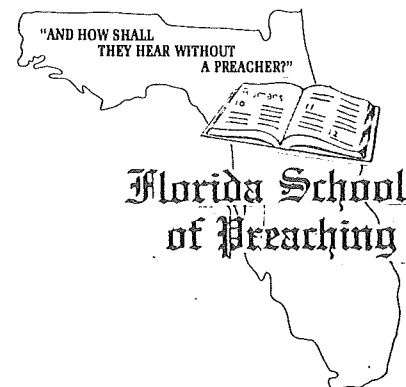


# THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME VIII

DECEMBER 1989

NUMBER 5

## THE CHURCH NEEDS SOUND PREACHERS WHO WILL GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

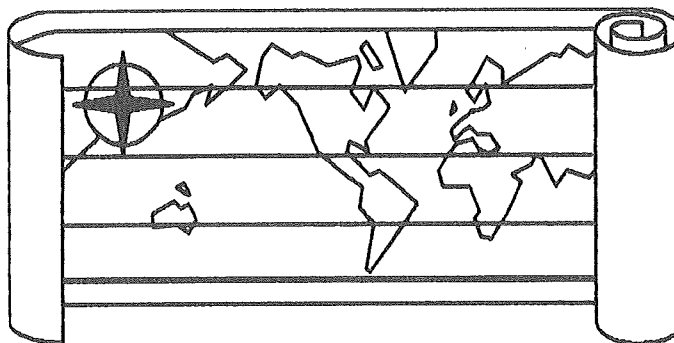
by  
Joseph Meador

[Brother Meador is the preacher for the Madisonville Church of Christ in Madisonville, Kentucky. This is the congregation where I grew up. This church and Joseph are interested in training preachers. This congregation supports the Florida School of Preaching financially on a regular basis. Brother Joseph is on our upcoming lectureship. This article appeared in *Insights*, September 14, 1989, Editor].

*"And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me. And He said, Go and tell this to my people; Ye indeed hear, but do not understand; and Ye indeed see, but do not perceive" (Isaiah 6:8-9).*

The text of scripture which serves to introduce this study is found in Isaiah chapter six, with the context contained in verses one through thirteen. The figure

of the prophet is that of one who is witnessing a divine vision of the glory and majesty of the triune God; Jehovah of Hosts. The inspired prophet is humbled by



his experience and cries out because of his sinfulness. God therefore cleanses Isaiah of his iniquity and only then does God call forth this brave scribe to be a soldier in the Lord's Army. Indeed, God can use those who are humble in attitude, and who are of a contrite heart. Such have been the defining marks of God's faithful preachers spanning the corridors of time.

God called this preacher forth in order that Israel

might know that they were spiritually weak and had been found lacking in regard to their faithful observance of God's law. This was true, in spite of the fact that their "maturity" in the religion of their fathers should have provided a foundation for continued spiritual growth. Yet, because of their attitude of self-righteousness, such was not the case.

Therefore, Isaiah had been raised up by God, as had the Judges of old, in order to preach the message of repentance to the congregation of the Lord. Thus, if we keep the context of this passage in mind, and seek to understand the high degree of apostasy which had pervaded the religious and moral fiber of Israel's latter history, then our appreciation for the sympathy of the role of Isaiah as a preacher becomes obvious.

Such forceful preaching, as the situation necessitated, would not we warmly received . . . such preaching would not

*Thank You!*

There is a sense in which the office at the School of Preaching has lost its right arm. CAROL LEEMAN, our secretary, has asked to be replaced due to health reasons. We regret her decisions for she was a great asset to the staff and students. She was always willing to go the second mile in order to help. We all will miss her and pray that all goes well for her and her family. Carol, when you are up and around we hope you will come and see us.

**AND**

**LEON SUTTON  
Passes**

Leon Sutton, former board member of the Florida School of Preaching passed away, Wednesday, October 18, 1989. We express our deepest sympathy to the Sutton family at this loss.

Men like brother Leon can not be replaced. He has meant much to the school and we are encouraged by the memory of his faithfulness to God and his fellowship in preparing men to preach the gospel.

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Nov. 4, 1989

Dear Brother Carr,  
We enjoy reading "The Harvesters" and the wonderful work all of you are doing to train sound gospel preachers.

In Christian Love,

Leonard and Audrey Daye  
4270 Hemlock Lane  
Titusville, Florida

B.C. Carr, Director  
Florida School of  
Preaching . . .



Dear Brother Carr:

Please accept this contribution towards the support of students attending there who might need help. We are thankful there are schools like FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING where men can learn and grow in their efforts to be gospel preachers.

In May of each year we have a lectureship here in Rocky Mountain and would like to have you participate. We have scheduled Garland Elkins and Robert Taylor in the coming years, beginning this year. Right now I have May of 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1995 open (1st Saturday in each May), and was wondering if you would be able to take a couple of them. Please let us know.

God bless you and the fine effort being put forth at the school there.

Signed,

John Fuller, Elder  
Bill Hopkings, Elder  
Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 1374  
Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801

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## **BACK TO BASICS**

This is the theme of the Annual Lectureship for the School of Preaching. This is a most vital principle for without a basic foundation for religion and life all becomes chaos. Many have forsaken the "old paths" and others are unsure what constitutes the old paths. Today we are hearing of a new "Hermeneutic." To many this means that we need a "justification" for doing things for which there is no Biblical basis.

If you will take the time to consider the themes cited on the back of this publication and if you are interested in the cause of truth these basic themes will appeal to you.

The Annual Lectureship is a highlight of our school year. Students are edified by the series and the faculty and staff are encouraged by the informative and inspirational studies.

One of the great joys of lectureship week is the renewal of friends and associates from near and faraway. To hear of the work and progress of fellow-soldiers of the cross is always a exciting.

The Annual Lectureship makes a contribution to the stability of the brotherhood. During the week souls assembly to be edified, then they take the truths learned and the enthusiasm engendered back to their home congregation and the fruit will be born in years to come with the final result not being evident until that eternal day dawns which awaits us all.

Another factor producing excitement during the Annual Lectureship is the opportunity to express gratitude in person to many of the faithful supporters who make possible this labor of love.

The open forum will be conducted again by brother Noel Merideth. Brother Merideth is an able expositor of the Book. The Forum provides those present an opportunity to ask questions relative to the lessons given or concerning religious issues or topics which may be difficult for them.

Truth is the binding ingredient which holds us together (John 8:32; I Tim. 3:14-15). The Bible must be opened and what it teaches accepted without reservation.

be popular . . . such preaching would be described as "un-loving" . . . "un-wise" . . . such preaching would be depicted as "negative" . . . and the preacher of such sermons would be chastised for his lack of "balance." Too, such a preacher would be chided for his strong stand for truth, and would be described as a representative of a certain "camp," rather than being simply a spokesman for God.

This is no doubt what the majority, or the "mainstream" of Israel thought nearly three thousand years ago, and these are the same impotent charges which some, who claim to be in the "mainstream" of the church today, hurl at steadfast preachers of the ancient order. In fact, many of these congregations, where "love feasts" are ritual attractions, have ruled from within their own elderships that such "negative" and "unloving" preaching be banned.

Indeed, who has changed during the last forty years? Who among us cries "peace, peace" when there is no peace? Who among us calls good evil and evil good? Who among us turns in disdain from the "old paths" which men of godly estate have walked down befitted with armor and sword? Who among us is warming by a fire which he has snot helped to build, but rather is committed to quenching? and Who among us is striving to be the petted and pampered pet of the "mainstream" in the Lord's church today? To these queries our "mainstream" brethren refuse to honestly respond, and yet, in their doctrinal slumber the thunderous voice of God echoes through the writings of departed prophets: "Whom shall I send, and who will go

for us?" Sadly, few are willing to go as the Lord intended.

In many pulpits the preaching of the Old Jerusalem Gospel has given way to a new and uncertain sound, and the clarion call of Christ has been muffled by the hands of human philosophy resulting in a synthesized gospel whose origin and standard are not divine.

The preaching of Christ

# Responsibility

in many congregations has been modified by the theories of Carnegie, while the admonishments of Paul have been tempered with the attitudes of Peale, and the Bible's revealed truths are being interwoven with the teachings of Schuller, Conn, Ziglar, et al, producing a "new message for a new age." This new message is promoted for those who desire "quick" friendships . . . "quick" influence . . . a "quick" power. In such a "quick" system of positive propaganda, selfjustification and the relegation of matters of faith to matters of opinion have become the touchstone of truth, thus avoiding "negative" confrontation.

However, such should not be confused with the "Certified Gospel" whose grand story has been repeated with humble affection by faithful soldiers of the church of Christ for generations, and bay whose blood countless martyrs have borne witness. While the former is built upon the quicksand foundation of pseudo-love, utilized by the admirers of these false prophets in order to make a "quick" sale of the gospel, the latter is built upon the

genuine and ever enduring love of God toward his offspring (the human race) drawing men to Christ by virtue of that love as seen in the lives of active soul seekers who are also contenders for the faith. This is done to the glory of God and Him alone.

The ancient army of God formerly consisted of His mighty prophets who called the adulterous nation of Israel to repentance. In like manner, or in antitype, men of God today are calling for many in the church to repent of compromise and doctrinal weakness and to there-

after "contend earnestly for the faith" in such a way that the church might present herself as a solid phalanx for truth to a world searching for light. In essence, God needs preachers today who will go into battle against all odds in order to save lost souls from perdition. In so doing the bride's honor and integrity will be sustained. Will you go? Will you prepare? How will you answer?

January 22-25, 1990 should mean something to you, does it?



## The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

THEME – "BACK TO BASICS"

## Monday – January 22

- 9:00 "The New Age Movement"  
Winford Claiborne – Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Back to Basics in Exalting Christ"  
V. P. Black – Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "Emphasizing The Mission of The Church"  
Hayward Brooks – Tampa, Florida
- 11:30 *Lunch*
- 1:30 "Back to New Testament Singing"  
Keith Cozort – Mulliken, Michigan
- 2:30 "If Paul Should Come To Our City"  
Jack Strachan – Brandon, Florida
- 3:30 **Open Forum**  
J. Noel Merideth – Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 *Break*
- 7:00 "The One Baptism Essential To Salvation"  
Bernard McKeiver – Bartow, Florida
- 7:45 "Are We Drifting From The Old Paths?"  
Bill Threet – Winter Haven, Florida

## Tuesday – January 23

- 9:00 "The New Age Movement"  
Winford Claiborne – Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Back to Basics in Exalting Christ"  
V. P. Black – Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "Respect For Bible Authority"  
Marlin Kilpatrick – Suffolk, Virginia
- 11:30 *Lunch*
- 1:30 "Role of Women In The Church"  
Wallace Maxwell – Jacksonville, Florida
- 2:30 "God Hath Spoken"  
Adron Doran – Lexington, Kentucky
- 3:30 **Open Forum**  
J. Noel Merideth – Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 *Break*
- 7:00 "Repentance"  
Leslie Bland – Jacksonville, Florida
- 7:45 "Let Us Go Back To Jerusalem"  
Joseph Meador – Madisonville, Kentucky

## Wednesday – January 24

- 9:00 "The New Age Movement"  
Winford Claiborne – Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Back to Basics in Exalting Christ"  
V. P. Black – Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "What Constitutes A Live Church?"  
W. E. Wardlaw – Huntsville, Alabama
- 11:30 *Lunch*
- 1:30 "The Inerrancy Of The Bible"  
Winfred Clark – Athens, Alabama
- 2:30 "Trends Toward Liberalism"  
Eugene Clevenger – Abilene, Texas
- 3:30 **Open Forum**  
J. Noel Merideth – Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 *Break*
- 7:00 "Greater Zeal in Fulfilling The Great Commission"  
David Watson – Jacksonville, Florida
- 7:45 "Why I Left The Christian Church"  
Clarence Lavender – Christiansburg, Virginia

## Thursday - January 25

- 9:00 "Restoring The Rightful Place of Elders"  
Joseph Meador – Madisonville, Kentucky
- 9:45 "The Preciousness of Fellowship"  
Billy R. Davidson – Clearwater, Florida
- 10:45 "Why The Church Is Not Growing"  
Wayne Coats – Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
- 11:30 *Lunch*
- 1:30 "Potential Dangers Of The Church Growth Movement"  
Winfred Clark – Athens, Alabama
- 2:30 "Recapturing The Joy of Salvation"  
Charles Moore – Lexington, Kentucky
- 3:30 **Open Forum**  
J. Noel Merideth – Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 *Break*
- 7:00 "Is The Church Just A Denomination?"  
Maurice Davis – Lakeland, Florida
- 7:45 "Where Do We Go From Here?"  
Eugene Clevenger – Abilene, Texas

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