

Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths... and walk therein."
(Jeremiah 6:16)

Vol. 5, No. 2

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ERROR FROM JUBILEE SPEAKERS

O. B. Porterfield

"And let me say this clearly, I have brothers and sisters in Christ who may be in churches where I couldn't worship... But if grace will cover moral error, why are we so afraid to let it cover doctrinal error?..." (Rick Atchley)

It can no longer be said that these men are drifting from the Truth. They have hit it head on and have gone a long way to believing and teaching error.

The following information documents statements made by some who are and have been invited to be speakers at the infamous Jubilee in Nashville.

THESE MEN ARE CONTINUALLY USED ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY. Some of these have been invited to congregations in our city and to our area. Parents, youth ministers, elders, deacons and preachers continue to send and encourage young AND OLD people to hear the blasphemy these represent and preach.

Please keep this information, warn others and encourage them to avoid these false teachers.

"And I really want you to get used to being with a lot of Christians, because in spite of what some of my brothers think, I think there's going to be a ton of folks that God's going to give grace and mercy to... I don't

think...a small crowd..."

Comment on John 17:20-21: "The text says believers – those who say 'Yes, Jesus is the Christ,' 'Yes, He is divine,' 'Yes, He is Lord'...Jesus asked that we should throw the calf rope around all of those who just believe in Him and pray and work for the unity of all believers...True commitment to Jesus will cause me to be out there rubbing shoulders with all believers...and causes me to work towards oneness with every believer in Jesus."

– **Jeff Walling**, *speech at Tulsa Soul-Winning Workshop on Unity; Jeff is scheduled to speak at Jubilee in 1994.*

He spoke of being from "the non-instrumental group of our fellowship...I don't go around the country preaching against instrumental music..."

– **Jeff Walling**, *speech at Ozark Christian College (a Christian Church school) at Joplin, MO, 1987.*

"We do not contribute one whit to our salvation."

– **Rubel Shelly**, *Love Lines (Woodmont Hills bulletin, 10/31/90.)*

"Under grace, you can only be justified by faith. Our salvation arises entirely and only from grace...not by one act of duty, not by one deed of obedience, not by one righteous thing we do. It is entirely of grace through faith."

"A girl requesting baptism said, she didn't believe she could save herself by what she was doing. I said, 'No, you can't.' The understanding of baptism that is biblical (baptism is an act of faith) is Paul's in Romans 6."

– **Rubel Shelly**, *"A Christian Antinomy" at the 1991 Jubilee, "Room at the Cross."*

"Jesus says, look, if you understand a court of law, just to get a divorce is to be guilty of adultery. Remember, adultery is not a sexual word. Fornication is the sexual word. The word adultery means covenant breaking. Adultery means disloyalty to pledges and covenants. So Jesus

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ERROR FROM JUBILEE SPEAKERS...



Editorial...

NOT ALL DIVISION IS WRONG

Garland M. Robinson

***Error is to be exposed,
not condoned, wherever it is found,
even among brethren.***

Fellowship is one of the sweetest words in the Bible. Faithful Christians have fellowship with God, Christ and one another. *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ"* (I John 1:3). I John 1:7 reads, *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* A summary is given of the fellowship of the early church in Acts 2:42: *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

Many are in unity and fellowship with one another and view it as approval with God. I have been told that "as long as everyone loves each other and you are growing, you can't be wrong!" But God's approval does not necessarily follow even though unity with one another exists. There is far more to consider in meeting God's approval than simply being in unity and fellowship with others.

In the Lord's prayer to the Father we read about unity. *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father,*

art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). Notice how that in this prayer the Lord prays for his disciples to be "one" but that they would also be "one in us" (i.e., God and Christ). God demands we be "one" in him. He does not give us the liberty to quarrel, fuss, split and divide over every petty thing that comes along. We must remain "in him" and walk in his paths to enjoy fellowship with him and true fellowship with one another.

Even though we may have fellowship with each other, that does not mean we have fellowship with God. If we do not have fellowship with God, it matters not whether we have fellowship with thousands on this earth! We must first have fellowship with God before we can have fellowship with one another.

The standard by which we live in order to have fellowship with God is his Word, the Bible. *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently"* (I Peter 1:22). *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105). *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32).

Though fellowship one with

another is certainly preferred, it is not always demanded from the Scriptures. Sometimes, it is even condemned!

GOD DOES NOT APPROVE ALL UNITY

Though the Bible teaches we are to enjoy fellowship with God and one another, fellowship must not be achieved and maintained at all costs! Many passages confirm that God does not approve of all unity and fellowship that brethren have among themselves.

Ephesians 5:11 says, *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Some, whoever they are, must not be fellowshiped. They must even be condemned and exposed for what they really are. We cannot "join hands with them" and maintain that the fellowship we enjoy overrides any doctrinal differences we have. Such is blasphemy against God and his Word.

The faithful are to *"earnestly contend for the faith"* (Jude 3). This verse demands we love the Lord and his Way enough that we would "contend" for it "as a combatant." W. E. Vine says, "The word 'earnestly' is added to convey the intensive force of the preposition." The Truth is to be fought for because it is the means of our salvation (I Peter 1:22; James 1:18-25). Can we, therefore, fellowship those who do not follow it and trample it under foot? No! A thousand times no!

The church at Pergamos was condemned because they fellowshiped some in error. *"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 Nico-*

laitans, which thing I hate" (Rev. 2:14-15). Their unity and fellowship with one another was not commended. It was condemned! Would not the same be rebuked today when it exists? Yes!

The church at Thyatira was likewise condemned because of their fellowship with error. *"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"* (Rev. 2:20). Were not these brethren enjoying fellowship? Yes. Was it what God wanted? No!

Fellowship is not to be desired more than truth. We must first be in the truth before we can have fellowship. James 3:17 says, *"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."*

The fact that false doctrine exists and that we are to resist and oppose it, documents that God does not condone and sanction all unity. Error is to be exposed, not condoned, wherever it is found, even among brethren. It is sad that many act as though they have never heard of false doctrine, do not know anyone teaching it, and would not know it if they met it facing them in the road. One was heard to reply when asked about ignorance and apathy among brethren in the church, "I don't know and I don't care!" Such a comment is sufficient to prove our point.

GOD DOES NOT CONDEMN ALL DIVISION

It is sad any time division occurs. When brethren do not walk in the ways of the Lord, division results and sin is committed by at least one (and many

times both) of the parties involved. However, not all division is wrong and condemned by God.

There are times when division is not only necessary but even demanded by God. Notice these many passages.

To the church at Corinth, Paul said, *"Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened"* (I Cor. 5:6-7). To "purge out the old leaven" involves withdrawal of fellowship from those who are not living according to God's righteous standard. Fellowship cannot be maintained with an unruly member for such an action will contaminate the entire membership. Others will begin to think, "if so-and-so can live like that and get away with it, then I can too." It will not be long until the whole congregation is grossly affected.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Cor. 6:17). The pure and righteous are not to remain with those who are unclean, i.e., living an unrighteous life. The faithful must separate themselves from the contaminating influence lest they also be contaminated. This passage calls upon the faithful to divide (separate) from the unfaithful.

"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). Does this passage sound like God condones fellowship at all costs? No, quite the opposite. Those who cause division by their contrary doctrines are to be "marked."

They are to be observed and watched. We are to call attention to their ungodly acts and warn others not to be led away by their "smooth words and fair speeches." Separation from such individuals is certainly not condemned in this passage.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (II Thess. 3:6). The church at Thessalonica was told to separate or divide from those who were not "in step" with God's Word. They were not to continue in fellowship with error—nor should we.

The person in Matthew 18:15-17 is to be treated as a "heathen man and a publican" when he refuses to be reconciled to his brother regarding a personal matter. The Lord did not say to go ahead and fellowship him anyway. Division in such a case is not wrong.

These passages demand we remove (divide, separate) ourselves from those who do evil. However, it is not those who love and follow the truth that break fellowship. It is those who err from the truth who break and rend fellowship. The faithful simply honor the withdrawal of fellowship that is demanded by God and remain pure lest they also be contaminated.

CONCLUSION

Let us be sure we are "walking in the light" (I John 1:7). Let us "love the brotherhood" (I Peter 2:17). Let us "seek peace and ensue it" (I Peter 3:11). Let us continue to work that fellowship may be maintained. But let us also withdraw ourselves from those who walk not "uprightly according to the truth of the gospel" (Gal. 2:14; II Thess. 3:6). It is commanded by God.

STRATEGY FOR DEFEAT

Jeremiah 6

Brian C. Adkins

After the Vietnam conflict, one of our admirals wrote a book entitled "Strategy for Defeat" in which he described, in essence, how our nation took a policy of defeat as we entered that conflict. From time to time people in the world adopt the same policy toward God and spiritual things. God's people have also taken this policy to heart from time to time. In Jeremiah chapter six, God's people did just that. We want to encourage you not to make the same mistake that the people of Jeremiah's day made. Someone has correctly noted that "he who will not learn from history is destined to repeat it!"

Jeremiah had a difficult chore before him. God called him to preach against the evil and wickedness of Judah. He is called the "weeping prophet" and we can easily see him shed tears over the situation in which God's people find themselves. Study Jeremiah 1:16; 2:8,32; 5:1,15,22-25,30-31, and you will see the awful condition of the people. Yet it sounds very similar to our day and time. We need to think seriously about our attitude toward God and his Word. Notice please:

THEY REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD (verse 10)

Man often refuses to heed God's Word. Look at the attitude of God's own people! "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD" (Isa. 30:9). It is amazing to me how soon we seem to forget God. But this is not new. Look at the Psalms.

"They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel" (Psalm 106:13). Many people are content to listen to parts of the Word of God. God commands us to "be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Do we listen to God in this regard? What about taking the Lord's supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7)? Do we listen to God on this subject? What about singing in our worship? Do we listen to God or do we add mechanical instruments as well?

When we reject the councils of God, Paul says we become fools, *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves" (Rom. 1:22-24).*

THEY BECAME OBSESSED WITH MATERIAL THINGS (verse 13)

The desire to have more things often leads to immoral ways of getting them! Often times this is the strategy of people in our society. We need to remember the words of the Lord in Luke 12:15, "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." The ancient Egyptians would place gold and things of great value in with the remains of the dead, thinking that the deceased would need

those items in another world! But listen to the Bible. *"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7). "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20).*

Dear reader, when you become obsessed with material things, you, like the Jews of old, have taken a strategy of defeat!

THEY DECEIVED THEMSELVES WITH LIES (verse 14)

When one pursues the wrong paths in life, the Devil will do everything to make it seem easy. When people have no desire to live by the truth, they will be led into error! Read II Thessalonians 2:10-12. Many people are being deceived by lies. Folks don't want to hear the pure truth. They want smooth things, things that won't create any waves. Remember, however, that simply by telling people they have indigestion when really they have a heart condition will not take care of their problem!! Look at the attitude of the children of God in Isaiah's day. *"Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (Isa. 30:10). To cry "peace, peace" when there is no peace is self deceiving. This is another strategy of defeat!*

THEY HAD NO SHAME AND COULD NOT BLUSH (verse 15)

The morality of society can usually be measured by what causes people to blush. Mark Twain said, "Man is the only creature God created that can blush, and he is the only creature that needs to." Our society is very permissive. It flaunts, glamorizes, and exploits things that used to embarrass and make people blush! In the church in Corinth there was a man who was living with his father's wife and the church seemed to condone the situation. Paul said, "I speak to your shame..." (I Cor. 6:5).

Adam and Eve hid themselves in the garden because of shame. Today, it seems most people have lost this quality. Vulgar speech is heard from the very young to the very old. Immodest dress is prevalent in America and even among the people of God! Multiple marriages and divorces are tearing apart the home! Social drinking is par for the course. **WHERE IS OUR SHAME?**

THEY REJECTED THEIR ONLY HOPE OF A CURE (verse 16)

When it comes to things eternal, we cannot have them on our own terms! It will have to be according to God's terms. We are encouraged in this verse to seek the old paths or the old ways. The church in Ephesus had left the old ways of love and Jesus admonished them to change the situation or else. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:4-5).

Just as Mary and Joseph

could not find Jesus until they returned to the city of Jerusalem (Luke 2), so must our world turn back to the old Jerusalem Gospel that was first preached in Acts 2! We must get back to the old ways of right and wrong—values and morals that founded this great nation. This is the only remedy for sin in America. This is also the only way to receive forgiveness in our lives. We must return

to the Gospel way of salvation. Hear the Gospel (John 6:45). Believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24). Repent of every sin (Luke 13:3,5). Confess before men that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:35-37). Be baptized in order to receive the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). Don't adopt a strategy of defeat!

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SPECIAL DAYS...

(Continued from page 8)

planned. The following is taken from an insert in their Newsletter for the week of October 14, 1992, "Be a part of a Special Christmas Program at the _____, "The Gift," December 19 and 20, 1992, 7:00 p.m. For the first time, we are planning a special Christmas program to enhance our fellowship and celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ. Many of you are needed to help plan and bring together this exciting program. If you would like to help with scripting, set construction, decorations, costumes or publicity or if you and your children would like to sing in the children's or adult choruses, this is a great opportunity!"

The bottom of the insert says "Participation is open to everyone! Please sign up soon and be part of the fun and praise!"

Many things could be said concerning this type of "fun" and "praise." Brethren, Jesus Christ did not leave heaven, come to earth, suffer and die a cruel death, take away the sins of man, purchase the church with his blood, and ascend back to the Father to sit on his right hand for us to have Christmas programs: which are to be full of "fun and praise." Paul's letter to the Galatians told them that going back to the old law would put them in bondage again and would separate them from the grace of God. Just as the Galatians were turning back to the old law through the influence of false teachers, many today are turning back to the world

and practicing the things of the world. "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:9-11). They were observing the Sabbath day, new moons, Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles, and other Mosaic requirements. Being in Christ had made them free from observing special days. When congregations put more emphasis on father's day, mother's day, denominational holidays, national holidays, and overlook the real meaning of the Lord's Day, they have misplaced, misdirected, and mishandled their priorities in honoring, serving, and worshipping our almighty Father in heaven.

Yes, we do have liberties in Christ. We are free from the old law, have remission of sins, have hope of our heavenly home, are called children of God, and have thousands of other blessings in Christ. Christians need to make sure that the freedom they enjoy is authorized by the word of God. Then they can enjoy the wonderful love, blessings, and grace that they have in God the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior.

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ERROR FROM JUBILEE SPEAKERS...

(Continued from page 1)

says don't get involved in divorce because divorce itself is adultery. Forget remarriage. Remarriage is not what makes it adultery. It's divorce that's covenant breaking."

"Obeying laws doesn't put a person into the kingdom of God."

"I'm not sure there is any sense in which the law of Moses is abrogated."

- **Rubel Shelly**, sermon at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ on the Sermon on the Mount, 2/7/88.

"I reject pattern theology... I am not looking for a pattern; I am looking for a person... Acts and the epistles have been core documents in our restoration project. I think this is a mistake... we do not need to start in Acts and the epistles. If we start in Acts and the epistles, we are copying a copy... We are not trying to reproduce the first century church... eccentricity, a foolish thing to do... the church has never existed... true church - an arrogant claim... the one thing that will cut us off from God is to make that kind of arrogant claim."

- **Rubel Shelly**, Missouri Street, West Memphis, AR, April 20-21, 1990.

"...We have so distorted this idea of headship and submission that we have created a pathological marriage model. We have equated and we have preached the idea of headship means power and control. I'm in charge, I'm primary, I'm the most important one in this family... Headship in New Testament times had nothing to do with power and control... I don't know if this will blow your mind or not but the more conservative the churches are the more incest you have in families."

- **Gayle Napier**, David Lipscomb University Lectureship: Family of Families, panel discussion, 6/14/91.

"...Let's not limit the kingdom of God to the size of our brotherhood... this is what I heard... the only people that could go to heaven were in churches of Christ... I'm going to suggest to you not only is that not Biblical, but it is in fact a violation of the very restoration plea to which we are heirs...when I accept someone who has believed and repented and been born again of water and the Spirit that does not necessarily mean I endorse everything he says or does. And let me say this clearly, I have brothers and sisters in Christ who may be in churches where I couldn't worship... But if grace will cover moral error, why are we so afraid to let it cover doctrinal error?..."

- **Rick Atchley**, sermon entitled "Don't Bother Your Brother" preached at Richland Hills Church of Christ, Ft. Worth, TX on 10/14/90. Rick is scheduled to speak at Jubilee in 1994.

"Max Lucado, Pulpit Minister, Oak Hills Church of Christ... will speak at St. John Neumann church (this is a Roman Catholic group), 7:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4th, 'Getting to Know Jesus Personally'." - San Antonio Express-News, Sat., Dec. 2, 1989. "Trinity Church Family Center... will feature guest speaker Max Lucado at 7:30 pm April 6..." Tulsa World. "CHRIST IN EASTER A Family Celebration of Holy Week by Charles Colson, Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Joni Eareckson Tado" book is a NavPress publication.

"The Bible is a love letter as opposed to a blueprint... for me, for years, Christianity was a moral code. It is now becoming a love affair. For years there were rules and regulations, now it's a relationship." Tulsa World, 3/12/89.

- **Max Lucado**, scheduled to speak at Jubilee in 1994.

"Churches of Christ are desperately in need of more boundary... we need to burst some conventional, convenient wineskin... Since Wineskin's purpose is to contribute to church renewal in Churches of Christ, we must begin with this basic Christian conviction: ultimately, renewal comes from the Spirit of God...renewal is coming; we cannot constrain it."

- **Mike Cope**, co-editor of *Wineskins*, June 1992, p.3.

"...We want to provide a well-aimed forum for church renewal among Churches of Christ. And true church renewal means... a fresh awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit."

- **Mike Cope**, *Wineskins*, May 1992, p.4.

"We are thrilled to announce the addition of Marvin Phillips... as adjunct professor in our Masters Program." President Young, Kentucky Christian College (a Christian Church school), April 1986. "I don't take the Firm Foundation and the Gospel Advocate... I read Zig Zigler. Schuller is great. Peale is a personal friend..." When discussing the matter of not having Christian Church preachers on the Tulsa Workshop: "We'd have people who would not come to the Workshop any more if I had an instrumentalist on it."

- **Marvin Phillips**, taped class sessions, Kentucky Christian College

"I really hesitate to do this on tape. Turn the tape off. I have preached and believed, I believe deeply that the New Testament teaches that salvation is a free gift of God, period. You are saved by grace alone... Now, Mother Teresa hasn't been baptized by immersion for the forgiveness of sins... But if you ask me what happens to the person who loves

their God, and loves Jesus Christ, and hasn't seen it that way... when a person follows the will of God as far as they understand it, God accepts that person... The church that says if you only go to church of Christ stuff... that church is going to be down to nothing in the 1990's. Whether you like it or not that's the fact."

- **Randy Mayeux**, sermon "The Church of the 90's Will Celebrate Genuine Diversity" delivered at Lubbock Civic Center, Oct 16-19, 1990, Jubilee speaker 1991.

"I don't know about you but I hope Billy Graham gets some response when he preaches behind the Iron Curtain. I really do... And I will tell you personally, you feel free to disagree, I pray that God will bless the preaching of Billy Graham behind the Iron Curtain. I pray that unashamedly..." Refers to Billy Graham as "a believer in Christ who doesn't quite understand baptism the way we do."

- **Randy Mayeux**, Lubbock sermon, 10/90.

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WORSHIP: HEAVEN'S IMPERATIVE, OR MAN'S INNOVATIONS?

CURTIS A. CATES

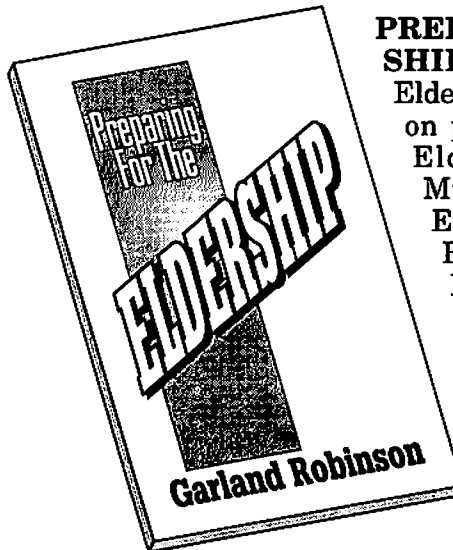
Foreword by GARLAND ELKINS

"For some time the need has existed for a "handbook" on worship that will sketch what God desires and demands of us in the Christian age in worship to Him. Those of us who are seasoned in the faith need to be reminded of these things and those young in the faith need to learn them. Also, the need is now critical for a "handbook" that will expose and refute many of the numerous innovations in worship that certain men and women in the church who have lost their faith are seeking to force on the church. **This book fills both of these needs in a marvelous way.** I applaud Curtis Cates for this excellent tool, and I heartily commend it to one and all!"

- **Dub McClish**, Denton, TX

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NEW BOOK AVAILABLE



PREPARING FOR THE ELDERSHIP includes: The Need For An Eldership in Every Church (editorial on page 2), the Terms applied to Elders, The Number of Elders, Misconceptions Concerning the Eldership, How One is "Made" an Elder, How One is "Unmade" an Elder, Other Important Matters, Qualifications, Duties of Elders to the Congregation and Duties of the Congregation to the Elders. This material was studied in a men's class at East Corinth and bound in book form (48 pages) at the suggestion of the elders.

Its author is **Garland Robinson**. Copies are \$2 each plus 75 cents postage for 1-2 copies, \$1.50 for 3-10 copies, \$2 for 11-20 copies. Write checks to Garland Robinson and send to 304 Ripley St., Corinth, MS 38834.

SPECIAL DAYS

Steve Miller

“This coming Sunday, our evening worship service will be canceled due to people being away for New Year’s Eve,” “On the Sunday evening before Memorial Day we will not be having service because of so many being away and some having other plans.” These excuses were used by one congregation to cancel worship services for holidays or “special days.” Not only are services canceled for “special days,” but congregations are known to celebrate them too! Recently a bulletin revealed the following comment from the preacher after the Easter service. “Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our Easter service. Thanks to the chorus and to all other participants in this very moving service.” Some places have gimmicks on the “special days,” while others have no services at all. This, in a congregation of the church of Christ?

Why do we need to observe the “special days” like the world does? Is it necessary for the church of Christ to celebrate holidays? The answer is a firm NO! It is becoming increasingly popular for congregations to celebrate the holidays known as “Christmas” and “Easter.”

The November, 1992, issue of *Wineskins* featured articles dealing with the “Christmas” holiday. The front cover had a picture of a lighted Christmas tree. Articles such as, “The Ultimate Thrill of Christmas,” by Mike Cope; an article perverting the Virgin Birth of Christ was entitled, “Christmas at Matthew’s House,” by Andre Resner; “The Nativity: The Word Finally Spoken,” by Michael Card; “Christmas According to The Apocalypse,” by Rubel Shelly; and “A Christmas Fable,” by Thom Lemmons.

The same magazine noted above also had a special issue on “Easter.” The front cover has the words, “Bright Forecast For Sunday,” by Rubel Shelly; Mike Cope has an editorial entitled, “The Outrageous Joy,” which he calls “Easter.” Other articles that were written with an “Easter” twist were, “A Resurrecting God,” by Gary Selby; “Resurrection Power In A Self-Reliant Society,” by Monte Cox; “Experiencing Easter In The Midst Of Winter,” by Mary L. Resner; and “Let There Be Life,” by Jeff Berryman. It is obvious that Satan is successful in leading brethren away from the truth of the Bible into denominational observances and practices!

Wineskins, and the segment of brethren that support their doctrines and commandments of men, influence congregations to leave the “old paths” and follow after the world. Many congregations have been observing these vain holidays for some time.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

For the 1992 Christmas holiday, an apostate congregation in Northeast Ohio had a “special” program

(Continued on page 5)
SPECIAL DAYS...



“I enjoy this paper and your stand for the truth. It seems there are fewer and fewer who are willing to stand. Keep up the good work” ...*Clarksdale, MS*. “I enjoy reading this publication” ...*Oxford, MS*. “During this time when digression

within the church is sadly the rage, it is always refreshing to see a congregation of the Lord’s church dedicated to pure New Testament Christianity. I deeply appreciate receiving this publication” ...*Saint Jo, TX*. “You have put out some of the best material I have seen anywhere. You are doing an outstanding job. Keep it up. Thank God for good men like you” ...*Cookeville, TN*. “We enjoy your paper very much. Keep up the good work. We love men that will stand for the truth” ...*Shady Valley, TN*. “I have just finished reading your publication and enjoyed it very much. I would like to be added to your mailing list and would like copies back to the first of the year. We always look for good sound publications to read” ...*Keithville, LA*. “I want to thank you for a fine publication with timely articles. I look forward to reading the next issue” ...*Cheyenne, WY*. “May God bless all faithful brothers and sisters who stand for the truth” ...*Indianapolis, IN*. “We pray for the success of your fine work” ...*Chattanooga, TN*. “Thank you very much for sending me *S.T.O.P.* We need a lot more “Old Paths” and a lot less “Image,” or “Wineskins.” Keep up your good work; you will be blessed for it. We also stand for nothing but the Truth” ...*San Lorenzo, CA*. “I appreciate your paper and your stand for the “Old Paths.” Keep up the good work” ...*Brentwood, CA*. “Thank you for taking a firm stand in Bible Truth” ...*Pensacola, FL*. “We are concerned about those who wish to “restructure the church.” We have plenty of these people in the Wisconsin area, and we need your help” ...*Janesville, WI*. “I enjoy very much *S.T.O.P.* Keep on standing with the Truth” ...*Pontotoc, MS*.

Seek The Old Paths is a publication of the **East Corinth Church of Christ** and is under the oversight of its elders. It is mailed free upon request. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; Titus 2:1; II Peter 1:12.

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