



Jan. 7, 2007 (Vol. 6)

## TENNESSEE BIBLE COLLEGE

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We have recently received another letter from Tennessee Bible College. Let us look at some excerpts from the letter.

(1) "Tennessee Bible College is a church of Christ-supported school dedicated to training Bible preachers and Christian workers in Bible doctrine, apologetics and evangelism."

First of all, do we ever read of a "church of Christ-supported school" in the Bible? The closest you come is in Acts 19:9. Paul had been working in the synagogue until some were hardened and spoke evil of the way, then he withdrew the disciples and began reasoning in the school of Tyrannus. What does this show? Does it show a "church-supported" Bible school? No. It shows the disciples using the school for a place to meet and study. But this in no way proves the school of Tyrannus was a "Bible College" or any such thing. Do you think Paul charged students tuition fees? Conferred degrees? Not likely...

The Bible teaches local CHURCH organization (1 Pet. 5:1-3; Acts 14:23). Elders are to be in every church and their authority of oversight was limited to that. Also, the use of the money collected (1 Cor. 16:1-3) was used to help needy saints (1 Cor. 16:1-3) and support preaching / teaching Truth (Phil. 4:15-16; 1 Tim. 3:15). These passages do not indicate that we are to start a Bible College or support one, anymore than they mean we should start a church collection agency for raising money! I have no doubt that most can easily see that a collection **agency** is NOT what is authorized by the command to have a collection (1 Cor. 16:1-3). So why is it so difficult for brethren to see that a Bible **College** is not authorized when we are

commanded to teach (1 Tim. 3:15)? This is why we call this "Institutionalism". Men are not satisfied with the church being the church, so they create human institutions with "spiritual" missions to do the work that God already assigned to the church.

The church is completely sufficient to do the work of collecting funds for its work; AND the church is completely sufficient to do the work of teaching. We need no additional "church-supported" institutions to accomplish these things.

Whose work is it to train preachers & Christian workers in doctrine, apologetics and evangelism? Is this not one of the main reason for the church (1 Tim. 3:15)? When I first started preaching, I had people ask me where I went to study the Bible and learn to preach. Every time I answered "the church" - I got funny looks. It seems that people's estimation of the church is lower than that of a Bible college or religious seminary. Could it be that men have greater faith in human ways than in God's revealed way?

(2) "The school... is authorized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to confer a bachelor's degree in religious education; master's and doctorate degrees in theology; and a two-year preacher's diploma."

Did you notice all that? Can you imagine having a Bachelor's degree in religious education? How about a "master' degree"? Or better yet, a "doctorate"? Do you know what these are? Matthew 23:8-10 "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your teacher, and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father on the earth: for one is your Father, even he who is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your master, even the Christ." Jesus forbade religious titles. So why do men think that this is alright? Why do BRETHREN create schools where you can GET the very thing Jesus FORBADE? Note that a Bachelor's degree sets one up as a "teacher" of religion, how much more a "master's" or "doctorate" in theology! Why can't we just be satisfied with learning by service & study in the institution of GOD'S choice? Ah yes... a "preacher's diploma" - that

is what we really need! Why didn't Jesus think of that? Hmmm?

(3) "At Tennessee Bible College, we desire to teach and train men in such a way as to make them fully capable to preach and defend the gospel of Christ," said TBC President Malcom Hill."

Does his role of president of a Bible College make him a better man in Christ? Is the college really able to do what he boasts of here? How can his goal of using TBC to equip people to preach the gospel fit with the fact that he is practicing things that are unScriptural? What a sad state of affairs! When brethren can become so involved in sinful things and they are happy about it! And they send out letters to congregations **wanting you and me to join in with them** in their unlawful activities! "Please spread the word to the men and women of your congregation. TBC wants to help Christians go 'into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature'..."

Brethren, we need a command, example or necessary inference for everything (Col. 3:17). If we are not diligent to do this, then we will walk down the same path of digression, liberalism, institutionalism and sin that so many others have. In the USA from the 1800's on, brethren have been turning aside to various liberal practices & doctrines. There are so many different flavors & stripes of "churches of Christ" today - it is enough to choke on. Such division is a curse, a product of Satan. Have these innovations & institutions helped brethren be stronger? No. They use the name of Christ and his doctrine to steal away your loyalty and trust. Instead of Biblical faith, which leads you to Christ and His church - you have another institution involved. A human institution. A work of man, as surely as the tower of Babel was a work of man.

And, like Babel, men have sinful confidence in what they create. Men convince themselves that it is "good" to do, when there is not authority for it (Gen. 11:4, 8).

As it is written in Matt. 16:6-12 "And Jesus said unto them, Take heed and **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, We took no bread. And Jesus perceiving it said, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have no bread? Do ye not yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not perceive that I spake not to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Then understood they that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, **but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**"

#### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

**Othena Kinnard, Mag Bumbalough, Thelma Cunningham, Mary Cox, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Rose Taylor, Dorris Williams, Betty & Robert England, Johanna Fletcher, Ed Williams, Joe Smith, Lydia Poe, Mike Tenpenny, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill and Alisa Fletcher** (expecting). Also, **Reba Jones** (Dorris Williams' niece), **Jackie Tindle** (cancer, relative of the Sims), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Ocia Bell Jones** (Doris William's mother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Pauline Hickey, Nanny Witaker, Dylan Roberts** (grandson of Marilyn's friend); **Kitty Mahan** (Kathy Tenpenny's mother), **Dwayne Williams** (Dorris William's son), **Jeff England** (Robert & Betty's son), **Paul Grissom.**

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** - Sat., Jan. 20.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Jan. 7.
- **GM** - Jeff Smith, April 15-20, 2007.
- **GM** - R. McPherson, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

### **PSALM 36**

- 1 The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, There is no fear of God before his eyes.
- 2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, That his iniquity will not be found out and be hated.