Christian without the church.”
- B. They want to “decapitate” the Head from the body, because Christ is the Head of the church and He is the Saviour of the body (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18).
- C. It is impossible to have salvation outside of Christ (Eph. 1:3, 7); and it is impossible to have Christ without the church!
 1. He loved the church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25).
 2. He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 3. He is the builder and the founder thereof (Mat. 16:18).

4. Jesus Christ and the church are inseparable. As the head is connected to the body, so Christ is connected to the church as its Head (Col. 1:18).

5. The fullness of Christ is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Thus, there are no spiritual blessings in Christ, which are outside of the church. (Illustration: If a bucket is filled with water to the brim, you cannot have your hand in the bucket without it being in the water. In like manner, you cannot be in Christ and not be in the church.)

6. All the saved are in Christ and all the saved are in His body—the church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; Eph. 5:23).

7. Those added to Christ are also added to the church at the same time (1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:5; Gal. 3:27).

D. God never joined Christ together with Roman Catholicism, or with any denomination. God never added a saved person to the Roman Catholic Church, any denomination, or any religious body other than the true church of Christ.

E. Those who are joined to these are lost and without Christ—joined to Satan, and not to Christ!

F. What Jesus Christ declared concerning those following man's teaching and spiritual blindness applies to all the religions of men today.

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch (Mat. 15:9, 13-14).

G. God established the kingdom of God the church, but He did not establish the religious bodies of men (Dan. 2:44; Mat. 16:18).

III. Obedience and Salvation.

A. Faith alone will not save. It is vain (James 2:17-20).

B. Men say, "I'm saved by faith alone," but faith alone will not save!

C. We cannot enter into heaven without doing the will of God (Mat. 7:21).

D. Christ did not authorize anyone to obtain eternal salvation who does not obey Him, but those who do obey Him will be eternally saved: **"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"** (Heb. 5:8-9).

E. Regardless of man's efforts to separate obedience from salvation, they cannot separate the two.

F. Many want to separate belief and baptism. Yet, Jesus joined them together: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall**

be damned" (Mark 16:15).

G. Without obeying the command to be baptized (Acts 10:47-48), one cannot:

1. Enter into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27), where all spiritual blessings reside (Eph. 1:3).

2. Enter into the church—the body of Christ—the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:5; Mark 16:16—Acts 2:47).

3. Be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

4. Be washed from sin and regenerated (Acts 22:16; Tit. 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:17).

5. Contact the blood of Christ and receive the remission of sins (Acts 2:38—Mat. 26:28; Acts 22:16—Rev. 1:5).

6. Be buried with Christ (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).

7. Be risen with Christ and rise to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4-5; Col. 2:12; Col. 3:1).

H. If we love Christ, we will obey all of His will (John 14:15, 21-24; Mat. 28:20).

IV. Christ and the Doctrine of Christ.

A. Some say, "Doctrine is not all that important." Yet, it is the teaching of the Lord! (Mat. 28:18-20).

B. This is false. The early church continued in the "apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42), that is, the doctrine of Christ which the apostles taught.

C. Some falsely teach: **"We preach the gospel to the world and doctrine to the church."**

1. Yet, when Sergius Paulus first heard the gospel he was **"astonished at the doctrine of the Lord"** (cf. Acts 13:6-12).

2. Moreover, Paul was **"ready to preach the gospel"** (Rom. 1:15), to the Lord's church at Rome (cf. Rom. 1:7).

D. The doctrine of Christ is from Him, as revealed by the Holy Spirit to inspired men (John 16:13-15; Eph. 3:3-5; Gal. 1:11-12).

E. Those who refuse the doctrine of Christ are actually refusing Christ Himself.

1. We cannot have Christ without His doctrine.

2. Moreover, we cannot have the Father and the Son, unless we abide in, continue in, and obey His doctrine: **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"** (2 John 9).

3. Liberals say that **"the doctrine of Christ"** is only the **"doctrine about Christ,"** and does not include all of the New Testament.

4. They teach that we can unite with those who differ with us on worship, the plan of salvation, the organization of the church, etc., as long as we agree on the doctrine about Christ.

5. In other words, the important thing is that we

hold to the Lordship and Deity of Jesus, and the fact that He died for man's sins and rose again.

6. While it is necessary to understand and believe Who the Lord is, and what He did for man while on earth (Mat. 16:15-17; 1 Cor. 15:3-4), we must embrace all of the New Testament.

7. He shed His precious blood to bring us all of the New Testament (Mat. 26:28; Heb. 13:20-21).

8. All of the New Testament is His word and not just a part of it. **“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament”** (Heb. 7:22).

9. It is the New Testament that we must abide in and follow if we are to have salvation and know the Lord (Heb. 8:6-13; 1 John 2:3).

F. Except we continue in the Lord's word, which is His doctrine, we cannot be His disciples and we cannot be free from sin (John 8:31-32).

G. The word which Peter, Paul, John and the other inspired writers wrote is just as much the word of Christ as the very words which He spoke during His earthly ministry, and which are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (2 Cor. 4:5; 1 Cor. 2:13; 14:37; Eph. 3:3-5; Rev. 22:18-19).

H. Those who reject any of the doctrine of Christ, He will reject in the last day: **“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”** (John 12:48).

V. Baptism and Salvation.

A. Jesus Christ joined baptism and salvation together in Mark 16:16, **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”**

1. The coordinating conjunction, **“and,”** joins together belief and baptism with equal force.
2. The Divine order is: Belief plus Baptism = Salvation.
3. It is as simple as: $2 + 2 = 4$.
4. Jesus, Who has authority in heaven and on earth (Mat. 28:18) declared that baptism and salvation are to be joined together!
5. Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ and inspired of the Holy Spirit, stated that: **“...whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”** (1 Pet. 3:21). Thus, to deny the essentiality of baptism is to deny apostolic teaching (1 Pet. 1:1), and the words of the Holy Spirit Himself (1 Pet. 1:12).

B. To say that one can be saved without, or before, baptism is to teach:

1. That one can be saved in his sins, because baptism is for **“the remission of sins”** (Acts 2:38).
2. That one can be saved outside of Christ, because scriptural baptism puts one **“into Christ”** (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

a. This is impossible because redemption is in Christ (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

b. This is impossible because forgiveness of sins is in Christ (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

c. This is impossible because all spiritual blessings are in Christ, and salvation is a spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).

3. That one can be saved without the blood of Christ, because man contacts the blood of Christ in the act of New Testament baptism (Acts 2:38—Mat. 26:28; Acts 22:16—Rev. 1:5).

4. That one can be saved without being a part of Christ, because baptism puts one into the body of Christ, of which Christ is the Head and Savior (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18).

5. That one can be saved, without being added to the body of the saved, which is the church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).

6. That one can be saved while still under the power of darkness, because baptism puts one into the kingdom of God, and only those delivered from the power of darkness are in the kingdom of God (John 3:5; Col. 1:13).

C. One cannot be saved before baptism, even if he intends to be baptized later, because:

1. One cannot be renewed and become a new creature, until he undergoes the **“washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost”** (Tit. 3:5), in baptism (Acts 22:16; 2 Cor. 5:17).
2. One cannot be baptized for the scriptural purpose of remission of sins if he assumes that he is being saved before the act of baptism (Acts 2:38).
3. One cannot undergo the operation of God in having the body of sins removed, until he is buried with Christ in baptism (Col. 2:11-12; Rom. 6:4).
4. One cannot rejoice in the Lord until he is baptized, and salvation is great cause for rejoicing (Acts 8:38-39; Acts 16:33-34; Phil. 3:3; 4:4).

D. The New Testament proves the essentiality for baptism, in that:

1. It is an urgent matter that cannot be postponed, not even for a few hours (Acts 16:29-34; 8:35-39; 22:16).
2. It is one of the Seven Ones of Ephesians 4:4-6 and every one of them is necessary for one to be a Christian (Eph. 4:4-6).
3. Baptism puts one into fellowship with the Godhead, without which one is darkness (1 John 1:5-7; Mat. 28:19, *ASV*; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 1:9).

VI. The Holy Spirit and the Bible.

A. The Scriptures show conclusively that the Bible, the word of God, is the work of the Holy Spirit!
“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of

the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:17).

B. Inspired men of old spake as they were: **“moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Pet. 1:21; cf. 1 Pet. 1:11; Acts 28:25).

C. Paul and all the apostles and inspired men spoke: **“... not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth...”** (1 Cor. 2:13; cf. Jer. 1:9).

D. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into **“all truth”** (John 16:7-13), beginning on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of our Lord (Acts 1:4-5, 7-8; 2:4, 16-18).

E. Acts 1–2:4.

F. Jesus promised the apostles, concerning the Holy Spirit, that He: **“shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”** (John 14:26).

G. All the inspired men of the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God (2 Sam. 23:2; Eze. 2:2; 11:5; Mat. 10:20; Mark 12:36; 12:11; Acts 1:16; 4:8; 4:25; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:3-5).

I. False doctrines on the Holy Spirit can be refuted by the Scriptures.

A. Mac Deaver’s false doctrines on the Holy Spirit would imply that the Spirit’s work in revealing the will of God to man is insufficient.

1. God does not guide men in any way, except through the inspired word of God [*This study is not concerned with God’s providential care, for who all knows what God does on behalf of his faithful children. It is concerned with how the Holy Spirit instructs men and thereby places certain obligations on him that man must discharge in order to be saved and remain faithful to God.*—Editor]

2. All has been completely revealed, and God has provided man with all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

3. The faith has been once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

4. The faith is to be:

- a. obeyed (Acts 6:7; Rom. 1:5);
- b. preached (Gal. 1:23);
- c. kept (2 Tim. 4:7);
- d. continued in (Acts 14:22; Col. 1:23);
- e. established in (Acts 16:5; Col. 2:7);
- f. to be sound in (Tit. 1:13); and
- g. earnestly contended for (Jude 3). We are to stand fast in **“the faith”** (1 Cor. 16:13); to love one another in (Tit. 3:15); **“with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”** (Phil. 1:27b) and resist the devil **“stedfast in the faith”** (1 Pet. 5:9).

6. The idea that man today needs some kind of in-

fluence or impact upon him, apart from the word of God, is to deny the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

7. The idea that man cannot understand the Scriptures without some kind of direct influence from God, is to deny the efficacy of the Spirit’s work in providing that which man can readily understand, follow and obey, without any extra help or direct impact (Eph. 5:17; Isa. 35:8; Acts 18:8).

8. The Scriptures themselves provide the illumination that we need (2 Cor. 4:3-5; Psa. 119:105; 2 Tim. 1:10).

9. The following Scriptures readily refute these false ideas by showing the connection between the Spirit and the word of God: 1 Pet. 1:22; Eph. 6:17; 1 Pet. 1:12—Rom. 1:16.

J. The word of God is able to build us up and lead us to the heavenly home, as Paul declared to the Ephesian elders: **“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified”** (Acts 20:32).

VII. Conclusion:

1. Man is forbidden to divide asunder that which God hath joined together: Husband and Wife in a Scriptural (“God joined”) marriage; Christ and the Church; Obedience and Salvation; Christ and the Doctrine of Christ; Baptism and Salvation; and the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

2. To become joined to Christ, obey the gospel plan of salvation one must:

- a. Hear the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:17);
- b. Believe the gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15; Acts 18:8; Rom. 1:16);
- c. Repent and turn to God (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; Acts 26:20);
- d. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:12); and be
- e. Baptized in His name for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

3. Baptism puts one into Christ and into His body—the church (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13).

4. Then one must live a faithful and godly life (Tit. 2:12; Rev. 2:10; John 14:15; 1 John 1:7; 1 Cor. 15:58).

5. As a member of the Lord’s church, if you realize that you have taken yourself away from God and out of fellowship with Him by an unfaithful life, by repentance, confession of sin, and prayer, you may be restored and joined to Him again (Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16).

—704 Azalia Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

WELCOME TO SCRIPTURECACHE.COM . . .

YOUR SITE FOR BIBLE EXPOSITION, EXEGESIS, AND COMMENTARY ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS AND PASSAGES

During the more than fifty years I have been preaching the Gospel of Christ, Lavonne (my wife for all of these years) and I have written a few thousand pages of manuscripts on the Bible and Bible-related subjects.

Various ones have urged us to make these materials more widely available, which we are doing through this Website. Andy, one of our sons, has also written several Manuscripts and articles that have been published. You will find these here also. These materials include commentary on passages and personalities of Scripture, essays relating to worship and doctrine, and articles on ethical and doctrinal issues.

Many of these are brief articles of 1 to 3 pages in length that have appeared (and are still appearing) in church bulletins throughout the land. Many of these shorter articles were also written for newspaper publication, and not a few of them are uploaded in their original publication format. Scores of these treatises are in the range of 4 to 12 pages, most of which were originally published in various religious periodicals. We wrote most of the long manuscripts (ranging in length from 13 to 59 pp.) on assignment from directors of various lecture programs, and they have been published in approximately two hundred books produced by said programs.

*In all that we have written we have had absolute faith in the statement of the apostle Paul: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16, KJV). We have never found any evidence to persuade us otherwise than that the Bible is the fully inspired Word of God, **including the very words** in which it was revealed to its original writers (1 Cor. 2:10, 13). We believe that the Bible sits in judgment of men, and we tremble at the eternal fate of mere human beings who dare to assume the role of its critics and judges.*

*These materials are non-sectarian and non-denominational—they simply seek to get to the heart of the meaning of the Scriptures. We gladly make them available to Bible students everywhere **at no charge**. If the things we have written help even one person to a better understanding of the Sacred Text and to a closer relationship with its Divine Author, we will feel amply rewarded.*

Dub McClish, Gospel preacher



Dub McClish



Lavonne McClish



Andy McClish



TRUE-TO-THE-BOOK BIBLICAL EXEGESIS AND COMMENTARY IN MANUSCRIPTS OF VARIOUS LENGTHS

*We believe the materials you will find on scripturecache.com will increase your Bible knowledge, enrich your spiritual perspective, and draw you nearer to God. From brief articles to much longer manuscripts, you will find Bible-related materials here for the taking. We encourage you to download, copy, and distribute these documents freely (including using them for study guides or supplemental materials in **Bible classes**). However, since they are copyrighted, we kindly request you to pass them on to others at no charge, even as you have received them. We hope you will visit us often, because we will be continually adding new documents in all of the categories below.*

Our Brief Articles...

*The brief articles available on this site were for the most part originally written over the years for church bulletins or newspaper articles. They are on a wide variety of Biblical topics, moral issues, and doctrinal subjects. They continue to be **reprinted** in numerous church bulletins throughout our nation.*

Our Longer Articles...

These articles, considerably longer than the brief essays described above, were, for the most part, written for and have been published in various religious periodicals over the years.

Our Long Manuscripts...

We wrote the extended manuscripts you will find here by assignment to serve as chapters in scores of religious books. These manuscripts were thoroughly researched and are fully documented.

We wish for you a profitable and enjoyable reading experience.

The Crafty Old Devil And Email Attachments

Charles Pogue

The old devil and Satan walks about as a roaring lion with his eyes peering first this way and then that way, seeking some unsuspecting soul to devour (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan is wily (Eph. 6:11), and will not hesitate at deception to entrap a person in sin (2 Cor. 11:14). Elders are to have a good report of them that are without, because of the danger we all face in falling into the snare and reproach of the devil (1 Tim. 3:7). Paul reduced to a few words what our resistance against the devil is to be, **“Neither give place to the devil”** (Eph. 4:27).

One of Satan’s most utilized darts to present temptation to man is deceit. The devil was a liar from the very beginning (John 8:44). When man began to advance in technology some two hundred years ago, the devil was not caught napping, he never is, you know. So when the inventions of man resulted in the big screen and the small one, he knew right away that using entertaining movies and television shows with a coarse theme thrown in here and there, and a bad word or two coming from the mouths of a Hollywood role player, might just be an effective way to deceive the children of God to a point where regardless of the muck and mire displayed for their entertainment pleasure, they would be saying, “It’s only fiction.” They could then be led away from the high standard of God’s righteousness to the muck and mire like the unwashed hog wallows in with passion and pleasure under the hot summer sun.

It did not take Satan long to find out there was some resistance to his plan by faithful Christians who were not asleep, so he said, “Just strictly fiction shows and movies are not appeal-

ing to all of them, so why don’t I throw in some true stories, maybe documentaries or heart-warming, generous, or helpful acts of people that will make them look like the salt of the earth, but I can slip in a bad word here and there in the dialogue, and those Christians will overlook it a little bit, because it depicts something real.” The result was that the wily old crafter entrapped a gaggle of more unsuspecting souls.

Satan, you know, is not satisfied with less than 100% participation in evil, so how his eyes must have lit up with the advent of the Internet, and he did not mind at all if it was Al Gore or someone else who invented it; what a tool it could be! Of course for those he already had under his thumb, the devil could use the rapidly increasing number of pornographic sites to keep his goats in the fold, but what could he do about those faithful Christians like Gospel preachers, elders, and others? With a flash of brilliance he noticed the thing called emailing, “I wonder if I could use that?” Sure enough he could. For instance, there were plenty of sob stories and political videos emanating from that miserable old American right, which had the purpose of defending the liberties of freedom loving Americans. You know the people, members of the church of Christ. But Satan also noticed that many of those videos, speeches, and other clips were full of bad language and some other offensive content here and there. So the devil figured he could appeal to the patriotism and the soft bleeding heart feelings of some of those folks, and they would produce their emails attaching those videos without even stopping to think that at first

Contending for the Faith Spring Church of Christ Lectureship Books

A SEARCHABLE CD OF THE LECTURESHIP BOOKS FROM 1994–2012 IS AVAILABLE FOR \$50.00

A CD FOR ONE BOOK COST \$5.00

2011	<i>Profiles in Apostasy #2</i>	\$20.00	2002	<i>*The Jehovah’s Witnesses</i>	.....
2010	<i>*Profiles in Apostasy #1</i>	.....	2001	<i>*Mormonism</i>	.....
2009	<i>*Religion & Morality</i>	.....	2000	<i>*Catholicism</i>	.....
2008	<i>Unity—From God or Man</i>	\$17.00	1999	<i>*Pentecostalism</i>	.....
2007	<i>Fellowship—From God or Man</i>	\$17.00	1998	<i>*Calvinism</i>	.....
2006	<i>Anti-ism—From God or Man</i>	\$17.00	1997	<i>Premillennialism</i>	\$14.00
2005	<i>Morals—From God or Man</i>	\$17.00	1996	<i>Isaiah (Vol. 2)</i>	\$12.00
2004	<i>Judaism—From God or Man</i>	\$17.00	1995	<i>Isaiah (Vol. 1)</i>	\$12.00
2003	<i>*Islam—From God or Man</i>	.....	1994	<i>The Ch. Enters the 21st Cent.</i>	\$12.00

*Out of Print

ORDER FROM: Contending for the Faith P.O. 2357 Spring, TX 77383–2357

Email: dpbcftf@gmail.com or (281) 350-5516 Texas Residents Add 7:25% Tax

TWISTABLE, TURNABLE MAN

Brock Hartwigsen

He's the Twistable Turnable Squeezable Palpable
Stretchable Foldable Man.
He can crawl in your pocket or fit in your locket
Or screw himself into a twenty-volt socket,
Or stretch himself up to the steeple or taller,
Or squeeze himself into a thimble or smaller,
Yes he can, course he can,
He's the Twistable Turnable Squeezable Palpable
Stretchable Shrinkable Man.
And he lives a passable life
With his Squeezable Lovable Kissable Hugable
Palpable Tugable Wife.
And they have two twistable kids
Who bend up the way that they did.
And they turn and they stretch
Just as much as they can
For this Bendable Foldable
Do-what-you re-toldable
Easily moldable
Buy-what-you're-soldable
Washable Mandible
Highly dependable
Buyable Saleable
Always available
Bounceable Shakable
Almost unbreakable
Twistable Turnable Man.

—Shel Silverstein

In Ephesians 4:14 God tells Christians:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

God also tells Christians to:

- **“Stand fast in the faith”** (1 Cor. 16:13).
- **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free”** (Gal. 5:1).
- **“Stand fast in one spirit”** (Phi. 1:27).
- **“Stand fast in the Lord”** (Phi. 4:1; 1 The. 3:8).
- **“Stand fast” in what we have been taught** (2 The. 2:15).

False teachers are “Twistable Turnable Squeezable Palpable Stretchable Foldable.” They do not **“stand fast.”** *Are you “Twistable Turnable Squeezable Palpable Stretchable Foldable,” or do you “stand fast”?*

—189 Brookside Dr.
Stanton, KY 40380

their recipients would be offended by them, but gradually they would get used to the profanity, curse words, and the taking God's name in vain that showed up in the cuts and maybe even start slipping some of that language into their own vocabulary from time to time. The devil isn't dumb! He knew how gullible fickle man is, and he already knew that many of them had a long-standing practice of rationalizing that a bad word here and there does not ruin a good story.

I have said all of this to say that I am disappointed, and saddened by some of the video attachments that have been forwarded to me from time to time. One I received (a true story about a father and a son), had a player in it that all in the space of about ten seconds, used the word “hell” as a curse word, and then proceeded to take God's name in vain in the very next breath. And I am supposed to watch and appreciate such things? I do not. Once the bad word comes out of the person's mouth I immediately close the attachment and delete the email. The day I received the aforementioned email attachment I made a decision that anyone who forwards such videos to me in an email in the future will have their names added to my block sender list. I would like to think I can watch, without any concern about the content, the things brethren send to me, but unfortunately I cannot always do that.

I realize that there is a lot of important information on the web from conservative news sites, that as Christians and citizens of our nation we need to know about. Some of the news attachments are long, and it is not always easy for a sender to catch every instance of something offensive. Those are not the kind of attachments under consideration here. Any patriotic American wants and needs that information. So please keep sending those my way.

I do not like computers, and I use mine no more than I have to. More than once I have considered getting rid of the Internet, and my computer. I have thought that if I could find a good word processor, I would do just that. But then, there is information that I need from the web, so I will keep it and the PC. But there are two things I can control. I can control what websites I visit, and I can control who can have messages delivered to my inbox. I automatically delete all spam that comes to my junk box, so that solves the problem wouldn't you say? But it does not solve the problem for those who continue to send such attachments to others on their contact lists. Theirs is a heart problem, and my block sender list does not fix that. But anyone in that number can fix it themselves through repentance and asking God for his forgiveness.

Brethren, when Paul wrote, **“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth”** (Eph. 4:29), had the Internet existed back then he may well have been inspired to add, “Nor your email messages, either.” What was that short admonition of Paul again? **“Neither give place to the devil.”** Be assured that when the apostle wrote that he meant not to give place even a little bit.

—P. O. Box 592
Grandby, MO 64844

The Complete *Firm Foundation* (1884-2010)

Published in PDF Format

The *Firm Foundation* Covers
125 Years For ONLY \$125.00.

Barry Jones
704 Red Oak Drive
Orange, TX 77632

Also available—*Millennial Harbinger*, *Christian Baptist*, *Lard's Quarterly*, & others in unrestricted pdf files.

PDF is portable document format, that can be used by any computer. You can search author, title, subjects and anything you want. Follow Guy N. Woods through his preaching ministry. Follow Gus Nichols and his Bible Studies. All the articles, issues, and the controversy are included.

125 years of brotherhood news is available now for \$1 per year.

I remember how I really loved to listen to my favorite professors—Terry Hightower, Jackie Stearsman, William Woodson, Dowell Flatt, Earl West, Jack Lewis, and many lectureship speakers—and how they talked about the old preachers, and the issues that sparked the Restoration Movement in America. I also remember how painful it was to dig out these jewels of history; how you had to go to a College library and find the bound volumes of each journal. Few indexes were available so if you wanted to be comprehensive in your search, you just had to go page by page. Even though it was time consuming, I enjoyed all those hours. I tracked controversial issues through the decades going page by page.

Now, we have a way to use the computer to scan all those pages and search what we want to see. You can sit at the feet of Alexander Campbell, Moses Lard, Barton W. Stone, and John W. McGarvey. Don't forget that the *Firm Foundation* covered 125 years—many generations of great preachers and Bible Scholars. All the issues are covered as they had to deal with the same troubles we have today. The schools, the churches, the mission points, and world missions are all chronicled here in the *Firm Foundation*. This is the paper missionaries reported their news and needs. The *FF* is really the “who is who” of the Restoration Movement. Biographical sketches of current and future preachers, teachers and editors are all here. It is possible that the history of your home congregation is here too!

As I started this project (*The Firm Foundation Preservation Project*), I had to learn the computer skills, acquire the right software, and scanners, and then I had to track down all the issues. I travelled thousands of miles, talked to the helpful and not so helpful, and managed to gather up thousands of loose issues. You would think that one complete copy would be enough, but no. Many times I would find a missing page or issue in a “complete” set and have to go looking again. I even had to use microfilm for 1886-1929 because those who had these issues were not willing to let me scan them. It was an amazing journey but worth it. You would think that brotherhood librarians would be the best source for information and assistance. Some were extremely helpful... others were indifferent... and still others were downright mean. Go figure that out.

Order online from **AMAZON.COM** (type in the search line “Firm Foundation Preservation Project”), or write me (**704 Red Oak Drive, Orange, TX 77632**), or phone **409-670-1675**.

The Firm Foundation Covers 125 Years For ONLY \$125.00.

Also, you can order the *Millennial Harbinger*, *Christian Baptist*, *Lard's Quarterly*, and others. ***All are unrestricted pdf files.*** The other titles are \$1.00 per year as well. Special thanks to John Prophet and the *Firm Foundation* for granting me permission to do this worthy project.

38th Annual Bellview Lectures • June 7-11, 2013 (Friday – Tuesday)

Innovations

Friday, June 7

7:00 pm	Bible Authority	Daniel Denham
7:45 pm	Silence of the Scriptures	Dub McClish

Saturday, June 8

9:00 am	Special Services (Easter, Christmas)	Michael Hatcher
10:00 am	Logic and the Bible	Terry Hightower
11:00 am	Direct Operation of the Spirit	Johnny Oxendine

Lunch Break

1:00 pm	Drama Teams/Puppet Ministry	Lee Moses
2:00 pm	Disaster Relief Organizations	David P. Brown
3:00 pm	Open Forum	

Dinner Break

7:00 pm	Female Leaders	Bruce Stulting
8:00 pm	Ecumenism	Danny Douglas

Sunday, June 9

9:00 am	Praise Teams	Ken Chumbley
10:00 am	Any-Day, Any-Thing Lord's Supper	David Watson

Lunch and Dinner Break

5:00 pm	House Church Concept	Lynn Parker
6:00 pm	Fellowship Innovations	Johnny Oxendine
7:00 pm	No Eternal Punishment	Dub McClish

Monday, June 10

9:00 am	Dedicating Babies	Danny Douglas
10:00 am	Logic and the Bible	Terry Hightower
11:00 am	Kitchens in the Building?	Jess Whitlock

Lunch Break

1:00 pm	Modern Translations	Daniel Denham
2:00 pm	Voting on Elders	David Watson
3:00 pm	Open Forum:	

Dinner Break

7:00 pm	Special Ministers	Tim Cozad
8:00 pm	The Social Gospel	Lee Moses

Tuesday, June 11

9:00 am	Missionary Societies	Ken Chumbley
10:00 am	Logic and the Bible	Terry Hightower
11:00 am	Children's Worship/Divided Assembly	Bruce Stulting

Lunch Break

1:00 pm	Handclapping	Jess Whitlock
2:00 pm	Gymnasiums ("Family Life Centers")	Tim Cozad

3:00 pm Open Forum:

Dinner Break

7:00 pm	Mechanical Instruments of Music	David P. Brown
8:00 pm	Theistic Evolution	Lynn Parker

Bellview Lectures Information

New Dates for the Lectureship

This year's lectureship will start Friday evening and go through Tuesday. Please make note of these new dates.

Housing

The Red Roof Inn (2591 Wilde Lake Blvd; Pensacola, FL 32526) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is \$59.99—single bed and \$69.99—double beds. Their phone number is 850.941.0908. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations. If you are planning on attending the lectureship you may want to make your motel reservations early.

Meals

The ladies of the Bellview Church of Christ will provide a free lunch on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. For all other meals, a list of restaurants will be available at the registration tables.

Books

The lectureship book, *Innovations*, will be available for purchase. The price has not yet been determined. The book will contain 26 chapters and will be a soft-cover book. Everyone will want to purchase a copy and perhaps additional copies for gifts. The books will not be mailed until after the lectures are over.

Books-on-CD

The Bellview lectureship books (1975-1976, 1978, 1988-2005, 2007-2013) will be available on CD in Adobe PDF. The price of the CD is \$37.50. The CD will also include the Defender (1970, 1972-2012), Beacon (1972, 1974-2012), and other material.

View Lectures Live on the Internet

If you cannot attend the lectureship in person, please view them live on the Internet:

www.bellviewcoc.com

2013 SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST *CFTF* LECTURESHIP

CHRIST—THE GREAT CONTROVERSIALIST

The lectureship was presented from Wednesday, February 20—Sunday, February 24 in the facilities of the Spring Church of Christ. The congregation is superintended by elders: Kenneth D. Cohn, Buddy Roth, and Jack Stephens. David P. Brown is the evangelist working full time with the church. He is also the director of the annual lectureship and editor of the book.

Secretary: Sonya West ♦ E-mail: sonyacwest@gmail.com ♦ Office Phone: (281) 353-2707

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ PO BOX 39 (Mailing address) ~ 1327 SPRING CYPRESS ROAD, SPRING, TX 77383

David P. Brown: *Christ—The Great Controversialist*

Gary Summers: *Christ Confronted Satan*

Michael Hatcher: *Christ Confronted Religious Traditions*

Ken Chumbley: *Christ Confronted Error About Truth*

Don Tarbet: *Christ Confronted Error About Repentance*

Gene Hill: *Christ Confronted Error About the End of Time*

Daniel Denham: *Christ Confronted Errors About Miracles*

Charles Pogue: *Christ Confronted Error About Unity and Fellowship*

Lester Kamp: *Christ Confronted Error About Himself*

Skip Francis: *Christ Confronted Error About Materialism and Money*

Geoff Litke: *Christ Confronted His Disciples' Errors*

Wayne Blake: *Christ Confronted Worry*

Daniel Denham: *Christ Confronted Error About the New Birth*

Charles Pogue: *Christ Confronted Pride*

Danny Douglas: *Christ Confronted Error About Worship*

Don Tarbet: *Christ Confronted Error About Forgiveness*

Terry Hightower: *Christ Confronted Error About Civil Government*

Ken Chumbley: *Christ Confronted Error About Love*

Rheba Stancliff: *Christ Confronted Error About Women*

Danny Douglas: *Christ Confronted Hypocrisy*

John West: *Christ Confronted Error about His Kingdom*

Bruce Stulting: *Christ Confronted Error About Salvation*

Lynn Parker: *Christ Confronted Error About the Nature of Man*

Lester Kamp: *Christ Confronted Error About Faith and Knowledge*

Gary Summers: *Christ Confronted Error About Heaven and Hell*

Terry Hightower: *Christ Confronted Error About the Father*

Michael Hatcher: *Christ Confronted Error About the Holy Spirit*

Dub McClish: *Christ Confronted Error About Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*

Videos of the lectures are archived at the following web address: www.churchesofchrist.com.

LECTURESHIP BOOK: The book is \$17.00 per book plus \$4.00 S&H. Book stores and dealers ordering five or more books get a 40% discount.

CD OF LECTURESHIPS: A CD of ALL the Spring Church of Christ lectureship books from 1994–2013 is available. This is in PDF format and is searchable. The price is \$50.00 per CD. If you have purchased a CD previously, you can upgrade for \$5.00 to the current CD (1994-2013). We ask that you return your old CD when you purchase the new one.

AUDIO AND VIDEO: Audio and video recordings of the entire lectureship are available in CD (MP3), DVD, and Blu-ray formats. The cost is: CD set—\$15.00 plus S&H; DVD (standard definition) set—\$30.00 plus S&H; Blu-ray (high definition) set—\$40.00 plus S&H. *Texas residents must add 7.25 percent tax.*

ORDERING: To order the lectureship book, the CD of the lectureship books, or audio/video recordings contact *Contending For The Faith*, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, TX 77383-2357, or (281)350-5516, or dpbcftf@gmail.com.

What The Bible Says About:
37th Annual Bellview Lectures
Held June 9-13, 2012

<i>Truth</i>	David P. Brown	<i>Baptism</i>	Dub McClish
<i>False Teachers</i>	John West	<i>Authority</i>	Ken Chumbley
<i>Morality</i>	Gene Hill	<i>Divorce and Remarriage</i>	Don Tarbet
<i>Worship</i>	Ken Chumbley	<i>Love</i>	David P. Brown
<i>Bible Translations</i>	John West	<i>Christian's Fruit</i>	Lynn Parker
<i>The Tongue</i>	Dennis "Skip" Francis	<i>Hate</i>	Tim Cozad
<i>Holy Spirit</i>	Charles Pogue	<i>Modesty</i>	John Rose
<i>Satan</i>	Gary Summers	<i>Salvation</i>	Dennis "Skip" Francis
<i>Inspiration of the Bible</i>	Michael Hatcher	<i>The Second Coming</i>	Dub McClish
<i>Home</i>	Tim Cozad	<i>God the Father</i>	Wayne Blake
<i>Works of the Flesh</i>	Roelf Ruffner	<i>Drinking Alcohol</i>	Don Tarbet
<i>Emotions</i>	Charles Pogue	<i>Covenants</i>	John Rose
<i>Conflict</i>	Gene Hill	<i>Christ</i>	Roelf Ruffner
<i>Christian Growth</i>	Wayne Blake	<i>Hell</i>	Gary Summers
<i>Heaven</i>	Lynn Parker		

Bellview Lectureship Book and CD Information

Books

You will want to purchase this lectureship book, *What The Bible Says About*. It consists of 29 chapters and is a soft-cover book. It costs **\$11.00** plus **\$3.00** S&H. We urge you to buy several copies of the book for gifts.

Books-on-CD

The Bellview lectureship books (1975-1976, 1978, 1988-2005, 2007-2011) are available on CD in Adobe PDF. The price of the CD **\$36.75**. The price includes postage. If you have a previous version of the CD please phone the Bellview Church office concerning getting it updated. The CD also includes the *Defender* (1970-2011), *Beacon* (1972, 1974-2011, and other material. **Order From:** Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526, Phone: (850) 455-7595.

**2011 CFTF SPRING
CHURCH OF CHRIST
LECTURESHIP BOOK**

PROFILES IN APOSTASY #2

\$20.00 PLUS \$3.00 S&H

SEND ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT TO:

Contending for the Faith

P.O. Box 2357

Spring, Texas 77383-2357

Texas residents add 7.25% tax

THE 2011 CFTF BOUND VOLUMES
CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE. THE
2012 VOLUMES ARE READY. CON-
TACT US BY U.S. MAIL, E-MAIL, OR
PHONE TO ORDER YOUR 2011
AND 2012 BOUND VOLUMES. WHY
NOT ORDER AN EXTRA COPY OF
EACH FOR A BROTHER OR SISTER
IN CHRIST?

—David P. Brown, Editor

Contending For The Faith
P. O. Box 2357
Spring, Texas 77383-2357

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT #307

Directory of Churches...

-Alabama-

Holly Pond—Church of Christ, 10221 Hwy 278, Holly Pond, AL 35083, Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., (256) 507-1776, (256) 507-1778.

-Colorado-

Denver—Piedmont Church of Christ, 1602 S. Parker Rd. Ste. 109, Denver, CO 80231, Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. www.piedmontcoc.net, Lester Kamp, evangelist. (720) 535-5807.

-England-

Cambridgeshire—Cambridge City Church of Christ, meeting at The Manor Community College, Arbury Rd., Cambridge, CB4 2JF. Sun., Bible Study--10:30 a.m., Worship-- 11:30 a.m.; Tue. Bible Study--7:30 p.m. www.CambridgeCityCoC.org.uk. Keith Sisman, Gospel Preacher. Contacts: Keith Sisman [By phone inside USA (281) 475-8247; Inside the U.K.: Cambridge (England): 01223-911243]; Alternative Cambridge contacts: Joan Moulton - 01223-210101; Postal/ mailing Address - PO BOX 1, Ramsey Huntingdon, PE26 2YZ United Kingdom

-Florida-

Ocoee—Ocoee Church of Christ, 2 East Magnolia Street, Ocoee, FL 34761. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Wed. 7:00 p.m. David Hartbarger, Evangelist, (407) 656-2516,

Pensacola—Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526, Sun. 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Michael Hatcher, evangelist, (850) 455-7595.

-North Carolina-

Rocky Mount—Scheffield Drive Church of Christ, 3309 Scheffield Dr., Rocky Mount, NC 27802 (252) 937-7997.

-South Carolina-

Belvedere (Greater Augusta, Georgia Area)—Church of Christ, 535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841, www.belvederechurchofchrist.org; e-mail belvecoc@gmail.com, (803) 442-6388, Sun.: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., Evangelist: Ken Chumbley (803) 279-8663.

-Oklahoma-

Porum—Church of Christ, 8 miles South of I-40 at Hwy 2, Warner exit. Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. Allen Lawson, evangelist, email: allenlawson@earth-comm.com.

-Texas-

Denton area—Northpoint Church of Christ, 4224 N. I-35 (Greenway Plaza, just north of Cracker Barrel). Mailing address: 4224 N. I-35, Denton, TX 76207. E-mail: northpointcoc@hotmail.com. Website: www.northpointcoc.com. Sunday: 9:30, 10:30, 1:00; Wednesday 7:00. Contact: Dub McClish: (940) 387-1429; dubmcclish@gmail.com.

Evant—Evant Church of Christ, 310 West Brooks Drive, Evant, TX 76525. Office: (254) 471-5705; Jess Whitlock, evangelist (254) 471-5717.

Houston area—Spring Church of Christ, 1327 Spring Cypress, P.O. Box 39, Spring, TX 77383, (281) 353-2707. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m., David P. Brown, evangelist. Home of the Spring *Contending for the Faith* Lectures, and the internet school, Truth Bible Institute. www.churchesofchrist.com.

Huntsville—1380 Fish Hatchery Rd. Huntsville, TX 77320. Sun. 9 a. m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (936) 438-8202.

New Braunfels—225 Saenger Halle Rd. Sun: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m. Lynn Parker, evangelist. (830) 625-9367. www.nbchurchofchrist.com.

Richwood—1600 Brazosport, Richwood, TX. Sun. 9:30; 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (979) 265-4256.