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# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

## PAT BOONE AND THE UNIVERSITIES OPERATED BY APOSTATE BRETHREN

David P. Brown

### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Lipscomb University describes itself as a private, coeducational, liberal arts university in Nashville, Tennessee, affiliated with the Churches of Christ ([http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Lipscomb\\_University](http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Lipscomb_University)). However, to be more accurate in its description of itself, it should say it is affiliated with liberal apostate church members and churches of the same stripe, as well as those brethren who are willfully ignorant of Lipscomb's longtime and steady journey away from Bible authority and Godliness. If he were alive, David Lipscomb, its founder, would not in any way support the school that bears his last name. The following case in point is Lipscomb University's love affair with the likes of longtime singer/entertainer, Pat Boone, a graduate of the old David Lipscomb College.

Not long ago, Pat Boone donated \$5 million to Lipscomb U. for the Boone Family Center for the Performing Arts (*Lipscomb Now*, Vol. 11, No. 3, p. 4, Spring, 2016). Regarding that \$5 million gift, in an interview with Chuck Dauphin for *Billboard* (10/29/15) Pat Boone said:

My wife and I are endowing the Boone Family Center for the Performing Arts on the campus. It's where Shirley and I met and fell in love. We're celebrating our 62nd year of marriage, employing principles that we learned here in Nashville. We are also endowing the Boone Center for the Family, which teaches kids who come to college here how to build moral and healthy relationships and friendships headed toward mar-

riage. We're making a major investment in this campus and this school that made the investment in us. We're delighted to be able to pay some back (<http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/country/6745260/pat-boone-rb-duets-album-interview>, Accessed 5/10/17).

### OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Not to be left out, there is the following from Ohio Valley University's Internet News Releases under the heading of **OVU Honors Distinguished Alumni During 2017 Homecoming Weekend, Jan. 2017**. The following is written about Pat and Shirley Boone:

Pat and Shirley Boone share a powerful love of music and faith that anchors their lives. They met in high school and have now been married more than 60 years. Pat Boone's illustrious career includes 45 million records, over 100 albums, and writing 15 books. Pat, Shirley and their daughters have even performed and recorded music together. More than 40 years ago Pepperdine University attracted the attention of the Boone family. Pat is the longstanding chair of the University Board. He and Shirley support the Pepperdine School of Public Policy and are founding members, benefactors and namesakes of the Boone Center for the Family. The Boones have also invested in the Lipscomb College of Entertainment and the Arts. Currently the Lipscomb College officials are preparing for a major announcement, to be given later this spring, regarding their partnership with Pat and Shirley. Pat Boone played a significant role in the beginning of Northeast-

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# Contending FOR THE Faith™

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

## *Editorial...*

From the middle of November 2016 until April of 2017 your editor was not feeling well physically. It began with an unexplained spiking of my blood pressure that put me into the hospital for about two days. Then, while in the process of about three months of continuing not to feel very well, I finally became sick enough to be hospitalized with what turned out to be pneumonia, but that was not the most serious problem. While in the hospital, what seems to be the real culprits were diagnosed, two blood clots in my femoral vein—one behind my right knee and the other in my right thigh. When the clots were diagnosed and treatment began during the first week of March 2017, I immediately began to feel some better. By the the middle of April, I felt better than I had felt since the summer of 2016. Since my hospital stay in early March, I have been treated for the blood clots and prescribed one of the newer so-called blood thinners, Eliquis. I was told that I could go about my business and the body would take from 3 to 6 months to “tear up the blood clots.” About a week and a half ago, I returned to the doctor to see what my situation was regarding the blood clots. I was given a blood test that is designed to determine whether any blood clots remained in my body. The test showed there were none and my doctor took me off of Eliquis. Now, I must wait to see if any blood clots form again. If they do, I am told that I will have to remain on Eliquis.

I presently feel much better and trust the blood clots will stay away. This health episode took place over several months, in which time there were many days when I did not feel like doing much of anything and thus the tardiness of CFTF. Now that I am better and hopefully will remain so, I will be able to work on the paper.

I very much appreciate all the prayers and concerns that have been expressed by our readers on my behalf. I trust, the Lord willing, that we will be able to carry on with this work for the Lord. Please keep me in your prayers and continue to pray that we can do some good in the fight of faith that will always go on with Satan and his henchman.

## **CONCERNING SOME CHANGES IN CFTF**

For several years we have been adjusting to publishing the paper electronically. We presently have few paper copies going out. That being the case, we plan on publishing the paper at different times and with various numbers of pages. We will keep the yearly volumes, but we may have many more issues of the paper published (some longer and some shorter in length) than what we are presently doing or as we have done since the paper began in 1970. This we will do as the Lord permits in our efforts to expose and refute error and continue to teach the truth of the gospel on CFTF's pages. Again, we covet your prayers that we can be successful in snatching some from the fires of error.

—Editor, David P. Brown

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ern Christian Junior College, a college in Philadelphia that consolidated with OVU in 1993. As an author, Pat's book *Twixt Twelve and Twenty* was the second best seller of non-fiction books during 1958 in spite of the fact that it went on sale only six weeks before the end of the year. Total sales by the first week of 1959 were calculated to be between 160,000 and 180,000 copies. Pat derived no income from the sale of the book, with all profit going to NCJC. In addition to the income from the book, the school received generous cash and gift stocks from Pat. The royalties from the book went toward the purchase of the Clothier Mansion later known as Boone Hall. Pat served as a charter member of the Board of Trustees. Pat and Shirley Boone continue to model God's grace in their career, family and marriage" (<https://ovu.edu/ovu-news/2017-news-releases/544-ovu-honors-distinguished-alumni-during-2017-homecoming-weekend.html>, accessed 5/10/17).

We suggest the reader go to Ohio Valley University's internet site at <https://www.ovu.edu/about-ovu/ovu-mission.html>. Having read what they say the university's mission is, you might want to ask yourself, "How does apostate Pat Boone play a part in that mission?" If our readers want to hear Boone and his false views, simply go to the following address to hear him interviewed on a radio program sponsored by Ohio Valley University and other advertisers (<http://faithandliberty.org/content/pat-boone-part-two>, accessed on 5/11/17).

### Pepperdine University

The following is from Pepperdine University's publication, *Colleague* (Winter 2006-07, Volume 25, No 1), at <http://colleague.pepperdine.edu/2007/03/pat-and-shirley-boone-endow-the-center-for-the-family-with-a-3-million-dollar-gift/>, accessed 5/11/17. It reads:

#### **Pat and Shirley Boone Endow the Center for the Family with a \$3 Million Dollar Gift**

*Generously Supporting Healthy Relationships*

Pat and Shirley Boone, for over half a century, beloved entertainer Pat Boone has brought music, laughter, and joy to millions of fans around the world. His enormously successful career spans music, television, film, and print media, and he has delighted generations with his talent and signature brand of humor. Dedicated to his loving wife, Shirley and their four daughters, the legendary performer has balanced his public and family life with a strong commitment to faith and values. The Boone family embodies George Pepperdine's spirit of giving back, and their endowment of the Pat and Shirley Boone Center for the Family at Pepperdine University will benefit the lives of American families for years to come.

As longtime friends of Pepperdine, Pat and Shirley Boone have made many outstanding contributions to the University community. Pat is chair of the Pepperdine University Board, and the couple are founding members of the advisory board of the Center for the Family. In recognition of their noble work, the Boones received Pepperdine's 2006 Friends of the Family Award at its third annual Savvy Chic luncheon in Beverly

Hills Wednesday, November 15, when the center was officially named in their honor.

In accepting the award with his wife at his side, Pat Boone said, "Except for our relationship with God himself, our family has been the most important relationship of our lives." He added, "I don't separate God and family because the family is God's idea." And of their gift naming Pepperdine's Center for the Family, he noted, "We believe we are giving to God by giving to the family, which we believe he holds very, very dear."

Pepperdine President Andrew K. Benton praised Pat and Shirley Boone, saying their gift would "strengthen the outstanding programs of the Center for the Family, and in turn, significantly impact the lives of couples and families across the nation." President Benton noted that Pat and Shirley "exemplify the heart of the Center for the Family's mission" and that their longtime devotion to Pepperdine "has made a very real difference in the lives of students."

Founded in 1996 as a branch of the Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology, the Center for the Family is a community outreach program that promotes healthy relationships and strong families. It provides resources to encourage and equip young adults, couples, parents, and families in their relationships. The center is headquartered in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology of Pepperdine University on the Drescher Graduate Campus in Malibu, California.

"These generous funds will create opportunities for the Pat and Shirley Boone Center for the Family at Pepperdine to conduct further research on relationships, expand its speakers bureau, become a nationally recognized entity, and have a greater influence on policy concerning family," added Dr. Margaret J. Weber, Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Psychology.

After 53 years of marriage, Pat and Shirley are a shining example of traditional American values and precious family bonds. Driven by a deep devotion to God and family, the Boones personify the love and ideals of a strong, healthy relationship. Their generous gift is sure to bring inspiration and promise to countless families and couples across the country. Pepperdine University is grateful to the Boones for their extraordinary support and leadership to all families

### ACCEPTING MONEY FROM APOSTATES

The fact that Pat and Shirley Boone are welcomed and praised as outstanding Christians by these universities is further strong proof (as if we needed any more) of their (the universities) departure from the faith. Furthermore, it reveals (as if we did not know it already) that they will accept money from about anyone. We do not know of any of them to which we would recommend sending your children and expect them to be taught thoroughly the whole counsel of God. The universities have adopted the denominational view of "unity in diversity" in obligatory matters—what MUST I do to be saved and what MUST I do to remain saved. They believe the old denominational error "of you go to your church and I'll go to mine and we'll all get to heaven to-



gether.” They have repudiated the New Testament as a divine pattern, the scripturalness of the restoration principle, the plan of salvation, the essentiality of baptism, the oneness of and the identifying marks of the New Testament church, Christian living, Christian worship, and Christian fellowship as well as other exclusive obligatory matters authorized by the New Testament (Col. 3:17; 2 John 9-11; Jude 3).

For those who lived at the time Boone publicly signaled that he had left the faith, throwing his lot in with the Pentecostals, this is no news flash. However, since it has been almost 50 years since Boone’s departure from the faith, it seems good to remind brethren of it and how these schools care nothing about his and his wife’s departure from the faith.

If one desires to journey back to yesteryear to watch and listen to Pat Boone and some denominational preacher (one of the white collar varieties) engage in “jibber jabber” and call it speaking in tongues. Please go to the following YouTube address, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SkLKJwzRIU>. Having viewed and listened to these confused characters, remember how these universities praised the Boones for their faithfulness to the Lord.

It is important to note that certain so-called Christian schools of higher education once opposed Boone because of his apostasy, but for some time now they have been fellowshiping him and his religious “kith and kin.” Of course, we understand that Pepperdine U. has swigged so much for so long from religious and philosophical jugs of error that they were liberal long before other higher education institutions decided it was cool to be liberal. Thus, Pepperdine U. embraced Boone before the rest became spiritually drunk enough to do so. We fully recognize that their conduct toward and relationship with Boone is further proof to be added to a long list of items that point to their rejection of the old paths (Jer. 6:16) (another example among many of their many departures from the faith is that the long time apostate and leader in apostasy, Rubel Shelly, presently occupying the “Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Religion” at Lipscomb U.).

In the book, *Pat Boone and The Gift of Tongues* (Searcy, AR: 1970), authored by the late James D. Bales, longtime professor of Bible at Harding University, one can read in detail of Boone’s departure from the faith in the 1960s. As a student at Harding in the late 1960’s brother Bales permitted me to go through his files and read his many letter exchanges between himself and Boone. This was while Bales was writing his book about the apostasy of Boone.

In speaking of himself and Max Lucado, Boone said, “We’ve both come a long way from the early, legalistic, ‘speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent’ doctrinal stance”

Boone stated that “we don’t all have our doctrine all completely correct but God doesn’t judge us on our understanding

of doctrine. He judges our heart, our intent, our purpose, our love and how we treat other people.”

For the past three decades, Boone has been a member of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, a Foursquare Gospel congregation led by pastor Jack Hayford. The Pentecostal church is home to numerous celebrities ([http://www.adherents.com/people/pb/Pat\\_Boone.html](http://www.adherents.com/people/pb/Pat_Boone.html), accessed 5/9/17).

The sentiments expressed by Boone in the previous quotation can be multiplied many times over, so that the universities are without excuse when they hold Boone up as a fine upstanding and exemplary Christian, when in reality he and those like him, such as Max Lucado, have rejected pure primitive New Testament Christianity. Abilene Christian University continues to have a love fest with Lucado and, thus, by implication Pat Boone, and a multitude of digressive brethren. Does anyone truly think that ACU would turn down a few million dollars from Boone or practically anyone else if he offered it to them? Furthermore, if one throws enough money at any of these higher education institutions, no matter who the person is that does the throwing, they will grab those dollars on the run, quickly depositing them in their bank accounts.

That being the case with the foregoing educational institutions operated by the brethren, we would do well take note of the financial contributors to the preacher training schools. For some of them have already divorced themselves from about anything that would cause them to deal with controversial issues in the church for fear of upsetting some of their financial supporters. It is always wise to follow the money trail, if for no other reason than to see from where the money is originating that supports the preacher training. The same is true regarding the financial support of various para-church organizations regarding who their supporting churches are, with whom they are in fellowship, and what they believe and practice.

### **THE BOONES’ WITHDRAWN FROM BY THE INGLEWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE SPRING OF 1971**

Pat and Shirely Boone had the fellowship of the Inglewood Church of Christ withdrawn from them because of their departure from the faith into Pentecostalism. The *Los Angeles Times* reported the Inglewood church’s withdrawal of fellowship in a long, three-column feature article which, in turn, was reprinted at least in part by *The Oklahoma Journal*, Oklahoma City, and was later reproduced by *The Christian Times*.

*The Los Angeles Times* article reporting the withdrawal of the Inglewood Church of Christ from the Boone’s appears on page 5 of this issue of CFTF. The only thing missing from the article is Boone’s picture that appeared in the original. Although the *Times* article referred to brother Rickard, at the time the preacher for the Inglewood Church, as “Rev.”

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## AND COURTED BY ANOTHER

# Pat Boone Disciplined By Church

BY JOHN DART  
Times Religion Writer

Singer Pat Boone is causing a stir in certain religious circles.

He was 'disfellowshipped,' or ostracized last month from the Churches of Christ after more than a year's review.

Boone's boy-next-door image had not tarnished. The reason for the disciplinary action in the strict Protestant fellowship was that he and his wife, Shirley, had added belief in miraculous healings and speaking in tongues to their personal faith.

Meanwhile, Mormon missionaries have tried to interest the Boones in joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, visiting their Beverly Hills home at least 10 times to date.

The entertainer identifies with the current "Jesus movement" of young fundamentalist Christians who have the outward appearance of hippies.

### Pool Baptisms

"The movement is so free-form, so anti-institutional that it is really shaking up the ordained priesthood because it has no apparent structure," Boone said.

The 40-foot swimming pool in back of the Boone home has been the scene of about 100 baptisms in the last year. Boone himself baptized a group of 25 by reading scripture as persons were immersed in the shallow end of the pool.

Boone confirmed in an interview that his family "has been actively courted," sought or approached by many members of the LDS church.

"Since the word sort of got out that we had been disfellowshipped," he

added "we've been asked by Methodists and Assemblies of God, too.

"One Assembly of God bishop handed me ordination applications and said, 'If you fill out these papers, you'll be ordained.'

"I explained that I don't want any credentials other than the name of 'Christian.' But that doesn't mean we won't settle down in some church."

### Important Ties

The religious beliefs and activities of the Boone family may seem a private matter. But in the context of U.S. conservative Protestantism the religious allegiances of well-known persons can be important—as well as illustrative of religious trends.

A faithful reader of Mormon church news publications knows that the King Family and golfer Billy Casper are LDS members, along with Nixon Cabinet member George Romney and John Mitchell, ex-boxer George Fullmer, television news-caster George Putnam and the rising entertainment group, the Osmond Brothers.

Denominations and religious movements that emphasize personal religious testimony and that lack a long history of acceptability in America tend to spotlight members of their churches well-known to the public.

Boone is known not only for his singing and acting but for espousal of religion's value at many religious and semi-religious meetings.

### Could Be Boon

Boone should be a boon to the so-called charismatic movement.

Speaking in tongues, technically known as glossolalia, is the most conspicuous, and the most controversial,

part of the charismatic movement that has long been integral to the Pentecostal churches.

The charismatic movement was heartened by official tolerance declared in the last two years by the United Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches, but a major obstacle to obtaining greater exposure and credibility in U.S. religion has been the relative lack of "name" clergymen or laymen to cite as believers.

Tongues speaking, unintelligible utterances made while in prayer and accounts of miraculous healings—as discussed by the Boones with fellow church members—were seen as theologically unsound and harmful by the elders of the Inglewood church of Christ.

### Part of Problem

"What the elders did was to state to membership that the way Pat has gone religiously is dangerous," said the Rev. Dale Rickard, pastor of the church. "The elders simply told the congregation to avoid the Boones in religious areas because they might get involved, too."

Mr. Rickard said the singer and his family have not been ex-communicated. "He still attends Churches of Christ," Mr. Rickard said.

Part of the problem now, said the pastor, is that the Churches of Christ—a "fellowship" of autonomous congregations with more than 2 million members, primarily in the South and Southwest—had put the entertainment personality "in a position of leadership" to become "probably the best known member of the church today."

Boone confirmed that it was a matter of doctrinal differences. "These men

I love and respect, so there was no bitterness or recriminations,” Boone said.

### Surprise Told

Boone said young Mormon missionaries were surprised to hear of experiences the Boone family had “that they thought only Mormons could experience.” Apparent sudden healings in his family were described by Boone in his book, “A New Song,” published last year.

The two-hour discussions with missionaries in his home are con-

tinuing—It’s not as if my mind were closed,” he said. The Boones also have a close friendship with the Osmond family of Ogden, Utah. “All four of our girls have paired off with four of the Osmond Brothers on dates and we pray together” Boone said.

He cited a number of objections to Mormon doctrine and philosophy, however. “We part company over the idea that you have to be a Mormon in the strict, ordained structure of the church,” he said.

### Personal Ministry

In the meantime, Boone has continued his own personal ministry.

“I’ve baptized 50 people myself in my swimming pool—young rock musicians who had been on drugs, young Jewish kids, older alcoholics, entertainers’ wives,” he said.

To occasional objections that he is not an ordained minister, Boone said, “I believe all Christians are supposed to be and are meant to be ministers.”



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and “pastor.” Such titles have always been a problem when denominationally and/or secularly oriented news writers referenced gospel preachers. Of course they think of the Lord’s church as only another denomination, which evidently Pat Boone did and does. But none of the Boone’s denominationalism makes one ounce of difference to the universities that profess to offer Christian education to families of the churches of Christ. The truth of the matter is this—these universities do not believe the scripturalness of the restoration principle any more than do the Boones and others of their stripe.

### FROM THE JUNE 1971 ISSUE OF CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

The late brother Ira Y. Rice, Jr., founding editor of *CFTF*, wrote in part the following concerning Pat Boone’s apostasy.

Just why Pat Boone, whose brethren came as close to idolizing as any living man should have turned away from the truth and made shipwreck of his faith has never come clear. I think if we could believe that he somehow just got confused, losing his spiritual bearings, we should all feel a lot better about it. Such does not, however, appear to be the case. Regardless of his motives, the course he is now pursuing evidently is deliberate on his part. He is carrying out the most sustained campaign to spread the cause of Pentecostalism of anyone ever, unless it might be his mentor—Oral Roberts. From TV to movies to sound-recordings to books—all the media—this young heretic is on a worldwide crusade to extend the cause of Pentecostalism—and to corrupt just as many churches of Christ with his error—as he can. And to the extent we let down our guard just that far he is bound to succeed (p. 5).

### THE LUST FOR MONEY AND POPULARITY

The lust for money brought down the following Bible characters: Achan and his family; Balaam, and Judas Iscariot (Jos. 7; 2; Num. 31:8, 16; Neh. 13:2; Acts 1:10). The New Testament warns the church that the same can happen to children of God today as it did to those previously named (1

Tim. 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 1:11; Rev. 2:14).

In the spring of 1969, Pat Boone appeared at what was called “Daytona Advance” at Daytona Beach, FL where college students yearly congregate to party. *GO*, the paper published by the Campus Advance organization of that day, noted that Christian college students were there to engage in evangelism on the beach. *GO* carried pictures and stories of the event. Four special shows were presented at the bandshell on the beach. Pat and his wife perform and “testified” on the beach. One picture revealed Pat and some Campus Advance people standing on the beach glad only in bathing suits. Another picture revealed a girl in a bathing suit with other girls in shorts engaged in prayer with others before they went out to “witness” to the non-Christians on the beach.

Later in early May Pat and his wife appeared at the Madison Church in Madison, Tennessee, where at the time the late Ira North preached. The church was making a special effort to reach 6,001 in Bible study attendance. Besides the foregoing activity, they had special honors for mothers, in the afternoon a concert in the park, and a ground-breaking for their new “Christian Retirement Community.” Boone and wife were there to talk with young people and assist in all the celebrations in drawing a large a crowd as they could. Boone was pictured with his wife, Ira North, and Bill Banowsky. Even as these apostate universities today praised Pat as a worthy example in doctrine and life, so the Madison Church of Christ in 1969 did the same.

Only two weeks from the time that Boone was at Madison helping swell the numbers of the crowd, he shows up at the Cathedral of Tomorrow in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, with the late denominational preacher Rex Humbard. If anyone desires to verify the matter go to the *Akron Beacon-Journal*, Saturday, May 17, 1969 to see the full page advertisement of Boone’s appearance. It was promoted as an “Anniversary Week Revival.” The schedule of services called for Pat to be present at both morning and evening services. Boone appeared at the morning service, which service was televised



the following week. The advertisement in the paper for the night service said:

Our special guest for this final night of revival will be a musical talent we all know. The voice of Pat Boone has long been enjoyed by both young and old. Rex Humbard's Television Ministry has been strongly instrumental in the recent rededication of Pat Boone's life to Jesus Christ. He and his family are constant testimonies to the wonders of knowing Christ as their personal Savior. Pat will inspire us with his testimony and entertain us with many songs of faith.

The late Rex Humbard was a smooth sophisticated false teacher and so-called faith healer. The Cathedral of Tomorrow was the name of Humbard's church. It is now owned by Ernest Angley's ministry (another holy roller preacher who is not smooth or sophisticated, but is a false teacher), and was rededicated as Grace Cathedral. At the time of Boone's visit to Humbard (or as the late brother G. K. Wallace called him, "Rex Humbug") his "ministry" owned an apartment house, a huge building that was leased to a food chain, a girdle factory, and a plastics company. He later came under the scrutiny of the Security and Exchange Commission for selling unregistered bonds and promissory notes. Thus, he was forced to sell off nearly all of the ministry's assets, cut off the overseas operations, and create a trust to guarantee payment to those who bought the securities from him.

Boone's presence at the Cathedral of Tomorrow during that time could only be construed as promoting the work of a false teacher and his church. Boone, as other **"good words and fair speeches"** preachers of then and now (Rom. 16:17, 18), are guilty of what the apostle John taught when he wrote, **"He that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deed"** (2 John 11).

In June of 1969 Boone appeared on an Oral Roberts TV show. *Look Magazine* carried a half page ad in its June 10, 1969 issue advertising this one hour special in June called "Contact." It was an Oral Roberts special. Pat Boone is pictured with Oral Roberts. Oral Roberts was one if not the most well known so called "faith healer" in the world. I was in my first local work and remember watching that particular Oral Roberts show and Roberts interview of Boone. Even then certain brethren refused to acknowledge Boone's departure from the faith.

About 16 years after the foregoing events verified Boone's departure from the faith into "holy rollerism," the *Peoria Journal Star*, Peoria, IL carried the following article on October 15, 1985. The paper titled the article, "Speaking in Tongues."

The wife of singer Pat Boone went to Rock Hudson's home shortly after he died of AIDS, chanted over his body, grasped his thin legs and began speaking in tongues, according to *People* magazine.

Shirley Boone and members of a Pentecostal church in Van Nuys, Calif., arrived at the actor's Beverly Hills home about

20 minutes after his death was announced Oct. 2, and chanted, 'Get the disease out of the body,' the magazine reported.

The night before, a Pentecostal prayer group that included Pat and Shirley Boone and two of Hudson's nurses had visited the actor.

Clearly, the false brethren operating the universities of today have known the foregoing about Boone, but they do not care about his long practiced errors or, for that matter, the errors of other less notable people. They care about Boone's money coming to them (as much of it as they can get) and flattering him with accolades that he does not deserve. These brethren who use Boone think that he is in the right as a denominational minded member of the Lord's church and his giving encouragement to denominational error? With many brethren compromise in doctrine and fraternization with those who teach false doctrine are the rule of the day. However, not all of them are to be found in the universities. In the last decade or thereabouts, we have seen error winked at and justified by brethren who not long ago opposed error wherever and whenever it appeared, or whoever taught it. Although it may not be on the same large scale and embracing as many errors as, for example Lipscomb U., Pepperdine U., Rubel Shelly, Max Lucado, et al., the strong desire to keep financial contributors, personal friends, and family members happy and backing them, have prompted certain brethren to attempt to at least ignore and in some cases justify their brethren's false teaching. Less and less respect for the authority of God's authoritative Word and the fellowship for the church authorized in it is revealed by the actions of the brethren. This is especially the case in the preacher training schools—more so with some than others, but all are guilty to one extent or another. What is seen throughout the church are those brethren who are respecter of persons and those who the lust after money.

In the late brother Earl West's great work, the *Search for the Ancient Order*, Vol. 2, now published by Gospel Light Publishing Co., Delight, AR, he records the following from 1873 by L. F. Bittle concerning colleges and apostasy.

...Colleges, as a general rule, will as a matter of policy pursue for a time a midway "safe" course until it is known which side will be the most popular, and then will jump with full force on that side. Colleges, as a general rule, have not fostered the thinking of brethren on certain issues, but rather have reflected the opinion of the majority after the issues have arisen. Consciously or unconsciously, this has been the tendency. The reason is clear: colleges must have money to operate and if they get too unpopular, they will not have enough funds to run (p. 461).

These universities made their "jump with full force" on to the liberal side many years ago. Indeed, the colleges served as a place for the serpents to nest and raise their young vipers to go back into the churches to inject their venom of false doctrine on various subjects into the brethren. So, as this generation of vipers helped the churches to abandon the

Old Paths, enough brethren were ready to strongly criticize and attack the New Testament as an infallible divine pattern and how it authorized anyone to do anything. This they did because they saw years ago which way their supporters were headed. Indeed, there were too many of them who were glad to lead in that direction, for many of their administrators and faculty, especially Bible faculty, had worked to accomplish this very thing for many years.

The United States and the Western world has become more secular. More and more churches of Christ have embraced worldliness and denominational doctrines. The schools of higher education operated by the “loosing” brethren have taught and teach that the church of Christ is just another denomination among denominations. They have urged extending fellowship to them. These universities and liberal churches support and praise one another, as together they fade into the sectarian denominational woodwork having lost the distinctiveness of the ancient New Testament order of things religious and moral. They praise and “back-

slap” as exemplified by Boone and these universities—each one trying to out scratch the other’s back. On a lesser scale ,we continue to see some of the same attitude growing in the preacher training schools.

We close with the same quotation from F. G. Allen that the late brother West used to close his second volume of the *Search for the Ancient Order*, p. 463.

While we remain true to the principles on which we started out, there is no earthly power that can impede our progress. But the day we leave these walls and go out to take counsel with the world, will mark the day of our decline. We have nothing to fear from without. **Our only danger lies in the direction of indifference and compromise** (Bold mine, DPB). While we are true to God in the maintenance of these principles, the divine blessing will be upon our work. But should they ever be surrendered, ruin will as certainly follow as that the Bible is true (“It Came to Pass,” *Gospel Advocate*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 4 (January 23, 1896), p. 54.

—Editor

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## DEVIATIONS FROM THE TRUTH

Roelf L. Ruffner

### CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

**The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved** (Acts 2:20, 21).

These words were uttered by the apostle Peter almost 2,000 years ago to people who had been responsible for the crucifixion of the Son of God. Peter may have been referring to the prophet Isaiah who over 700 years before had proclaimed,

**Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon** (Isa. 55:6, 7).

Peter goes on in his sermon to show his audience from the Bible that Jesus was the prophesied Christ, the Son of God. Ironically, the Christ was the innocent they had helped murder just fifty days before. He was to now save them from the wrath of the Father. Overwhelmed with grief and Godly sorrow, they cry to Peter and the other apostles, “...**Men and brethren, what shall we do?**” (Acts 2:37). In other words, “What must we do to obtain pardon for this horrible crime we have committed? How will God forgive us of this deed against His Son? How may we ‘call on the name of the Lord?’” How would you answer these folks, from the Bible?

Many go to Romans 10:13, where the apostle Paul re-

peats the statement of Peter in Acts 2:21, to try to back up their false teaching of “faith-only” salvation. In other words, according to them, there is NOTHING one can do to be saved from their sins except believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. They may also add, “Just say this sinner’s prayer along with me....”—a prayer which is not found in the New Testament—Matthew to Revelation. They also fail to read the next verse: “**How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**” (Rom. 10:14). Salvation from one’s sins involves more than just believing in Jesus Christ (cf. Jam. 2:19-20, 24).

Peter answered their urgent question in Acts Chapter 2 with a command. “**Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**” (Acts 2:38). These sinners (those continuing in a pattern of sin) were told explicitly by Peter and the Holy Spirit what TO DO to gain forgiveness or remission of their sins: (1) “**repent**” or turn from their sins, and; (2) “**be baptized**” or be buried (not sprinkled) in the watery grave with Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12). Not only were they forgiven, they were “**born again**” (John 3:3, 5) into the kingdom of Christ, the church of Christ (Acts 2:41, 47).

But some may wonder if this is truly “**calling on the**



**name of the Lord.”** The Bible gives another example of the application of Acts 2:22.

In Acts Chapter 22 we see the poor penitent sinner Saul of Tarsus. Some say he was saved “on the road to Damascus.” If so, neither Jesus nor he knew it. On that road this BELIEVING sinner was told by Jesus to go into Damascus, **“and it shall be told thee what thou must do”** (Acts 9:6). For three days and nights he fasted and prayed to God. Not exactly the picture of a “saved” person! God sent him a preacher—Ananias (cf. Rom. 10:14). He found a sinner who had truly repented of his sins but who lacked something to be **“calling upon the name of the Lord.”** Referring to him as **“brother Saul”** (a fellow Jew – Acts 2:27; 23:1), Ananias commanded him, **“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”** (Acts 22:16). Saul was washed clean of his many sins by coming in contact with Christ’s blood and spiritually united with Him (Gal. 3:26, 27).

Have you Biblically “called on the name of the Lord?” If you have not obeyed God’s Plan of Salvation you are not a Christian but still in your sins. Have you believed Jesus that He is the Son of God (John 8:24)? Have you repented of your sins (Acts 17:30)? Have you confessed Him as the Son of God (Rom. 10:9,10)? Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38)? If not, **“Why tarriest thou?”**

### **“DON’T DANCE WITH THE ONE THAT BRUNG YA!”**

**And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist** (Mark 6:23-24).

The faithful child of God knows that the modern dance is sinful. They know that the New Testament teaches that LASCIVIOUSNESS or indecent body movements promotes lust. **“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”** (Jam. 1:14, 15).

The modern dance is a “work of the flesh” and unrepented of will deny one entrance into Heaven (Gal. 6:19-21). Dancing has led to the spiritual downfall of many—sexual immorality, promiscuity, adultery, ruined lives, and ruined homes.

This last Valentine’s Day many public schools in our area (including elementary schools) held dances which had special “father-daughter” dances. The report is that some brethren took part in this “chaperoned” activity.

“But it’s cute!” Perhaps the world thinks it is “cute.” But God’s word doesn’t! Sin is a treacherous path that leads to damnation. **“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble”** (Pro. 4:19).

“She would feel left out if she didn’t take part.” Why not teach her a vital lesson of the Christian life—we must strive to bring glory to God in our lives (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:20). This involves refraining from some activities the world promotes as acceptable if not “normal”: social drinking, gambling, dancing, etc. Ostracism may result from not participating, or perhaps it will be an opportunity to be a light in this old sin-sick world. **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”** (Mat. 5:16).

“It’s a harmless father-daughter thing!” A few years down the road that same child may remember the experience and conclude that dancing is alright. We are teaching our children many things in their early years. **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”** (Pro. 22:6). Please do not try to make sin respectable to children. There are many things a father and daughter can do together that are spiritually beneficial, such as learning from their Bible why the modern dance is sinful.

“You just have a dirty mind!” No, I am just teaching what the Bible teaches. It teaches us that sin begets further sin. **“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries”** (1 Pet. 4:3).

Parents, are you teaching your children what is right and what is wrong by your example? **“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”** (Eph. 6:4). The “nurture and admonition of the Lord” is not found in the modern dance.

### **MAN-MADE RELIGIOUS UNITY**

**And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees both. Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees’ party arose and protested, saying, “We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God. (Acts 23:7-9—New King James Version).**

In this account the apostle Paul stood before a Jewish religious council (the Sanhedrin) in Jerusalem. He pointed out to them that he was raised a devout Jew and his arrest was because of his preaching on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. At that point this council, who seemed united in their dedication to the Law of Moses, showed their true colors. In reality this council had not been united in decades. They were a squabbling group of sectarians that agreed on very little. The high priest and his family of Sadducees usually ruled the day because they controlled the temple in Jerusalem. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul

merely exposed the hypocrisy of man-made religious unity for all to see.

In our age of religious pluralism—the toleration and compromise of scriptural truth for the sake of harmony and acceptance. everyone wants “to go along to get along.” No one wants to broach the forbidden topic of Biblical doctrine and absolutes. The National Council of Churches, ministerial alliances and even denominations exist because of that reason. On the surface they seem all “sweetness and light” but inwardly there is bickering and seething differences which sometimes bubble to the surface (such is the hypocrisy of “unity in diversity”) **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness”** (Mat. 23:27).

A case in point is the Southern Baptist Convention. For many years, the conservative wing of this denomination has supported the doctrine of Bible inspiration and inerrancy. Yet the more liberal wing has disagreed and has gone so far as to set up separate funding for their mission activities and seminaries. Battles have been fought over the ordination of women, neo-Calvinism, acceptance of practicing homosexuals as members, etc. Yet they put forward a front of harmony and love while engaging in pitched political battles behind closed doors. Similar battles are occurring in the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, various Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, to name a few.

But the church we read about in the New Testament was called to Master’s standard of unity—the word of God.

**I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me** (John 17:20, 21).

**Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment** (1 Cor. 1:10).

**Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind”** (Phi. 3:16).

Yes, the early church of Christ had its problems with persecution, false teachers, and differences of opinion, but, in spite of that, they spread the gospel to their world (Col. 1:23). They did it without a man-made organization, convention, association, synod, missionary society, etc. All they had was the word of God and the promises of God to guide them. And that is all the faithful Christian needs today.

**But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And**

**great was its fall** (Mat. 7:26, 27).

## RESURRECTION SUNDAY?

The other day I received an 8 ½” x 5 ½” postcard from the Nazarene Church in town inviting me to their “Palm Sunday Celebration, Good Friday Service, and Resurrection Sunday” services April 14-16. It goes on and says “We invite you and your family (and friends) to join us as we celebrate Jesus, our Risen Lord, this Easter season.” I imagine it will be an elaborate affair with a chorus, singing groups, egg hunt and pageantry. For many people who claim to be Christians the observance of Christmas and Easter are the HEIGHTS of their religious observance. I am also reminded of what the Holy Spirit and the apostle Paul commanded the Christian in the New Testament: **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”** (Col. 3:17).

There is no “name of the Lord” or Scriptural authority in these festivities. You may read the Holy Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will find no mention of a special day out of year in which to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ. History records that the observance did not begin to appear until the middle of the Second Century A.D. (during a time of growing apostasy) or over one hundred years after the church of Christ was established in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 2) in A. D. 30. Which means that the apostles, Barnabas, Stephen, Philip, Paul, Jude, Philemon, Aquila, Priscilla, Phoebe, or any other Christians mentioned in the New Testament had never heard of or practiced “Resurrection Sunday” and its accoutrements. Yet, Paul and the Holy Spirit wrote the Thessalonian brethren, **“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle”** (2 The. 2:15). We can only conclude that “Easter” was not one of those inspired traditions.

When may we remember our Lord’s resurrection? We start by being baptized for the remission (or forgiveness) of our sins (Acts 2:38). As Paul and the Holy Spirit wrote, **“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead”** (Col. 2:12). The act of baptism or immersion in water is not a symbolic gesture we do AFTER we are saved from our sins. And it is not based on the faith of someone else, like a parent or “godparent.” It is a spiritual act in which we obey Him, come in contact with the sin cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and are resurrected from spiritual death—no longer a sinner but a Christian (cf. Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6).

When I contemplate my own mortality, I also remember Jesus’ resurrection. I am a finite being and, if the Lord tarries in His return, will die. Is it the end of my story, the final curtain to my existence? No! The resurrection of Jesus Christ on that Sunday morning almost 2,000 years ago proves that there is something after death—a general resurrection of the dead followed by the Judgment Day and eternal life or

eternal damnation (cf. John 5:23-29; Acts 17:30, 31; 1 Cor. 15:12-26; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Are you ready for that resurrection and judgment? Forget about “Easter Sunday” and all the unauthorized attempts to “celebrate” a man-made holy day (Mat. 15:9). Obey Christ’s Plan of Salvation: hear the gospel, believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, confess you faith in Jesus Christ, and be baptized for the remission of your sins. Then rejoice in His resurrection EVERY DAY of the year! Always heeding the apostles

warning when he wrote, “**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ**” (Col. 2:8).

—2530 Moore Court  
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# Miller, MSOP, and Cates’ Final Answer

Jerry C. Brewer

During the lectureship of the Sunny Slope church in Paducah, Kentucky, July 15, 2006, the following question was submitted during the Open Forum, and read by the moderator, Gary Colley:

In view of all that has been written over the last year in widely distributed brotherhood publications, would brothers Cates or Moser please clarify whether the leadership of Memphis School of Preaching supports Dave Miller as director of Apologetics Press?

The late Curtis Cates, who was then Director of the Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP), responded first and deftly spun and obfuscated the issue before giving his oblique—but final—answer.

First of all, let me say that we have never taught, as it is practiced among the liberals, and so forth, elder reaffirmation and reconfirmation. We are opposed to it. Last November, brother Liddell spoke specifically against it in Missouri. I “amened” it. I was there. I spoke against it in Alabama, back in October, elder reaffirmation and reconfirmation. We have never taught that. We have taught against it. We teach against it. We shall teach against it, as long as I have anything to do with the Memphis School of Preaching, and the present faculty. Now, relative to brother Dave Miller, brother Dave Miller denies that they practiced what they’re being accused of as having practiced, as far as what the liberals do, and so forth. Uh, if you want to know more about that, I would encourage you to talk to brother Dave Miller, himself, he’ll be glad to talk to you, and clarify this. I know this. I know that a tremendous amount has been written. A lot has been written about me, and so forth. and, let me just assure you brethren. I stand where I’ve always stood. I’ve written a lot of books against liberalism. And when I spoke here in 1980, I was opposed to liberalism, some of you heard me. I have written seven or eight books against liberalism. I have written numberless articles on liberalism. Somebody from Kentucky wrote me a while back and said, ‘brother Cates, where do you stand on the marriage question?’ Brethren, I stand where I’ve always stood on the marriage question. I sent him, uh, a chapter in the book in 1980 at this very lectureship and I said, ‘this is where I stand.’ I sent him also a copy of a brochure by brother Elkins on the marriage question. Brethren, that’s where I stand. Now. Apologetics

Press? I signed a letter for Apologetics Press to continue. I do not apologize for that.

Like the politician who was asked where he stood on a certain issue, and responded, “Some of my friends are for it and some are against it, and I am for my friends,” Cates tiptoed all the way around the question without giving a direct answer. The question was simple: “...would brothers Cates or Moser please clarify whether the leadership of Memphis School of Preaching supports Dave Miller as director of Apologetics Press?” It could have been answered, “Yes, we support him as director of Apologetics Press,” or, “No, we do not support him.” But that would have been too simple and could have resulted in the loss of funds from one group or another of MSOP supporters. Instead, Cates took the lame lane of compromise. Consider his statements:

First of all, let me say that we have never taught, as it is practiced among the liberals, and so forth, elder reaffirmation and reconfirmation. We are opposed to it. Last November, brother Liddell spoke specifically against it in Missouri. I “amened” it. I was there. I spoke against it in Alabama, back in October, elder reaffirmation and reconfirmation. We have never taught that. We have taught against it. We teach against it. We shall teach against it, as long as I have anything to do with the Memphis School of Preaching, and the present faculty.

Neither the questioner, nor anyone else has ever charged MSOP with teaching elder reaffirmation and reconfirmation (R/R), but Cates denied doing so anyway—a non-answer. Furthermore, he added a defense to something that was not charged in the question, nor by those who oppose Miller’s doctrine of R/R, saying, “as it is practiced among the liberals.” Does the unscriptural doctrine of R/R become scriptural if it is not “as it is practiced among the liberals?” He may have referred to the liberal notion that elders need to be reaffirmed and reconfirmed every so many years, as political elections are held. But, to my knowledge, no one ever accused Miller of that. Any reaffirmation and reconfirmation of elders is unscriptural.

Now, relative to brother Dave Miller, brother Dave Miller denies that they practiced what they’re being accused of as having practiced, as far as what the liberals do, and so forth. Uh, if you want



to know more about that, I would encourage you to talk to brother Dave Miller, himself, he'll be glad to talk to you, and clarify this. I know this. I know that a tremendous amount has been written. A lot has been written about me, and so forth. and, let me just assure you brethren. I stand where I've always stood. I've written a lot of books against liberalism. And when I spoke here in 1980, I was opposed to liberalism, some of you heard me. I have written seven or eight books against liberalism. I have written numberless articles on liberalism. Somebody from Kentucky wrote me a while back and said, 'brother Cates, where do you stand on the marriage question?' Brethren, I stand where I've always stood on the marriage question. I sent him, uh, a chapter in the book in 1980 at this very lectureship and I said, 'this is where I stand.' I sent him also a copy of a brochure by brother Elkins on the marriage question.

"Dave Miller denies that they practiced what they're being accused of, as having practiced, as far as what the liberals do." Both Cates and Miller thoroughly thrashed the straw man they erected by this statement. Here's what Miller said: "I do not believe in the 'reaffirmation/reevaluation of elders' as my critics have defined the concept" (Quote from: *For Honorable Brethren Who Sincerely Want To Know*). Cates echoed Miller in his phrase, "...as far as what the liberals do." Miller's "critics" never "defined the concept," but it is much safer to whip a straw man than to directly address the issue if one wants to avoid the truth. Cates' advice to, "talk to brother Dave Miller, himself, he'll be glad to talk to you, and clarify this" was taken by many brethren and Miller's "clarification" was always his denial that he practiced elder R/R "as my critics have defined the concept," or, in Cates' words, "as far as what the liberals do." (And how many who have sought to talk with Miller have even had their inquiries acknowledged, much less discussed?) [*The few that have talked to Miller have received different answers from him when he did speak with them—Editor*] And, until his death, Cates remained silent about this matter, as has MSOP's succeeding directors, faculty, staff, and the elders of the Forest Hill Church of Christ, whose work MSOP is. In the latter part of the above quote, Cates launched into a defense of himself against liberalism, as though that answered the question. No one ever accused Curtis Cates of defending liberalism, so it is significant

that he felt the need to defend himself.

Now. Apologetics Press? I signed a letter for Apologetics Press to continue. I do not apologize for that. We have several of our students who are connected with Apologetics Press, and have been. And, I have confidence in, uh, they're doing a great job in fighting atheism, Islam, you name it, denominationalism and this type thing. Now, Am I brother Miller's press secretary? No. But I would encourage you to talk to him, and find out what he says.

Though Cates refused to give a direct answer to the question, he left no doubt that he and MSOP supported Miller, saying, "I signed a letter for Apologetics Press to continue. I do not apologize for that." By supporting Miller's work (AP), Curtis Cates supported Miller. That is true of every signer of the same letter and all of them violated Second John 9-11, despite their protestations to the contrary. That had been Cates' mantra for a year, which he had set forth at the last meeting of *The Gospel Journal* Board of Directors (July 20, 2005) where this exchange took place:

Brother McClish asked brother Cates about his implicit endorsement of brother Dave Miller by his signing the AP "Statement of Support" with brother Miller as its Director. Brother Cates said that he did not endorse any of brother Miller's errors, but he did support the continuation of AP. Brother McClish stated that he did not see how one could support one and not support the other.

In his final answer, Curtis Cates arrayed himself against every passage of scripture prohibiting fellowship with false teachers. He further used his influence to smear the good names of brethren who oppose Miller's errors and, because he feared the loss of financial support for MSOP, his unyielding defense and endorsement of a false teacher fomented division in the body of Christ.

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*One reads with father specs upon his head,  
And sees the Book just as his father said;  
While others read to prove a preadopted creed,  
Hence understand but little what they read,  
For every passage in the book they bend.  
To make it suit that all important end.*

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# How Do I Win A Friend To Christ?

Gary L. Grizzell

Your desire to win a friend to Christ is a good one. The Bible says that, **“he that winneth souls is wise”** (Pro. 11:30). For you to win a soul to Christ these things must be present: 1) A prepared worker, 2) A pure seed, 3) An honest heart. Let’s look together at each of these.

## A PREPARED WORKER

You must prepare yourself to teach a lost soul the good news of salvation. You need to be prepared with your head, your heart, and your feet.

By a prepared head, I refer to a proper and necessary knowledge of the gospel of Christ. You must know the plan of salvation and be able to open your New Testament to show your friend the passages he/she needs to see. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Tim. 2:15).

By a prepared heart, I refer to a good life. Be sure you are a New Testament Christian yourself and are living the faithful Christian life.

**... let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity ... sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”** (read 2 Tim. 2:19-21).

By prepared feet, I refer to a willingness to go to that person and try to set up a Bible study time. **“Go,”** said Jesus (Mat. 28:19). You must be willing to simply ask the person if he would be willing to study the Bible with you. You may find this difficult. If so, practice with a loved one (or even in a mirror) what you will say before visiting your friend. Pray about your preparation. Jesus teaches his disciples to pray and the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person is meaningful to God (Mat. 26:41; Jam. 5:16).

When visiting with your friend you may approach him by simply asking your friend if he is interested in spiritual things and thereby open the door for a discussion along these lines. If there is a good response, seek at some point in the conversation to make an appointment to study the Bible in a more in-depth and systematic way. Perhaps you could leave a Bible tract on a relevant subject with him/her to read before meeting again.

You may wish to involve an elder or a preacher (in addition to your own preparation) if you think that Bible questions may arise during the study that you think you may need some assistance in answering.

Have confidence. God has not given His children the spirit of fear; that comes from another source (see 2 Tim. 1:7). Remember, if you are a New Testament Christian, this means you have obeyed the five steps of the plan of salva-

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Exposition, Exegesis, and Commentary on a variety of Bible Topics and Passages

Over the past half-century-plus I have had the opportunity to write hundreds of articles and manuscripts. My late beloved wife, Lavonne, and our son, Andy, have written a considerable body of material as well. These documents treating various Bible and Bible-related subjects total several thousand pages.



**Dub McClish**



**Lavonne McClish**



**Andy McClish**

At the urging of others we are making these materials more widely available than possible by printed media. Through our Website, these are accessible at no charge to Bible students everywhere. 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. Please visit [thescripturecache](http://thescripturecache.com) soon. —Dub McClish

tion. You can certainly tell your lost friend what you did to receive forgiveness of sins! Having Bible knowledge plus having a good life equals failure in evangelism unless one is willing to go and teach that knowledge. Go therefore!

### A PURE SEED

**“The seed is the word of God”** (Luke 8:11). Jesus compared the teacher of God’s Word to a sower who went forth to sow seed (Mat. 13:3-8). The seed is the message and the different kinds of ground represent the different conditions of hearts that men possess. Most hearts among accountable persons are like the stony ground, the thorny ground, and the wayside ground, in that none of these grounds successfully received the seed. These are compared to those who do not love the truth of God’s Word. Only one kind of ground in this parable, that Jesus told, successfully received the seed and that was the good soil ground. The good soil ground received the seed and became fruitful. This represents those who have good hearts and will choose to be receptive to the Word of God. Obviously then, the seed (the message) must be the pure, unadulterated gospel of Christ, the New Testament (see Rom. 1:16-17; 2 John 9-11; Acts 2:42; Gal. 6:2; Heb. 8:6; Jude 3).

To teach your friend the truth from the Bible is your goal. You will not, therefore, teach him the false, uninspired doctrines of mere men, but you will prove all things from the New Covenant of Christ with regard to how to become a child of God. Jesus condemned teaching the doctrines of men, saying, **“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”** (Mat. 15:9). All are commanded to **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”** (1 The. 5:21).

When you teach your friend the pure message of salvation, you will show him from the New Testament what one must do to be saved, as follows:

- 1) Hear the gospel—John 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17.
- 2) Believe in Jesus Christ as The Son of God—Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6.
- 3) Repent of your sins—Luke 13:3; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30.
- 4) Confess faith in Christ—Mat. 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10.
- 5) Be baptized (immersed) for the remission of your sins—Mat. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21.
- 6) Continue faithful until (or if necessary, “unto” death)—Mat. 25:21, 34; 2 Pet. 1:1-11; Rev. 2:10; Heb. 6:1; 1 John 1:6-9; Rev. 22:17.

### AN HONEST HEART

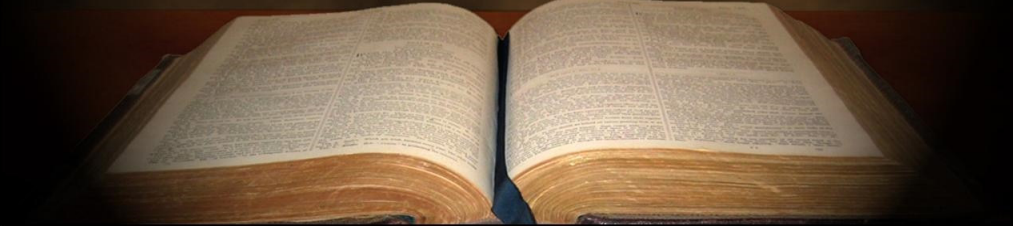
God has done His part by the giving of His Son and the gospel of salvation. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”** (John 3:16). The honest heart is necessary on the part of your friend if he/she is to successfully receive the seed of the of the kingdom, the Word of God. Remember the parable of the sower and the class of persons the good soil represents? (Mat. 13:3-8). The good soil ground represents that class of persons who love the truth. If you as a teacher do your part in teaching (with proper preparation and attitude), then it is really left up to the lost person (your friend) as to whether or not he will allow himself to be won to the Lord. Man is

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK

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a free moral creature, meaning that God made man with the freedom of choice (free will). A sinner can choose to be saved or choose to reject the gospel. Jesus said, **“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine ...”** (John 7:17).

Do your part and then pray for your friend to choose to have a love of the truth of God’s Word. In God’s mind, if you have been a faithful teacher, you will be successful as a teacher independent of your friend’s response. This is true in that God does not hold the faithful Christian teacher responsible for the hearer’s response. It is God who adds to His church and He only adds those who obey Him (read Acts 2:36-41, 47).

On the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter two, these three elements are seen:

- 1) A prepared worker (the apostle Peter),
- 2) A pure seed (the Word of God that Peter preached),
- 3) Honest hearts (about 3,000 gladly received the message and were baptized, Acts 2:41).

When your friend responds to the preaching of the deity, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and the plan for the remission of sins as those about 3,000 persons did, then he/she will be won to the Lord. Satan will have lost control of another soul and Christ will have won another soul for an eternity in heaven, provided that soul remains faithful until death.

Do not beat yourself up with guilt if your friend chooses to reject the pure gospel of Christ. Many will reject heaven and choose rather to walk that broad road of convenience into an everlasting hell (Mat. 7:13-14). Note the importance of personal responsibility in the following passages: Eph. 2:8-9; Jam. 2:24; Rom. 2:6; Acts 2:40—**“Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”**

Much more could be said about different methods of ap-

proach in teaching the gospel. Scriptural methods include but are not limited to the following methods: tract evangelism, radio, television, Bible correspondence courses, Bible video (or filmstrips), internet, gospel meetings, lectureships, vacation Bible school, and others. However, (generally speaking) no matter what method one uses in teaching the gospel to a lost soul, the bottom line is that there must be a time for a time together, face-to-face, with an open Bible. Remember that the power is in the seed, not in the sower. (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16).

Modern day expedients in teaching the gospel are beneficial to us only when we use these and not allow these to use us. Understanding the importance of simply being obedient, loving, prepared workers is the reason the early Christians could say that they had preached the gospel to every creature in their day! (Rom. 1:18; Col. 1:6, 23). They did this without the modern means of technology we have today. We may be thankful and use today’s advanced methods, but the bottom line is that usually and eventually we must arrange a face-to-face Bible study with the lost person.

There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. When a man dies, his soul drops off into eternity where time shall be no more. We must then all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10). We should seek to teach these things to our fellowman, relatives, and friends. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and His followers will do the same (Luke 19:10; 1 Pet. 2:21—**“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”**).

In order to win a friend (or foe) to Christ, the real question one must ask himself is this: Am I willing to pay the price necessary in order to prepare myself to teach my friend the saving gospel?

— <glg@1791.com>



## *42nd Annual Bellview Lectures*

### *Set Ye Up A Standard In The Land (Jer. 51:27)*

### **June 9 – 13, 2017**

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The lectureship book, *Set Ye Up A Standard In The Land*, will be available for purchase. The price is \$5 plus \$3.75 for postage. The book will contain 27 chapters and will be a spiral-bound 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.

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**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](http://www.piedmontcoc.net), Lester Kamp, evangelist. (720) 989-8155.

### **-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](http://www.CambridgeCityCoC.org.uk). Contact: Inside the U.K.: Joan Moulton - 01223-210101; Postal/mailling 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. <http://www.bellviewcoc.com/>

### **-Montana-**

**Helena**—Mountain View Church of Christ, 1400 Joslyn Street, Helena, Mt. 59601, Sun.: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., Matt Bidmead (406) 461-9199.

### **-Oklahoma-**

**Elk City**—Northeast Church of Christ, 616 N. Locust Ave., Mailing address P.O. Box 267, Elk City, OK 73648-0267, Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Wed., 7:00 p.m. Jerry and Nathan Brewer, evangelists. The church building is one block east of North Van Buren, on East Avenue C in Elk City, Oklahoma . FaceBook : [www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok](http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok). Phone: (580) 225-4395

**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](mailto:allenlawson@earth-comm.com).

### **-South Carolina-**

**Belvedere (Greater Augusta, Georgia Area)**—Church of Christ, 535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841, [www.belvederechurchofchrist.org](http://www.belvederechurchofchrist.org); e-mail [belvecoc@gmail.com](mailto:belvecoc@gmail.com), (803) 442-6388, Sun.: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.,

### **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](mailto:northpointcoc@hotmail.com). Website: [www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com). Sunday: 9:30, 10:30, 1:00; Wednesday 7:00. Contact: Dub McClish: (940) 218-2892; [dubmclish@gmail.com](mailto:dubmclish@gmail.com).

**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. [www.churchesofchrist.com](http://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.

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