



April 17, 2011

The Boll Movement

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History can be very educational, if evaluated in the light of Truth. Let us consider briefly the R. H. Boll movement from the 1920-30s, Kentucky. While that was some time ago, there are such similarities to modern issues that it will yet be beneficial to consider.

First off, what was the Boll movement? It was Premillennialism among churches of Christ. It was the propagation of doctrines promoting an earthly thousand year reign of Christ in the future (cp. Col. 1:13). Such doctrines undermine faith in the prophecies of the Messiah's kingdom (cp. Acts 2:29-36), dethrone Jesus (John 18:37), reduce His church to a mere substitute (Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 4:10-11), aims to restore the old nation of Israel in Palestine (Matt. 21:40-46), with a literal physical earthly throne of David in Jerusalem (John 18:36). It seeks to establish an earthly kingdom instead of a heavenly. This is thoroughly a system of false doctrine. What benefit would there be in mincing words over what it is and about how its supporters should be described? And yet, as it is today, so it was then. There were supporters and defenders of Boll, people who sympathized with a false teacher.

Second, let us consider how these sympathizers played down the issue. They said it was just a "personal matter" between certain brethren and preachers. This painted those particular brethren as the cause and source of the trouble, rather than Boll and his doctrine. This maneuver is not new for Ahab tried it on Elijah in 1 Kings 18:17.

At some congregations in Kentucky, those who opposed Boll and his error were marked as unfaithful. But again, is this new? Consider Diotrephes who moved and pushed the church to cast out certain faithful brethren (3 John 9-10). Such tactics can be seen time and again through the years, with little in the way of repentance by those actually committing the wrong. While there is a mandated place for disfellowshipping the wayward,

there will always be those who seek to have their own way regardless of Truth.

Thirdly, there was a self proclaimed "neutral" party who said they did not believe the doctrine of Premillennialism. Yet, as with most issues that arise, the thing about "neutral" parties is that they rarely are truly neutral. In the Boll's issue, the "neutral" group sought to restrain those who stood for truth against Boll. Thus, the "neutral" group (by their actions) showed that they wanted to maintain fellowship with Boll (a false teacher). They were in fact collaborators and participants in Boll's error by lending him aid and comfort. Is this not also the case today with modern issues? Take your pick, Hailey-Harrell MDR & Romans 14 issues, Weldon Warnock & Truth Magazine crowd with their MDR and resulting fellowship errors, etc. Are we not warned against fellowshiping those who persist in error (2 John 10-11)?

In the end, every issue must be evaluated by God's word. Every Christian must have the mind and heart to take up God's word, know it and live by it. When issues arise, we must be willing to examine all things (1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1-6) by the Word. If we choose to close our eyes and ears, refuse to examine and test; then we will be like children in understanding, "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:14). Is this the position we wish to be in? Certainly not.

May we all be committed to and mature in the Truth that God has revealed in His word.

Christian In Name Only

Jerry Fite

The the word "Christian" describes one who "belongs to Christ". Those following Christ as learners of him were called Christians early in the history of the church which Jesus established (Acts 11:26). Centered in Christ's authority, a Christian lives according to Jesus' principles revealed in His Word, even when such devotion creates persecution (1 Peter 4:16).

The word "Christian" is used quite loosely today. Since most profess Christianity in our country, we are called a "Christian nation". Since when does a majority claiming to belong to Christ, as opposed to Jews, Muslims, etc. determine a nation as being Christian? Jesus said, "And why calleth me "Lord, Lord" and do not the things which I say" (Lk. 6:46)? Shining the light of truth on many professing to be Christian manifests a glaring fact: Christianity in name only is in the headlines.

For example, President Obama recently revealed that his administration will continue to enforce established law defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman, but they will not defend it. In a Chicago Daily Tribune interview, Mr. Obama said, "I'm a Christian. And so, although I try not to have my religious beliefs dominate or determine my political views on this issue, I do believe that tradition, and my religious beliefs say that marriage is something sanctified between a man and a woman." From a political point of view, President Obama has been consistent in fighting discrimination which he feels exists when marriage is only between a man and a woman. He appears to be sincerely committed to correct what he sees as injustice.

However, when he is willing to sacrifice what God calls marriage on the altar of "fairness" or a less honorable motive, "political gain", one ponders, is he truly a Christian? Jesus clearly took listeners back to the beginning when he established what marriage was to be: "Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female . . . the two shall be-come one flesh" (Matt. 19:4-5). Jesus also says, "He that is not with me is against me and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Luke 11:23). When you can no longer defend who Jesus says God exclusively joins together in marriage (male and female), you certainly are not with Jesus. "Marriage" loses its sanctity, and like the word "Christian", becomes something in "word only."

Jesus says unless you put Him first in your life, you cannot be His disciple. Jesus says, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). One does not take his "Christian hat" off when entering the various arenas of life, but lives his or her life as a Christian. The will of the Lord should permeate the Christian's life, not just be regulated to a "religious belief".

President Obama expresses marriage between a man and a woman as a "tradition" he believes in. But

apparently his idea of "tradition" is something that can be changed. Paul writes, ". . . hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours" (2 Thess. 2:15). Traditions of man change, but traditions handed from the Lord to his apostles are to be permanently held (2 Tim. 2:13). Let us "be" Christians and not become merely "Christian" in name only.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Business Meeting - Last Sunday Each Month

Web Info: [Http://NSCOC.info](http://NSCOC.info)

Weekly Bulletin: To be added to the weekly e-bulletin list, send the request to: Preacher@NSCOC.info

"Let Love Be Without Hypocrisy" (Rom. 12:9)

Allie Cantrell (Mary Stafford's mother); Barry Gambrell (Jean's son); Betty England; BJ & Janice Starnes and BJ's mother; Dorothy Huddleston (cancer); Doug Stafford; Ed Williams; Frank Mahan (recovering); Fred Newman Jr. (tests); Harold Frazier (recovering); Jean Gambrell; Jerry Taylor; Jewel Herring (Joyce Anderson's mother, recovering); Jonathan Murdock (Joyce's nephew); Josh Key (Great grandson of Mary Cox); Junior Taylor; Madelyne Bennett (Jean Gambrell's sister); Mary Cox (esophagus); Michael & Eileen, Elizabeth & Robert Laurence (preacher & his family in Texas); Sandra Harris (cancer, Ellen's daughter); Stephen Vaughn (Christina's brother); Wanda Bumbalough (Joyce's sister-in-law, lung cancer); Wess Helton (B.J & Janice Starnes' son-in-law); William C. Hill (Doug Hill's father, cancer).

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