

The Spartan Sower

The sower soweth the word... Mark 4:14



May 14, 2006 (Vol. 6)

The following article is being submitted to the local newspaper. It is in essence the first portion of a reply to a series of articles written in the religious section (April 27th and May 4th) that are clearly assaulting the Lord's church, opposing the truth, and mocking the debate we had.

This first article addresses the general attitude of that scoffer, while future articles will address the doctrinal points he raises.

TRUTH - The Way God Sees It (1)

by Douglas W. Hill
member of North Sparta church of Christ

Paul wrote and said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." (Rom. 1:16). The world and worldly religions would have us be ashamed of the truth. They paint us, our faith in God's word (doctrine, teaching) and our love for souls as contentious, argumentative debate, zealotry, poison, cultism, etc. While they argue and debate how it is wrong to argue and debate, they want everyone to believe they are loving and gracious. Beware lest, you be deceived by them: "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)

There have ever been those who speak evil of the way of truth (1 Pet. 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:2). But, as Paul wrote while at Ephesus, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:9). Progress and opposition go hand in hand. Truth cannot progress without someone feeling they need to "set things right" as they see it. It is the nature of the spiritual warfare we face.

Yes, I said warfare. That is because the Bible speaks of it in this manner. Now some may say, "Ah ha! He admits being warlike!" But scoff as they will, the Bible says: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5). Yes we are at war. The stakes are high. Souls hang in the balance. And the fearful, those who will not stand up for the cause of truth, will be cast into eternal fire along with the unbelieving and the immoral (Rev. 21:8). God expects His people to put on "the whole armor of God" and to use "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:11-17).

Foes of the truth beware. There exists a people zealous for the Lord and equipped with the awesome power of His holy word. They indeed bear a sword - the sword of the Spirit which is exceedingly mighty and doubly sharp (Heb. 4:12). It is designed to expose error, pierce hearts, bring conviction for sin - and in the honest of heart convert their souls.

While some mock using the scripture as a weapon to make war, Paul the great apostle did not mince words over the matter, nor did Christ (Mt. 10:34). What a dreadful position to be in - scoffing at what apostles, Christ and the Holy Spirit said.

Friends, we all know that God does not want us to be contentious in selfish and ungodly ways (2 Tim. 2:24-26). But the worldly and worldly religions would have us all believe that God has NOT said, "ye should earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). There is a right way to contend and a right thing to contend for. Though some would have us believe differently, be not deceived.

Lord willing, more will be said addressing the tired old false accusations against the Lord's own people (1 Pet. 2:9). I only request that you do two things: (1) Note who is using scripture (some write and use little to none), and (2) Open your Bible to see who is using it accurately. May God bless us all unto the knowledge of the truth and full assurance of salvation.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Men's & Ladies Classes** - Tues, May 9 @ 7 pm.
- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., May 13 & 27.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. May 28 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner's niece has cancer), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Doris Williams, Wayne Williams** (Doris' son), **Horace Jones** (Doris William's brother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Jillian Francis** (Terry Francis' daughter, preacher at Hillview), **Wanda Frazier; Robert England, Joyce Gardner; Ocia Bell-Jones & Charlie Jones** (Mother & brother to Doris Williams); **Sheila Eller** (Expecting); **Mia Godsey**.

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher's brother), **Cary Matheny**.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

North Sparta church of Christ

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Speaking As The Oracles Of God (1 Pet. 4:11)