



# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XVII

August 1996

Number 1

## ANTI-ISM IS NOT DEAD!

By  
Jackie M. Stearsman

In the past few weeks problems have been brought to our attention from two sources that should make us aware that the divisive work of men is still a major problem in the church of the Lord. One call came from a church in Florida. A number of individuals were being confused over "Anti" items and the church was being divided by these false teachings. A second comes from Australia. A brother there is requesting assistance in answering "Anti" dogmas. We print part of his letter to help all be aware of some of the foolish positions advocated by some brethren. We are omitting names from the personal correspondence. The letter in part is as follows:

TO: Brother Jackie Stearsman  
Florida School of Preaching

Date: 10 July 96

Dear brother in Christ,

REQUEST FOR SCRIPTURAL ASSISTANCE  
TO DEFEND THE FAITH

1. Greeting from Australia.
2. Allow me to first introduce myself. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am from Singapore, worshipping with the Lord's church that meets at \_\_\_\_\_ Singapore. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ is the evangelist in \_\_\_\_\_. I am currently in Australia on a 3 years army posting. My wife and daughter have joined me here. I am a major in the Singapore armed forces stationed here to coordinate our training activities. I have been a Christian for 10 years.
3. Since my posting to the town of \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, I have been attending the only church of Christ here, alas that is where my problem begins. This is a family church of about 30 members of which almost all belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ family. They do not have elders or deacons and grandad \_\_\_\_\_ (75-80 years) is the patriarch.

4. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ has his doctrines and opinions mixed up and is a difficult man to deal with. My differences with him on doctrine are in the following areas: Brother \_\_\_\_\_ assertions are:
  - A. Women must cover their head in church, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, doctrine, not custom.
  - B. No such thing as a full-time paid preacher, this is unscriptural.
  - C. Christian Schools producing Christian preachers is not scriptural.
  - D. Benevolence cannot be from church treasury but individual Christians assisting only.
  - E. Fellowship activities in the church building (eating, etc.) are not permitted.
  - F. That it is unscriptural for one church to financially support another church (for preacher support, cost of combine lectures, etc.), as the "sponsoring" church affects the autonomy of the recipient. Church co-operation in lectureships, gospel meetings are not scriptural, individual church must work within themselves.
5. I am very sure that I have not misrepresented

him as I corresponded with him and discussed the issues. His reply was to send me a letter written in 1968 by some one else.

6. The other members of the \_\_\_\_\_ family are kind to us but while they can see the error in grandad's doctrine they have given up reasoning with him. Some have told me that things will change when he passes away. In the meantime I am treated with suspicion and once attacked publicly over the pulpit for being a speaker at the \_\_\_\_\_ in Tasmania. Instead of replying to my letter directly, he addressed my points over the pulpit time and time again, while I have no such opportunity.
7. I am hoping that you would be kind enough to assist me with data from scriptures that would allow me to discuss further with brother \_\_\_\_\_, especially on the Christian School that he said is unscriptural. The \_\_\_\_\_ Bible College in Singapore incidentally is now co-located with the church in \_\_\_\_\_. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ is also helping me.
8. I realize you must be very busy, but any help that you can shed will be greatly appreciated for this foreigner in Australia. The churches in Australia, \_\_\_\_\_ all term brother \_\_\_\_\_ as an "Anti". My last option if things do not improve is to worship with my family at home as has been suggested to me by some. But I must still contend for the faith.

God bless you and your family.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

In the letter above it should be evident that the need for preacher training is an absolute necessity. The Florida School of Preaching tries to assist former students as well as others who have needs such as this brother has stated. Due to the nature of these divisive doctrines of men we believe it would be helpful to have a response in print to this letter that others might be helped when confronted by false positions.

In the coming issues of the Harvesters as we have time and space, we propose to write replies to the issues of the "Anti" positions.

It should be understood that only God can bind and loose in matters of religious doctrine (Matt. 16:19; 2 John 9-11). Likewise, it must be understood that there are areas of expedient judgment that God has authorized. The Bible is just as specific in condemning man making laws for God as it does man breaking the laws that God

has made (1 Tim. 4:1-5; Acts 15:1, 22-29; Matt. 15:9).

In considering the above letter, we have a man making laws for God. Paul states to Timothy that man made laws for God in two areas that were causing them immediate problems—forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats (I Tim. 4:1-5). Paul also states that in teaching and accepting this is to depart from the faith. Did a person have to marry? No. This was a matter of liberty. Did a person have to eat meat? No. This too was a matter of liberty.

In Antioch men were teaching that in order to be saved Gentiles had to be circumcised after the manner of the Law of Moses. There was great confusion over the issue. Leaders of the church met in Jerusalem and came to one mind in this issue. Gentiles did not have to become Jews before they were accepted as Christians. There was no such law given (Acts 15:1, 22-29). To make such laws for God is sinful and must be opposed.

The Bible is very clear in its restrictions and liberties. People must rightly divide the teaching of the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15). People must not go beyond what God has authorized (2 John 9-11). People must not take it upon themselves to restrict where God has left us free.

Are you able to help people make these distinctions? Could you help the brother who wrote the letter cited above? Have you had people try to teach some of the positions that he is facing?

We must not be alarmed when difficulties arise among us. There always have been such problems. Paul states this very clearly in First Corinthians 11:19. "For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you."

We must place God and His Word above the words of men. The kingdom of God cannot be developed with defective materials. God will test the building and each of us working to expand the borders of the kingdom does not have the liberty to work with wood, hay, or stubble. The church must be built with the best of products. God promises to test the building and to do so with fire.

Only persons of genuine character will stand the tests, will face the issues of life, in favor with God. We may suffer temporal loss. Let all take heed how they build (1 Cor. 3:10-17).



**The Harvesters**  
Published Monthly by  
Florida School of Preaching  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, Florida 33803  
(941) 683-4043  
Editor: Jackie M. Stearsman

**Board of Directors**

Gordon Methvin, President	Carl Faires
Paul Thornhill, Vice President	Kenneth W. Franklin
J. H. Blackman, Jr., Secretary	George K. French
E. Robert McAnally, Treasurer	Dick Mechling, Jr.
B. C. Carr, Director Emeritus	Samuel J. Roney
Glenn Burgess	Dale Spung
Elmer Burgett	David Spurlock
Jack C. Cronk	Oene Sitwell
Maurice Davis	Jackie M. Stearsman

# Florida School of Preaching

Twenty-Second Annual Lectureship

January 20-23, 1997

## THEME

***“If the Foundations Be Destroyed  
What Can the Righteous Do?”***

## THE HOME

- Foundation Principles for the Home (Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21), **Samuel Roney**
- Consequences Are Predictable When the Foundation of the Home Is Destroyed, **V.P. Black**
- Devoted Service in the Home Is The Key to Self Esteem, **Walter Slayden**
- The Church and the Home, **Wendell Winkler**
- Removing the God Given Place of the Father and the Mother in the Home, **Winfred Clark**
- Why Are There Violent Children in Our Society?, **Roy Dicks**
- How May the Church Assist Dysfunctional Families?, **Kenneth Franklin**
- If the Foundations Be Destroyed, Who Will Care for the Helpless: Orphan, Aged, Needy?, **J. Kenneth Gossett**

## THE CIVIL STATE

- Forced to Obey God Rather Than the Civil State, **Richard Sain**
- Difficult Questions Related to Serving in the Civil Government, **Terry M. Hightower**
- The King of Kings and Civil Governments, **Greg Harmon**
- Joseph in Potiphar's House, **Wendell Winkler**
- The Unequal Yoke Between Church and State: Lessons from Ahab and Jezebel, **Winfred Clark**
- Serving as an Agent of The Civil State, **Uleysses Richardson**
- The True Foundation for the Home, Civil State and Church, **Derrel Davis**
- Distinguishing Lines Must Be Recognized, **William Woodson**
- When Foundations Are Destroyed World Evengelism Is Thwarted, **Guy Dickinson**

## THE CHURCH

- Consequences Are Predictable When the Foundation of the Church Is Destroyed, **V. P. Black**
- How May We Know Who Is a Christian?, **British Carlton**
- Confusing the Subject of Worship:( Specials groups; unregulated, etc.), **Brian Kenyon**
- Making Shipwreck of the Faith (I Tim. 1:18-20; II Tim. 2:18-19), **Jimmy Clark**
- Religious Division Destroys the Foundation of the Church, **Robert Clemens**
- Confusion Over the Authority of Elders, **Joseph Meador**
- Confusion Over Service: Deacons and Women, **Paul Sain**
- Man Made Laws Destroy the Foundation of the Church, **Jimmy Clark**
- Following Social Fads Rather Than Divine Principles, **Joseph M. Worndle**
- “Restoration Fellowships” Verses Bible Based Fellowship, **Bernard Smith**
- Is The Foundation Of Preaching Being Destroyed?, **B.C. Carr**
- The Obligation of the church to Support Faithful Preachers, **Flavil Nichols**
- The Obligation to Develop Congregations, **Dan Wheeler**
- Autonomy of the Local Congregation, **William Woodson**

# Registration Schedule

## Florida School of Preaching

**Fall Semester Begins August 26, 1996**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

..... Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Hebrews and Galatians 21343 Introduction to the Old Testament 31379	Davis Burgett	3 3
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Greek 21322 Old Testament History 21339 World Religions 31375	Stearsman Stilwell Kenyon	3 3 2½
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Life of Paul 21362 English Grammar 11324	Stearsman Kenyon	3 3
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Ezekiel and Daniel 21314 Song Leading 11333 Survey of the Old Testament 21360	Kenyon Davidson Blackman	3 3 2½
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	World Religions 31375 Sermon on Mount 31380	Daugherty Kenyon	3 3

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee When Preregistering.

**FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING**  
**1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE**  
**LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653**

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Lakeland, Fla.**  
**PERMIT #235**

**DIRECTOR: JACKIE M. STEARSMAN**  
**Phone (941) 683-4043**  
**Fax (941) 683-0750**

***Address Correction Requested***