

Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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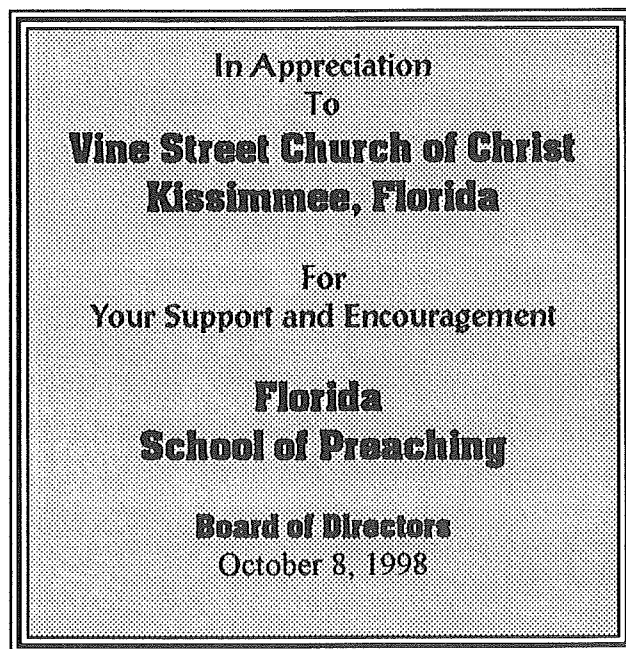
Vine Street Church of Christ Honored At Annual Banquet

Each year we single out some individual or group that has made a significant contribution to *The Florida School of Preaching*. THE VINE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST IN KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA has been a faithful supporter for a number of years. These brethren and the school have a long history of helping one another. In the early days of the congregation, we are told that faculty and students from the school taught classes and presented lessons for the congregation.

This congregation has assisted not only men in the school but some in works following graduation. A number of individuals from the congregation have attended classes. We have men attending school now who are a part of the congregation. During the summer when brother Kenyon and the group went to Jamaica, brothers Ben Radford (full time student now) and Jim Beltz from Vine Street in Kissimmee were a part of that group. (See last month's Harvesters.)

Brother Charles Wright, the present preacher, has spoken on our Lectureship Programs and brother David Spurlock, a fellow elder with brother Wright is a member of the Board of Directors for *The Florida School of Preaching*.

At the present time this congregation makes financial assistance to students as well as the general working fund for the school. We are delighted to honor these faithful and benevolent brethren for their years of support and interest in training men to preach the gospel.



What's The Flock Being Fed?

By

J. H. Blackman, Jr.

[Brother Blackman received an A.A. from Florida Christian College, and his B.A. from David Lipscomb College. He has been a gospel preacher since 1949. He presently preaches for the North Lakeland Church of Christ. He teaches part time with the school as well as serving on the Board of Directors. Editor.]

The apostle Paul in writing to Timothy stressed two things: That what he taught was to be the same as that taught by Paul; and this same message was to be committed to faithful men who would continue to teach as Paul had. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). Then a few verses later he exhorted Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Paul in writing to the church in Galatia stated: "...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" (Gal. 1:8). This gospel taught by Paul was "...Not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11-12).

The Lord knew that the power in the gospel for salvation (Rom. 1:16), to be effective, had to be the Word that was God (John 1:1). Jesus said: "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, **he**

Brethren, we need to know who these false teachers are. We need to be sure that the church is being fed sound doctrine. We need to stop the mouths of those about us from having the use of congregational pulpits to proclaim their false doctrines."

gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49). Thus, to be sure it was the same message, with the same power of salvation as taught by Christ, He promised the apostles the coming of the Holy Spirit to enable them to recall it as taught: "...and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:24-26). "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father,

even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13).

Those that do not teach the gospel as delivered from heaven are false teachers. False teachers are everywhere about us, and the New Testament is filled with statements concerning them as: (A) Their doctrine is of the devil speaking lies (I Tim. 4:1-2); (B) They have not endured "sound doctrine," but have turned aside to doctrines of their own lusts and even fables (II Tim. 4:3-4); (C) They come, as the Lord said, saying, "I am Christ" (Matt. 24:5); (D) Paul said they could arise in the eldership, from any man, or even an angel (Acts

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

20:30; Gal. 1:8-9); (E) Paul described them to the Ephesian elders as "grievous wolves" (Acts 20:29).

Elders have the responsibility of feeding the flock (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2). The eldership is the highest earthly office in the church and these men must meet special and specific qualifications to so serve (I Tim. 3:2-7; Tit. 1:6-9). These men must possess these qualifications not only when appointed, but as long as they remain elders. The failure to live up to these qualifications disqualifies them to so serve. But back to their responsibility of feeding the flock, they may do it themselves, or see that properly qualified and trained men are secured to feed the flock. However, they must be alert always to see that sound doctrine is fed the flock, "...For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, ..." (Heb. 13:17).

We now can understand why Paul in writing to Titus gave the reason for leaving him in Crete. "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee" (Tit. 1:5). Then after listing the qualifications of elders (verses 6-9), he gave the reason for these men needing to know the faithful word. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by **sound doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially

they of the circumcision: **Whose mouths must be stopped**, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" (Tit. 1:9-11).

Congregations without men knowledgeable of the truth and able to recognize false teachers, will not know they are being fed false doctrine and stop them from so teaching. Neither will these false teachers be identified as such and marked. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18).

Brethren, we need to know who these false teachers are. We need to be sure that the church is being fed sound doctrine. We need to stop the mouths of those about us from having the use of congregational pulpits to proclaim their false doctrines. We need more people like the Bereans that "...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Who is feeding the church where you are? Does the feeding consist of **s o u n d doctrine** (II Tim. 4:3)?

Paul in writing to Timothy said: "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 1:13, ASV). It should be the Word from God (John 1:1); that Word which became flesh (Christ) (John 1:14); That Word which Christ said he had given to his disciples (John 17:14); That Word which will judge us at the last day. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (John 12:48-50).

This truly is a very important question: **WHAT'S THE FLOCK BEING FED WHERE YOU ARE?**

J. H. Blackman, Jr.
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Booster Banquet October 8, 1998 RSVP

We need to know the number of those who plan to attend the Booster Banquet that proper arrangements may be made. If you have not receive communication from school and have not made reply, do so immediately. **CALL** the School with the following.

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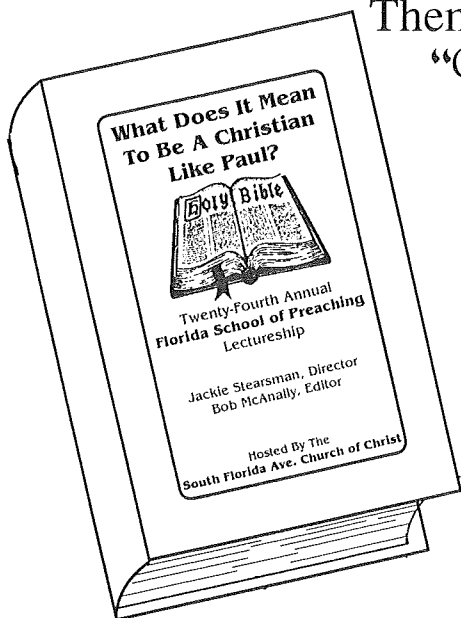


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