The Judge Alito Hearings And The Advance Of The Current Culture War

The current culture war, which has been under way for the past several decades, continues in an unabated way. Valid evidence of this was clearly seen in the recently concluded Judge Alito Committee hearings.

In recent weeks the committee hearings of Judge Alito, the Supreme Court appointee, have taken a major spot on the national news. That appointees to the Supreme Court should receive attention is certainly in order, inasmuch as the Supreme Court is the highest court in our country and affects virtually every facet of our lives.

Having said the above, we suggest that the appointment of Judge Alito has evidenced an agenda by a political power to advance the current culture war to a degree hardly seen before. This is a matter about which all of us should be deeply concerned.

By discussing the above subject, I can imagine some critics saying: “There you go again, getting into politics.” Well, call it what you may, politics affects our lives in many ways and we should get involved in many instances. Our country is run by a political system. Yes, I am concerned about the political direction our country takes. You see, our Lord’s church is affected by the politics of our country, as are members of the church and other citizens. Therefore, I make no apology for discussing things of a political nature which have to do with our spiritual lives and the Cause of Christ.

Thus far, I haven’t been able to figure out the reasoning of some, even christians, in the position they take. That position is set forth in the following: A person may ... two things as major planks in their political platforms. It is sort of like having a “Divine right” to engage in things.
It has been most evident in the Alito hearings that the minority political party thinks it should have more power than the majority political party. Though it should not be so, a minority of evil does some times is allowed to prevail over a majority which advocates well doing. This says something about the minority party that should serve as an eye-opener to everyone who believes in the sanctity of human life. This is a matter of which the prophet Isaiah speaks, when people call “evil good and good evil” (Isa. 5:20).

Many spoke out against Judge Alito in an evil and angry manner, as though he were a criminal who should be opposed by all means. But there were some critics who used a different tact. They spoke in a way which was designed to arouse emotions to encourage people to favor the evil of taking the life of innocent, unwanted children by abortion. The objectives were the same, they just went about it in different ways.

One example of appealing to the emotions to uphold abortion was Kate Michelman, President of NARAL. This pro-abortion organization was formerly known as National Abortion Rights Action League. The group changed the name in 2003. Regardless of what it is called, it is the epitome of evil.

This emotional appeal was made after the following fashion, though I’m not quoting Kate Michelman verbatim. This mother of three living children tells her story in a sad and pleasing way. Her husband, so the story goes, had walked out on her and their three children. This, of course, would place a burden on her, the taking care of three children. It is more than understandable that a woman alone rearing three children would be somewhat of a burden. Many mothers have borne such burdens in the rearing of their children. My mother’s sister gave birth to ten children, and when her husband died she reared those children without a husband. She would not have aborted even one of them had it been legal then to do so. To her, the burden of rearing her children was very much worth it. Many mothers have reared children without a supporting husband because they thought their children were worth it.

Now, back to Kate Michelman. With three children and a no husband, she already faced a burden; but, it would increase considerably if she gave birth to—or live—her fourth child, which she was carrying in her womb. Like the rich fool in Luke 12, she had a

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Postage rates have gone up about 12% this year, but we are confident that our brethren will continue to meet our financial needs, and for this we are thankful indeed. — Editor

Banner of Truth Lectures
June 5–8, 2006
Warring A Good Warfare
Curris Center – Murray, KY

Twenty-eight timely lessons presented by capable speakers. Why not arrange your schedule and make plans to attend this spiritual feast?

Banner of Truth Financial Report
Balance on hand Nov. 1 | 10,206.92
Nov., Dec. & Jan. contribution | 4,805.00
Total funds available | 15,011.92
Total expenses: 
Mailing, postage, returns | 2,640.46
Plates, labels, other supplies | 430.48
3,070.94
Total funds available | 15,011.92
Less total expenses | 3,070.94
Balance on hand Jan. 31, 2006 | 11,940.98

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“Bidding ‘God speed’ to evil makes one a partaker of that evil (2 John 9-11). God’s word teaches that sin is a transgression of God’s law (I John 3:4), and that would... We are not allowed to bid “Godspeed” to error and be guiltless (I Jno. 1:9-11), eventhough some must believe otherwise.

Continued from Page 1
We appreciate The Readers’ Response. We are not at all surprised to be able to select the favorable ones. We carry both positive and negative responses. We believe this helps our readers to better understand how our brethren think and what some of the problems facing our brotherhood are. We encourage you to let us hear from you and know let us have your thoughts.

— Editor

problem. “What shall I do?” Like the rich fool “reasoned” out a solution. “This will I do.” She would kill the child in her womb, thus solving the problem of an increased burden by a fourth child. This is what she did. She murdered her unborn child.

She showed no remorse, as far as I could tell, for having killed her unborn child, but to the contrary she appeared thankful that she could lessen her burden by killing her fourth child. To her the legal killing of her baby served as a blessing. She also appeared happy that she could give her experience with the intent that it would help the practice continue. Her conscience? I saw no evidence to suggest that the act bothered her conscience at all.

In other words, the life of that unborn child was not worth any extra effort which would be added to its mother, who was at least partly responsible for the child being in her womb. But legally, the mother could kill her unborn child, which she did with impunity. One wonders whether such a “mother,” were it legal, would have killed her other three children to lessen her burden? It seems that a mother so lacking in “natural affection” (2 Tim 3:3) for her unborn child that she would not let it live, then her love and concern for her three other children might neither be that strong.

Listening to the several hours of those questioning Judge Alito, I took note of the terminology used by his critics. They never used the word “kill” or “murder” with reference to abortion. In fact, they didn’t use the word “abortion” very often. When it was clear that they had in mind the killing of unborn children by abortion, they would instead say “Roe v. Wade.” Why did they avoid certain terms? What do you think? It appeared to me, and to many others, that this was an attempt to get the minds of the hearers off the reality of the act, the evil act, of killing unwanted human beings.

Don Waggoner, AL

As the Brits say, “It was spot on.” Lately, I have given a lot of thought as to why so many of our brethren are placing so much emphasis on activities of fellowship. It seems that it is o.k. to pay for any type of fellowship out of the church treasury. I have recently come to the conclusion that brethren have confused fellowship with edification. Fellowship activities do help promote peace and harmony among members. Therefore, it one questions the practice of sponsoring fellowship from the treasury, they say, “fellowship is edifying and the church is taught to be frugal.” I may be wrong but my studies of the scriptures have led me to believe that edification is the process of building up the church and members through teaching of God’s word, thus increasing faith. I don’t anywhere find the authorization for the church to use fellowship monies for anything other than fellowship activities. What are your thoughts on this. Do you know of any written material on this subject? If so, please let me know. We so much appreciate the good and needed work you continue to do and pray God’s blessings to be on you and your family as you strive to do His will. In Christian love — Don Waggoner, AL

14, September & October, 2005 bulletins. A note to let you know how much you are valued as you speak the truth about Jesus — Editor.)

We still have a number of years in other countries where it is necessary to use a translator in order to get the message across to the hearers, it occurred to me that some of the terminology used by Judge Alito’s critics should be “translated” in order for people to fully understand what those people were actually saying. We shall note a few examples of the many which were used during the hearings. There is no room to doubt the intentional use of such terminology and the reason for it. People are not as likely to be reminded of the gruesome reality of the wanton murder of innocent children, that it some times entails tearing limb from limb or sucking out their brains to bring about death. Let us “translate” for the pro-abortion folks:

1. “Pro Choice.” — In favor of the right to choose to kill the unborn.
2. “Freedom of Choice.” — The legal right to choose to kill the unborn for any reason.
3. “People’s Rights.” — Usually the “right” to choose abortion over the birth of a child.
4. “Lose our Freedom.” — Lose the right to kill the unborn rather than letting them live.
5. “Pack the Court.” — To put people on the court who believe the Constitution does not give a mother a right to kill her unborn child. Having a majority of judges who favor abortion is not “packing the court.”
6. “A woman’s right over her own body.” — Right to take the life of “another body,” the child in her womb, which is not “her body.”
7. “A Fetus.” — A living child, a person, within its mother’s womb, which in some states constitutes murder if it is killed.
9. “Extreme View.” — That unborn children are human beings whose life should be protected. I, again, ask, are we not talking about human beings? People are not as likely to be reminded of the gruesome reality of the wanton murder of innocent children, that it sometimes entails tearing limb from limb or sucking out their brains to bring about death. Let us “translate” for the pro-abortion folks:

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sanctity of life, Judge Alito’s confirmation was a ray of light in a morally benighted world. They believe that Judge Alito’s confirmation is a step in the right direction, because he is perceived to favor life rather than death of the unborn. There must be something to this given the lengths to which the pro-abortion people went to defeat Alito. Had his critics thought Alito was in favor of abortion, most, if not all, would have been in favor of confirming him. The action of his critics has been rightly described as “despicable.” And the background of some of his critics is such that it makes it even more so.

Though the confirmation of Judge Alito was an encouragement to those who believe unborn children have a right to life, the battle is not over by any means. Given the number of those who resorted to the tactics of Judge Alito’s critics, this is a strong indicator that they will not give up easily. Evil often resists efforts to overcome it, and especially when those efforts weaken.

To help us realize the enormity of the movement to kill the unwanted, just stop to consider that 42 Senators voted against Judge Alito, and 58 voted in favor. Now link this to the scary thought of what can happen if the pro-abortion party gets control of the Senate. The prospects of overturning Roe v. Wade would then be nil., perhaps for generations to come. For thirty-three years, our Supreme Court has upheld the murder of innocent unborn children; the number of people who favor abortion is much greater now that it was then.

 Those who favor the sinful, though legal, act of abortion realize their greatest opportunity to continue the legal practice is through the courts. This may account for some of the despicable tirades by some of your readers. We had an address change back in Jan. 03 and the post office quit forwarding them to us. We talked ... come up (dance, marriage, divorce, remarriage, etc.). Please don’t ever give up your paper. Thank you very much.” — Mr. & Mrs. Andy Shank, MO. (How kind. I, too, sometimes fail to do things.) “I would like to respond to back issues is on its way. We have about 90 issues that we try to send when people ask for them.” Thank you for the check to help in our work and for sending your new address. That’s a favor to us. It is our intention to keep the paper going as long as we are mentally and physically able to do so.” (Editor). “I pray this finds you and the work there going well. Please send me your publication “Banner of Truth.” (I’m hearing the same story from many places. That is, the sound congregations are few and far between. How sad that is. I can well remember when most were sound. — Editor).”

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I’m not able to get all the bundle of BOT out any more. I’m asking you to stop the bundle, but please don’t stop my single one. Please keeping sending it. I enjoy reading it. It is sound reading and that’s what we need today. So much false teaching. They clap their hands here when they have a bapti-sism. I talked to three of the sisters about it. They thought it OK. They said it showed joy. I said it didn’t show rev-erence. They said, well the kids like it. I told them they picked it up from Tasha Workshop. We never had it until they went to it and brought it back here, and the elders let them keep it because the kids liked it. I talked to two elders once about it and for a while it stopped and they would sing a beautiful song, which sounded so much better. But now it has begun again. I’m going to talk to them again.” Please if you keep they will stop. I pray for you and sister Naomi for a long life in the Lord’s work. I’ll soon reach my 94th birthday. I had a broken hip and fed prayer has helped me to be as well as I am. I covet your prayers all the time. I’ve never met you all in person, but I love you both for the work you all are doing. I don’t want to miss a bulletin. God bless you both. In Christian love,” — Ica Savage, OK. (We are sorry that your health is such that it prevents you from doing the things you want to do. But we are thankful that the Lord has given you so many years to be a great servant in His church. I have printed your entire letter because I think it is a good example of one who loves God’s truth and is devoted to upholding it in every way you can. My heart goes out to many of our readers who are in their golden years, who still love the truth. But I am saddened when some are not within the Lord’s church that many have never seen. So many don’t know what the church was like fifty years ago. The church was not perfect then, on the side of man, but it was in a much better condition than it is today, since the bringing in of many innovations which are not in harmony with the Book. May the Lord richly bless you with much more time — Editor).

We have made a couple of moves during the past three years and somehow our copy of ‘Banner of Truth’ has not been received. We have missed it very much and would like to be placed on your mailing list again if possible. Thank you very much. (We are happy to add your name again when the reader desires – Editor).

We have received a return of ‘Bot’ which we mark that name off our mailing list. Each ‘return’ costs us 59c. We are happy to add a name again when the reader desires – Editor).

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Car Wash? — Sex!

My memory is not all that good anymore, but I can remember a game that people used to play. I think it was called The Matching Game. The game worked this way: A player would mention a word, and someone else would say something to match that word. An example might be: “Bread?” “Butter,” someone responds. The two are kind of related in that when we think about bread we are likely to think about butter, which might go on the bread.

It is not springtime now, but it won’t be long until the sun is out in force and spring is in full swing. It is then that the above game is more likely to be played. The game we are talking about is: Car Wash? — Sex. Most of us are familiar with that game, or at least, should be. But in case you are not familiar with it, let me fill you in.

The setting for the game to take place is on some prominent street corner, or other conspicuous place, where many cars drive by. A sign says, in large letters, “CAR WASH.” But who are the Washers? Many young girls, whose sexuality could hardly be overlooked by the opposite sex. They may be dressed in short shorts, with the midriff bare under a scanty bit of covering above.

The game to be played is this: A sexually active male is the driver of the car. It could even be one who is now called “a sexual predator.” But as the car approaches the washers, the male sees all the bare skin they reveal. He also sees the sign: CAR WASH. In his mind he can play the matching game, and without doubt sometimes does so. It goes this way in his mind. “CAR WASH?” — “SEX” is the match, because it is so obviously intended to be so.

I’ve wondered if any of the male drivers have their suspicions raised. They may be dressed in such a fashion? A possible way to play this game is: A player would mention a word, and someone else would say something to match that word. An example might be: “Bread?” “Butter,” someone responds. The two are kind of related in that when we think about bread we are likely to think about butter, which might go on the bread.

For years we have noted that brethren with a liberal bent toward God’s word, often and seriously misuse the above passage. We grant, however, that such misuse can be due to a misunderstanding of the text. There is a difference in using a passage in the wrong way due to a lack of understanding and intentionally using it incorrectly.

Different ones have approached me using this passage and suggesting that before responding to someone’s public error, I should first go and talk with them. Only recently a person asked me if I had gone and talked with people about their error before making any response to it. For easy reference, let’s note the entire passage:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matt. 18:15-17).

A cursory look at the passage shows that it deals with personal matters, rather than matters of the public arena. It bothers me that some people do not see this, and it raises some questions in my mind. Yet, as said, we grant that some people do “not” sex things that are very clear in the Bible. Not so clearly things that are not so obvious. Some I know and have read after have know only too well what this passage says.

It is evident that the passage involves a conflict and offense of a personal nature. Consider:

1. Note the reference to individuals in verse 15: “Thy brother.…Against thee.…Tell him his fault between thee and him.…He shall hear thee.…Thou hast gained thy brother.”
2. “He” and “thee” stand out clearly in verse 16. It is only when the offending brother will not hear the offended brother that others become involved. The offended brother is to take with him “one or two more” knowledgeable witnesses that every word may be established. At this point only three or four brethren are involved. It is still not a public matter.

3. It is only when the offender will not hear the offended that the matter becomes public in the sense of involving the church.

Our discussion is primarily concerned with capable people who misuse this passage; people who obviously have enough understanding of the Bible to see that private, not public, matters are under consideration. When people who clearly know better abuse this passage, it legitimately raises questions as to the motive involved. We cannot always know one’s motive, but we can know a tree by its fruit.

Let us first consider a real example of a serious misuse of the passage.

A brother writes an article in the church bulletin which is made available publicly. The article contains some harsh criticism of the Lord’s church, as voiced by people outside the church. Though the writer fails to offer valid evidence that the harsh criticism is justified, he agrees with the critics in a number of instances. When I respond to the above public article in a public way, via BOT, the writer of the critical article implies, in correspondence to me, that I should have come to him first: in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. I maintain, and still do, that since the writer’s article was unjustly critical of the Lord’s church in general and in a public way, I am not duty bound to go to him before responding to his public article in a public way.

The writer also cited Matthew 7:23 and chided me for violating the Golden Rule. Let me clearly say — If I write something for public distribution which deserves criticism due to its lack of scriptural justification, I expect people to respond to it in a public manner, whether they ever see me or not. They have a duty to do so.

Let me here make an observation which I believe has a direct bearing upon the matter at hand: A person who is liberal-minded with reference to God’s word takes his beliefs with God’s Word. By this I mean that a strict compliance with what is clearly taught in the Bible is not considered essential.
A Note from the Preacher

Mailing Banner of Truth to others: More than once people have addressed copies of BOT to individuals and then dropped them in the mailbox, without putting a first class stamp on it. That is now 39 cents. If it is not stamped, then it is returned to us with "postage due" of 39¢.

Suppose one does go to the false teacher first. Is he going to retract what he has taught? One couldn’t count on it. It is some times the case that the teacher of error responds by saying he didn’t mean what he wrote or said orally. Or, the response might be that he was misunderstood, even though what was said was clearly unambiguous. In either case, a preacher should not speak or write unless he has the ability to say what he means. Neither should he speak or write when he does not mean what he says, nor that which is not in harmony with God’s word. If these three rules were followed, it would lessen considerably what our liberal-minded brethren are saying.

With regard to Matthew 18:15-17, I have had preachers, elders, and individuals call me into question as to why I did not go and speak to someone who taught error in a very public way before responding to said error. This shows, for whatever reason, an attempt to use the passage in a way that was not intended by our Lord.

To use a passage in the wrong way due to a lack or learning is one thing, but to deliberately use a passage in the wrong way is nothing less than dishonest, and that should be recognized.

—Editor

Wake Up To The Threat Of Islam!

Why discuss the religion of Islam? Well can I remember some brethren saying, “Why don’t you just preach the gospel and leave others alone?” This is evidence of a misunderstanding of what the gospel of Christ is all about. The Gospel involves “others,” in various ways. There are various stern warnings in the New Testament relative to those who are the enemies of the cause of Christ. Paul speaks of those who are “the enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil 3:18). There are enemies of the Lord’s church within the body. Paul warns of those in Acts 20:28.

In the October and November 2001 issues of B.O.T. and January 2003, the subject of Islam was discussed at some length. Many hours of study and research have been spent in learning about this evil religion. My eyes have been opened as to the real threat this fastest growing religion in our country poses to true Christianity and even our way of life in this country. It is evident, however, that many of us are still woefully unaware of this threat. It is urgent that we “Wake Up” and face reality.

Islam had its beginning by the edge of the sword, it has grown by the sword, and it is still using the sword (violence) to further its evil cause and accomplish its mission — conquest of the world.

Solid evidence of the continuing resurgence of the Islamic religion has been seen in many parts of the world recently. A rash of riots came about as a result of twelve cartoons published by the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, Sept. 30, 2005. These cartoons involved the so-called prophet Muhammad, depicted in an unfavorable way. The cartoons were published in places other than Denmark.

As to the cartoons, I’ve not been able to view them in detail. The twelve cartoons I’ve only seen in a very miniature form. One cartoon has Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban. In another one, Muhammad tells dead suicide bombers that he has run out of virgins with which to reward them. These two cartoons are not far-fetched, as some would have us believe. The terrorists in general are carrying out what Muhammad teaches in the Koran. It is a matter of fact that those who are killed in the support of Islam are promised virgins. Why should Muslims get so out-raged when the reality of their religion is made known?

This recent rioting in several countries by the Muslims help to clear up some misunderstandings on the part of many as to the extent of Islamic power. Time after time we hear people touting the idea that Islam has been “hijacked” and that by a “few radicals.” In this recent rioting more than “just a few” are involved. It is true that the clerics and imams stir up the rank and file Muslims, but even so, more than “a few” are involved. This is what Islam is about. People who do not think for themselves are easily led by those who lead them, regardless of the direction taken by the leaders. A case in point is that of the followers of Hitler and his evil actions.

A matter of which we should take note is that many newspapers and other sources have taken up Islam’s gripe in a defensive way. Denmark has been criticized far and wide, because of the cartoons. Denmark’s society is probably very secular, but even those who are in no sense religious can see some of the errors of Islam.

Mockery of Christ and Christianity can occur and there is little outrage. A picture of the supposed virgin Mary with cow dung on it doesn’t cause riots in many countries. Why does criticism of Islam cause such an outrage? Is this not an indication of the power and influence of Islam?

A serious question which deserves an answer. If it is true, that Muslims are generally peaceful people and only a few are “radical,” why don’t the supposed to be peaceful Muslims stage riots and go all-out to condemn the terrorist activities of Muslims? Yet, it is very little that we hear by way of condemning the murder of innocent men, women and children by the Muslims, and this is happening on a regular basis. Could it be that the true Muslim, who knows the teaching of the Koran, knows that this type of activity is characteristic of Islam?

The influence of Islam is such that most news sources are afraid to publish the twelve cartoons which have caused such an uproar. To have people fear speaking out against the evil of Islam could not play better in the hands of the Muslims. Not many newspaper columnist speak out forcefully...
**Satan’s Guide To Church Growth**

 Victor M. Eskew

 We know the Lord wants His church to grow and increase. The book of Acts sets forth the beginning of the New Testament church. This inspired church history shows the phenomenal growth of the body of Christ. It began with about 3,000 people obeying the gospel. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). In Acts 4:4, the size of the church had increased to 5,000 men, excluding the women and children. The growth continued far beyond the boundaries of Judah. Man and women obeyed the gospel in Samaria, in heathen lands, and in the imperial city of Rome. Yes, the Lord longs for the growth of His body.

 Some have become so obsessed with church growth that they have forsaken the Lord’s way and have begun to follow Satan’s guide to church growth. First, they try to make the way easy for people. One church in Jonesboro asked individuals to come to their services, which is proper. The inference, however, was that they could sneak in and out without being noticed. All the “minister” wanted was for them to show up. Jesus didn’t preach an easy message. In fact, He exhorted people to enter in at the “strait gate” (Matt. 7:13-14). This gate involves struggle, hardship, and difficulty. The Master’s life was a struggle, sacrifice, and death. His followers should expect nothing less (Mat. 10:24-25).

 The second element involved in Satan’s guide for church growth is ENTERTAINMENT. In the December 1st edition of “The Sun,” an article was run about a musical drama being performed at the Netleton Baptist Church. John Waters is quoted as saying: “The people have really enjoyed it.” The article also states: “Attendance has also increased during the past few weeks.” This proves our point. Entertainment and church growth go hand-in-hand today. Musicals, dramas, and concerts were not the methods used by the first century evangelists to increase church attendance. It was done by the simple preaching of the gospel of Christ. Some will laugh at this method. Perhaps, they need to study again Paul’s words to the church at Corinth. “…it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). The third method Satan uses to grow churches today involves EATING. Let us emphasize that we are not opposed to brethren eating together. The first century church ate with each other (Acts 2:46). Some, however, have taken eating way too far. Every event involves food and drink. Some churches have made snacking an essential part of Bible class and worship.

 There are churches that have put coffee shops in the foyer of the church building. The kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking. Some in Jesus’ day would come as long as the loaves were present. Jesus chastised them for desiring only the food (John 6:26). He then said: “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27).

 Satan’s methods of church growth appeal to the carnal, fleshly side of man. They do not develop and nourish the inner man. Satan rejoices when his methods are used. He knows that church leaders and many church members are deceived by the increase in numbers. He also knows that there is no depth, no conviction, no lasting love for spiritual things in those who have been reached with these things. Our prayer is that churches will forsake Satan’s method of church growth. We need to return to the simple method of sowing the incorruptible Word of God into the hearts of men and women, allowing God to give the increase (Ezk. 8:11; 1Cor. 3:6-7; 1Pet. 1:22-23). —9064 Highway 98, Brookland, AR 72417.

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Evolution

You and I through our taxes pay for the indignity of having our children taught that human beings are essentially “mature in motion.” They are taught that “science has proved” that the origin of life, as to substance, is ultimately traced back to rocks, dirt, gas and water; that life’s origin, as to cause, is traced back to natural forces acting upon rocks, dirt, gas and water. They are then taught that the same natural forces, through immeasurable periods of time, have acted upon the first and simplest forms of life resulting in all the forms of organic life we see now, with man at the top of the heap. In a series of articles we will examine this thing we pay for; this thing called “Evolution.”

The Theory Defined. Discussing Evolution can be like trying to grab an eel or soap in the shower. The purported grounds and claims constantly shift; different people use different terminology. In just a few years, the “talking points” of the evolution community will shift to an entirely new paradigm.

From the outset then, it is necessary that specific definitions be noted and certain distinctions be drawn. It is a typical of evolution advocates to simply say that evolution is nothing more than the process of change; and, therefore, for one to admit that changes do in fact occur, is to admit that he accepts the theory of evolution. We who oppose the theory of evolution must not allow its advocates to employ such vague definitions.

At this point, proper distinction must be made between the “General Theory of Evolution,” which is to be dealt with, and the “Special Theory of Evolution.” This distinction, is one of the most crucial issues when dealing with the subject of evolution. As regards the distinction, a noted evolutionist, G. A. Kerkut, said: There is a theory which states that many living animals from prior life, and always reproduces according to its own kind; which, of course, is more than merely coincidental with the Genesis record.

The “General Theory,” however, respects neither of these, and further implies violations of numerous, known, observable, and demonstrable facts and laws. For a clearer picture of the “General Theory,” Dr. John Klotz gives the following practical definition: Evolution is the concept that nonliving materials became alive through natural processes by chance alone, that all things now alive are descended from a single or a very few initially living organisms, and that man himself is the product of a process of chance development over millions of years from nonhuman ancestors.

We are not then talking about the difference between apples and oranges; rather, it is more like the difference between apples and bird dogs. In view of the tremendous distinctions between the two theories, we are compelled to agree with the following, “It is inaccurate and perhaps in some cases downright dishonest to pretend that the word evolution refers merely to change…Organic evolution [“General Theory”], AA is not merely change from generation to generation such as would occur in selective breeding, but the concept that every living being is organically related to every other living being.”

The Precedence of the “General Theory of Evolution.” Surely no one book has had as a

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Banner of Truth in its 15th Year

We started the paper with a mailing list of about 230. Since that time we have increased our mailing list to about 7,500. About 350 copies go to people in foreign countries. This includes bundles and individual copies. — Editor
Evolution (1)

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The theory which states that many living animals can be observed over the course of time to undergo changes so that new species are formed. This can be called the “Special Theory of Evolution” and can be demonstrated in certain cases by experiments. On the other hand there is the theory that all the living forms in the world have arisen from a single source which itself came from an inorganic form. This theory can be called the “General Theory of Evolution.”

The distinction and difference between the two “theories,” and the implications of the latter should be fairly clear.

An observant resident of the planet recognizes the fact of the so called “special theory.” There is really no need to call it a theory, it is rather an acknowledgment of the reality of change, and formation of new varieties or species of organisms. That is why, as to cattle, we have Charlois, Angus and Jerseys. As to dogs, we have French Poodles and German Shepherds. In other words, this “special theory” does not fly in the face of other facts: (1) The Law of Biogenesis (i.e. life comes only from preexisting life); and (2) Genetic barriers between “kinds” of organisms, barriers that are never crossed.

The “General Theory,” however, respects neither of these, and further implies violations of numerous, known, observable, and demonstrable facts and laws. For a clearer picture of the “General Theory”, Dr. John Klotz gives the following practical definition: Evolution is the concept that nonliving materials became alive through natural processes by chance alone, that all things now alive are descended from a single or a very few initially living organisms, and that man himself is the product of a process of chance development over millions of years from nonhuman ancestors.

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The Predisbance of the “General Theory of Evolution.” Surely no one book has had as a great an impact upon all realms of education than has Darwin’s Origin of Species, which was published well over one hundred years ago. From Mr. Darwin to the present, one thing is certain: If proof of a position or theory is to be based upon its acceptance by people of “profession” and “prestige,” then the “General Theory of Evolution” [from this point forward to be simply called “evolution,” AA] has certainly been proven. Notice how people pre-tentious people “prove” things:

It [evolution] has for many years been well-established scientifically... There are no hypotheses alternative to the principle of evolution with its “tree of life,” that any competent biologist takes seriously... students taking biology in high school, should be made aware of it, and of the fact that it is firmly established even as the rotundity of the earth is firmly established. – Dr. Herman J. Muller, Nobel Laureate (genetics)

Practically every educated man believes in evolution... evolution is incorporated in the thinking of our time. – Conway Zirkle

If one is easily swayed by “professional”asseverations, then the problem is settled at this point. Rational people, however, demand somewhat more.

The Irony of Such Predisbance From the standpoint of science, evolution has never been observed to occur; it has never been demonstrated experimentally; and, the fossil record, the one alleged evidence that purports to be a “historical” record of evolutionary development from the past until now, shows nothing has occurred in the past save only what occurs now — i.e. life comes only from prior life, and always reproduces according to its own kind; which, or course, is more than merely coincidental with the Genesis record.

When Darwin finally published his Origin of Species, he sent complimentary copies to several scientists and others along with the following note:

There are so many valid and weighty arguments [emphasis mine, AA] against my notions, that you, or anyone, if you wish [to be] on the other side, will easily persuade yourself that I am wholly in error, and no doubt I am in part in error, perhaps wholly so, though I cannot see the blindness of my ways. I may, of course, be egregiously wrong; but I cannot persuade myself that a theory which explains (as I think it certainly does) several large classes of facts, can be wholly wrong; notwithstanding the several difficulties which have to be surmounted somehow, and which stagger me to this day.

May we borrow from Mr. Darwin and say that this series of articles will deal with certain “staggering” and “insurmountable” problems of evolution, and show that, rather than being “firmly established, even as the rotundity of the earth is established,” the theory of evolution is riddled with fatal wounds. To do this, this series will examine intrinsic problems, scientific problems, and philosophical problems of the theory of evolution.

5 Zirkle, Conway. Ibid., p. 27.
6 Huxley, Julian. Ibid. p. 27.
A Note from Virgil L. Hale

In October of 2005, my wife, Dana, and I moved to work with a congregation at Hickory Grove, Almo, KY. We have known the congregation for a number of years, as we worked in Kentucky for eleven years, and I had the privilege of speaking at Hickory Grove on numerous occasions. We are happy to be here and have received in a great way. Hickory Grove is blessed with two fine elders, Jimmy Lockhart and Mike Smith. These men believe in standing for and defending the truth.

As you know, Hickory Grove is the publisher of Banner of Truth. Until we moved here I had no idea as to the number of hours that go into getting out each issue. Brother Pigg spends several days in the printing room getting all the printing done; this after many hours of work getting the paper ready for printing. Next comes the folding, which also requires many hours. About 7,500 copies are printed each time. After the folding comes the tasking of putting each page in its proper place. Next comes the stapling, which is a slow process (one at a time). Finally, each issue must be addressed for mailing, and then taken to the Post Office. Many people are involved in this work, and we are grateful for each one who helps in any way. When you read your copy, just give some thought as to the many hours of work that has gone into that issue.

May we all be ready to uphold and defend the truth regardless of the opposition, land may we do so with love and concern for souls (ours and others).

Signed: Virgil L. Hale

EDITOR’S NOTE: I have known Virgil and Dana for many years. Virgil knows and preaches the Truth, and he is known by people in this area. We appreciate his mentioning Banner of Truth, which is sponsored by the Hickory Grove church. Virgil is already helpful in getting BOT ready to mail. He is right: Many people have no idea as to how much work is involved in this. Though it “dates” me, I have known this couple for several years. Shasta is a teenager in my first fulltime work. The lives of the Browns, from the get-go, have been centered around Christ and His church. Neither of them is afraid of work. What an opportunity for a solid investment in evangelism. Better yet; they, back in the early ‘90s, spent three years in Tanzania, giving them a leg up on the culture.

The Browns will head out in October. They need faithful christians and churches to support their effort and resolve. They are worthy of our finances and prayers. Contact them: Anthony and Shasta Brown, 7452 East Planners Creek Rd., Dickson, TN 37055; TEL: 615-446-7360 (H), 615-419-0520 (M); email: anthonybrown@iol.com; shantagail@iol.com; or, via the Kensington Woods church of Christ, 415 South 40th St., Hattiesburg, MS 39402-1724; TEL: 601-264-2945, ext. 13, ATTN: Ken Upchurch.

Let’s help them on their way.

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Tanzania: An Opportunity for Serious Evangelism Investment

May I commend to BOT readers Anthony and Shasta Brown? This faithful christian couple with several years’ experience “in the field,” have now made preparations for the long haul. Their one child is now headed to college; they have sold their house and auc- tioned off belongings. Their faces are now set toward the East African country of Tanzania.

Anthony is a graduate of Freed Hardeman University, Memphis School of Preaching, and received an M.Ed. from Tennessee State University. In addition to his work in Tanzania, he has worked for local churches in the U.S., and as a Special Education teacher. Shasta holds degrees both from FHU and Western Kentucky University; she is a licensed CPA.

Their work is under the aegis of the Kensington Woods church in Hattiesburg, MS. They will work to- gether with Cy and Stephanie Stafford. Anthony will serve as Dean of Students and instructor for the An- drew Connally School of Preaching, as well as work with local churches to strengthen them and help them develop leadership. Shasta already has work cut out for her in conducting Bible studies and seminars for women in Tanzania.

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Satan’s Guide To Church Growth

Victor M. Eskew

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Some have become so obsessed with church growth that they have forsaken the Lord’s way and have be- gun to follow Satan’s guide to church growth. First, they try to make the way EASY for people. One church in Jonesboro asked individuals to come to their ser- vices, which is proper. The inference, however, was made that they could sneak in and out without being noticed. All the “minister” wanted was for them to show up. Jesus didn’t preach an easy message. In the 1st edition of “The Sun,” an article was run about the growth of the church of Christ. It began with about 3,000 people obeying the gospel, and the growth spread beyond the boundaries of Judah. Man and women obeyed the gospel in Samaria, in heathen lands, and in the imperial city of Rome. Yes, the Lord longs for the growth of His body.

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Mockery of Christ and Christianity can occur and there is little outrage. A picture of the supposed virgin Mary with cow dung on it doesn’t cause riots in many countries. Why does criticism of Islam cause such an outrage? Is this not an indication of the power and influence of Islam? A serious question which deserves an answer. If it is true, that Muslims are generally peaceful people and only a few are “radical,” why don’t the supposed to be peaceful Muslims stage riots and go all-out to condemn the terrorist activities of Muslims? Yet, it is true that the clerics and imams stir up the rank and file Muslims, and this is happening on a regular basis. Could it be that the true Muslim, who knows the teaching of Islam, can see some of the errors of Islam.

In other words, God’s Word does not always mean what it says and clearly teaches. When an individual treats God’s Word in this manner, he is not being honest with God. If then, a person is not honest with God, he would have no compunction about misusing Scripture so as to mislead mere men.

Now some questions:

1. Is it reasonable to believe that a person of aver-age intelligence cannot see (understand) that the pas-sage under consideration has reference to a differ-ence between individuals, and not to a public matter?
2. Could it be that the passage is knowingly mis-used in an attempt toward off criticism of some error of some kind which should be criticized?
3. Could it be a copycat action because it is quite often used by other liberal minded brethren?
4. Could it be used in an effort to try to unjustly blame upon those who steadfastly oppose error in accordance with the plain teaching of the New Tes-ament?
5. Is it wrong to knowingly “pervert” or misuse a passage of scripture?
6. Is it wrong to use the passage as referring to individual differences only, and not to those of a pub-lic nature?
7. Would the misuse of the passage be a case of “wresting” the scriptures as referred to in 2 Pet. 3:16?

Suppose one does go to the false teacher first. Is he going to retract what he has taught? One couldn’t count on it. It is some times the case that the teacher of error responds by saying he didn’t mean what he wrote or said orally. Or, the response might be that he was misunderstood, even though what was said was clearly unambiguous. In either case, a preacher should not speak or write unless he has the ability to say what he means. Neither should he speak or write when he does not mean what he says, nor that which is not in harmony with God’s word. If these three rules were followed, it would lessen considerably what our lib-eral-minded brethren are saying.

Another consideration of going to the false teacher before responding to his publicly taught error is that his error is allowed to be publicly distributed without any response from the side of truth. Should teachers of error expect such advantage? Apparently some do. This the apostle Paul would not have done. On one occasion Paul said to the Galatians, with regard to “false brethren,” “To whom we gave place by subjec-tion, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal 2:5).

Brethren, we should never strive to make a passage say something that it does not say, nor lead anyone to believe anything which is not the truth and nothing but the truth. When we find someone attempting to do this, then it is in order raise questions as to the motive involved. It is a matter of fact that some times people attempt to mislead people with regard to doc-trinal matters. There are various possible motives for doing this, but not a single one of them is right.

With regard to Matthew 18:15-17, I have had preach-ers, elders, and individuals call me into question as to why I did not go and speak to some individual who taught error in a very public way before responding to said error. This shows, for whatever reason, an at-tempt to use the passage in a way that was not in-tended by our Lord.

To use a passage in the wrong way due to a lack or learning is one thing, but to deliberately use a pas-sage in the wrong way is nothing less than dishonest, and that should be recognized. — Editor

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We appreciate those who pass on copies of BOT to others, who they think would profit from reading them. A number of people have expressed appreci-a- tion for receiving a copy of the paper.
Car Wash? — Sex?  

My memory is not all that good anymore, but I can remember a game that people used to play. I think it was called The Matching Game. The game worked this way: A player would mention a word, and someone else would say something to match that word. An example might be: “Bread?” “Butter,” someone responds. The two are kind of related in that when we think about bread we are likely to think about butter, which might go on the bread.

It is not springtime now, but it won’t be long until the sun is out in force and spring is in full swing. It is then that the above game is more likely to be played. The game we are talking about is: Car Wash? — Sex. Most of us are familiar with that game, or at least, should be. But in case you are not familiar with it, let me fill you in.

The setting for the game to take place is on some prominent street corner, or other conspicuous place, where many cars drive by. A sign says, in large letters, “CAR WASH.” But who are the Washers? Many young boys, young girls, whose sexuality could hardly be overlooked by the opposite sex. They may be dressed in short shorts, with the midriff bare under a scanty bit of covering above.

The game to be played is this: A sexually active male is the driver of the car. It could even be one who is now called “a sexual predator.” But as the car approaches the washers, the male sees all the bare skin they reveal. He also sees the sign: CAR WASH. In his mind he can play the matching game, and without doubt sometimes does so. It goes this way in his mind. “CAR WASH?” — “SEX” is the match, because it is so obviously intended to be so.

The writer also cited Matthew 7:23 and chided me for violating the Golden Rule. As American citizens we should be deeply concerned as to the danger posed by Islam, and as Christians we should be even more concerned. Under Islam it would be difficult if not impossible to worship the one and only true God. Within the church there is a great need for more teaching on Islam. With the present growth of Islam, the time when it will have a great power in our society may not be as far off as some think. Since I’m eighty years old, I may not live to see it, but my children and grandchildren could very well do so. But let us remember that the Lord will find a way for us if we remain loyal to Him. — Editor

Liberals and Their Use of Matthew 18:15-17

For years we have noted that brethren with a liberal bent toward God’s word, often and seriously misuse the above passage. We grant, however, that such misuse can be due to a misunderstanding of the text. There is a difference in using a passage in the wrong way due to a lack of understanding and intentionally using it incorrectly.

Different ones have approached me using this passage and suggesting that before responding to someone’s public error, I should first go and talk with them. Only recently a person asked me if I had done and talked with people about their error before making any response to it. For easy reference, let’s note the entire passage: Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnes-ses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matt. 18:15-17).

A cursory look at the passage shows that it deals with personal matters, rather than matters of the public arena. It bothers me that some people do not see this, and it raises some questions in my mind. Yet, as said, we grant that some people do not “sex” things that are very clear in the Bible. Not so clearly to the people, though. Some I know and have read after have known only too well what this passage says.

It is evident that the passage involves a conflict and offense of a personal nature. Consider: 1. Note the reference to individuals in verse 15: “Thy brother [. . .] tell him his fault between thee and him.” He shall hear thee. . . . Thou hast gained thy brother.” 2. “He” and “thee” stand out clearly in verse 15. It is only when the offending brother will not hear the offended brother that others become involved. The offended brother is to take with him “one or two more” knowledgeable witnesses that every word may be es-

 establishment. At this point only three or four brethren are involved. It is still not a public matter. 3. It is only when the offender will not hear the offended that the matter becomes public in the sense of involving the church.

Our discussion is primarily concerned with capable people who misuse this passage; people who obviously have enough understanding of the Bible to see that private, not public, matters are under consider-ation. When people who clearly know better abuse this passage, it legitimately raises questions as to the motive involved. We cannot always know one’s mo-tive, but we can know a tree by its fruit. Let us first consider a real example of a serious mis-use of the passage.

A brother writes an article in the church bulletin which is made available publicly. The article contains some harsh criticism of the Lord’s church, as voiced by people outside the church. Though the writer fails to offer valid evidence that the harsh criticism is justified, he agrees with the critics in a number of instances. When I respond to the above public article in a public way, via BOT, the writer of the critical article implies, in correspondence to me, that I should have come to him first, in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. I main-tained, and still do, that since the writer’s article was unjustly critical of the Lord’s church in general and in a public way, I am not duty bound to go to him before responding to his public article in a public way.

The writer also cited Matthew 7:23 and chided me for violating the Golden Rule. Let me clearly say — If I write something for public distribution which de-serves criticism due to its lack of scriptural justifica-tion, I expect people to respond to it in a public man-ner, whether they ever see me or not. They have a duty to do so.

Let me here make an observation which I believe has a direct bearing upon the matter at hand: A per-son who is liberal-minded with reference to God’s word takes us within the parameters of God’s word. By this I mean that a strict compliance with what is clearly taught in the Bible is not considered essential.
sanctity of life, Judge Alito’s confirmation was a ray of light in a morally benighted world. They believe that Judge Alito’s confirmation is a step in the right direction, because he is perceived to favor life rather than death of the unborn. There must be something to this given the lengths to which the pro-abortion people went to defeat Alito. Had his critics thought Alito was in favor of abortion, most, if not all, would have been in favor of confirming him. The action of his critics has been rightly described as “despicable.” And the background of some of his critics is such that it makes it even more so.

Though the confirmation of Judge Alito was an encouragement to those who believe unborn children have a right to live, the battle is not over by any means. Given the number of those who resorted to the tactics of Judge Alito’s critics, this is a strong indicator that they will not give up easily. Evil often resists efforts to overcome it, and especially when those efforts weaken.

To help us realize the enormity of the movement to kill the unborn, just stop to consider that 42 Senators voted against Judge Alito, and 58 voted in favor. Now link this to the scary thought of what can happen if the pro-abortion party gets control of the Senate. The prospects of overturning Roe v. Wade would then be nil, perhaps for generations to come. For thirty-three years, our Supreme Court has upheld the murder of many millions of innocent unborn children; the number of people who favor abortion is much greater now than it was then.

Those who favor the sinful, though legal, act of abortion realize their greatest opportunity to continue the legal practice is through the courts. This may account for some of the despicable tirades by some of the senators. They know that, not through elections, rather through judges can abortion and other anti-God policies be enacted.

The broader scope of our discussion is the Culture War. The Alito hearings were closely related to that war. How so? The current Culture War has as its objective the removal of virtually every vestige of God’s influence from our society. The number of those who want a strictly secular society in our country is increasing. We know that those who believe in God, the giver of life, believe in the protection of the life of the unborn as well as the born. If God’s influence is removed from our society, then the reason for believing in life will no longer exist. Then, killing the unborn, as well as many other ungodly acts will become so commonplace that few will even lift an eyebrow at any action or practice.

Another battle in this war which also has to do with the Supreme Court and the sanctity of life, is that of the “suicide prescription.” The Supreme Court recently upheld the Oregon law which permits doctors to prescribe drugs or means of suicide. Just think how easily it is under such a law to induce the old, disabled, unwanted, whose minds may no longer be working well, to opt for a “suicide pill.” Please do not foolishly say, “It can’t happen.” This is a form of so-called euthanasia, murdering in bulk. It is all about getting rid of the unwanted in society, by legal means, as in the case of the unwanted unborn. The practice is now in vogue in Holland, it was a practice under Hitler’s reign in Germany. Many of the old, and those who were not a benefit to society were simply killed off. It seems that those who believe in the killing off of unborn and unwanted children would not be too averse to getting rid of the feeble and infirm.

It is unlikely that those who are much younger (I am eighty) fully understand the nature and advance of the current culture war. They have not lived during a time when many of the common unethical things of today were not common. Those of us who are older are astounded at what we see taking place, and the unconcern evidence by such a great portion of our society.

What Can and Should We Do?

Just as those who favor the taking of the life of the totally innocent unborn speak out so forcefully, so should we speak out even more forcefully in favor of life. Some times we underestimate what a minority of people, who sincerely believe in God, can do when they are determined and unwilling to give up. We should use every opportunity to speak up in support of allowing the unborn to live. Don’t be afraid of criticism. It comes with the territory. Standing up for God, His Word, and Truth as Christians should, is sure to bring forth criticism. — Editor

Readers’ Response

“Thanks so much for sending Banner of Truth. It is a very worthwhile paper. God bless you all” — Geraldine Benoit, AR

“Thank you so much for your stand for the truth. We recently moved to Tucson, AZ. Out of 14 churches only one is sound. Hope you and yours are blessed greatly in the New Year. God bless you and the church at Hickory grove. In his name” — Bailey & Darren Cunningham, AZ (I’m hearing the same story from many places. That is, the sound congregations are few and far between. How sad that is. I can well remember when most were sound — Editor).

“You made me think of your publication “Banner of Truth. I Thank you and God bless” — Ernest Sands, Sr, GA

“Dear Banner of Truth, We have always learned a lot from your newspapers. We have an address change in Jan. 03 and the post office quit forwarding them to us. We talked many a time about sending you our new address but shamefully ‘never got around to it.’ Would you kindly send us the back issues from Feb. 03 up till the current time? We have enclosed a check to pay for the postage and also to help further your hard work. Your articles have always helped us to understand different ‘touchy’ topics that would come up (dance, marriage, divorce, runaways, etc.). Please do not ever give up your paper. Thank you very much” — Mr. & Mrs. Andy Shanks, MO

“Hey, Brothers, I would like to receive your free publications. I have recently moved and want to continue receiving it. Thank you” — David & Twilla Douzier, TN (Thanks for letting us know — Editor).

“I pray this finds you and the work there going well. What Can and Should We Do? — Ernest Sands, Sr, GA

“Dear Banner of Truth, I appreciate your good work for the Lord and his church — David G. Foy, Sussex, NC

“Dear Banner of Truth. My husband and I really learn a lot from your publication. We have recently moved and want to continue receiving it. Thank you” — Geraldine Benoit, AR

“Thank you very much, Mr. & Mrs. Andy Shanks, MO. (How kind, I too, sometimes fail to do things of value of back issues is on its way. We have about 90 issues that we try to send when people ask for them. Thank you for the check to help to work in our office and for sending your new address. That’s a favor to us. It is our intention to keep the paper going as long as we are mentally and physically able to do so — Editor).

“I have enclosed a check and the work there going well. Would you please add me to your mailing list for “Banner of Truth”? I appreciate your good work for the Lord and his church — David G. Foy, Sussex, NC

“I appreciate your good work for the Lord and his church” — David G. Foy, Sussex, NC

“Dear sister and brother in Christ, I want to extend my thanks for your stand for what God has ordained for Israel. I pray this finds you and the work there going well. What Can and Should We Do? — Ernest Sands, Sr, GA

“Thank you very much” — David & Twilla Douzier, TN (Thanks for letting us know — Editor).

“I can well remember when most were sound — Editor)

“I am saddened when some are not willing to listen to those who are in the leadership. Younger people can learn much they need to know from servants such as you. You have seen changes come about within the Lord’s church that many have never seen. So many don’t know what the church was like fifty years ago. The church was not perfect then, on the side of man, but it was in a much better condition than it is today, since the bringing in of many innovations which are not in harmony with the Bible. May the Lord richly bless you with much more time — Editor)

“We have made a couple of moves during the past three years and somehow our copy of “Banner of Truth” has not been received. We have missed it very much and would like to be placed on your mailing list again if possible. Thank you very much. (We are happy to add your name again when the reader desires — Editor).

“Please send me a copy of the Back Issues of Banner of Truth? It is a great paper” — Ronald Boweright, AR

“I am not able to get all the bundle of BOT out any more. I’m asking you to stop the bundle, but please don’t stop my single one. Please keep sending it. I enjoy reading it. It is a sound reading and that’s what we need today. So much false teaching. They clip their hands here when they have a baptism. I talked to three of the sisters about it. They thought it OK. They said it showed joy. I said it didn’t show rev- erence. They said, well the kids like it. I told them they picked it up from Tuba Workshop. We never had it until they went to it and brought it back here, and the elders let them keep it because the kids liked it. I talked to two elders once about it and for a while it stopped and they would sing a beautiful song, which sounded so much better. But now it has begun again. I’m going to talk to them again. “Perhaps if I keep them in will stop. I pray for you and sister Naomi for a long life in the Lord’s work. I’ll soon reach my 94th birthday. I had a broken hip and feel prayer has helped me to be as well as I am. I covet your prayers all the time. I’ve never met you all in person, but I love you both for the work you all are doing. I don’t want to miss a bulletin. God bless you both. In Christian love,” — Ica Savage, OK (We are sorry that your health is such that it prevents you from doing the things you want to do. But we are thankful that the Lord has given you so many years to be a great servant in His church. I have printed your entire letter because I think it is a good example of one who loves God’s truth and is devoted to upholding it in every way you can. My heart goes out to many of our readers who are in their golden years, who still love the truth. But I am saddened when some are not willing to listen to those who are in the leadership. Younger people can learn much they need to know from servants such as you. You have seen changes come about within the Lord’s church that many have never seen. So many don’t know what the church was like fifty years ago. The church was not perfect then, on the side of man, but it was in a much better condition than it is today, since the bringing in of many innovations which are not in harmony with the Bible. May the Lord richly bless you with much more time — Editor)
We Appreciate The Readers’ Response.

We are not afraid to carry it all; we are not afraid to select the favorable ones. We carry both positive and negative responses. We encourage you to let us hear from you and know and let us have your thoughts.

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**Banner of Truth Financial Report**

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The Judge Alito Hearings And The Advance Of The Current Culture War

The current culture war, which has been under way for the past several decades, continues in an unabated way. Valid evidence of this was clearly seen in the recently concluded Judge Alito Committee hearings.

In recent weeks the committee hearings of Judge Alito, the Supreme Court appointee, have taken a major spot on the national news. That appointee to the Supreme Court should receive attention is certainly in order, inasmuch as the Supreme Court is the highest court in our country and affects virtually every facet of our lives.

Having said the above, we suggest that the appointment of Judge Alito has evidenced an agenda by a political power to advance the current culture war to a degree hardly seen before. This is a matter about which all of us should be deeply concerned.

By discussing the above subject, I can imagine some critics saying: “There you go again, getting into politics.” Well, call it what you may, politics affects our lives in many ways and we should get involved in many instances. Our country is run by a political system. Yes, I am concerned about the political direction our country takes. You see, our Lord’s church is affected by the politics of our country, as are members of the church and other citizens. Therefore, I make no apology for discussing things of a political nature which have to do with our spiritual lives and the Cause of Christ.

Thus far, I haven’t been able to figure out the reasoning of some, even Christians, in the position they take. That position is set forth in the following: A person may... two things as major planks in their political platforms. It is sort of like having a “Divine right” to engage in things...