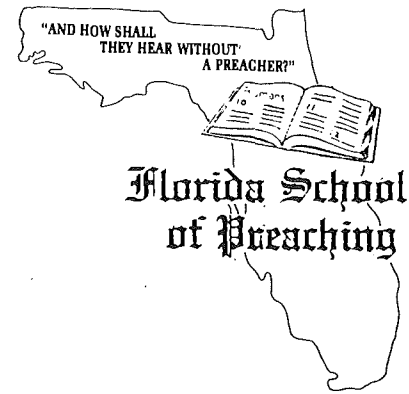


THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME XIII

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NUMBER 1

The Degenerating Demise of Liberalism

The church of the Lord is being ravished by liberalism. We may rest assured that liberalism will fail. Being confident of this fact will enable us to courageously press on in service to the Master.

It is imperative that we give serious consideration to liberalism. Some individuals proclaim their opposition to liberalism but have a problem defining liberalism. In private conversation with some the implication is often made that there are so many things that brethren differ over that the label "liberal" has little if any value. Some maintain that the label is purely subjective, depending totally upon which "camp" individuals find themselves in at a given time. I recognize that a label may be misused. I know also that the improper use of a term is no justification for rejecting the proper use of a term. If it did, we could not use the terms God, man, baptism, church, salvation, faith, et al. When a term is improperly used it

simply means that we must correct the usage that we might be certain of our words and actions.

Defining Liberalism

Let us make some preliminary observations. Liberalism may be defined if there is an absolute standard by which to measure it. This standard must be from God and not from man. Liberalism may be defined if we can know, understand and apply that standard to our life. Either the Bible is that standard or there is no standard. Every person is either living in harmony with that standard or he is not. The Bible is the truth of

God written for the direction of the human race. The truth of God teaches what God wants taught. The Bible is designed to prepare man with that essential knowledge that the relationships between God and man as well as the relationships between man and man might be what is right (II Tim 3:14-16). What the Bible teaches one person it teaches all. The truth of God does not contradict itself. The Bible does not say yes and no to the same issue under the same circumstance. The truth of God either approves a given attitude or action or it does not. If we are to enjoy the favor of God, the Bible demands that we keep the least commandments (Matt. 5:19-20; 23:23).

Liberalism is the outgrowth of a basic philosophy (outlook, attitude, mind set). This philosophy takes liberties that the Bible does not sanction. The Bible teaches that, today, whatever we do in word or deed must be done by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17). Therefore all actions must be

Liberalism

- What is it?
- A meaningless term?
- A meaningful term?
- Who is a liberal?

approved by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17). When one formulates an attitude that leads to an action that does not have the authority of Christ sanctioning it that person may be properly labeled a liberal.

We may further identify this mind set by the following: Liberalism goes beyond what is written (I Cor. 4:6). Liberalism does not abide in the doctrine/teaching of Christ (II John 9-11). Liberalism, simply put, is that "mind set" that refuses to be bound (regulated and/or restricted) by the Bible, the Book of revealed truth (Matt. 16:19). When we abide in the doctrine of Christ we are assured of having Divine favor; when we refuse to abide in the doctrine of Christ we do not have Divine favor (II John 9-11).

God Has Defeated Liberalism

In the Nation of Israel we may see the true outcome of the liberal mind set toward revealed truth. The prophets called the nation to repentance (Jer. 6:16-17). This may be done only when there is truth that is revealed, authoritative, understandable, and applicable to life. The failure of the Israel of old is a demonstration for all of the absolute and certain failure of liberalism (I Cor. 10:1-13; Rom. 15:4).

God Must Defeat Liberalism

This is true because liberalism as defined above is contrary to, and disrespectful of, God's revealed truth. God hates all liars and tells us their fate

The church of Christ is the "mission field" of liberalism.

(Rev. 21:8; 22:15). God's Son is faithful and true. He cannot deny himself. He must punish all who do not comply with the truth. Liberalism must be defeated (II Tim. 2:13).

Liberalism's Parasitic Nature May Defeat It

Liberalism cannot succeed alone; it must feed upon the faithful. The faithful are those that are determined to have God's approval for their actions. In the same way the devil drew away Eve and Adam from the truth liberalism makes inroads into the church. The church of Christ is the "mission field" of liberalism.

In her mind set liberalism is the same as all philosophies that departed from the Bible. May an individual or group of individuals successfully say that one departure is better than another? To say something is better or worse is to imply a standard (as defined above). Liberalism rejects this. This is why liberalism must proclaim one view is as good as another. Those espousing liberalism will self destruct; they become like all others who have departed. Like Israel of old who rejected her God given identity



liberalism too is destined to reach her ultimate shame and rejection by God.

Lack of Biblical Sacrifice Will Defeat Liberalism

When we follow the truth there are forbidden attitudes and actions that call for sacrificial living. Liberal doctrines and philosophies will not promote this sacrificial life. Where is the sacrificial call for leaving one religion for another in liberalism? It is not there.



If liberal teachers cite the Bible as proof of any doctrine they will at the same time reveal their subjective inconsistencies. The Bible demands that we take all or none of its directives (James 2:10; Gal. 5:2; Rev. 22:18-19).

Why would anyone give up the pleasures of sin if you can not know what constitutes sin? Individuals will not sacrificially oppose actions that are unclear to them. Truth demands sacrifices that liberalism will not make. Liberalism will be defeated for lack of Bible based sacrifice.

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Conclusion

Great havoc is wrought by the counterfeits of liberalism. Have we been so zealous to win approval of others that we have forgotten that the only way to succeed with the God of all truth is to abide in the truth? One thing for sure there are many in the church today who do not have the commitment to truth they need. Without commitment to truth we are destined to failure. We must buy the truth and sell it not (Prov. 23:23). We must love and obey the truth lest we reap the fate of the wicked (II Thess. 2:9-11; II Pet. 3:14-18). We must recognize that truth frees but error enslaves (John 8:31-32). We must determine to be sanctified by the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth (John 17:17; I Tim. 3:14-15).

Never forget liberalism will fail; truth alone will prevail. Let us dedicate ourselves to truth that we might call men to God. It will always be true that **"They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them"** (Prov. 28:4).

Are you sympathetic with those advocating a liberal mind set? Could you identify a liberal mind set? Do you oppose those holding a liberal mind set? Do you have a problem explaining the true meaning of, and living by the demands of, such passages as II John 9-11; II Peter 3:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; Matthew 5:19-20? You may rest assured liberalism will fail, do not be a part of it. [Editor.]

Sympathy To

Connally Family

Brother Andrew Connally died June 23, 1992. Andrew has been an encouragement to our work and to



many others for many years. He has been a part of our lectureship in the past and contributed books to students in school. Andrew was a great servant of the Lord. His service included mission work and he opposed liberalism all his preaching experience.

Andrew will be greatly missed but we are bolder in the Lord because of men like him. We thank God he passed our way.

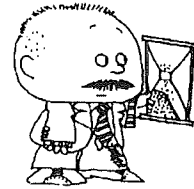
Switching Churches Or Embracing Truth?

All movements in religion are not the same. Some change churches but retain unauthorized doctrines. It was true in the beginning with the Judaizing teachers (Acts 15; Galatians 2), it is true today. Note the following item entitled "Fellowship" from ONE BODY (Summer 1992, p. 22). The aim of this publication is to promote religious division under the label of "unity."

"Recently a group from Scottdale [PA] attended a non-instrumental soul winning seminar at Uniontown. The speaker was Terry Rush from Tulsa. It was excellent. We were warmly received. I was surprised at the number of people who knew me, as they had left 'our

churches' [The Christian Church, JMS] over the years for this noninstrument congregation. In fact elders of the church were men I disciplined 25 years ago when they first became Christians. Needless to say, these ex-instrumentalist do not think we are lost. . . ."

School Time



**Registration
Friday, September 4, 7:30 PM**

**Fall Classes Begin
Monday, September 7, 8:30 AM**

Registration Schedule

Florida School of Preaching

Fall Semester 1992

Date _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
Monday __ 8:30 to 12:00 __ 1:00 to 4:30	Greek 21322 Luke 21386	Stearsman Davis	3 3
Tuesday __ 8:30 to 12:00 __ 1:00 to 4:30 __ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Introduction to Old Testament 31379 Church History 21341 Holy Spirit 21350	Burgett Stilwell Blackman	3 3 2½
Wednesday __ 8:30 to 12:00 __ 1:00 to 4:30	Ezekiel-Daniel 21314 English Grammar 11324	Stearsman Franklin	3 3
Thursday __ 8:30 to 12:00 __ 1:00 to 4:30	Life of Paul 21362 Song Leading 11333	Stearsman Davidson	3 3
Friday __ 8:30 to 12:00 __ 1:00 to 4:30	Sermon On The Mount 32380 Personal Evangelism 12320	Stearsman Franklin	3 3

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