

When the current issue is available you will be notified.

Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

A WINEBIBBER'S SEMINAR IN TENNESSEE

“Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh” (Pro. 23:20).

Roelf L. Ruffner

The spiritual digression of Lipscomb University (LU) and their followers continues down that broad way “**that leadeth to destruction**” (Mat. 7:13). They are deeply entrenched in apostasy and the Emerging Church Movement which seeks to “improve” Christianity by bringing in elements of conflicting “isms” and so make it more palatable to the world. In 2019 I received an invitation from LU’s Institute of Christian Spirituality and the Highland Church of Christ in Cordova, TN (Memphis) to attend a seminar on “listening,” September 28-29, 2019. “Chris Altrock (Senior Pulpit Minister at Highland, RLR) and Adam McHugh personally invite YOU to join Highland Church of Christ for this unique seminar on The Listening Life.”

But to whom will they be listening, to learn about listening itself?

Adam McHugh is the author of “The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction” and “Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture.” He is a writer, spiritual director, speaker, retreat leader, and ordained minister.

I have learned that words like “spiritual director” and “ordained minister” are Ashdodic language referring to a false teacher.

Adam S. McHugh (ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary) is an ordained Presbyterian minister and spiritual director.... He

has served at two Presbyterian churches, as a hospice chaplain and as campus staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

On his website he adds, “I also received my spiritual direction certification through the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.” In other words, he is a typical Emerging Church trumpeter combining Calvinism, Evangelicalism, Catholicism, and psycho-babel into something pleasing to the ears but deadly to the soul.

The Institute of Christian Spirituality and its acolytes are notorious for the male and female false teachers it brings on campus and promotes at other congregations. As Paul wrote:

For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables (2 Tim. 4:3,4 – ASV).

But Mr. McHugh is not only a false teacher but a “winebibber” (a habitual user of alcohol or a drunkard) as well. Notice these excerpts from his website:

I worked as Tasting Room Manager for the Au Bon Climat winery (California) for 2 years, and now I work in two boutique wineries in Los Olivos. I am also a wine tour guide, Certified Specialist of Wine, and wine retreat leader...Do you know that the modern wine industry, whether in the old world or in California, owes its greatness to the monastic and missionary traditions of the past? People immersed in the scriptures and in the grand Christian tradition have placed wine at the center of their rituals and tables for millennia.

I would disagree strongly with his attempt to link New Testament Christianity to alcoholic wine. The “grand Christian tradition” (so called) may go back “millennia” but it did not originate with Jesus Christ and the apostles two millennia

(Continued in Middle of Page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE.....

A WINEBIBBER'S SEMINAR IN TENNESSEE—ROELF L. RUFFNER.....	1
EDITORIAL—ON BEING SPIRITUAL.....	2
IMPLICATIONS OF SAYING THAT THE GOSPEL IS NOT LAW—THOMAS B. WARREN.....	3
EPHESIANS 5:11, BASIS FOR SAYING, “NO”—BILL JACKSON.....	4

Contending FOR THE Faith™

David P. Brown, Editor and Publisher
dpbcftf@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS received by CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH and/or its Editor are viewed as intended FOR PUBLICATION unless otherwise stated. Whereas we respect confidential information, so described, everything else sent to us we are free to publish without further permission being necessary. Anything sent to us NOT for publication, please indicate this clearly when you write. Please address such letters directly to the Editor David P. Brown, P.O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383 or dpbcftf@gmail.com. Telephone: (281) 350-5516.

FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE

To receive CFTF free, go to www.cftfpaper.com and sign up. Once done, you will be notified when the current issue is available. It will be in the form of a PDF document that can be printed, and forwarded to friends.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE PAPER EDITION

Single Print Subs: One Year, \$25.00; Two Years, \$45.00.

NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS OF PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ADVERTISING POLICY & RATES

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH exists to defend the gospel (Philippians 1:7,17) and refute error (Jude 3). Therefore, we advertise only what is authorized by the Bible (Colossians 3:17). We will not knowingly advertise anything to the contrary and reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.

All setups and layouts of advertisements will be done by CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH. A one-time setup and layout fee for each advertisement will be charged if such setup or layout is needful. Setup and layout fees are in addition to the cost of the space purchased for advertisement. No major changes will be made without customer approval.

All advertisements must be in our hands no later than one month preceding the publishing of the issue of the journal in which you desire your advertisement to appear. To avoid being charged for the following month, ads must be canceled by the first of the month. We appreciate your understanding of and cooperation with our advertising policy.

MAIL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383-2357. COST OF SPACE FOR ADS: Back page, \$300.00; full page, \$300.00; half page, \$175.00; quarter page, \$90.00; less than quarter page, \$18.00 per column-inch. CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line per month. CHURCH DIRECTORY ADS: \$30.00 per line per year. SETUP AND LAYOUT FEES: Full page, \$50.00; half page, \$35.00; anything under a half page, \$20.00.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH is published bimonthly. P. O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383-2357 Telephone: (281) 350-5516.

Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder
August 3, 1917–October 10, 2001

Editorial...

ON BEING SPIRITUAL

To be spiritual is to live as the Holy Spirit leads, guides, and directs one to live. As Paul wrote, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”** (Rom. 8:14). However, it is the Word of Christ that is the sword of the Spirit—the instrument used by the Spirit to convict the alien sinner of sin, convert the lost to Christ, and keep the child of God faithful to the Lord in His church (Eph. 6:17b). As the Hebrews writer penned:

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12).

Indeed, it is by **“... the word ... the gospel is preached unto you”** (1 Pet. 1:25). No violence is done to the scriptures if we say that by the **“sword of the Spirit”** **“the gospel is preached unto you.”**

Thus, a spiritual person is one who is faithful to Christ, one who obeys the commandments of our Lord (John 17:17; Rom. 6:17, 18; Heb. 5:9) and, thus, is walking in the light as Christ is in the light (1 John 1:7; see also 1 Cor. 15:58). As the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote: **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”** (Ecc. 12:13). Thus, Jesus declared, **“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”** (John 12:48). There is no mystery about what it is to be spiritual. As John wrote,

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him (1 John 2:3-5).

Clearly, a spiritual person engages in spiritual acts (Col. 3:17). Thus, being spiritual begins in the mind or heart of man but it does not end there. It is made complete only when one engages in spiritual acts (Luke 8:11-15). **“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”** (Pro. 23:7a). **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”** (Pro. 4:23). As Peter wrote, **“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”** (1 Pet. 2:5). The same inspired sentiments were expressed by Paul to the church in Rome when the apostle wrote:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be

(Continued on Page 3)

(Editorial Continued From Page 2)

not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Rom. 12:1, 2).

There is no way a faithful child of God can express appropriate spiritual behavior toward God, or one's brethren in the Lord, or those outside of Christ, without expressing it by engaging in the appropriate spiritual actions (Col. 3:17).

Therefore, the spiritual/faithful brethren are authorized to extend certain spiritual actions toward their faithful brethren that they are not authorized to extend to those outside of Christ, or brethren guilty of sin, refusing to repent of them,

and, thereby, are out of fellowship with God. The spiritual actions of the faithful toward the impenitent church member who is out of fellowship with God changes. No where in the Bible is it taught that a faithful child of God may engage in some sort of mental spiritual withdrawal of fellowship from an impenitent church member, frankly and candidly inform the impenitent church member accordingly, but then continue to engage in those spiritual actions with the impenitent church member that are reserved only for other faithful brethren. There is no direct statement, implication, or example authorizing such conduct on the part of the faithful (the spiritual) toward the unfaithful (non-spiritual).

—David P. Brown, Editor

(Continued From Page 1)

ago. (No, Jesus did not miraculously make water into alcoholic wine! He would have sinned by so doing (John 2:1-10; Hab. 2:15). Jesus Christ did not die on the cross so that His followers might inebriate themselves and pickle their brains (cf. Gal. 5:13, 21). Notice what the apostle Paul and the Holy Spirit wrote almost two thousand years ago:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God... What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor. 6:9,10,19,20—emphasis mine—RLR).

The heartbreaking truth is that these brethren will be eternally lost if they do not LISTEN to God's Word.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children (Hos. 4:6).

END NOTES

<http://www.highlandcc.org/listening-life> as of September 27, 2019
<https://www.ivpress.com/adam-s-mchugh> as of September 27, 2019

—2500 Moore Court
Columbia, TN 38401



IMPLICATIONS OF SAYING THAT THE GOSPEL IS NOT LAW

Thomas B. Warren

If any doctrine (say, doctrine X) implies another doctrine (say, doctrine Y), and if doctrine Y is false, then it follows that doctrine X is also false. It is clear, therefore, that the doctrine, that the Gospel of Christ is not a law, is false. Among other reasons why this is the case is the fact that this doctrine implies other doctrines which are false.

Presently, certain men are contending that the Gospel is not a law. If such is the case, then since the Law of Moses was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14; Gal. 4:21-23; Rom. 2:14, 15), no one now living would be under **any** law from God at all. And, if it were the case that no one is now under law from God, then no one could be guilty of sin. This is the case

because Paul made clear that where there is **no** law neither is there **transgression** (sin, Rom. 4:15). Further, since Christ died in order to save men from sin, if there is no law and, thus no sin, then Christ died in vain. But since it is clear that Christ did **not** die in vain (Rom. 5:8-9; John 3:14, 15; Heb. 2:9; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:11-15; 1 Cor. 15:12-15), then it is also clear that the view that the Gospel is **not** a law is **false**. Paul plainly said that men are made free by the law of the Spirit of life (that is, by the law of the Holy Spirit—that is, the Gospel, Rom. 8:2). Study 1 Corinthians 9:21.

—Deceased

EPHESIANS 5:11—BASIS FOR SAYING, “NO”

Bill Jackson

[Brother W. N. “Bill” Jackson was a faithful gospel preacher who passed from this life in April of 1991. He believed in and practiced contending for the faith (Jude 3). In his article to follow he dealt with a matter that is often ignored when it comes to fellowshiping those in error. I am not sure when he penned this article, but I think I am safe in saying that it was in the 1980’s, possibly early in that decade, when the so-called Crossroads schism was causing much havoc among several churches of Christ nationwide. Since 1993 it has been known as the International Churches Of Christ and has no connection with the Lord’s church. It is just another denomination among denominations —Editor]

We’ve just had to say that concerning an activity planned for the Austin area, with at least some congregations in the area actively participating in the event. The spearheading is from a congregation to our south, and the topic area is indeed worthwhile. But, involved in the activity will be those known to be men of the Crossroads movement, about which so much has been documented as being error. In such cases, when the invitation comes our way, we must give the negative answer.

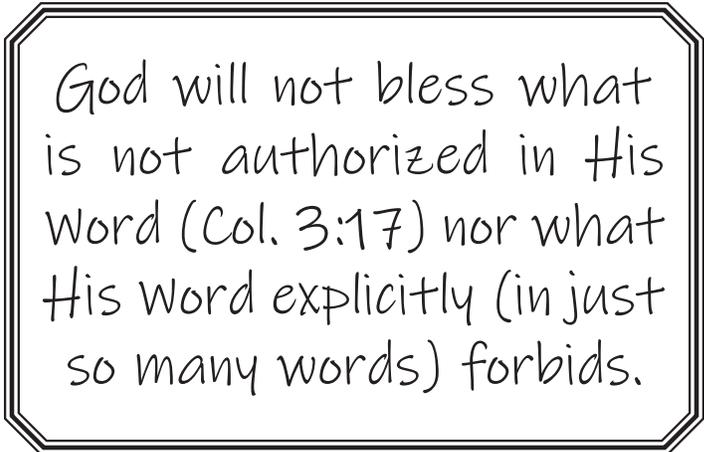
We wish it was otherwise in the church today. I well recall a time when some teaching, study or meeting activity could be held in an area, and every congregation within 20 or 50 miles would announce it, promote it, and attend it! A wonderful spirit of cooperation, between elders, preachers and congregations existed, and the reason was that what would be taught there, in that event, was the same thing being taught **“in all churches of the saints”** (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Ephesians 5:11 states this, **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”** That refusal of fellowship is based on the doctrine of

Christ, and the fact that there has been deviation from it. Whether in manner of life, or in doctrine, a transgression of the law of God, with a spurning of efforts to bring one back to the right way, bars fellowship with that one. The warning is, **“he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds”** (2 John 11).

If men wish for that unity that we once had in the kingdom, then men should work for it—seeing we have the full and complete Standard God has provided us (2 Tim 3:16-17). To attain that unity, there must be a walking by the same rule (Phi. 3:16). And men will have to begin abiding by the Word more closely, rather than trying to see how far they can drift, and yet have fellowship maintained with the faithful. All such find that such testing meets with a “No, we cannot fellowship such.” There is every good reason from God for thus saying, “No,” and not one good reason for violating Ephesians 5:11 in order to cater to men.

—Deceased



God will not bless what is not authorized in His Word (Col. 3:17) nor what His Word explicitly (in just so many words) forbids.