



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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AN OUTLINE STUDY ON RESTORING THE ERRING

By
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Introduction

- I. **Purpose:** To consider the theme in the light of the teaching of the Bible with some reflections based upon some false teaching on the subject.
- II. Some false views
 - A. Since all sin therefore all are the same.
 - B. Once you are in Christ sin does not matter (the baptized are saved by grace, works do not save, baptized believers have total security).
 - C. Fellowship equals sonship; fellowship is vertical; no matter what happens on the horizontal plane (between others and/or differing over doctrinal matters) sonship is fixed at baptism. According to some, fellowship can not be withdrawn; refusing fellowship is to be sectarian.
- III. Text: "My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20).
 - A. The text teaches that brethren are under consideration.
 - B. The text teaches that brethren may err from the truth.
 - C. The text teaches that brethren may remain in the truth.
 - D. The text teaches that brethren erring need to be converted.
 - E. The text teaches that brethren need to convert brethren when brethren err.

- F. The text teaches that the erring brother is in sin, having a need to have his sins covered, being spiritually dead.

Discussion

- I. The Case of Brother Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:13-24)
 - A. He believed and was baptized (8:13).
 - B. He had a spiritual heart problem (8:18-20).
 1. He misused his money.
 2. He (coveted) tried to secure that which was not rightfully his.
 3. He was rebuked for his wrong by brother Simon Peter.
 - C. Repentance was demanded of brother Simon the Sorcerer (8:22).
 - D. His condition is described as being in wickedness; in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity (8:22-23).
 - E. He is told to pray for forgiveness (8:22).
 - F. He asked Peter to pray for him (8:24).
- II. The Case of Brother Simon Peter (Gal. 2:11-20)
 - A. Brother Paul resisted (withstood) him to the face (2:11).
 - B. Brother Peter had not personally injured brother Paul.
 - C. Brother Paul says that brother Peter stood condemned (2:11, ASV).
 - D. Brother Paul publicly condemned brother Peter (2:14).
 - E. The basis of the condemning: "He walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel" (2:14).

- F. Brother Peter was influencing others to sin, be condemned, to not walk uprightly (2:12-13).
- G. Brother Peter feared men and this had a part in his fall (2:12).
- H. Brother Peter and others had even led brother Barnabas, the great encourager, to sin (2:13).
- I. Brother Paul demanded of brother Peter and the others consistency in teaching and practice (2:17-21).
- J. Fellowship is made impossible when we do not follow the truth of the gospel.
- K. Brother Peter the Apostle who had corrected another stood in need of correction. He had erred from the truth and stood lost though baptized into the one body of Christ (Gal. 6:1-3).

III. Words From Brother Peter About Apostates

A. Second Peter 2:20-22

- 1. This passage teaches that there are those who have escaped the defilements of the world.
- 2. This passage teaches that the means of escape was the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- 3. This passage teaches that these very ones are again entangled in the defilements of the world and overcome.
- 4. This passage teaches that the last state is become worse than the first.
- 5. This passage teaches that the ones that are overcome are worse than those who have never known the way of righteousness.
- 6. This passage teaches that they are willfully and openly rejecting the holy commandment delivered to them.
- 7. This passage pictures apostates by the proverb of the dog returned to his own vomit and the sow that was washed to wallowing in the mire.

B. Second Peter 3:14-18

- 1. This passage teaches that we be diligent to be at peace without spot and blameless in His sight (3:14).
- 2. This passage teaches that Paul by the grace of God wrote some things hard to be understood (3:15-16).

- 3. This passage teaches that the ignorant and unsteadfast wrest (twist) the Scriptures (3:16).
- 4. This passage teaches that twisting the Scriptures is no innocent undertaking—those who do it will find that it leads to their own destruction (3:16).
- 5. This passage teaches that those who know this need to remain vigilant (3:17).
- 6. This passage teaches that we may be carried away with the error of the wicked.
- 7. This passage teaches that there is to be growth in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (3:18).
- 8. This passage teaches that the grace of God provides for growth.
- 9. This passage teaches that the grace of God does not provide for twisting of the Scriptures.
- 10. This passage teaches that the grace of God does not provide for unfaithfulness.

IV. Brother John the Apostle and Forgiveness (I John 5:16-17).

- A. Brother John says that there is a sin unto death (spiritual separation from God) and that there is a sin not unto death.
- B. The sin not unto death may be forgiven upon the prayers of the faithful.
- C. Brother John says that there are sins that are of such a magnitude that prayer will be to no avail.
- D. We know from brothers Paul (II Cor. 7:8-11) and John (I John 1:5-10) that if brethren repent of sins and confess them to God he will forgive them when they pray.
- E. Likewise, we know from this that brethren refusing to confess their sins and repent of them have no avenue of prayer for their sins (II Cor. 6:14-7:1; Jer. 7:16-20); Isa. 59:1-2; Prov. 1:10-31).

V. Brethren May Become Hardened Apostates

A. Hebrews 6:1-8

- 1. The passage teaches that it is impossible to change some brethren.
- 2. The passage teaches that great blessings may be received but later discarded by the brethren.
- 3. The passage teaches that a Christian may reject the

teaching with no remorse and makes it impossible for the truth to reach him.

B. Hebrews 10:26-31

1. This passage teaches that there are some that have no sacrifice for sin.
2. The passage teaches that these may expect the wrath of God.
3. The passage teaches that to reject Christ is far worse than rejecting Moses.
4. The passage teaches that God has never promised forgiveness to the seared conscience and the stubborn soul.

VI. Some Things to Remember in Restoring the Erring.

- A. We must know that we may sin and need converting.
- B. We must know that the faithful are under obligation to restore, if possible, the erring.
- C. We must know that the erring must be convicted of sin (Titus 1:9; 2:15; II Tim. 4:1-5; 3:16).
 1. Brother Peter convicted brother Simon,
 2. Brother Paul convicted brothers Peter, Barnabas, and other Jewish brethren in error.
 3. These were not personal differences under consideration.
 4. Personal differences are addressed in passages like Matthew 5:23-26 and 18:15-17.
 5. By convicting a brother of sin we are proposing to lead the erring to Biblical repentance, as brother Peter did brother Simon, as brother Paul did the Corinthians.
 6. Genuine repentance is based upon conviction of sin (II Cor. 7:10; Luke 17:3-4).
 7. Those brethren who have repented of their sins, their repentance being in harmony with the Bible, will confess their sins.
 8. Confession of sin is also a prerequisite for forgiveness (I John 1:6-10).
 9. Brother Simon asked for prayer. We know from other passages that prayer will be of no value to the one that denies the truth of the grace of God by refusing to

10. Confession is directed to the party wronged. If to God then to God; if man to man. There is no value in confessing sin of wrongdoing to those that have not been wronged. Will it avail anything to confess sin to a brother if it is God that is wronged? The reverse is also true.
11. We must accept the reconciliation upon Biblical terms (II Cor. 2:5-11).
12. Paul publicly convicted Corinth and publicly praised Corinth for repenting.
13. The congregation and other brethren may become involved when sin is not properly dealt with (Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5).
14. The spirit of gentleness and humility should characterize all actions (Gal. 6:1-3).

Conclusion

- I. The Bible teach that ignoring sin will not secure forgiveness.
- II. Covering sins in a way that God has not authorized will not remove the sin. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).
- III. The love of God and the grace of God will not cover sin apart from the covenant of grace—grace will not cover continuing in a sin (Rom. 6:1ff.).
- IV. Perfection is not demanded before we call upon others to put away sin.
- V. Faithfulness and uprightness are demanded of all (James 5:16; 2:10-13).
- VI. It is false to teach that the Bible forbids convicting brethren in sin and seeking to restore them to a condition of faithfulness.



SYMPATHY TO TERRY WHEELER FAMILY

Brother Terry Wheeler died while doing mission work in Costa Rica. Funeral services were conducted by his brother Ted Wheeler, minister of Venice Church of Christ, Venice, Florida. Terry was buried in Costa Rica.

Terry as well as two of his brothers, Ted Wheeler and Trent Wheeler (who preaches in Alachua, Florida) attended *The Florida School*

of Preaching. Their mother is a regular contributor to the school. The day of Terry's funeral his mother was having heart surgery and at this writing is recovering well. This family is a dedicated family in the service of the Lord.

Before doing mission work in Costa Rica, Terry and his family started the Cape Coral Church of Christ in Cape Coral, Florida. Terry's wife, Nancy, was a faithful companion and fellow-worker with Terry on the mission field. Nancy is a Registered Nurse and helped people in her field of expertise as Terry worked to plant the seed of the kingdom and to edify souls.

Terry spoke on the 1988 *Florida School of Preaching Lectureship* and his theme was difficulties in starting a new work. This he knew by experience and not be mere theory. Terry was only 50 years of age. The Lord has called home a beloved servant and we have lost a fellow-laborer. We are better because he walked with us. We pray God's blessings upon his family in this hour of grief.

Memorial Fund

There is a memorial fund in Terry's honor. Those wishing to contribute to this are asked to send all funds to the Venice Church of Christ earmarked "Terry Wheeler Memorial." We understand that it will be used for mission work in Costa Rica.



SPECIAL STUDIES

BY

FLAVIL NICHOLS

If you are familiar with the Lord's church the Nichol's family is a household

word. Brother Gus the beloved patriarch of the family exercised a great influence upon his generation and his influence is still felt and appreciated. Among those who are carrying on the legacy of Nichols' preaching is brother Flavil, a son of brother Gus.

In the past brother Flavil has spoken on our lectureships and has helped with answering questions on the open forum section when we had this as a part of the lectureship.

Brother Flavil has in the past brought a number of the chart lessons from his and his father's work in preaching and teaching the truth. He is to be in Jacksonville in a gospel meeting in the last of April and will be in New Port Richey the first week in May. In between these two meetings brother Flavil will present the lessons and charts to the students and anyone desiring to attend at the Florida School of Preaching. **THE DATES WILL BE THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 28, AND FRIDAY MORNING APRIL 29 FROM 10:30-12:00 AND CONTINUING AT 1:00 UNTIL 2:30.** Mark your calander and join us for this special series. If you are a preacher you may bring a camera and make pictures of the lessons for your own edification and teaching.



LECTURESHIP BOOKS

There are still a few of the 1994 printed copies of the Lectureship available. When these are gone there will be no more. If you have not obtained your copy you should do so immediately.

These are \$12.00 plus \$2.25 shipping and handling. Makes checks to the Florida School of Preaching.



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