

Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

FRANK GUNNELS' TIRADE AGAINST LYNN PARKER AND OTHER FAITHFUL BRETHREN

Daniel Denham

Brother Frank Gunnels, fresh from his pitiable and disastrous visit to the annual 2010 Spring *CFTF* Lectureship on March 3rd (conducted by the Spring Church of Christ, Spring, Texas), has evidently decided that his blunderings there were not sufficient evidence of his obvious lack of understanding of the matters broached on that occasion. A more confused man I have rarely seen than our brother Gunnels. Trying to reason with him is like trying to paint with chunky peanut butter.

Frank had traveled to Spring especially to attack one of this year's lectureship speakers, Barry Lynn Parker, and convince one and all that Lynn had misrepresented the teaching of the late Cecil Hook. He never accused Lynn on this occasion, as I remember, of lying about the book, though he did accuse him of misquoting it in two places and misrepresenting the meaning of Hook's book in various places.

Frank also stated before the assembly at the open forum that he was not there to defend Hook's book, because he did not agree with everything it taught. However, he never did tell us with which things he agreed and with which things he did not agree. Instead, he spent much of his time defending the book, especially its grace only theme, despite his initial claim. His presentation in regard to both his attack on Lynn and his defense of the book was weak, convoluted, and often outright absurd. Lynn's lecture and Frank's open forum appearance can be found at the following link: <http://www.churchesofchrist.com/lectures2010.php>.

Interestingly, in his opening comments Frank effusively praised the Spring eldership, congregation, and preacher, David Brown, for the lecture program, and for the desire and effort to defend the truth against error. He even praised Michael

Hatcher and the Bellview congregation of Pensacola, Florida, for its fine lectureship. He praised the theme of *CFTF* being for those who love the truth and hate error, while he pointed to the banner expressing the dual thought. He proclaimed himself to be in agreement with that sentiment. Against this background, his words attacking Lynn Parker had the air of a verbal ambush by our self-proclaimed "loving" brother.

Having left his Bible at home, Frank attempted to speak from prepared notes. In doing so he attempted to limit the scope of his initial attack only to page 4 of Hook's book, rather than taking into consideration the whole of the material which more fully revealed Cecil's real intentions and meaning. Whether it was Gunnels' intention or not, by his actions he gave the appearance that at least part of his agenda was to monopolize the open forum for his own purposes. Furthermore, Gunnels was totally unprepared to handle any direct questioning or cross-examination on the occasion that dealt with any pertinent Biblical texts or even specific quotations and their implications drawn from the Hook book. This was clearly demonstrated later in the open forum by Ken Chumbley, Lee Moses, Don DeLong, and Daniel Coe in their responses to Frank's claims. Dub McClish pointed out the failure of Frank, as with Cecil Hook, to properly define "legalism" and other such terms, which terms were used by Cecil Hook throughout his book and which are often used as buzz words to attack those who believe that men must obey the commands of God in order to be right with God. It was on the whole a pathetic presentation on the part of Frank Gunnels. Although he took over 30 minutes of the approximately hour open forum later, he complained that he did not have

(Continued on Page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE...

FRANK GUNNELS TIRADE AGAINST LYNN PARKER
AND OTHER FAITHFUL BRETHREN – DANIEL DENHAM.....1

EDITORIAL

WHY ONLY ONE ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE? – DPB.....2
CHURCH DIRECTORY.....16

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Editorial...

WHY ONLY ONE ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE?

The answer to the question serving as the title to this editorial is a simple one. Although Daniel Denham's article is an answer to a specific apostate brother's duplicitous conduct, *it is much more than that*. It also reveals the pathetic rebellious and dishonest mindset of the average liberal member of the church. For this brother is not a preacher or an elder, but a member who has stayed long at and drank deeply from the devil's cauldron—a corroded pot boiling over with a warmed over and soured soup of liberal doctrine, seasoned with the rancid doctrines of denominational theology and the false philosophies of men from Satan's own larder. For almost half a century this devil's brew has been dished out to the church from Satan's soup kitchens—the higher educational institutions, certain publications, workshops, even preacher training schools, and the like.

If one desires to see the end product of what the liberal, post modernist, Dr. Frankenstein's desire for every member of the church to be, then the man exposed, refuted, rebuked and exhorted by brother Denham in his article is a par-excellent example of that church member. His is an irrational mind set, and a dishonest heart. He is one who is devoid of the right division of the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15), who has lost the fear of God, who is totally confused by his liberal education, but who seeks to turn every member he can into the same mental and spiritual dullard that darkens his own mind. He has no problem binding on others what he will not attempt to consistently apply to his own life. He hates the idea that the New Testament is God's divine blueprint or infallible pattern for man's salvation. Furthermore, he and his post modern family have lost their ability to see opposites and likenesses (common sense).

This poor brother is a prime example of what happens to those who give up Bible authority, (especially the New Testament) as the final rule of faith and practice all the while giving it all kinds of lip service (Col. 3:17; John 12:48; 14:15; 2 The. 2:10-12).

With his rejection of Bible authority he has repudiated the communicative element of language (direct statements, implication, and examples). But as is true of his liberal instructors and mentors, when he attempts to communicate his false views he is forced to employ the same. This is the case because therein is the communicative element of all languages. Talk about an effort in utter futility, this is it.

Thus, besides this editorial there is only brother Denham's article giving us a real life picture of what the liberals hope all church members will be and many, I tell you even weeping, have already made the transition. *He that hath ears to hear let him hear!*

—David P. Brown, Editor

(Continued From Page 1)

enough time to present his view.

Having failed at whatever he intended to do in the open forum, Frank decided to engage in an email smear campaign, not only against Lynn Parker, but other speakers in the 2010 Spring *CFTF* Lectureship as well as anyone else who opposes him concerning his review of the poisonous book *Free in Christ*, authored by Hook.

In this article, we shall respond to Frank's points one after the other and in keeping with his own method of contrast. *It should be carefully noted, as we enter into this examination, that truth by definition is that which accords with reality and that just asserting a thing to be true does not make it so. It is our intent to use the occasion of his outburst not only to answer his ludicrous charges but to do some teaching on matters broached by them.*

1. Frank begins his rambling accusations against Lynn by first attacking the eldership of the Spring congregation. He states: "At the conclusion of the open forum I requested a meeting with the Apostate Spring Eldership."

THE REAL TRUTH IS: He did not actually approach the Spring eldership, but only one elder from that eldership. (See point # 2) below.

It will also be noted that Frank in this statement has already adjudged the eldership at Spring to be apostate. Now this will be a key point to remember, as well as his other pontifications as to just who specifically he calls apostate throughout his diatribe in view of one of the specific charges he lays at the feet of Lynn Parker. We shall come back to these statements as proof of the brazen hypocrisy of liberalism on two key counts.

2. He continues: "At first they agreed..."

THE REAL TRUTH IS: As noted, Frank had discussed having a meeting with only one of the elders and had not approached the entire eldership as he his whining accusation implies. The one elder agreed, but the other elders had to be consulted before a meeting would be set. The eldership (perhaps Frank needs a lesson on the authority residing in the eldership as a unit) agreed to meet on the stipulation that Frank mentions. They did not agree to meet and then changed the rules after the fact as Frank intimates. Frank has misrepresented the matter, whether willfully or otherwise.

3. The stipulation was "they wanted (Frank) to first put in writing what (he) wanted to talk about with them prior to meeting with them." Well, after Frank's rambling monologue in the March open forum, which is recorded and online at Spring's web site, this proviso made perfect sense. If Frank could not come to the point in some 30 plus minutes at the open forum, there was little hope of him doing so in reasonable fashion in a meeting with them. The eldership, understandably, did not want to waste their time chasing Frank's rabbits. There is nothing in the Scriptures that obligates an eldership to listen to pure tripe and puerile babble just because a sorehead desires to vent his spleen over the reproof of some of his pet false doctrines.

4. Frank continues: "The following is a narrative of what I had **intended** to discuss at the lectureship as well as with the Spring Elders..." (emphasis his, HDD). He then states: "During the 3:30 P.M. Open Forum www.churchesofchrist.com/lectures2010.php I attempted to provide evidence that Apostate Barry Lynn Parker along with other apostate speakers sinned at this lectureship."

THE REAL TRUTH IS: It will be observed that clearly Frank does not even here set forth a "narrative" dealing with the matter. He simply makes a disconnected assertion, while launching into an attack upon the lectureship's director, David Brown (see # 4 below).

Eventually, Frank does return to the central point of his document, but this is simply more proof as to the disjointed, rambling, and confused nature of his own thinking and approach to the matter. Some 34 minutes and 14 seconds of the open forum were spent with Frank fumbling through his presentation ostensibly to correct Lynn's misrepresentation of the Hook book.

Even though Frank claimed he did not really accept everything in the book and thus was not there to defend it, he proceeded to do just that. Despite David Brown's best efforts to keep him on topic and to correct Frank's own muddled thoughts, Frank wandered off into liberal "Lala Land." No wonder the eldership at Spring wanted a clearly written statement submitted beforehand before discussing anything with him! Frank could not even do that here in this statement, and he has had several months to think about it.

At the open forum Frank did not lay out any cogent or coherent case against Lynn's review of the Hook book. He simply asserted that Lynn had misrepresented Hook's teaching, in particular the meaning of a Cecil Hook quotation from page 4 of the book. At the time, he did not accuse Lynn of lying.

The inconvenient truth for Frank is that it is Frank who misunderstood the implication of the quotation cited by Lynn. In fact, it is obviously the case that Frank does not grasp the force of implication itself. Liberals do not seem to have a grasp on this aspect of verbal interpersonal communication, whether oral or written.

Once again, it will be also observed that Frank has pronounced his own judgment that Barry Lynn Parker is an apostate. Frank also refers to "other apostate speakers." They too are thus adjudged by Frank to be apostates. Keep in mind that Frank is going to excoriate Lynn later for something that he considers so incredibly heinous relative to judging.

5. Frank then writes: "THE TRUTH IS: Apostate Lectureship Director P.H.D. (sic) David P. Brown INTENTIONALLY did not allow me to do so" (emphasis his, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: David P. Brown, who does happen to have an earned Ph.D., did not keep him from addressing what Frank claims he intended to address. Frank's rambling and muddled nonsense took Frank off topic and kept him there.

David tried mightily to keep him on point, and directed specific questions to this end, correcting errors in Frank's own teaching on the occasion. Frank was so ill-prepared for the forum, though he claims to have been otherwise, that he failed even to bring a copy of the Bible ostensibly to discuss a Biblical topic! Frank defended a number of silly ideas promoted in Hook's tome. For example, he affirmed the proposition that, because everyone commits some sin, then no one could withdraw fellowship over the doctrinal errors or even any specific sins committed by others. The irony of this situation was not missed by this writer, as here was Frank attacking Lynn Parker for ostensibly being in error and committing sin! It seems that this proposition taught by Hook and championed by Frank must only apply to the errors or sins of his liberal mentors and buddies.

Frank also affirmed that God's grace would cover all of the sins committed by children of God even without them having to repent. But again, if that were true, then why did Frank get so bent out of shape over the supposed sins with which he charges the "apostate" Spring eldership, the "apostate" Barry Lynn Parker, the "apostate" David P. Brown, and "other apostate speakers" on the lectureship? It seems that these supposed sins lie outside the grace of God, while those of Frank and his coterie are just coated in it. Frank's teaching in this regard implies the very error that Paul expressly denied in Romans 6:1-2, "let us sin that grace may abound."

6. Frank next proceeded to charge David P. Brown, with having a) "contradicted his (and others) recent and prior statements that a person could have a FAIR hearing at their (CFTF) lectureships," b) "willfully and intentionally LIED not allowing (Frank) to have a FAIR hearing," and c) "denied (Frank's) request (towards the end of the Forum) to have (3) minutes (uninterrupted) to complete my obligatory rebuke... **TIME 51:5**" (emphasis his, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank was given the lion's share of time at the open forum (over 34 minutes in a 50 minute program). David cannot be held responsible for Frank's bungling of his own presentation! Frank needs to grow up and realize the world does not revolve around him. David gave him ample time to address the matters he deemed important, but Frank proved astonishingly ineffective in being able to even stay on point, much less address the appropriate questions demanded by his own statements and assertions. When one deigns to participate in an open forum concerning Bible subjects, then he ought to have, at the very least, a copy of the Bible with him. Frank had none. Further, it is implicit in the nature of such forums that one be prepared to answer questions demanded by whatever statements he makes. This is what is fair and proper. What was seen from Frank was a sad display of complete and utter incompetence in both his handling of the Word of God and in dealing with the ostensible reason for coming in the first place. It had all of the appearance of one who came to be seen for its own sake with the assumption that he could just dominate the occasion as he saw fit. Frank, obviously, did not like having to play by the

rules. (The truth is liberals do not like rules for themselves. They are above them, but they do like making them for others, as we shall see relative to the behavior of one Frank Gunnels.)

Frank seems to think that "fair" meant that he should be able to say whatever he wanted to say without being questioned about it, challenged on it, and/or called to prove his contentions from the Bible. To Frank the open forum was his "play purty" to do with as he pleased. His behavior showed that he felt he should not have been expected to be held to the same rules as everyone else. This is typical of liberal conceit. Liberals view themselves as privileged characters. Frank appears to be no exception.

Also, his request made at the close of the open forum was patently absurd on three grounds. *First*, it would have extended the program the additional minutes requested. Lectureships have schedules. Let us suppose that everyone had made the same request at each of the open forums. Let us suppose that Freed-Hardeman University or MSOP (assuming the latter still had one) adopted Frank's new self-made rule for its open forum. The program could be virtually interminable. Thus, Frank's request clearly presumed that no one else would have a right or time to respond to or answer whatever silliness he yet desired to present. In fact, the desire that his time be "uninterrupted" supports that contention. If Frank could have had three more uninterrupted minutes, then why not all of the other men then present have the same consideration? Would Frank not have then presumed that he had the right to respond yet again to each one for three more uninterrupted minutes or even as long he wished? The process could go on ad infinitum.

Second, Frank had already wasted over 30 minutes "chasing his own rabbits." Three more minutes would not have helped such inanity as had been flowing from his lips already. His case could have been summarized in one statement. We may only conclude by Frank's actions that he saw the open forum as his personal, uncontested venue to vent without being held responsible for what he wanted to say.

Third, there was no assurance that Frank would have been satisfied with the three uninterrupted minutes once granted. From all evidence he would have still been seeking more time whether anyone answered his foolishness or not. As it was, he had to be repeatedly called back to topic as he sought to take over the forum. Frank's own behavior in the forum was all that was needed to show that no amount of extra time for him would do what he really wanted to do or would provide any more light on the subject(s) then at hand. I suggest that Frank spend his own money and have his own lectureship and assign himself all of the time he wants. Maybe Al Maxey would go hear him "bump his gums."

Frank considers his tirade at the forum to have been "obligatory." But obligatory for whom? Again, if he wants to carry on with such on his own dime and in his own space, then let him exercise his freedom to do so. Trying to hold the Spring open forum hostage for his own petty purposes is a bit

self-indulgent, to say the least.

7. Frank states:

In the book *Free in Christ* by Cecil Hook (deceased) the author writes in the *first* paragraph on *page four* “*The very message* which we proclaim in hopes of creating unity has been the cause of division by its nature.” *** Barry Lynn Parker SINNED lying publicly that Cecil Hook taught “... the *BIBLE* causes needless division.”.....*TIME 8:15* This is important because Barry Lynn Parker’s (sinful and slanderous) claim that the aforementioned statement of Cecil’s on page four would “...*make this the platform for the rest of his comments throughout the book.*” *TIME 7:50* (emphasis here, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Lynn Parker was right on target. Cecil Hook opposed Bible teaching, despite his claim to be a proponent of it. The problem here is Frank’s failure to grasp a simple concept that seems to bother all liberals – the idea of IMPLICATION. If the Bible teaches that one must obey the commandments of God in order to go to Heaven, and yet a specific person denies (and even ridicules) that teaching, then said person is opposing the Bible, regardless of his claims to the contrary. If he accuses the preaching of that teaching as causing unnecessary division, then BY IMPLICATION he is accusing the Bible of causing unnecessary division. Such is precisely the case of the book by Cecil Hook! Sound brethren have known this for over 20 years. Where has Frank Gunnels been hiding all of these years?

Hook’s poisonous tome is filled with diatribes against “commandment keeping,” “law keeping,” etc. One of his favorite buzz words was “legalism,” which he never really defines. He used it repeatedly to slander the Gospel preaching done by the Lord’s people over the past 200 or so years. He took a broad-brush approach to promote his own error by trying to stifle opposition. He ridiculed and parodied preaching that demanded obedience to the doctrine of Christ or that stressed the necessity of unity on the basis of that doctrine. Clearly, his basic message was the idea of “unity in diversity,” and by diversity he just as clearly had reference to doctrinal diversity – a system of heterodoxy, if you please. Hook sought to couch his subtle attack on obedience to God’s commands under the guise of promoting their underlying “principles” of the commands. Hook implied that the commands could be flaunted, as long as we observed in some fashion the “principles.”

But what are the principles to be learned and observed? We are, unfortunately, left to find that out from liberals like Cecil Hook, Frank Gunnels, Rubel Shelly, John Mark Hicks, and Al Maxey, I suppose. They set aside Bible authority in abeyance ultimately to their own authority in religion and morals. The subjectivism of the post modern liberal holds that the individual is the final arbiter of what is truth for himself – hence, their dictum, “what may be true for you may not be true for me.” But how do they know that this “truth” is true? Well, because they say it is, and anyone who does not agree is simply too stupid to worry about.

But, while we await there Olympian pronouncements, let us compare such texts as Matthew 7:21-27; John 14:15, 23; 15:14; 1 Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2; James 1:21-25; Hebrews 5:8-9; 10:9; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 9-11; and Revelation 22:14 with the following statements from Cecil Hook, Franks’ hero:

A special reasoning has developed which produces and defends this lamentable condition. It begins with a legal approach to the Scriptures and justification. According to this line of thinking, since salvation depends upon rightly keeping of law, each point of the law must be known and practiced in detail. There is no room for difference of understanding or practice. Unity and fellowship are based upon total doctrinal agreement, ruling out any thought of unity in diversity. (p. 4)

God’s purposes in His directives have been overshadowed by emphasis on lawful requirements. Binding incidental details often becomes more important than the love without which we cannot be bound together. Doctrine, instead of the Savior, has become our center. (p. 8)

This all leads us to a striking and exciting conclusion: It is the principle that should rule our conduct rather than the command. A “command” promoting no principle is not really a command. The immature in perception may still prefer the command approach, seeking legal specifications. But the more mature will be seeking to accomplish the good fostered by the directive rather than trying to gain a score of righteousness by keeping the technicality of the law. The difference in approach will determine whether we gain the approval or denunciation of our Savior. (pp. 13-14)

No examples are binding! (p. 14) (NOTE: What about the example of Christ, as per 1 Peter 2:21ff.?, HDD)

If we keep 99% of the law, but fail in the remaining one percent, what happens? We are back to zero! So it is all by grace! If one is to be saved, it must be totally by grace. One cannot be saved partly by law keeping and partly by grace...Grace is not a quality of law. (pp. 18-19)

One legal system did not replace another. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus. Grace and truth were not a system of law to replace the old one. God did not send another law, but He sent His Son in whom we may be justified...Ours is a personal relationship in Him instead of a legal relationship. (p. 19)

On we could go citing similar statements throughout his book, including his pathetic defense of the warped Ketcherside doctrine that the New Testament doctrine and the Gospel of Christ are two separate things (pp. 52-56).

Hook spends an entire chapter quibbling that while we are under the covenant of Christ that covenant does not involve any law. But he turns around and claims that “the law of Christ” is love alone (pp. 21-22). Does that mean then that love is not part of the new covenant? That would have to be the case, if there is no law in the new covenant. I am convinced he did not even understand the system he was trying to promote. *The liberalism popular among our brethren is a really hodgepodge mixture of raw and modified Calvin-*

ism, hard and soft Arminianism, muddled Wesleyanism, and just plain old Holy Rollerism wrapped up in a post modern shell glazed with an agnostic sauce heavily seasoned with the rankest elements of form criticism, higher criticism, historical criticism, and textual criticism, et al. In such a theological stew self-contradiction abounds. Hook appeared to be an accomplished master at such self-contradiction.

Hook admitted, for example, that there is a “rule of action” (p. 20) involved in the covenant, even though there is no law that is part of it. But “rule of action” is the basic dictionary definition of “law.”

Furthermore, he states that we are not saved by keeping commandments, while, at the same time contending that “Christ’s law is love” (pp. 21-22) and must be obeyed in order for us to go to Heaven! So, no commandment keeping is essential but it is essential that we keep the commandment to love one another (pp. 22-23)! No wonder Cecil Hook is Frank’s patron saint, because Cecil was as confused as Frank is on the subject of salvation.

Hook self-contradictorily stated on page 23:

We are justified by grace through faith in obeying the gospel. Efforts to be justified by law would nullify the grace of Christ. Our response to God’s grace is the love which God initiates in us.

But obedience implies a response to some obligation or commandment. It involves then by definition some degree of commandment keeping. Even if one restricts this to “love,” as Hook tries to do, he implies that there is at least one commandment to be kept that is essential to salvation and so effectively refutes his own claim that we are not saved by commandment keeping. He also implicitly admits that unanimity must exist on both knowledge and obedience to that commandment – that specific body of doctrine, however small – for unity and fellowship to exist.

But true Bible love is not simply an emotion. It requires action (1 John 3:17-18). How then does one know what action is or actions are in keeping with this commandment, and so, by extension, are contemplated within it? Is it not by way of some “rule of action,” or law, that illuminates just what action is or what actions are so contemplated? Does not Gospel obedience itself involve specific commands beyond simply feeling good about the Savior in order for one to truly obey? Is repentance, for example, not a command to be obeyed (Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)? Most certainly, even though Frank contended at Spring that the sins of a child of God are forgiven without it.

A critical fact is that no one, not even Lynn Parker, can necessarily help Frank’s inability (or else unwillingness) to use basic deductive reasoning on these matters. Lynn is excellent in logic. So is David Brown. Terry Hightower excels in it. But the three of them together may not be able to help Frank’s seeming inability (or is it unwillingness?) to grasp the force of deductive reasoning and especially implication.

Let Frank agree to debate the teaching of Cecil Hook’s

book in a public venue, and maybe he will be compelled to start reasoning as he ought rather than giving a knee-jerk reaction borne of abject ignorance. (Al Maxey might even be his moderator, since he so seemingly concerned about Frank’s case. He too could benefit from the experience of having really to think for a change rather than misrepresenting his reference sources as he does on MDR.) But there is more to this than meets the idea immediately, as we note in what follows.

It will also be observed that Frank has no problem adjudging that Lynn not only sinned, but also “lied publicly,” which implies that Frank knows that Lynn knew what he was saying was not so. But how does Frank know that is the case? He had to draw that conclusion by some form of implicature, even though he drew it wrongly. In other words, Frank had to draw the conclusion from what he believed the facts to indicate by way of an implication. Yet he failed to see in Lynn’s presentation that such was precisely the basis of Lynn’s statement in view of Hook’s own writings.

Frank also judges Lynn to be guilty of “sinful and slanderous” speech relative to his statements on Hook’s book. It seems Frank believes that he has the right not only to make a determination as to the moral nature of Lynn’s claim but also of Lynn’s motives. Such wonderful love flows from the mind and then through the keyboard of Frank Gunnels!

We also wonder why the same grace that he claimed would cleanse his sins, even if Frank failed to repent of them, would not cleanse the supposed sins of Lynn Parker? HMMM? Evidently, this kind of grace only works for sins committed by liberals.

What Frank is mad about is that Lynn Parker dared expose the fallacies and errors of a man whom Frank obviously would canonize if he were a pope. The modern pantheon of liberals surely includes one Cecil Hook, whose error, like “the way of Cain,” still leads people into perdition. *And, yes, Frank, Cecil Hook does know better now – just as Cain does!* If one can draw that conclusion relative to Cain, then he can draw that conclusion relative to one who has gone “in the way of Cain,” the way of rebellion (Jude 11).

At the 2010 Spring *CFTF* Lectureship open forum, Frank actually contended that the quotation was misquoted by Lynn. When Ken Chumbley challenged him on the matter, Frank was at a loss to show that the quotation was misquoted. To this date Frank has not repented of that misrepresentation of Lynn’s statement. What is “sauce for the goose” ought to, at the very least, “be salad dressing for the gander.”

As to the current charges from Frank, to be precise here, there is no dispute over the accuracy of the quotation in this document by Frank. *The dispute is over the implication of the quotation, which Frank clearly misses – whether willfully or otherwise.*

8. Frank writes further:

THE TRUTH IS: WHAT CECIL HOOK WAS REFERRING TO AS “THE VERY MESSAGE” IS CLEARLY EXPLAINED IN HIS THIRD PARAGRAPH. CECIL HOOK

WROTE: “There is **no room for** difference of understanding or practice. Unity and fellowship are based upon **total** doctrinal agreement, ruling **out any** thought of unity in diversity.”
.....PAGE 4 (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank does not give the complete picture as to what Hook meant by these expressions (see above). In fact, page 8, it will be recalled provides the following statement in the same chapter expanding on Hook’s explanation from page 4:

God’s purposes in His directives have been overshadowed by emphasis on lawful requirements. Binding incidental details often becomes more important than the love without which we cannot be bound together. Doctrine, instead of the Savior, has become our center. (p. 8)

As we have noted, Hook’s attack by implication is on the Bible itself. The very word “doctrine” simply means “teaching.” If it is taught, it is doctrine. If it is taught in the Bible, then it is Bible doctrine. As the text of the Bible (and specifically for our age the New Testament) is couched in words that teach, then the Bible (and thus the New Testament) is doctrine. To deny the essentiality of doctrine to salvation is to deny the essentiality of the Bible, pure and simple. What is so hard for Frank and his cronies to grasp about that? Do they believe that one must believe the doctrine of the vicarious death of Christ in order to be saved? If so, then they admit that there is at least one doctrine essential to salvation, and so goes down forever their house of cards! In reality, Cecil Hook tried to have it “both ways.”

Observe the following absurd comment from him in a section titled “Jesus is the Creed”:

Our belief is not in efficacious tenents (sic) of faith which we call the gospel – belief in the Sonship, atonement, resurrection, and ascension. These have no saving power though it be declared that the gospel is God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16). The power is in Christ who is the Good News of salvation. But deny any of these facts and you destroy the creed because you have taken away the basis of hope in Christ. He that believes not shall be damned. (p. 60).

This is pure nonsensical double-talk. Hook affirmed that belief in these doctrines is not essential to salvation, but if you disbelieve them then you “destroy the creed because you have taken away the basis of hope in Christ.” Thus, you cannot be saved. So they are essential and yet not essential at the same time and in the same way to one’s salvation. This is clearly a self-contradiction.

Jesus said, “**Except ye believe that I am**” (eigo eimi, Greek text), **ye shall die in your sins**” (John 8:24). Paul declares in Romans 10:9 that we must “**believe in (our) hearts that God hath raised Him from the dead**” in order to be saved. These and a myriad of other texts show the absolute folly of Hook’s previously noted opening statement. As with so many liberals, he was so determined to get away from the necessity of certain propositional truths that he resorted to perverting God’s Book to do it. Yet, he had to turn around and admit them back in under the rubric of his last two sentences.

Such self-contradiction is found throughout this book, and no amount of alibis by Frank Gunnels or anyone else can change or cover up that fact.

Furthermore, is it not the case that Paul taught that one can be saved by “**taking heed to himself and unto the doctrine**” (1 Tim. 4:16, emphasis mine, HDD)? What would Frank’s answer be to this question? What could it be, given his defense of Hook’s error precluding doctrine from salvation?

9. But Frank persists in pursuing his wild goose chase anyway, by adding:

THE TRUTH IS: THE VERY MESSAGE CECIL WAS REFERRING TO WAS NOT THE BIBLE. IT WAS NOT THE BIBLE THAT HAS BEEN THE CAUSE OF DIVISION. THE “CAUSE OF DIVISION WAS “...how foolish our claim for doctrinal unity is.” (PAGE 4, emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank is involved in wishful thinking. He has ignored the rest of the book, which clearly involves an implicit attack on Bible authority. Frank ignores the abundant evidence of Hook’s disdain for New Testament doctrine, which by definition is the very body of the New Testament itself. Let Frank put forth one item revealed in the New Testament that is not by definition revealed through teaching. Is love taught in the New Testament? Then it is part of New Testament teaching or doctrine. In fact, the Lord taught on love in the great Sermon on the Mount, which itself is described in Matthew 7:28-29 as doctrine. Let Frank wrestle with that simple thought a while. One would have thought that having a few months he would have developed a better case on the matter than his diatribe here shows.

10. But Frank, his case battered and bruised by inconvenient facts, presses on, by claiming once more: “Lynn Parker LIED again when he said Cecil teaches: ‘*If you are dedicated to obeying the Law of Christ Hook says (on page 14 of his book) you are immature, you are just immature.*’.....TIME 31:07.”

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Lynn Parker did not lie, which again is yet another judgment claim made by our loving brother, Frank Gunnels. Hook, after having spent about three pages on this thought of immaturity, states expressly:

The immature in perception may still prefer the command approach, seeking legal specifications. But the more mature will be seeking to accomplish the good fostered by the directive rather than trying to gain a score of righteousness by keeping the technicality of the law.

What does Frank not grasp here? Is he accusing Lynn of misquoting Hook? If so, then he needs to say so. The fact is that Lynn was not quoting any lengthy statement on the matter, but merely summarizing Hook’s position. Hook had spent three pages before stressing this distinction between those whom he considered immature and those whom he considered mature. The immature to him clearly were those who sought to be precise in their obedience to the law of Christ. He stated, for example, on page 12: “We see both levels of

responsibility and obedience in God's family. Our immaturity has been evident. We often search earth and heaven to find all the legal requirements and limitations."

More such quotations contrasting those whom he depicted as immature with those whom he considered mature can be adduced from the book. Certainly, Hook believed that any who sought to keep God's Word as it is written were immature. He constantly stressed the importance of principle over the means by which the principle was expressed and without which the principle could not even be known. In fact, he appeared to be at a loss as to how to identify the principle when it came to actually applying his new hermeneutic to the text. Frank seems to have the same shortcomings.

By the way, one does not have to "search earth and heaven to find all the legal requirements and limitations." All one has to do is "search the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17; 1 Peter 4:11).

11. Frank concludes this portion of the diatribe by stating:

THE TRUTH IS: BARRY LYNN PARKER PROVES HIS SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY WITH HIS SINFUL TWISTING OF CECIL HOOK'S ACTUAL TEACHINGS. I THINK THAT ANY NORMAL PREACHER CAN SEE THAT (IN CONTEXT) CECIL WAS CONTRASTING **SPIRIT** OF THE LAW VERSUS THE **LETTER** OF THE LAW. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank confirms Lynn's point. Yes, indeed, Hook was contrasting the *spirit* of the law – at least, his conception of that spirit – with the *letter* of the law. *But, how does one come to understand what the spirit of a law is except by proper exegesis and application of the letter of the law?* Once again, Frank in his own inept way has blundered into confirming the very point of Lynn's critique. Hook's book is an attack on the letter of the law, the Bible. Thank you, Frank, for this marvelous unsolicited and un-coerced testimony to Hook's rank liberalism! You have done the Cause of Christ a great service by your admission. This is Lynn's point precisely! The supposed spirit of the law, according to Hook, is above and more important than the law itself! Talk about a "sinful twisting" of one's teaching! Cecil Hook twisted and Frank Gunnels twists the Scriptures as it suits them. Of course, Hook does know better now, and unless Frank repents he too will know better as well, the hard way (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-10; 2 Peter 3:16). It is Frank who is not only immature, but he has regressed into sectarian error with his mentor.

12. Now appears the brazen hypocrisy of Frank Gunnels, as he fumes: "Lynn Parker SINNED when he made himself **JUDGE** over Cecil Hook's soul when he stated: "**Right now (at this very moment) Cecil Hook knows what he taught is false doctrine.**"... **TIME 14:34** (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank has just condemned himself! He has practiced throughout his personal attack on Lynn, David Brown, and the eldership at Spring (and since then on several other preachers and churches in numerous

emails – *Editor*) what he condemns Lynn of supposedly doing—"With what measure ye mete, it shall be meted unto you again." Frank set himself up, given his definition of terms, as the **JUDGE** over their souls, as well as all the others whom he excoriates. Hypocrisy, clear and simple!

The fact is Cecil Hook does know that what he taught was false doctrine, if the Bible's teaching about the punishment of the false teachers is true (and it is, cf. 2 Peter 2; Jude 4-19). It is turn or burn! That is the real truth that Cecil now understands, despite the false teaching of Edward Fudge and Al Maxey on the nature of this punishment.

Frank arrogates to himself a power that he forbids to his opponents—typical liberal thinking and conduct. Evidently, we are to conclude that Frank has elevated himself to the White Throne of Judgment, given his previous statements regarding these folks *in view of his statement here*. But somehow many others and I failed to get the heavenly memo that proclaimed Frank as Jesus Christ re-incarnate. There must have been such, for surely our loving brother would not have presumed to do what he now condemns!

13. Frank states: "**THE TRUTH IS: GOD ALONE IS THE JUDGE OVER MEN'S SOULS.**"

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Yes, God is the Judge over men's souls, and He will do right! *But He has given abundant evidence as to what happens to those who persist in sin, including those teaching false doctrine.* Lynn simply drew the conclusions, as we all should, demanded by the inspired Standard of Judgment, to which Cecil Hook in teaching and practice was in rebellion up until his death (John 12:58; Acts 17:30-31). We are able, yea commanded, to make "**righteous judgment**" in such matters in as much as our observations accord with the Scriptures (John 7:24; Ma. 7:15-16), wherein the righteousness of God is revealed (cf. Rom. 1:16-17). If we are to snatch people "**out of the fire,**" as per Jude 23, then it is self-evident that we then must be able to and, therefore,

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can (have the ability to) *observe* one's behavior and know whether or not he is in such danger. And, if we can do that, which the text presupposes, then we can also know that if that one has not repented when this life is over, then he has passed into the fires of hell.

The inspired apostle John implied that we could even know that one does not know God and is a liar in professing to, by virtue of his failure to keep the commandments of God (1 John 2:3-4). In fact, the one who "makes a practice of keeping His Word" (the force of the Greek verb tense) is the one in whom love for God is perfected (mature or complete), according to 1 John 2:5. Talk about maturity versus immaturity! Jesus had a distinctly different idea of the matter than Cecil Hook would have had folks to believe than that advocated by his hapless follower, Frank Gunnels, et. al.

14. Frank, undaunted by his own absurdities, continues: **"THE TRUTH IS: MANY APOSTATE MEN GAVE AN 'AMEN' AT LYNN PARKER'S CLAIM TO BE JUDGE OVER CECIL HOOK'S SOUL."** (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: They did not "amen" a lie. Neither were these men "apostate," as Frank asserts. He is claiming to know something for which he has no evidence at all, and is again demonstrating a most profound hypocrisy in passing judgment on these men. To him we say, "Physician, heal thyself!"

Also, Lynn never made a "claim" (Frank's word) to be the judge of Cecil Hook's soul. Thus, Frank lied here against Lynn, who merely stated what the Bible itself implied concerning brother Hook. This is due to what the Word of God teaches concerning the condition of one who dies a false teacher, as Cecil did. Frank ought to be bemoaning Cecil's awful state and realize that those warnings apply as much to him as anyone else, if he persists in his errors. Instead, he gets mad at those who simply state the truth of the matter and makes unfounded, hypocritical, and self-righteous accusations.

15. But Frank presses on, despite his apparent hypocrisy and in blind arrogance. He writes: "Lynn Parker SINNED again lying when he wrongfully condemned Cecil Hook saying: *'Then he is going to mishandle the scriptures and show a great disrespect for them as well.'***Time 33:55"**

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Lynn was absolutely correct. Hook's book demonstrates a most troubling misuse of the Scriptures and a monumental disrespect for their authority. Frank obviously has not read the book! Or, if he has done so, he did not read it carefully. The fact that he seems oblivious to his own blatant self-contradiction concerning the matter of judging may give us a clue as to his real problem here. Frank may not see the problems with Hook's tome simply because he does not want to see them. So he glosses over the self-contradictions, absurdities, inanities, and abuses of the Scriptures by his obvious hero. It is a serious matter, regardless of the motive, to lie against the Word of God! Hook's book does so almost on every page, Franks' attempted apology notwith-

standing.

16. Again, hear Frank judge Lynn Parker:

THE TRUTH IS: IT WAS BARRY LYNN PARKER WHO REPEATEDLY TOOK CECIL'S TEACHINGS OUT OF CONTEXT (IN AN ATTEMPT TO WRONGFULLY AND SINFULLY CONDEMN CECIL) FOR SOMETHING CECIL DID NOT TEACH. (emphasis his, HDD)

BUT THE REAL TRUTH IS: Lynn dealt with Cecil's teaching *in situ* (Latin for "in the place where it is found and not been moved"). Again, let Frank submit and sign propositions to defend Cecil Hook's book in public debate. He certainly believes that he could carry the day on the issues involved by virtue of his appearance at Spring and his written statements on the matter. Let him give account as a man ought to under these circumstances rather than running from direct questioning and having to face up to Hook's blunders under fire. Instead, all Frank does is act like a spoiled brat taunting an opponent from across the playground. The documentation in Lynn's manuscript alone refutes the foolishness of Frank's statement here.

17. Next Frank blubbers:

Lynn Parker SINNED again when he intentionally quoted Cecil (**out of context**) "A man need not have New Testament writings to know the will of God for Holy living. That is a quote."**PAGE 135.....TIME 33:05**

The New Testament Scriptures, which are a blessing to us, will not be necessary as they continue to call on their God in Christ. **PAGE 136 TIME 34:23** (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: *These are verbatim quotes from Cecil hook's book.* Frank simply cannot accept the fact that these quotes imply a profound disrespect for New Testament teaching. These quotes also form conclusions for universal application that Hook drew. Lynn is not responsible for Hook's blunder. Let Frank defend these quotations in public debate and show that Cecil was misrepresented by Lynn.

Go back to pages 34 and 37 and notice Hook's teaching of situation ethics. He stated on page 29, "Even the most rigid of God's laws were not always inflexible. There are examples showing that in certain circumstances there was elasticity in the most absolute laws." He also wrote: "These 'violations' became good because of the higher motives which prompted them" (p. 32). And again, he said, "Sometimes it is easier to keep legal specifics than to make responsible decisions" (p. 32). He went on to state, "No one can prove when life begins

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by the Bible” (p. 34). Would Frank like to test that in public debate? Is Frank ready to defend abortion on demand simply because Hook claimed that the Bible did not identify when life begins?

In the lectureship’s open forum, Frank claimed that Lynn had misquoted the second statement by adding another “phrase.” While it is true that Lynn stated that the New Testament Scriptures “are a blessing to us” in the clause “which are a blessing to us.” It is really misreported by Frank as part of the quote itself. It is parenthetical, and given as an aside comment on the importance of the NT Scriptures in contrast with Hook’s obvious disrespect toward them. It was spoken and not written. Lynn did not set it aside as clearly as one does when he gives it in written form. In speech it is more difficult to do, because punctuation is not expressed. In some cases, it is completely unable to be expressed in normal speech.

The crucial fact concerning this clause, however, is that it does not change the essential meaning of the statement by Hook one iota. The central thought is not changed. It also does not by itself place the quotation in a bad light, unless Frank does not believe that we are blessed by the NT Scriptures. The criticism by Frank is just another example of carping.

18. Frank then claims:

Lynn Parker continues his SINFUL actions while condemning Cecil Hook when he says ‘Those are astounding statements aren’t they? *That someone (who claims to be loyal to the word of God, one who says then that he is a Christian) would ever say something like that’* TIME 34:35

THE REAL TRUTH IS: The statements by Cecil Hook cited by Lynn are indeed “astounding.” They are deeply troubling to folks who do care about Bible authority. That Frank does not find them troubling really says more about Frank Gunnels than Lynn Parker. It is a genuine concern that especially someone like Cecil Hook, who supposedly was a Gospel preacher, would make these kinds of statements. As I documented earlier, he taught situation ethics. He asserted a position that implies that abortion on demand may be all right and even sanctioned by the Bible. He affirmed a doctrine that holds that we can just go by what we lovingly think is best rather than by what the Bible specifically states on a given matter. This is definitely astonishing stuff, and that Frank, as well as his supporter Al Maxey, sees no problem with it only adds to our astonishment.

19. But that is not the only thing astonishing about Cecil Hook’s teaching. It is also the spin that liberal Frank is willing to put on it in order to try to sanitize Hook’s obvious error that is equally “astounding,” to borrow Lynn’s term. Frank Gunnels has the audacity to further alibi for Hook, by writing:

THE TRUTH IS: CECIL IS TEACHING (in the context) WAS {sic} ABOUT THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH..... PAGES 133-136

CECIL’S COMMENT CONCERNING (the Ethiopian, NOT US) {sic} NOT NEEDING THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS WAS APPLICABLE TO THE: “poor treasurer doesn’t

have a copy of the New Testament Scriptures, either, because NONE were in existence.” PAGE 134

What will God require of that noble Saint in his remote land? He will want him to continue to believe in Jesus and to grow in that Faith. His Old Testament Scriptures WILL SERVE that need, even as they served other Disciples then and now. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: What does that have to do with the price of eggs in China? The statements are still astounding and troubling to anyone who truly holds dear the authority of God’s Word! Yes, the specific subject matter concerned the Ethiopian Eunuch, but what does that have to do with the issue at hand? Hook could have just as easily been using and perverting the Bible’s teaching on the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, or even made use of one of Aesop’s fables to draw the absurd conclusions that he does. The crucial fact is that Cecil Hook taught false doctrine and propounded it by perverting the Biblical Record to do it.

Cecil Hook is the one who extrapolated from his recounting of the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch the conclusion represented in his statements that one does not need the New Testament in order “to know the will of God for holy living.” In doing so, Hook seems to have missed (or else ignored) the implication of his own recognition on page 135 that the Eunuch, who had gone up to Jerusalem “**for to worship,**” was already practicing many things that were right *by virtue of Old Testament teaching*. The ethical principles of the Old Testament are also part of the New Testament, and it is under that law that the Eunuch now operated rather than the former. But also the Eunuch did have access to New Testament teaching on holy living *in the person of the inspired preacher Philip*. He had the New Testament, at least as much as had been thus far revealed to him and other inspired men, not in the form of the inspired Book, but in the form of the inspired

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preacher (1 Cor. 2:9-16). According to early Christian history, Matthew went down to Ethiopia as well and preached the Gospel. He easily could have known this man personally. In fact, that is where Matthew was martyred according to early tradition. We do know that by A.D. 63 the Gospel had gone **“into all the world,”** which would certainly include Ethiopia (Col. 1:6, 23).

Does Frank claim to know everything that Philip actually taught the Eunuch on this occasion? Does he even know how long Philip spent teaching the Eunuch? Can he tell us precisely the length of time embodied in the statement, **“And as they went on their way...”**? We do know that what Philip taught was more than what is expressly stated by virtue of the Eunuch’s question: **“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”** (Acts 8:36). Cecil Hook took an awful amount of things for granted in formulating his foolishness, but then liberals often do!

It was Cecil Hook, not Lynn Parker, who made the application to what he (Hook) thought was the meaning of the text to everyone today by the troubling statements that Lynn cited. Frank’s anguish over Lynn pointing out the absurdity of the false conclusion reached by Cecil is not Lynn’s problem. It is Frank’s. He needs to reread what Hook did with his study on the Eunuch. Cecil has pulled the wool over Frank’s eyes or else Frank again fails to understand the implication of his teaching.

The sentence *immediately preceding* the first statement cited in this section by Lynn shows the real force and scope of it. The first statement, it will be noted, held “A man need not have New Testament writings to know the will of God for holy living” (p. 135). Notice, “a man” – not just the Ethiopian Eunuch as Frank would have us to believe! Cecil Hook was making a universal application here. But the sentence directly before it states: “God still wants the same response from man.” Does Frank know the meaning of “still”? Does Frank not understand the use of the word “man” in this sentence? Does he not perceive any connection at all between the two sentences, which stand in such close relationship in the very same paragraph, as to meaning and the use of the noun “man”? Cecil Hook was not just talking about the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was drawing a conclusion that he was applying to everyone.

The second statement cited by Lynn leads to the same conclusion and application. The opening sentence of the paragraph in which it stands shows that to be the case. Hook wrote: “Hopefully, the treasurer will influence his family and friends so that they will accept Christ” (p. 135). Hook is not just including the Ethiopian Eunuch in this, but now his “family and friends.” He went on to state in the next sentence: “Then in **their** (*Whose?*— DD) discipleship, together **they** (*Who?*—HDD) will engage in such activities as will strengthen **their** (*Again, whose?*—HDD) faith and encourage **them** (*Whom?*—HDD) in fulfilling God’s timeless law in **their** (*Whose?*—HDD) lives” (pp. 135-136, emphasis mine, HDD). Clearly, he refers to the Eunuch’s “family and friends.” Ul-

timately, it would have to include also those who would in turn be so influenced by them as the Eunuch had influenced his “family and friends.” It is then that Hook stated: “New Testament Scriptures will not be necessary as they continue to call on their God in Christ.” Cecil wanted to convince folks that we today are not to “look upon” any “pattern of conformity as sacred” (p. 136). This is the real purpose of his statements that Lynn cited. Cecil Hook’s concept of being “free in Christ” really implied freedom from God’s Word, pure and simple (2 Peter 2:18-19)! Frank will, most certainly, not like that assessment, but that is just as certainly the implication of Hook’s “argument” here. The second statement summarizes the universal application that Hook obviously intended. Cecil Hook, in the next to the last paragraph of his book (that comes immediately after the paragraph bearing the quotation currently in question), stated:

All of this seems too simple to be true, yet I am not going to accuse the Spirit of poor judgment just because I have been confused. Effort was not lost in converting the Secretary of the Treasury of Ethiopia. And if the Spirit’s way will suffice for the Ethiopian nobleman, *surely it will suffice for you and me.* (p. 136, italics mine, HDD)

Undeniably, the conclusion drawn in the preceding paragraph about the New Testament being unnecessary for them “to call on their God in Christ” was intended by Hook to apply universally, including both to him and to his readers. So, Frank’s ruse in seeking to limit its scope to the Eunuch is false to its very core.

Astonishingly, Cecil Hook did not catch (or else ignored) another glaring self-contradiction in the paragraph bearing the second citation in dispute. It will be observed that he stated that these folks, the “family and friends” of the Eunuch, would be strengthened and encouraged *“in fulfilling God’s timeless law in their lives”* (italics mine, HDD). So, they would be law-keepers — and obviously with Cecil Hook’s approval! So, law keeping is not that awful, terrible thing that Hook has been railing against throughout his book. These people would be law-keepers, people holding to a “pattern of conformity.” But they were supposed to be examples of just the opposite, given Hook’s own position that we are no longer under law because we are under grace alone (pp. 18ff.).

Also, it will be observed that the statement dismissing the need for the New Testament text hints at some form of the available light heresy of Leroy Garrett and Al Maxey. The Devil has long known that to get men—and not just the Ethiopian Eunuch, Frank—away from God he must first get

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them away from God's Word. That form of attack started with, "Yea hath God said...?" (Gen. 3:1ff.), back in the Garden of Eden and now focuses on attacking either the text of the New Testament itself or the obligation of men to that text. Unfortunately, Frank Gunnels has apparently become an unconscious supporter of this nefarious effort of the evil one by way of his loyalty to a false teacher who paraded himself as a messenger of light, the late Cecil Hook.

20. The carping nature of Frank's case against Lynn Parker is seen in the following statement from Frank. He writes: "Lynn Parker SINNED again when he *derogatorily* (sic) referred to *fellow Christian* Cecil saying: '...**Gospel preacher and I use that term loosely here.**'**TIME 35:15.**" (emphasis his, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Get real! Frank has been derogatory toward Lynn and others throughout this document. Liberals have a tendency to think that using any form of condemnatory speech concerning someone is forbidden, except, of course, when they do it.

Now, think a bit, Frank! Did Jesus sin for calling Herod a "fox" (Luke 13:32), which was definitely not a complement to Semitic peoples despite one of its connotative uses today? Is being derogatory always a sin? Did Elijah sin when he mocked the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18? Will Frank lay a charge against him in the matter? Did Paul sin when he spoke of his fellows Jewish Christians among the Judaizers as those of "the concision" or "cutting off," a not so polite allusion to a botched circumcision (Phil. 3:2)?

Further, does not Frank here commit the same sin against Lynn that he accuses Lynn of having committed, if such were the case, since he does what Lynn did? Is this not a classic case of "the pot and the kettle"? Again, liberals bind burdens on others that they are not willing to bear. They do not believe that their self-made rules apply to them but only to those whom they view as enemies.

21. Yet, again, Frank complains: "Lynn Parker SINNED again when he condemned Cecil Hook saying: '*Now here is a man that says you do not need the scriptures and he devalues the scriptures*' **TIME 36:55.**" (emphasis his, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: One does not sin by simply speaking the truth. We have established that Cecil Hook definitely did teach by implication that one does not need the New Testament Scriptures in order to call upon God in Christ, know the will of God concerning holy living, and such like. Throughout his book, Hook disparages obedience to the Scriptures as legalism, commandment-keeping, etc. Frank simply does not get it, and does not want to get it! He would rather carp and complain against imaginary slights to his hero, as in his next supposed "truth" premised on the preceding charge:

THE TRUTH IS: THE MORE LYNN PARKER PUBLICLY REVIEWED CECIL HOOK'S BOOK THE MORE LYNN CONDEMNS HIMSELF SPOUTING FORTH **LIE AFTER**

LIE AFTER LIE AS THE TRUTH. (emphasis his, HDD)

I believe we have shown who is the one lying, if anyone is, and it is not Lynn Parker. Frank's outburst here is childish and puerile, but this is what he considers as proof of Lynn's moral corruption and depravity. At times one feels as if he is in the Twilight Zone or an episode of the Outer Limits in trying to reason with Frank.

22. But such silliness persists as the real substance of Frank's case. He gives us yet another of his bizarre "truths" in **the following:**

THE TRUTH IS: BARRY LYNN PARKER (**A HIGHLY EDUCATED MAN WHO ADMITS HE**) (sic) HAS READ THIS BOOK NUMEROUS TIMES. (sic) HE HAS NO EXCUSE (**BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BIBLE**) FOR SAYING THE THINGS HE HAS SAID. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank is resorting to pure silliness in his case against Lynn Parker, who was right on target in his critique of Hook's poisonous book. Frank needs to get a life and move on. It also almost seems that Frank especially has some sort of axe to grind concerning people with an education. It makes one wonder if he got beat up by someone who had a Ph.D. or Masters or something and is holding a grudge.

23. Yet, he has to give us another puerile "truth," by claiming:

THE TRUTH IS: I ASKED THREE PEOPLE TO READ (**ONLY**) PAGE FOUR OF HIS BOOK. ALL THREE PEOPLE {sic} **READILY** UNDERSTOOD THAT CECIL WAS NOT REFERRING TO THE BIBLE AS CAUSING DIVISION.

ALL THREE PEOPLE {sic} **READILY** UNDERSTOOD THAT CECIL WAS REFERRING TO A CLAIM OF DOCTRINAL UNITY AS THE CAUSE OF DIVISION. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: As we have noted, Frank has trouble with the matter of *implication*. It will be observed that he had the three persons (who they were he does not say) "read **only** page four" (emphasis mine, HDD). This would not have necessarily provided sufficient context for some one who had not read the book to know precisely what the scope of Hook's remarks really concerned on page 4.

Perhaps Frank can enlighten as to the identity of these three anonymous persons upon whom he stakes this point of his case against Lynn. *First*, a witness' testimony is only as valuable as his character. *Second*, a witness' testimony can be influenced by bias or other factors. So it would help to know if Frank is appealing to individuals who already had a vested interest that presupposes support for Cecil Hook's book and its theories. *Third*, the limitation of information that Frank admits he imposed on the scope of the inquiry, which was made by these supposed witnesses, prejudices the case at the outset. I can pick out a number of books in my li-

brary written by modernists who claim to have a high view of the Bible's inspiration in an early chapter while the remainder of the book goes on to trash the Bible as historically inaccurate, filled with myths and factual mistakes. A reader who reads but one page may draw a completely different conclusion than what the book actually demands when taken as a whole. Oftentimes reading a few pages over, as in the case of reading page 8 (as we have seen) in the Hook book, sheds a bit more light on the direction or course of a book.

I urge the reader at this juncture to go back and examine carefully the preceding material dealing with Hook's explicit statements relative to the New Testament Scriptures not being needed. As the quotations on this point are found at the close of the book, they tend to give a better idea of the fuller intent and scope of Hook's earlier statement from page 4.

Perhaps, the three persons to whom Frank refers need to come forward and especially do so, and then tell us *what they think rather than just having Frank's word on it*. A claim is just that—a claim. One could just as easily claim that 40 people have looked at the chapter and drawn the same conclusion as Lynn Parker. I for one have read the book, and Lynn's assessment is right on target. I stand ready to defend that assessment on the public platform, as are others. Is Frank willing to do the same or are his supposed witnesses willing to do the same?

24. Frank fumes:

WHY COULDN'T THE OTHER (SELF PROCLAIMED (SIC) FAITHFUL) PREACHERS AT THE LECTURESHIP (WHO HAD THE BOOK) HAVE THE SAME UNDERSTANDING? THIS (sic) TRULY ASTOUNDING! (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: The other preachers who had the book were in agreement with Lynn precisely because they had the book and, more than that, had read the book! They were not limited by Frank to reading just page 4 of the book. They did not have their consideration of the evidence tampered with by Lynn's wannabe prosecutor. That is why.

Obviously, Frank here derogatorily disparages these "other preachers." Thus, again we see the hypocrisy of liberalism in general and Frank Gunnels in particular on display. Go back and compare his complaint relative to Lynn Parker on point # 20 above. What is truly astounding is that Frank would seek to convince us that the legs of the lame are, contrary to reality, equal.

25. But he is not done with his derogatorily disparaging and judging these other Gospel preachers. He writes:

THE OTHER APOSTATE PREACHERS (Don DeLong, Lee Moses and Ken Chumbley) ACTUALLY PUBLICLY DEFENDED (THE LIAR AND APOSTATE) BARRY LYNN PARKER INSTEAD OF (ASSISTING ME) (sic) IN BRINGING HIM UNTO GODLY REPENTANCE. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: These brethren are real slime for not assisting Frank in his warped crusade against Lynn Parker! Give me a break! These brethren defended Lynn be-

cause Lynn was right. Lynn also was not present to defend himself. They demonstrated both fidelity to the truth and loyalty to a brother who is willing to stand up for it. If that bothers Frank, then he can just be bothered. The world will not end just because Frank did not get their help in doing his evil. As an aside, Don DeLong must have especially riled Frank in order to have his name given in bold print. Way to go, Don!

It will be remembered as well that Frank Gunnels maintained in the open forum that a Christian's sins are forgiven by God's grace even if he does not repent. If that is so, then why call anyone "unto godly repentance"? Why could not Lynn just be forgiven, assuming he had sinned, without repenting, according to Frank's dogma, and let us move on? Why would Frank get upset, really at any time, over brethren not helping him in this matter if Lynn was going to be forgiven anyway? I suspect Frank thinks that only the sins of liberals are so forgiven because of their supposedly superior motives. They are just not a bunch of scum-sucking low-life like conservative preachers and brethren. The liberals see themselves as "the good" people simply because they want people to just be free and do what they want to do. But this surprisingly sounds more like the Pharisee in the Temple in Luke 18! Could it be that liberals have more in common with the ancient Pharisees than they are willing to admit? Hmmm?

26. Meanwhile, Frank, who condemned Lynn for supposedly claiming to be the judge of Cecil Hook, continues to pronounce his anathemas and judgments against those who would not go along with his foolishness. Hypocrisy reigns supreme in Frank Gunnels self-made glass house. Notice, for an exemplary display of such profound hypocrisy, the following "truths" he asserts:

THE TRUTH IS: THESE MEN HAVE PUBLICLY PROVEN THEMSELVES ALSO AS APOSTATE HYPOCRITES JUST LIKE DR. DAVID P. BROWN (P.H.D.) AS WELL AS COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR AND (PREACHER) BARRY

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LYNN PARKER.

THE TRUTH IS: LYNN PARKER DID NOT JUST LIE TO MAN, BUT TO HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN (**who were present at the time**) AS WELL AS THE ONLY TRUE AND LIVING GOD.

THE TRUTH IS: BARRY LYNN PARKER IS A **COWARD** ATTACKING A MAN WHO IS DEAD AND WHO CANNOT NOW PROPERLY DEFEND HIS TEACHINGS AND CHARACTER.

THE TRUTH IS: Apostate Barry Lynn Parker committed **MANY** additional sins at this lectureship that will be addressed in a later emails (if necessary)

THE TRUTH IS: The following Apostate Brethren: **Don DeLong**, Ken Chumbley, Lester Camp, Daniel Coe, Dub McClish, Michael Hatcher, Gary Summers, Daniel Denham, Jess Whitlock, Gene Hill, Johnny Oxendine, Paul Vaughn, Danny Douglas, John Rose, Lee Moses, John West and other speakers also committed many additional public sins at this lectureship. Their evil sins will be addressed and published (**if necessary**) in future publications if public repentance does not occur. (emphasis his; also there were too many typos & mistakes by Frank in structure in this tirade that I have chosen not to mark them here, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank accused those who did not aid him in his vicious attack on Lynn as being “apostate hypocrites” in his first supposed “truth” in this section. An accusation is not proof. He also called David Brown, about whose doctorate he holds some bizarre fascination, and Lynn “apostate hypocrites,” and claimed that Lynn “lied” not only to men but also to his own “wife and children” as well as God. Again, an accusation is not proof.

He called Lynn a “coward” for daring to refute Cecil Hook’s error, when Cecil is dead and, with the rich man, in torment in Hades (of course, Frank believes he is with Lazarus in Abraham’s Bosom, unless he holds to the Fudge/Maxey error that Cecil is “dead like Rover, dead all over”), never mind that Lynn was not present at the open forum when attacked by brave ole Frank! By the way, has Frank said anything about the spiritual condition of Judas Iscariot, Cain, King Saul, Jezebel of Thyatira, or such teachers as Hymenaeus and Alexander? Has Frank ever spoken words of condemnation concerning Diotrophes? Or has he ever spoken of another in a negative way as acting, such as Diotrophes? Are all these folks not also dead and buried? Are they able to speak for themselves and defend their teachings or practices? I know Frank absurdly contended that one could not know that Ananias and Sapphira of Acts 5 were lost when they died. Well, that implies God just struck people dead because they repented. What silliness!

Liberals are frequently critical of other brethren, especially those who will not kowtow to them. It is all a matter with them as to whose “ox has been gored.” They ridicule older brethren and talk scornfully about “the church of the 1950s.” They mock and poke fun. Through the years some of their leaders have spoken disdainfully of the preaching of men like David Lipscomb, N.B. Hardeman, Joe S. Warlick,

Foy E. Wallace Jr., G.K. Wallace, Thomas B. Warren, E.R. Harper, Guy N. Woods, and others who opposed their liberalism. Roy Osborne some years ago even condemned the preaching of Jonah, even though that prophet did the preaching that God directed him to do! Yes, hypocrisy is on parade here, but Frank Gunnels and coterie are the ones heading up the band.

Frank excoriated the speakers on the lecture program as “apostate brethren.” Again, he especially emphasizes the name in bold type of Don DeLong, who must have really gotten Frank’s goat at some point. But, once more, an accusation is not proof!

He indicts all them, including this speaker, of “evil sins,” leaving us to wonder: Are there “unevil” ones? Perhaps, those are sins belonging only to liberals, as they, according to Frank’s stricture, will be forgiven by God’s grace without their repentance while the “evil sins,” we have supposedly committed in the sight of Frank, obviously will not be.

He also threatens further revelations of the “evil sins”—even “many additional public sins”—of these evil doing “apostate hypocrites.” Oh, the wonderful love of liberals! Greater love hath no man than this that Frank Gunnels should call his enemies “apostate hypocrites,” “liars,” “cowards,” and “evil sin” doers! How beyond compare is such love! How beyond Lynn simply saying that Cecil Hook now knows he taught false doctrine! How beyond the love of angels of Heaven! How even beyond is Frank’s love! “Love of Frank all else surpassing...” Truly, “one has never been loved until he has been loved by a liberal.”

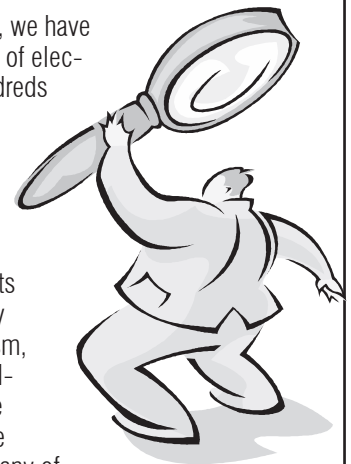
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—Dub and Lavonne McClish



Frank, the prosecutor, judge, and would-be executioner, presses on without even drawing a breath for pause...

27. His tirade thus continues:

THE TRUTH IS: I HAVE INTENTIONALLY WAITED (*three months*) to allow those (*who have sinned to have time*) to publicly repent of their evil ways. The time has come for Repentance. I know of no public repentance by any of the aforementioned Apostates and False Teachers at the time of this writing. (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank should have waited a whole lot longer, as his wait of 3 months obviously did not help his reasoning one bit. He is as muddled here in his thinking as he ever was at the open forum, where he assured one and all that God automatically forgives the sins of Christians even without their repentance. As we have noted, it is then such a strange thing that he would call for such now or expect that such should be done. If grace is that cheap, Frank's version of the forgiveness of sin means, "Never having to say you're sorry"—much less make any correction for it.

The fact is Frank is the one who needs to repent, and genuinely so. He needs to repent of his false doctrine at the open forum. He needs to repent of his defense of a false teacher, Cecil Hook. He needs to repent of the lies he has told against good men, faithful to the Book. He needs to repent of the many ungodly epithets and accusations he has thrown so loosely at brethren for their opposing the evil taught and promoted in the book *Free in Christ*. He needs to repent of the slanderous, libelous charges he has made repeatedly in his diatribe. He needs to repent of his unfaithfulness to the Word of God, failure to stand up for right, and attempt to use the support of other false teachers, such as Al Maxey, to further his aims. He and his coterie need to repent for the damage they have done and continue to do to the Bride of Christ and the Cause for which He died. Yes, indeed, "the time has come for Repentance," but Frank has the wrong people in mind who truly are in need of it!

28. But Frank's temper tantrum is not over. He screams: "**THE TRUTH IS: I WONDER WHY BARRY LYNN PARKER HAS NOT CONTACTED ME!**" (emphasis his, HDD).

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Why should he? Who are you that Barry Lynn Parker is *obligated* to obey your voice, Frank? Who made you "the King of kings and Lord of lords?" When is the last time you walked on water or raised the dead? Such profound arrogance and unmitigated gall! Quite frankly, I suspect that Frank would not really find much enjoyment or satisfaction out of being contacted by Lynn Parker over this matter.

29. Finally, Frank appeals to the readers of his diatribe to join him in his jihad on Lynn Parker and company. He pleads:

THE TRUTH IS: I sincerely hope that all (those who read this e-mail or fax) will join me in prayer and rebuke for their reconciliation with God and man.

THE TRUTH IS: The **PROOF** of my allegations can be

confirmed at www.churshesofchrist.com and in Cecil Hook's Book *Free in Christ* found at www.freedomsring.org/books.html (emphasis his, HDD)

THE REAL TRUTH IS: Frank's appeal depends on these folks being foolish enough to support him in his errant defense of Cecil Hook's legacy. He wants them to do his homework for him, as clearly he does not establish it himself here — just as he failed so miserably in trying to do so at the Spring open forum back on March 3, 2010.

CONCLUSION

Frank Gunnels strikes me as a sad, very confused, angry man who, for whatever reason, has set his heart on attacking and destroying Lynn Parker and anyone who would dare side with Lynn. I do not know what may have transpired between them in the past. Maybe Frank believes Lynn kicked his cat, disrespected his High School alma mater, or rooted against the Houston Astros.

The tirade here by Frank against Lynn, David Brown (doctorate and all), the Spring eldership and congregation, and the speakers on the 2010 *CFTF* Lectureship was unwarranted, unwise, unreasonable, and especially ungodly. Frank needs to repent of all that he has said and done to this end. He is a false teacher seeking to uphold yet another false teacher, who has indeed now learned better, just as Lynn noted in his lecture. I pray that Frank will come to his senses and not find out the same way. Experience is a painful though perfect teacher. To learn in the same way brother Hook learned, however, is a bit too late (Heb. 9:27). I lament the passing of Cecil Hook for what it means for his soul's condition, but not for the ceasing of his being able to add yet more false doctrines to the destruction of the souls of others. The ones in his book are troubling enough.

As a side note, it is ironic that Frank Gunnels should express so much anger over what he believes to be a deliberate misrepresentation of the teachings of Cecil Hook by Lynn Parker, while at the very same time he seeks the aid of one Al Maxey, who has been documented as being a repeat offender in misrepresenting, misusing, and on some occasions misquoting his reference sources in the formulation and defense of his errors on MDR. Evidently, to Frank the most important thing is to protect liberalism and an ally in that area, regardless of his behavior, is to be maintained at all costs. If this is not his feeling, then he needs to repudiate and rebuke Al Maxey and his coterie.

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"Not only is there but one way of doing things rightly, but there is only one way of seeing them, and that is seeing the whole of them."

—John Ruskin

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-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—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 [From USA, Toll Free: (281) 475-8247]; By phone inside the U.K.: Cambridge (England): 01223-911243]; Alternative Cambridge contacts: Joan Moulton - 01223-210101; Matt. Shouey (Lakenheath) - 01638-531268. 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.

Pensacola—Eastgate Church of Christ, 2809 E. Creighton Rd., {emsacp;a F; 32504, Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Tim Cozad, evangelist, (850) 477-4910

-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., 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: lawson@starnetok.net.

- Tennessee-

Murfreesboro—Church of Christ, 1154 Park Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Sun. Bible class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., Fellowship meal 11:00 a.m., Devotional 12:00 p.m.; Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. For directions and other information please visit our website at www.murfreesboro-churchofchrist.org. evangelist, Steve Yeatts.

-Texas-

Denton area—Northpoint Church of Christ, 5101 E. University Dr. (Greenbelt Business Park). Mailing address: Northpoint Church of Christ, Greenbelt Business Park, 5101 E. University Dr., Box 6, Denton, TX 76208. E-mail: northpointcoc@hotmail.com. Sunday: 9:30, 10:30, 1:00; Wednesday 7:00. Contact: Dub McClish: 940.387.1429; tgjoriginal@verizon.net. www.northpointcoc.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., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m., David P. Brown, evangelist. Home of the Spring Contending for the Faith Lectures beginning the last Sunday in February. www.churchesofchrist.com.

Hubbard—105 NE 6th St., Hubbard, TX 76648, Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Delbert J. Goins; DJGoins@gmail.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.