

Salvation by God's Grace

For as long as we can remember the strains of a beautiful old hymn have sounded out as brethren sang: “**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind but now I see.**” Yes, indeed, God’s grace is amazing and the sound of it is sweet; it saves the lost, undeserving soul through God’s precious gospel! That **salvation** which we can see and know through the eyes of faith has been made possible through God’s wonderful grace and never could be obtained without it.

Isn’t it wonderful that we can talk about God’s grace and the salvation which has been made possible by it, and know that we can know the truth about it because it has been revealed through God’s all-sufficient word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). However, in spite of God’s revealed truth concerning **grace** and **salvation**, there is so much misunderstanding about this all-important subject. In fact, multitudes misunderstand grace to the extent that they simply ignore or pass by that which is necessary in order to have salvation by God’s grace. We are warned that God’s grace can be turned into lasciviousness (Jude 4), or it can be perverted to condone sin through disobedience to God. It is because of this that we shall, in the following, define **grace** and show that it does not exclude all law or all works (acts of obedience). When we have considered these facts it will be evident that **salvation by grace** cannot be by **salvation by grace alone**.

GOD’S GRACE DEFINED

The Greek word *charis* is translated by the English word “grace” in the New Testament, where it is found about 130 times. Prior to the first century the word meant: beauty, joy, kindness, charm, approval, good will. But as used in the New Testament with reference to God’s grace it means, according to an accepted authority on the Greek, *Thayer*: “That kindness by which God bestows favor upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offences, and bids them accept salvation through Christ.” A common definition of “grace” is, “The unmerited favor of God toward man,” by which salvation is made possible.

This unmerited favor of God (grace) has been demonstrated through the sending

DRL Note: *Part of the file I received from brother Pigg was missing here. I will try to retrieve it and insert it, but for now, there is a GAP in this issue...*

of all the problems which are recorded in the New Testament, and that history later records. But suffice it to say that the apostate church was the result, and it came quickly. Paul predicted that "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13).

From history we learn of things which happened as people departed from the New Testament pattern. One source says that "Holy water" was introduced as early as 120 A.D. With the passing of time the form of church government which had God's approval was completely ignored. In 533 A.D., Boniface, the bishop of Rome was appointed the supreme head of the apostate church, by Justinian, emperor of the eastern empire of Rome.

The above things were only the beginning of a departure from God's truth which would worsen over the centuries to come. Eventually, there were those who stood in opposition to some of the apostate practices. In 1354, John Wycliff raised his voice against some of the erroneous practices, but it would be another 150 years before the Reformation movement really caught fire, as the primary result of the work and courage of two men.

In 1484, there was born in Switzerland a man by the name of Ulrich Zwingli. He was responsible for some radical changes within the apostate church which were for the better. In 1483, Martin Luther was born in Germany. He began his work of reformation in Wittenburg, Germany. These men literally hazarded their lives for that which they believed. Even so, people had not been turned back to the truth as it had been revealed in the first century. It would be well over a century before a serious effort was made to Restore the true church.

THE CHURCH RESTORED

As the Reformers had the New Testament, and no doubt considered such passages as Hebrews 8:5, where Moses was admonished of God when he was about to build the tabernacle. "for See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." From all the historical accounts it is evident that the Restorers' aim was to follow the New Testament pattern for the church and all the activities connected with it.

It seems that the Restoration Movement had a more or less formal beginning in 1792, at the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. In that meeting it was determined that: 1. Christ is the only head of the church. 2. The name Christian was to be used to the exclusion of all other names. 3. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only creed, and rule of faith and practice. 4. Christian character shall be the only test of church fellowship and membership. 5. The right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience, the privilege of all. (*Brumbeck*, p. 288).

Many embraced the above principles and devoted their lives to a restoration of the Lord's church in faith and practice. It would not be long, comparatively speaking, until there would be a yearning of the brethren to be like the deonominations round about. They would begin to add to and take from the pattern which God has given. In 1849 the Missionary Society was established. Then, the use of instrumental music was added just twenty years later. This second innovation caused more harm to the restored church than anything that was to come for many years. Great division came and the United States government recognized two religious bodies in the census of 1909.

Both prior to and after these things other problems arose in the body of Christ. In the late 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, some troubled the church by declaring that the needy, orphans in particular, could not be ministered to in homes dedicated to that purpose. Neither could congregations cooperate in doing a given scriptural work. This did great and lasting harm to the church. Many congregations were divided and fellowship ceased. Though our Lord's church has faced problems since its beginning, that does not make the present problems any less severe. The New Testament predicted a variety of serious problems, and we must realize that.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH IN OUR DAY

Though the restored church has met many challenges through the years, it is now facing the greatest threat of all during our lives. There is such a great need that we be informed.

There were those who challenged the authority of Moses, the spokesman of God (Nu. 16). In the New Testament there were some who challenged the authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus was asked, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" (Matt. 21:23).

Peter said, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covet-

ousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you..." (2 Pet. 2:1-3). Paul said to the Ephesian elders: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. And also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30). It is the fulfillment of these prophecies and others like them that is troubling the church today.

The denial of the authority of Christ and the inspiration of the Scriptures is a terrible thing. But there is more. Some deny the authority of the elders to oversee and feed the flock of God. But there is still more. On a Wednesday evening in a Bible study, in the early 1980's, some declared that they had just learned that Isaiah 7:14 had been mistranslated. It should have read, "A young woman shall conceive." Then soon after they learned that John 3:16 had been mistranslated. It should have been "one of His sons" instead of his "only begotten Son, who was unique." Then shortly "one who seemed to be somewhat" (Gal. 2:6) wrote an article in a paper supported by brethren sympathizing with people like me who "who had been deceived through years by this mistranslation." There were some not long ago who would have us believe the Bible is not trustworthy. This was also discussed in a Bible class. When the class was over I asked one who stood in the pulpit regularly, if he had an accurate translation of the Bible. His answer was, "I don't know."

Let us consider some things and see what we have and what we don't have. A young woman conceives. That happens every day. That born of her is just another man. He was crucified, he was just another dead Jew. If the Bible is in error concerning these things then it may be in error concerning other things. When we take away the virgin birth, we take away the inspired testimony of Matthew in 18:23. When we take away the miraculous conception we make both Mary the mother of Jesus and the angel, Gabriel, liars, in their testimony about these things (Lk. 1:26-38). If we take away "only begotten" in John 3:16, we take away the sonship of Jesus Christ. If we take away the authenticity of the Bible we have just another book. Not much left, is there?

Could it be that we have an immoral woman bringing forth an illegitimate son, and that she and the angel Gabriel lied about it to cover her sin? I think not. Could it be that the Bible, that which we call the Holy Scriptures, has no basis in fact, but is a fabrication of men? I think not. Or, could it be that God who spoke the creation into existence, and made man of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7), cannot by his power preserve for man his word and his will? I think not.

If the above things be true, can we be surprised when one preaches and teaches for years and cannot grasp the meaning of such passages as Matthew 19:9? I think not.

One of God's prophets who went off course, Balaam, saw great reward slipping away from him, so he went back to the Lord to "See what he will say unto me more" (Num. 22:19). If the Bible is not without error, anything and everything may be "found" and there is no need to allow mammon to slip away. Could this kind of thinking be at the root of the problems seen in the church today? I would answer with an emphatic YES.

Members of the Israel of God are farther away from God today than they have been in our lives. This tide can only be turned by God's spokesmen crying, as Isaiah was commanded to do: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. May God's spokesmen find the courage to do so in every place!

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ARE ANNOUNCEMENTS ENDORSEMENTS?

By Richard Guill

Almost every congregation of the Lord's church either publishes a bulletin, has a public bulletin board, or makes public announcements at their services. Many have all three. Numerous are the calls, letters, and flyers asking that the congregation announce some special event being sponsored by a congregation, or a denominational group, or a community event. Should we announce them all, or should we use some discretion as to what we will announce? How do we decide? Are there any scriptural guidelines we can and should use to decide? And, even more pertinent to our purpose in this discussion, does our announcement of any particular function indicate **our endorsement**, or not? I propose to try to answer each of these things.

First, for what purpose did someone send the announcement? Did they not want the attendance and/or participation of the congregation? An announcement of a function is an invitation to attend and if you announce it to others, you are helping them extend that invitation.

Second, is the event secular or religious in nature? If it is secular, is there anything sinful connected with it? If there is not, does its announcement have any place in our church bulletins, on our bulletin boards, or in public announcements? If there is going to be a community yard sale, would and should you announce it in such ways? The primary purpose of those forms of announcements is for spiritual matters, not secular events.

If the announcement is religious in nature, then several things must be taken into consideration before announcing it. Is it

from a denominational church? We get several of these each month, seeking our attendance and our announcement of the event. Obviously such goes in the waste basket and not in our bulletin or on our bulletin board. Is it from some church of Christ either locally or from afar? Again, some things must be considered. Is the event or the thing planned a scripturally authorized activity (Col. 3:17)? Not everything planned and conducted by a congregation of the Lord's church is really authorized.

Are the ones involved, the congregation and the ones invited as guest speakers, etc. known to be faithful to the truth? Some congregations are known to be havens for false teachers who are often invited to speak there. Some congregations will support and promote activities which obviously promote error, division, and apostasy in our brotherhood. If a congregation is known as such, why would we want to help promote its activities? If a speaker for a meeting or other such activity is known to be a false teacher, or immoral in behavior, should we announce the activity as if nothing is wrong?

Does the announcement of an event in the bulletin, posting a flyer about it on the bulletin board, and/or making an announcement of it in a public service of the church constitute an **endorsement** of it? Some congregations want to be recognized as "sound," but they will announce almost all activities of other churches of Christ in these ways. I have heard some say, "We don't endorse it or condemn it. We just announce it and leave it up to the members as to whether or not they attend." Do they really believe that? I don't believe they do. If they do, why do they not announce the activities of denominations and other secular activities in the community? (I realize that a few actually do so, but most do not). Back to a point previously made: When a congregation sends an announcement of an event, they are inviting people to come and support that activity with their presence. They also expect it to be announced to the whole congregation and thus extend their invitation for them. When the ones who read the bulletin see the announcement there, do they not conclude that you are encouraging them to attend? When members see a poster on the bulletin board and hear someone publicly announce the event, do they not rightly conclude that you are encouraging their attendance? Be honest, you know they do.

Why should a congregation be so careful about what it announces? Because the salvation of souls and the future welfare of the congregation may be at stake. Who knows which Christian might go to such an activity and gain confidence in the speaker and be led away into some error which he promotes? Christians are warned, *Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness* (2 Pet. 3:17).

Leaders in the Lord's church must watch for the souls of those members under their care. They must never allow them to be encouraged to go to anything which puts them in danger of being corrupted so as to lose their soul. If they do so, the leaders will also give an account unto God (Acts 20:28-31; Heb. 13:17). Another reason that they should not encourage attendance at such functions is the danger that some will be swayed by the false doctrine or practice and bring it back to the congregation and promote it among the members. Leaders then will have a difficult time in dealing with such error and expunging it from the flock.

The Biblical injunction found in Romans 16:17 demands that we refuse to announce and promote false teachers and unsound congregations. Not only does Paul say, *mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned*, but he also added, *and avoid them*. Rather than encouraging brethren to go and listen to them, we should be seeking to avoid such contact.

Another passage that demands that we refuse to announce a function involving the teaching or practice of error is Ephesians 5:11: *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them*. Though not specifically named in the contextual list of *works of darkness* (vs 3-5), there is nothing that qualifies more as a work of darkness than religious error, the promoters of which have the curse of God upon them (Gal. 1:6-9). The word *fellowship* means, partnership, joint-sharing, and communion. When a congregation plans such an event and promotes it and we help promote it and/or attend such, we are joint-sharers in the event, we have fellowship with them. Paul says, *have no fellowship*, he did not say, "but go ahead and announce it," but he did say, *but rather reprove them*. Why will brethren ignore these passages?

Some of my brethren may hear of the event in some other way and even attend, but they will not hear it from any announcement which I have made. I will both promote and support any authorized religious activity by a congregation that I know to be sound in the faith and that involves men known to be sound also.

Some call me judgmental (and worse), and don't like such a policy, but I seek not the approval of men if I must forfeit the approval of God. As Paul said, *if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ* (Gal. 1:10).

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Editor's Note: *I heartily commend the above discussion by brother Guill. The encouragement of error by way of announcements is a problem in this area. The preacher for the largest congregation in this area affirmed that the policy of the congregation is to announce activities of all congregations, regardless of who the speaker might be. But this congregation is very liberal and encourages error. I believe the problems we see here are often seen in many other places.*

Please Take Note: Mail which is sent to me would reach me sooner if it was addressed to my home address. When mail is sent to me by way of the Hickory Grove congregation, it may be several days before I receive it. I do not live at Hickory Grove, but five or six miles from the church building. My mailing address is: 164 Coles Campground Rd., Murray, KY 42071. My address is always inside the front page of *Banner of Truth*. My e-mail address is on the back page. It is: < wpiggbot@apex.net >

Your cooperation in this will be very helpful and Greatly Appreciated. - - *Editor*

To Be Successful One Must...

By *Marvin L. Weir*

After God buried Moses on the mountain overlooking the Promised Land, he spoke to Joshua regarding leading the people across the Jordan River. The lesson is an important one to grasp. God buried His faithful servant, Moses, but that did not mean that He buried His work! Before the great prophet Elijah was transported to heaven, his mantle was given to Elisha. The great purposes of God will never fail. Let us learn how we as Christians can be successful servants of the Lord.

First, we must understand the purpose of God. Joshua knew what crossing the Jordan was all about. When God commanded him to “*go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people*” (Josh. 1:2), Joshua did not have to wonder whether or not he was doing the right thing. This great servant of God had long believed in **doing** the bidding of Jehovah. Joshua was one of the spies who **believed** they could subdue the fortified cities of the Canaanites. On that occasion Joshua said, “*Only rebel not against Jehovah, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is removed from over them, and Jehovah is with us: fear them not*” (Nu. 14:9). This faithful follower of God knew that the **purpose** of God was for the children of Israel to possess the land of Canaan.

As Christians we are commanded to be “*not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17). If we do not understand the Lord’s will and we refuse to make our “*calling and election sure*” (I Pet. 1:10), we will never be **certain** of what the Lord would have us do while living in this world. God “*would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth*” (I Tim. 2:4), and Christ came to “*seek and save the lost*” (Lk. 19:10). God’s great purpose has always been to make salvation available to all mankind (Jn. 3:16).

Second, we must have faith in God’s promises. God told Joshua, “*Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spake unto Moses*” (Josh. 1:3). Isn’t it sad that most people today believe in an unconditional, faith only type of salvation? The truth is that God’s promises regarding security and salvation have always been conditional. One cannot miss the truth that the Promised Land had to be **claimed** by the **people’s feet**. What if the people had said, “God, we believe you, but we will not cross the Jordan and neither will we march against our enemies?” If we truly have faith and believe in God we will **act** according to His instructions.

Third, we must never forget the presence of God. To Joshua and the people of Israel He said, “*as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee*” (Josh. 1:5). The Israelites would not be successful simply because they were surrounded by chariots and horses [military might] (Ps. 20:7; Isa. 31:1). If they trusted only in military might they would be failures.

God has always ruled in the kingdoms of men (Dan. 4:17; 5:21). God’s will and purpose cannot be thwarted. As Christians, may we believe this truth and say with Paul, “*If God is for us, who is against us?*” (Ro. 8:31).

Fourth, our success will depend upon our courage. The Israelites were commanded to “*be strong and very courageous*” (Josh. 1:7). Elijah possessed such courage as he faced and confronted the 450 false prophets of Baal (I K. 18:22). Are we as Christians bold enough to face the false teachers who are leading folks astray today? To the Ephesian brethren Paul said, “*Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might*” (Eph. 6:10). There are far too many spiritual cowards today who fear men more than they do Almighty God (Mt. 10:28).

Fifth, we will only be successful if we allow God to lead us. Moses said to the Israelites, “*Ye shall observe to do therefore as Jehovah your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left*” (Deut. 5:32). The Word of God is always to be our guide (Ps. 119:105). Today God speaks to those who will hear Him through His beloved Son (Heb. 1:2). One who rejects the Word of Christ will be rejected by Christ (Jn. 12:48). The **only** infallible guide for man today is the inspired Word of God.

Sixth, success and obedience go hand in hand. Again, from Old Testament history we learn that it was not enough that Joshua **heard** the call and **knew** the will of God. He had to surrender his will to God’s will through submissive obedience. The same is true for all today. One does not love the Lord who will not obey Him (Jn. 14:15). Neither does it profit one to call upon the name of the lord, but refuse to **do** His will (Lk. 6:46).

If you are to be successful in your journey toward Heaven you must always submit to and obey the will of God. Study His Word and follow Him. To do otherwise guarantees spiritual failure.

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Ideal Church Growth - In Quality and Quantity

The church which Christ said he would build (Mt. 16:18) was blood-purchased (Ac. 20:28). It was not to be a static institution, but rather a vibrant, growing body. The tremendous responsibility of the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15) in taking the gospel to “every creature” in “all nations” (Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-20) necessitates growth. And, everyone who considers himself as a faithful member of the body of Christ must demonstrate a vital interest in such growth if he would maintain God’s approval. But just as **church growth** is necessary, it is also necessary that it be **God-approved growth**.

An example of **Ideal Church Growth** is found in connection with the work of Paul and Timothy. Paul came to Derbe and Lystra and took Timothy with him. As they went through the cities they delivered the decrees which “were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. The church growth which resulted from their efforts is described this way: “And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily” (Ac. 16:15). This growth was twofold in nature. It involved:

GROWTH IN QUALITY. The churches were “established in the faith.” The ASV says, “strengthened in the faith.” The means for growth in faith have been abundantly provided. The all-sufficient word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17), when “heard” (Rom. 10:17) serves as the basis for a growing and mature faith. As the church grows in faith it becomes more aware and concerned with regard to the opportunity and responsibility of propagating “the faith.” It is understandable then that Peter would exhort: “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Pet. 2:2).

GROWTH IN QUANTITY. The churches “increased in number daily.” We should strive for growth numerically but that growth must be the result of an “established faith.” When growth in number occurs as a result of something other than growth in quality, it is not the right kind of growth and may in fact indicate a serious problem. When the church is strengthened in the faith God will give an increase in number (I Cor. 3:6). We see instances where churches become more concerned about numerical growth than growth in quality. The result is a weakening of the faith due to a neglect of emphasis upon spiritual growth. A fact which we would do well to remember is that growth in faith will produce growth in numbers. On the other hand, a mere growth in numbers does not translate into growth in faith, or that essential quality.

HOW IDEAL CHURCH GROWTH MAY BE ENCOURAGED. If ever there was a time when we should be concerned about this matter, is NOW! The church is not growing in number but is reportedly declining, and that there is a general weakening in the faith is evidenced by the many false doctrines now being taught and the spirit of compromise and unconcern which now prevail. If God-approved church growth is to be encouraged, there is **ONLY ONE WAY** to do it. There must be a return to The Book! There must be a strengthening of the faith, leaving the increase in numbers to God. This will necessitate the abandoning of the gadgets and gimmicks which have been devised by the wisdom of men to help God out in giving a numerical increase. In the days when members of the church were known as “people of The Book,” the church grew both in **quality** and in **quantity**. God’s Word will produce the same results in our day. - *Editor*

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

Alton W. Fonville

Someone has said, “eternal vigilance” is the price we must pay for freedom. Many people do not seem to really understand this or even care. The recent happenings around the world and the incident in China should be as a red flag to alert us to the real meaning of the above phrase. “Battles don’t stay fought” — “Victories don’t stay won.” Memorial day recently, with all its stories from veterans, brought to mind some very graphic details of what our enemy does to its prisoners. Whether we are considering world affairs or spiritual affairs concerning the Lord’s church and His word, the answer is the same. We don’t want history to repeat.

Peter warned sternly, “be sober, be **vigilant**: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). God wants us to “watch.” He inspired Paul to write, “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5). Many times, Jesus also warned of watching. Consider Mark 13:35-37 – “What say I unto you, I say UNTO ALL, WATCH”

Now that it has been established that it is God’s will that we WATCH, for what are we to watch? One of the more common departures from “the faith” is the notion which so many have now, that we must “fellowship the denominational world,” in order to win them. They say not to speak harshly of denominational beliefs and practices—just accept them as they are. As a result of this thinking, many in the Lord’s church are now in full fellowship with the denominations, even praying for their success. They even consider them to be “Christians” also. Joint participation with them in various ventures is common. It is excused by saying, “look at the good it is doing,” never considering what “God hath spoken”: “Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Naturally, we don’t have to face persecutions and ridicule if we never speak out against their unbelief and practices. And we can live “at peace” in the community and everyone will speak well of us. But, too, Jesus warned about that (Lk. 6:46).

Long ago, when Israel and Judah were divided, King Jehoshaphat of Judah heard a stern warning from God through the mouth of Jehu, after he joined himself to Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, as recorded in 2 Chronicles 18 and 19. Listen to Jehu as he speaks for God: “shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord.” Both were God’s people). If you have not read that story recently, it is quite revealing and recommended.

Years ago, many church battles were fought about our fellowship with denominations and it was generally understood that the denominations were not a part of “the Lord’s church.” But battles don’t stay fought and victories don’t stay won. We must forever be on the alert and watchful, and take the necessary action regardless of the consequences, even as Ezra did, and commanded (Ezra 9:14; 10:4).

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Bundles of *Banner of Truth*

We presently mail about 120 bundles, with ten of them going to foreign countries. Mailing by bundles here in the U.S. is the least expensive way. We appreciate greatly those who see to the distribution of the copies at their respective congregation.

If bundles received are not large enough, we will increase the number sent. If the bundle contains more than needed, we would appreciate knowing in order that we might decrease the number. Since the paper is made possible by the contributions of congregations and individuals, we feel that we should use the contributions in the most efficient way possible. Individuals can help by sending us their change of address.

- - Editor

What Is A Lectureship?

The **Second Annual *Banner of Truth* Lectureship** will be held in June 2002, here in Murray, Kentucky. Though there was much to be thankful for in the first lectureship, we are looking forward to even better things next year.

A sister in Christ said to me a few days ago, “I thought the Lectures were just for preachers.” The thought had crossed my mind that perhaps a number of members of the church didn’t clearly understand the nature of the lectures, perhaps thinking that they were primarily for preachers.

A great many preachers do attend lectures such as the First Annual *Banner of Truth* Lectures, but lectures are by no means just for preachers. They are for anyone who has an interest in God’s will for man, and wishes to learn more of God’s will and how to better serve Him. For example, a total of 24 sermons were delivered by 16 different speakers in our first lectures. This all happened in four days. Two lessons were delivered each day during the hours from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This enabled those who work during the day to hear eight sermons in the four days. Four lessons were delivered each day, beginning at 11:00 a.m., ending at 4:30 p.m.

Twenty-four different subjects were discussed, covering a wide range of Bible teaching. Those who attended every session heard as much preaching as members generally hear in twelve weeks at their respective congregations.

If you love the truth of God, if you want to know more of it, and if you want to enjoy a period of precious fellowship with brethren of like faith, make plans now to be a part of the lectures in June next year. Once you have tasted the spiritual food which will be offered at this spiritual feast, you will be indeed thankful that you had a part in it. Those who haven't attended a lectureship like the one we plan for next year will never know what they missed. - -

Editor

An Urgent Need In Tasmania

Tasmania, with a population of 470,000, is the smallest state of Australia. Its major cities are: Hobart, Launceston, and Devonport. The three most doctrinally sound churches are located in these cities.

The Crieve Hall congregation, in Nashville, has supported the Tasmania work for nearly 20 years. In more recent times preachers involved in the work are: Glen Tattersall, Ian McPherson, Brett Rutherford, and others. I've received considerable information about the Tasmania work from: Glen Tattersall, Ian McPherson, Jim Backhouse, and Lawson Mayo. These brethren commend the work and say it is very deserving of financial support, if the preachers are going to do full-time work.

In rather recent times the sound brethren above have had severe problems with Dennis Gresham of the Hobart area. The Crieve Hall elders looked into the problem and were swayed to the side of Dennis Gresham. As a result Crieve Hall is dropping their support of all the Tasmania work.

In a letter to me from Gaylon Northcutt, the elder in charge of Crieve Hall's mission work, bro. Northcutt acknowledges that Dennis Gresham has caused problems that are difficult to overcome. He also said that Ian McPherson, Brett Rutherford, and Glen Tattersall are doing good work. Crieve Hall is also stopping the support of Dennis Gresham. Bro. Northcutt says they are going to put more support into Central America (Honduras in particular) because they see more growth there. Creive Hall has supplied funds for brethren to come to the U.S. to raise support to enable them to continue the work.

The Tattersalls spent a night with us recently and we were able to learn much about their work. Ian McPherson is coming to the U.S. to raise support for himself. We hate to see the Tasmania work suffer because there is more growth elsewhere. The Great Commission says "go into all the world."

The Glen Tattersalls may be contacted at: P.O. Box 42, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia 7250. E-mail <balfour@microtech.com.au> Ian McPherson's e-mail <janmcp@trump.net.au> We encourage brethren to consider the need in Tasmania. Tasmania is a part of "*all the world*" - *Editor*

Northwest Florida School Of Biblical Studies Announces:

Alan Adams to be added as Full-Time Instructor

This addition of a Full-Time Instructor will be a great asset to the school, as it engages in the all-important work of preparing men to preach the Gospel of Christ. There's never been a greater need in our lives for men, sound in the faith, to give their lives to preaching.

The school, though not large, is second to none in the quality of the work being done. The prospects for the future are good indeed. The number of students is increasing, as is the quality of teaching.

***Alan Adams* ranks in the top category as a qualified teacher. In the first place, his heart is in the work of teaching God's word. For more than ten years he was a missionary to Taiwan, learning to speak the language fluently. He has taught in high school and for years has been teaching and preaching in congregations. He has a degree in education, attended a school of preaching two years, and has studied elsewhere.**

The need for financial support for bro. Adams is urgent. He must have a house, and pay all his expenses such as: utilities, taxes, insurance, medical insurance, medical bills, etc. The Ensley church is not able to support this needed full-time teacher. Will you please help?

Yes, I/We _____ will help brother Adams teach in the school for training men to preach the gospel. I/We will help _____ monthly, or _____ as a one time contribution. Name _____ Address _____

Send contribution to: NW FL School of Biblical Studies, 57 E.Hanna Circle, Pensacola, FL 32534.

Brother Adams plans to move about the last of August. He is in urgent need of financial support very soon. His support by the church at Cowan will end at the end of August. He will have a permanent Address and phone number soon.

FELLOWHELPERS

May & June 2001

Lou Nell Elkins	50.00
Elizabeth Sublett	20.00
Anonymous	50.00
Vella Harsbarger	40.00
Truman Lewis	20.00
Lucille Krantz	25.00
Jason Oneal	25.00
Charlene Cain	20.00
Anonymous	50.00

Anonymous	100.00	
M/M John H. Brown	50.00	
Royce E. Adams	280.00	
Michael Wilk	10.00	
Gene Nesler	100.00	
N. Elois Wilkins	10.00	
Paul F. Brassine	20.00	
Nixie Lolley	50.00	
Johnie Wade	75.00	
Anonymous	60.00	
Anonymous	5.00	
Charles E. Miller	20.00	
Gene & Sue Colley	10.00	
Gracie Davis	30.00	
Alhambra church of Christ	50.00	
Green Plain church of Christ	100.00	
Chestnut Grove church of Christ	50.00	
Maple Hill church of Christ	100.00	
Pine Ridge church of Christ	50.00	
Holly Pond church of Christ	250.00	_____ Total May & June Contribution 1,720.00

*“That we might be fellowhelpers
to the truth” (3rd John 8)*

We convey our sincere thanks for the wonderful way in which concerned brethren supply the financial needs to make *Banner of Truth* possible - *Editor*

***Banner of Truth* Financial Report**

Balance on hand May 1, 2001	1,982.18
May & June contribution	<u>1,720.00</u>
Total funds available	14,702.18

May and June expenses:	
Mailing May & June BOT	1,234.53
Labels	51.90
Phone	31.12
Press repairs	150.00
Postage, returns, and other	113.33
Supplies	<u>12.73</u>
Total expenses	1,593.61

Total funds available	14,702.18
Less May and June expenses	<u>1,593.61</u>
Balance on hand June 30	13,108.57

If anyone's contribution is not listed, we want to know. It is possible for a mistake to be made in our record keeping, and we want it to be correct.

It is such a great encouragement to us, not to have to be concerned about the necessary finances to carry on our work. Our brethren have been so good to support our work. We are not able to acknowledge every contribution in a personal way, but this does not mean that we are not grateful. Instead of having more time, we seem to have less, and cannot do all that we would like to do.

Our Sincere Thanks! - - Editor

READERS' RESPONSE

“I have been reading *Banner of Truth*, as I can get it. I have moved to a different area and the church doesn't have them. I would like to receive *Banner of Truth* and any back issues you may have would be appreciated. I wish the church here subscribed because I think there is a lot of good reading in these bulletins that would be of benefit here. Please bill me for the costs. I'm looking forward to receiving *Banner of Truth* - **Brenda Baker.**” - **IL.** (*We've added your name, and will try to get some back issues to you as soon as possible. You might pass your copy of BOT on to others, and encourage others, or even the congregation, to be added to our mailing list. We send bundles of 16 or more. We do not change for the paper, but do accept contributions since this is the means by which it is made possible.* - Editor).

“I've heard of your publication through 'Seek The Old Paths.' Could you place me on your mailing list. This would be appreciated very much - **Richard Clay.**” - **TX.**

“Please accept this small donation to help pay postage of your excellent paper. Received my first copy this week and have read it from

cover to cover. Thanks for your fine paper - **Wayne Crum.**" - **OH.**

"I have enjoyed reading Banner of Truth for a year or two, and I'm writing just to tell you how much I love it, because you teach and stand for the Truth. It seems to me, many times we DO NOT encourage brethren when they do good. We all need encouragement from time to time, especially when deserved. Thanks again and keep up the good work - **Kirk Bobo.**" - **AL.** (*Thanks Kirk for your words of encouragement. Yes, we do need to encourage one another in standing against the forces of Satan and upholding our Lord's precious will. We are indeed living in what Paul called "Perilous times."* - Editor).

"Enclosed is \$5.00 to help with expenses. Please send me the 'Banner of Truth.' Since liberalism and anti-ism are on the rise, we need more good sound Christian literature to counter these innovations. Keep up the good work. Thank you! - **W. H. Farley.**" - **OH.** (*There's a great need for brethren to do more reading. The Bible comes first, but there is a need to know what is happening in our Lord's church. Thanks!* - Editor).

"Please put my name on your mailing list to receive Banner of Truth, beginning with the May 2001 issue. I have enclosed a check for \$10 to help with expenses. Thank you and I hope you continue this good work - **Marie Goodlett.**" - **AL.** (*Thank you for your help and we trust that Banner of Truth will be helpful to you - Ed.*).

"I picked up a Banner of Truth at a meeting I preached last week, Rock Hill in Murfresboro, TN. I really enjoyed the things I read and I believe the same way you do. We need to be what we claim to be if we are going to please God. I'm afraid of what's going to happen to the church in years to come if we don't stand up for the truth of God's word. I commend the elders there for the work and pray that God will bless the church....Pray for us that we will continue to grow strong in God's work. Hope this will help a little on the paper. Put me on your mailing list - **Fred Neal.**" - **TN.** (*Your point is indeed well made. The church faces more danger NOW than at any time in our lives. Thanks for the help for BOT. We wish you great success in the Lord's work - Editor.*).

Editor's Note: I preach for the church at Dexter, KY, a few miles from the Hickory Grove church. The Hickory Grove is the sponsor of Banner of Truth.

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View BOT on David Lemmons' web at:

<http://www.hcis.net/users/lemmons/BOTlist.htm>

Readers may get on David's LemmonsAid e-mail:

His new address is as follows below:

< LemmonsAid-Subscribe@YahooCroups.com >