



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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The Teaching of Boltinghouse Versus The Teaching of The Bible

By
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In the Winter 1993 issue of the *One Body* publication circulated by the members of the Christian Church advocating compromise by members of the Lord's church under the banner of unity in division a lengthy quote is given from a member of the church of Christ. The doctrine advocated in the quote is the same as the Christian Church. The quote is from the Denny Boltinghouse, editor of *Image Magazine*. I wish to present it for our readers consideration and to contrast the position advocated by the quote with that of the Bible.

The Teaching of Boltinghouse

"At the national lectureships of our Christian Church brethren, they willingly recognize us acapella brethren as brethren and allow us to speak on their programs. Why can't the reverse be true? Why can't we acapella brethren have the opportunity to be blessed by one of our instrumental brethren at one of "our" college lectureships? I am not suggesting a propagation on the

subject of the instrument. What I am suggesting is that we allow some of their spiritual giants to bless us in a study on prayer or on the Beatitudes or the wonder of the Psalms. This would enable us to get acquainted with other brethren and to learn from their study. It would also demonstrate to the world that although we have genuine differences with these brethren, we also have a strong unity with them. Some may suggest that we cannot allow them to speak because it would condone everything they believe. *Get real.*[sic] Are you suggesting that you condone everything that those who speak in your pulpit believe? Such a sectarian stance would keep Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone, Robert Milligan, David Lipscomb, etc. out of your local pulpit. It would even prevent your elders from speaking, because there is not an eldership among us who all agree with everything each of the other individual elders believe. There is not a husband and wife who agree on everything. So why can't we have a brother, with

whom we disagree, speak at a lectureship? In reality, we are already doing that with every speaker at every lectureship among us. Getting to know and respect brothers in Christ is an honorable and biblical course. How long until we demonstrate our plea for unity by allowing a Christian Church brother to deliver a lectureship address at one of our Christian colleges? .. [sic] 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Eph. 4:3)."

The Teaching of The Bible

May the position advocated by the *One Body* publication, *Image Magazine*, and brother Boltinghouse be harmonized with the teaching of the Bible?

II John 9-11

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him

not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Denny, are we to do what this passage teaches? If the elect lady could not permit false teachers in her home why should schools? Does this passage teach that when we promote false teachers that we are promoting evil and forfeit our fellowship with God?

Ephesians 5:11

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Denny, how may one comply with the requests that you and your Christian Church brethren make and abide by this passage? Does this passage say that I am permitted to have some fellowship or no fellowship with false teaching?

Psalms 119:63

Proverbs 28:4

"I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts." "They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them."

Denny, these passages present an attitude toward the Word of God that has God's approval. How can we follow this and do what you and your Christian Church brethren are asking?

Romans 16:17

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Denny, this passage demands a certain action by the faithful. How can the faithful comply with the request of you and your Christian Church brethren?

Philippians 3:16-19

"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

Denny, how can we comply with Paul's teaching in this passage and submit to the teaching of you and your Christian Church brethren?

Question?

Should unity and fellowship be sought by obeying the truth or by disobeying the truth? (II John 9-11; I John 1:6-7; III John 3-4.)

Matthew 5:19-20

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Denny, the Pharisees were selective in their choice of what part of God's Word they obeyed. We are under obligation to call upon individuals to comply with

the very least commandments. How can those respecting this passage do what you and your Christian Church brethren are requesting?

I Corinthians 1:10

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Denny, the Apostle Paul wrote these words to a divided church. Should we and your Christian Church brethren apply what he required of the Corinthians? If we do this would there be unity?

II Corinthians 10:12, 18

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. . . . For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

Denny, may we measure ourselves by the standards of men? The denominational world has done this for years. When we are determined to have the Lord's approval in our actions the crowd will always be small. If we measure ourselves by some standard of men does this mean we have the approval of God? Should we seek

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the Lord's approval or man's approval in religious matters?

Colossians 3:17

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Denny, must we have the authority of Christ behind our every word and deed? If we cannot find the authority of Christ and Paul for doing what you and your Christian Church brethren are requesting, how can we hope to please Christ by our actions?

Revelation 2:14-16; 2:20-23

"But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. . . . Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Denny, these letters to the church in the first century call

"Get Real."

1) In civil law I am free to disobey the law if I can find other individuals who do the same.

___ True ___ False.

2) If two or more disobedient citizens go before a judge and admit that they are both doing wrong it could so impress the judge that he would have to say he had never seen this before?

___ True ___ False.

3) In religious law I am free to disobey if I can find someone in the "Restoration Movement" who disobeyed?

___ True ___ False.

4) We are to love God (I Cor. 16:22), and we perfect our love for God by keeping His Word (I John 2:3-6). If anyone knows us and sees that we are not keeping the Word of God it would demonstrate to them that we love God? ___ True ___ False.

upon those who respect God's Word to pay attention to what is taught here. How then may we permit false teachers to teach us if it were wrong for them? Is it possible that we may be tricked (seduced) by false teachers?

III John 11

"Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

Denny, are we to follow the good and not the evil in order to have God's blessing? Does Ephesians 4:5 teach that there is to be one faith or many?

I Corinthians 4:17

"For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

Denny, does Paul say that what one church (congregation) was taught all churches were taught? If he did, how may we have those teaching different faiths teach us? Did the Devil teach some truth in Genesis 3? How much false doctrine may a false teacher believe before he should be refused as a teacher?

Galatians 1:6-10

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Denny, which should come first, the pure gospel or the doctrines of men? Which should be most important, the gospel or the doctrines of an apostate apostle or angel? Whom should we seek to please, men or Christ? What does this passage teach should be our fellowship with false teaching?

Conclusion

Denny, I can not harmonize the teaching of the Bible with that taught by you and your Chris-

tian Church brethren. What you teach is not new. It is not from the Bible. It has never promoted unity. It does not promote peace. We may follow the teaching of Boltinghouse and his Christian Church brethren or we may follow the teaching of the Bible. We can not follow both. Let anyone take the passages from the Bible we have cited and try to harmonize them with the doctrine taught in the quote from *One Body*.

Should we follow the teaching of Paul? "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant" (I Cor. 14:37-38).



Lectureship Recap

The 1993 Lectureship is history. From a practical evaluation we were blessed again with a great lectureship. (1)



It was great because of the subject matter—the message of the prophets. (2) It was great because of the outstanding speakers participating and all were able to be with us with no cancellations. (3) It was great because of

the many friends who attended. There were individuals from **fourteen states and three foreign countries**. There were individuals from **fifty congregations** within the State of Florida. (4) The expenses for the lectureship are over \$6,000.00 and these expenses were paid by free-will offerings. In addition to this were local congregations supplying food for our guests each day of the lectureship. Springhead in Plant City provided for Monday; Sixth Street in Lakeland provided for Tuesday; South Florida Avenue in Lakeland provided for Wednesday; and North Lakeland provided for Thursday.

We appreciate the contribution made from one and all. Your fellowship made any difficulty lighter.

One person, dissatisfied with the school, recently implied that we were isolated and had little if any fellowship with others. Such charges manifest an ignorance of the true picture of things. Review again the program and the speakers appearing. We have support from the faithful. We are not alone. See you next January!



Memorials

We extend our sympathy to the Charlie Deal family at the

passing of sister **Emma Mae Deal**. Sister Deal was a wife of one of our elders at South Florida Avenue.



The outpouring of respect for sister Deal is exemplified by the more than forty (40) separate memorial contributions sent to the school in her honor. These memorials total **\$1,095.00** at this writing. This says much about the love and respect of this family among those that knew them.

We are also saddened to learn of the death of brother **George DeHoff**. Brother DeHoff has been on our lectureship program and was always an encouragement to the *Florida School of Preaching*.



Graduate's Project

The upcoming graduating class has purposed to **purchase a new copier for the school**. The present copier was given to the school by a former graduate. It has reached the point where the upkeep is becoming too costly.

During the past lectureship the announcement was made and \$165.00 was contributed toward this project.

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