

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
Church of Christ: 4th Ave. South Shore, Ky. P.O. Box 649, 2/4/1973

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"THE OLD PATHS"

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jer. 6:16

Some of you who will read this bulletin are, or have been, members of churches that are not walking in the "old paths". You have lent your support, promoted and given "God Speed" to doctrines of devils; doctrines which glorify the wisdom of men, violate the will of God and weaken the work of the church.

We implore you to seek the old paths, repent and confess your part in these modern innovations and unite with a faithful church of Christ. Do not be like the rebellious people of old and say "We will not walk therein".

I. Church Benevolence: "We have examples in the N.T. of (1) Churches helping individuals (Phil. 4:15,16) (2) Churches helping other churches (Acts 11:27-30) (3) Individual Christians helping Christians in need (I Jn. 3:17) (4) Churches helping their own members (Acts 4:34-35) (5) Christians helping those who are not Christians (Gal. 6:10) We do not find example of a church that has sent help to those who are not Christians." (H.L. Boles, Gospel Advocate 1/29/1942)

II. Church Cooperation: "There is no example in the N.T. of two or more churches joining together their funds for support of the gospel...A challenge is here issued to anyone to find a N.T. example of two or more churches uniting their funds and supporting the preaching of the gospel." (H.L. Boles, Gospel Advocate Nov. 3, 1932) (see Phil. 4:14-19 direct action

III. Colleges: "We think the most fatal mistake of Alexander Campbell's life, and one that has done much and we fear will do much more, to un-do his life's work, was the establishment of a school to train (and) educate young preachers." (D. Lipscomb 1875)

"..I have done my best to show that these schools should not be fastened on the churches for their support." (F. Snygley, G.A. 1924) (I Tim. 3:15, Eph. 3:10,21 4:16)

IV. I Cor. 11:1-16: "Let the men in the churches of Christ continue to do Christ honor by reason of appearing in His presence with "uncovered head". And likewise, every woman who appears in the worshipping assembly remember her obligation to be "covered"." (John W. Hedge Bible Banner, June 1939)

NEWS & NOTES: The South Shore church has placed a weekly article in the Portsmouth Times which will appear each sat! The brethren also have undertaken to supply that which had been lacking in my support since arriving here. The church isto be commended in its zeal to preach the gospel.

THE WORK IN INDIA: At this writing Bros. Bolton and McCallister have raised their support to go to India to preach. May God richly bless those churches and individual Christians who have unselfishly supported these two sound men!

At last recent report the 7 churches which bro. Bolton and I planted are still meeting with the addition of 3 others since our departure last summer. Pray for the work in India!

V. Elders Over Other Churches: "I have never approved concentrating the control of all the means and preachers of a state under the authority of the elders of one church. All such concentration of power is destructive of the activity and the true

liberties of the church. It tends to exalt the elders of the one church and degrade those of the other." (D. Lipscomb, Gospel Advocate 1890) (I Pet. 5:1-2, Acts 20:28)

VI. The Herald Of Truth: "Churches cannot cooperate and please God, when they form new organizations through which to work. No organization is needed." (H.L. Boles Gospel Advocate, 1932)

"If two or more churches put it (money) into the hands of any kind of a board, though the board may be made up of elders of one of the churches, we have a very nice beginning for a missionary society to try and take charge of the churches." (F. Srygley, Gospel Advocate 1/11/34)

VII. Institutionalism: "Some of my brothers evidently think that the church can function through a human institution. This is the old "missionary society" issue revived. And this idea, carried to its logical extreme, would reduce the church to a money raising body, and turn all of the church functions over to institutions. Let the human institutions do the works of benevolence, teaching and let the church support them some say. Well, if the human institutions can supplant the church in these functions, then surely they can supplant the church in money raising also. The church then, would have no reason whatsoever for existing." (J.G. Dunn, Harding College, 1952)

"To operate through an institution of man's devising in preference to the church of God is, in our esteem, to exalt man as superior in wisdom and power to God. To call in question the efficiency of God's appointments, as the best...that can be ordained for the accomplishment of God's designs, is to call in question the wisdom or power of God." (David Lipscomb, Search For The Ancient Order, Vol. II p. 59, 1868) (see again I Thess. 1:8, Eph. 3:10, 21, 4:16, I Tim. 3:15)

VIII. Orphan Homes: "That which the church has not the power to do, then should not be considered. Besides this, we might say this way of a few getting together and saddling on the church of Christ orphan homes and schools, or anything else is a very serious thing, and will in the course of time be a curse to the church." (Tidings Of Joy, C.M. Pullius, p. 1, 1919) (Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35, 6:1-6, 11:27-30, Rom. 15:25-31, I Cor. 16:1-4, II Cor. 8:1-4, II Cor. 9:1-2, I Tim. 5:9-16)

IX. Recreation: "Again I say to you with caution and thought, that it is not the work of the church to furnish entertainment for the members. And yet many churches have drifted into such efforts. They enlarge their basements, put in all kinds of gymnastic apparatus, and make every sort of an appeal to the young people of the congregation. I have never read anything in the Bible that indicated to me that such was a part of the work of the church. I am wholly ignorant of any scripture that even points in that direction." (Hardeman's Tabernacle Sermons, 1942) (see Rom. 14:17, I Cor. 11:22,34 and Heb. 13:9)

X. Sponsoring Church: "If one church asks all the churches in the State to give it all the funds they can give to general work, that the elders of one church may direct all the preaching and work in the state, then I say this is wrong, is subversive to divine order, and concentrates power in one church that God distributes to many." (David Lipscomb, Gospel Advocate, p.487, 1899)

XI. Warfare: "I think we must first inquire whether warfare is proper an all for Christians... Shall it be held lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord proclaims that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword? And shall the son of peace take part in the battle when it does not even become him to sue at law?" (Tertullian, De Corona, Chapter 11, 2nd Century) (see II Cor. 10:3-4)

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."