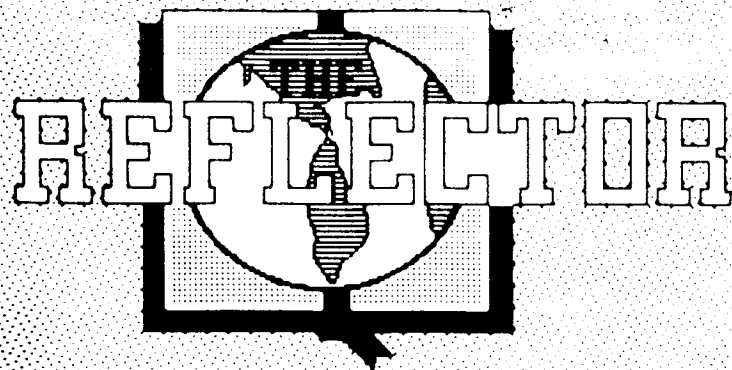


APRIL 1985



VOL. 25 NO. 4

GOSPEL MEETING

JUNE 9—14

SPEAKER

GRANVILLE W. TYLER

SUNDAY: 10:45 AM 7:30 PM

MON.—FRI.: 7:30 PM

FULTONDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2005 ELKWOOD DRIVE



OF SIN AND SINNERS

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

"IT IS ACTUALLY reported that there is such sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles -- that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged, as though I were present, concerning him who has so done this deed." - 1 Cor. 5:1-3

In our correct effort to hate sin without hating the sinner, we must not forget that sin does exist apart from sinners. There was sexual immorality among the brethren at Corinth because "a man (had) his father's wife". "He who had done this deed needed to be dealt with. Paul's had judged "concerning him who has done this deed." Paul warns them against keeping company with "sexually immoral people". "That wicked person" must be put away from them.

The idea that we should deal with sin and error without dealing with the personalities involved sounds good. It is appealing. No peace-loving person loves a confrontation with anyone. It much easier and more pleasant to deal with fornication than with the fornicator; with covetousness than with the covetous (man); with idolatry than with the idolater; with reviling than with the reviler; with drunkenness than with the drunkard; with extortion than with the extortioner; with false teaching than the false teacher; with division than with the divider; with institutionalism than with the institutionalist; with Calvinism than with the Calvinist; with compromise rather than the compromiser -- besides it is a lot less risky. But, is that really what the Bible teaches about dealing with sin and error?

People influence people. People deceive and are deceived by people. Certainly our aim should always be to separate the people from their evil deeds - because of the love we have for them. This often requires patience, forbearance and gentle teaching on our part toward the person involved - but the fact still remains that personalities are involv-

ed. One cannot realistically deal with sin without recognition of this fact.

In warning against false teaching and/or dangerous influences it is often necessary to point out the personalities involved - not always but many times, because the stronger the personalities and their personal influence the more dangerous their "leaven" becomes. We have an idea that the reason some such people were singled out by name by New Testament writers was to weaken their personal influence in spreading their sinful words and deeds to others.

Certainly, no broad-sided attack should be made on any personality. Nor should exchanges between brethren over differences that might exist among us turn into personal verbal attacks upon those with whom we might differ. But, it is unrealistic to try deal with deeds, doctrines and influences that are a threat to very purity, peace and prosperity of the church without linking them to the personalities involved.

To me, it borders on sham to openly and unreservedly state that certain teachings and actions are sinful and very dangerous to the Lord's church - and at the same time do nothing to counter the personal influence of those whom we know to be openly promoting (by word and/or deed) those very actions and teachings. Sometimes rather than decreasing the influence of such ones we enhance it by open and unqualified expressions (in word and deed) that, to say the least, leave the impression that these persons should be still be held in high esteem among us.

Let us deal with sin as it is - in people. Deal with the people in sin, doing all we can to save the sinner from his sin. Let the sinner know that we love him and that we recognize our own liability to sin. Let do all we can to separate the sinner from his sin. But, at the same time, if one insists on letting sin dwell in him we need to do all we can to deal with such a one and his influence rather than pretending that sin kind of floats around in the air, unattached to any personality.

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OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS:
Bible Classes 9:45 AM
Worship 10:45 AM
Worship 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Class 10:00 AM
Bible Classes 7:30 PM

"CERTAIN SOUNDS"

Jack H. Williams

IT SEEMS THAT of late there has been quite a bit written and said as to the "uncertain sounds" coming forth from many brethren. Though these articles are pointing out some valuable facts, I believe there is an important point not being made. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "uncertain" as "indefinite, indeterminate". While there does still seem to be a problem with those who will not be definite...those who are trying to "ride the fence", thus sending forth "uncertain sounds", I believe a greater problem, and one that must be addressed is the problem of CERTAIN sounds. As I read and hear the works of many of the so-called gospel preachers in the Lord's church, I find many statements which are far from being "uncertain". I find nothing "indefinite" nor "indeterminate" about such statements as the following:

"There are sincere, knowledgeable, and devout Christians scattered among the different denominations."¹

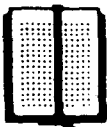
"I wonder, too, if bringing Christian church preachers in for a class like this might be good. Let them come in and tell their history in a class situation. I think you could ease from the class to the pulpit."²

"God does not impute to the Christian his sins - ANY of his sins, whether they be sins of false belief, evil attitude, evil thought, evil deed, or sins of omission."³

"It (worship - JWH) doesn't have anything to do with justification"⁴

"In response to the question of whether those in the Christian church are saved, 'If that's not true, then you're not saved'"⁵

This list could be continued effortlessly for se-
Continued on Page 4



Certain Sounds ...

veral pages, but I believe the point is made -- there is nothing UNCERTAIN about what is being taught in the Lord's church today. Time was when such statements as those above would have shocked the brotherhood and brought immediate responses from all quarters. But sadly, the "uncertain sounds" are no longer coming from those who hold the Word of God in such an unworthy manner, they are very plain and forthright, they are emitting CERTAIN SOUNDS; certain sounds of apostasy. It seems now that the "uncertain sounds" are coming from a different quarter. They are coming from the publications which are unwilling to be forthright and bold in exposing error for fear of being called an "issue oriented" paper...from the evangelists who refuse to cease appearing on lectureships with those who are sending out the "certain sounds" of apostasy...from the elders who lack the backbone or knowledge to stand and oppose such false teaching...from the pulpits which are no longer "set for the defense of the gospel." Yes, at one time there were "uncertain sounds" coming forth from those who would compromise the Word of God, but now they have boldness in setting forth "certain sounds." They no longer fear the opposition of faithful brethren; they no longer fear being "marked and avoided", for the uncertain sounds are now coming from those very brethren who would once stand and fight "tooth and toenail" for the purity of the Lord's church. (That is certainly debatable, for it is as though these very brethren that innovations came which destroyed the unity in the church regarding church-

sponsored recreation, fellowship halls, sponsoring-church arrangements, institutionalism, etc. -- They are reaping what was sown -- Mark White). The time has come and is past for brethren to cry out "ENOUGH!" and go forth boldly to oppose the certain sounds of apostasy.

Footnotes:

¹Rubel Shelly, **Christians Only** (Nashville, 20th Century Christian Foundation, 1983), p.18.

²Wayne Kilpatrick, Recording of the "Restoration Summit" conducted in Joplin, Missouri, August 7-9, 1984.

³James Robert Jarrel, "Questions Answered" **Views and News** (Weekly bulletin of the Grandview Church of Christ, Grandview, MO) July 6, 1983.

⁴Chris Ballard, Transcript of the Kansas City Area Preachers Meeting held at the Overland Park Church of Christ, June 21, 1983.

⁵Ibid.

-- Via, **West Booneville Banner** and **The Westview Weekly** (Mark White, editor).

Δ Δ Δ

Recent Death Of One Of Our Members

Sister Grace Adams passed away since our last bulletin. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Δ Δ Δ

Opinion

Many people think they are broadminded just because they are too lazy to form an opinion.

-- via The Speaker's Sourcebook

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