



April 28, 2012

Tom Roberts & Bobby Holmes

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Brothers Roberts and Holmes have been for a time now associated with error on marriage, divorce and remarriage; in particular introducing new reasons for supposedly permissible divorce "for the kingdom's sake". Anytime such things arise, there will be some who defend them, support them, fellowship them anyway. But a wonderful thing has occurred. I received the following message this week:

Brethren, great news! Dennis Scroggins called me to say that Tom Roberts and Bobby Holmes admitted that they were "wrong" about the issue of being divorced for the kingdom of God's sake. They did this before a packed house in Waco Texas. Tom also resigned his post with Truth Magazine (Guardian of Truth). Tom Roberts told the audience that the context just simply does not support his previously taught error. If you recall, that is exactly what we told Tom and Bobby when they came here with that error. Context and cross references of other text do not support it. I knew that you all would want to know this and together we may praise God for their restoration.

Brotherly John C Robertson

It is required by God that we oppose and expose error (Eph. 5:11; 2 John 9-11). Some think that this is optional, especially when it is someone respected or a family member who is involved in sin. But here we see God's intended result - repentance & restoration.

We need to thank God. God is wise beyond and above our wisdom. God's way is right, even when multitudes think He is wrong. Those who walked

in God's way have urged these men to turn back to the Lord, and we need to thank God for it. Be grateful that there are brethren who uphold truth even when it is difficult. Be grateful that these two men have listened to correction.

Now is the test of our love, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2.

6 Sufficient to such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the many; 7 so that contrariwise ye should rather forgive him and comfort him, lest by any means such a one should be swallowed up with his overmuch sorrow.

8 Wherefore I beseech you to confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye are obedient in all things.

10 But to whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for what I also have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, for your sakes have I forgiven it in the presence of Christ; 11 that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

It is common to find people resisting God when He says to discipline those in error. It is unpleasant to have to confront others, and we know that we will often find insult and injury for doing so. But, can you imagine that it is also difficult to forgive those who repent? It is.

Once discipline is finally enacted, once correction is finally uttered and persecution faced for it... it can be very difficult for us to then accept that a person has changed. We may wonder if they have truly repented, or it may even be that our pride hinders us from being merciful.

Jesus addressed this in Luke 17.

3 Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he sin against thee seven times in the day, and seven times turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Just as rebuke is required when sin is present, forgiveness is required when repentance is present.

Of course, it is scriptural to urge and require fruit worthy of repentance (Luke 3:8). It is not enough to be like King Saul who said he repented but continued to seek David's life. But at this point, let us pray for and encourage these two brethren for their repentance. Let us be thankful and pray that they will again be useful to the Lord and to brethren in upholding the Truth.

Pslam 92

1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah, And to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High; 2 To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, And thy faithfulness every night,

4 For thou, Jehovah, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. 5 How great are thy works, O Jehovah! Thy thoughts are very deep.

6 A brutish man knoweth not; Neither doth a fool understand this: 7 When the wicked spring as the grass, And when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; It is that they shall be destroyed for ever.

8 But thou, O Jehovah, art on high for evermore.

9 For, lo, thine enemies, O Jehovah, For, lo, thine enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of Jehovah; They shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; They shall be full

of sap and green:

15 To show that Jehovah is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Business Meeting - Last Sunday Each Month

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

E-Bulletin: Preacher@NSCOC.Info

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

Sherry LaFever (radiation treatments); **Gerald Brown;** **Kevin & Christina Blankenship;** **Allie Cantrell** (Mary Stafford's mother); **Betty England;** **Dorothy Huddleston;** **Doug Stafford;** **Ed Williams;** **Fred Newman Jr.;** **Harold Frazier;** **Janice Starnes;** **Jean Gambrell** (also her husband); **Jerry Taylor;** **Jonathan Murdock** (Joyce Gardner's nephew); **Josh Key** (Great grandson of Mary Cox); **Junior Taylor;** **Layvoughn Howell** (Wanda's brother, lungs); **Mary Cox** (hip); **Michael & Eileen, Elizabeth & Robert Laurence** (preacher & his family in Texas); **Pam Field's** mother-in-law.; **Sandra Harris** (cancer, Ellen's daughter); **Wanda Bumbalough** (Joyce Gardner's sister-in-law, lung cancer).

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