

Friday Church News Notes

The following is another installment of the Friday Church News Notes designed especially for use in churches. It is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service.

October 22, 2004

Vol. 5, Issue 42

EIGHTY-FOUR DENOMINATIONS PARTICIPATE IN GRAHAM CRUSADE

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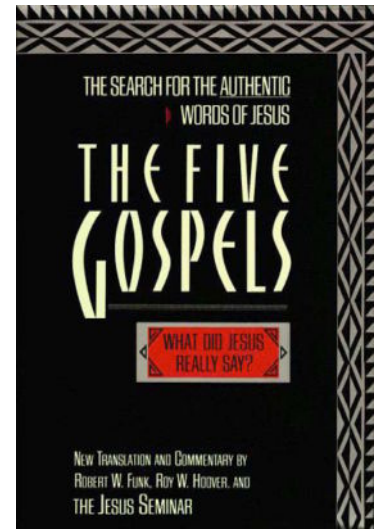
Eighty-four denominations directly participated in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade in Kansas City recently. Let me say plainly and emphatically that it is not possible to find 84 different denominations that follow the Bible in this apostate time. The participating denominations include those that hold such heresies as baptismal regeneration, sacramentalism, sacerdotalism, infant baptism, theological modernism, and charismaticism. Southern Baptists were prominent within this doctrinal hodge-podge. The ecumenical approach has been standard procedure for the Graham campaigns for five decades. In 1957 Graham said, "Anyone who makes a decision at our meetings is seen later and referred to a local clergyman, Protestant, Catholic or Jewish" (*San Francisco News*, Nov. 11, 1957). The vice-chairman of the Graham Crusade in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1984, testified, "If Catholics step forward there will be no attempt to convert them and their names will be given to the Catholic church nearest their homes" (David Stine, quoted in the *Vancouver Sun*, Oct. 5, 1984). One hundred priests and Catholic laity were trained to follow-up Graham's crusade in Boston in 1982. A priest and a nun were among the supervisors of the counselors for the Denver crusade in 1987, and from one service alone the names of 500 seekers were referred to St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. All of the 2,100 Catholics who came forward during the Graham crusade in London, England, in 1989 were referred back to Catholic churches. In 1999 Graham said, "My responsibility is to preach the Gospel to everyone and let them choose their own church, whether it is Catholic or Protestant or Orthodox or whatever it is" (Graham, interview with Patricia Rice, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 10, 1999). He is a deeply deceived man.



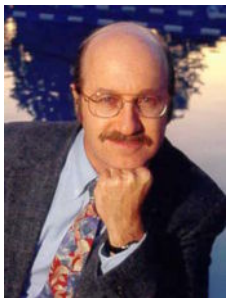
JESUS SEMINAR STILL ON ITS CRAZY MARCH TOWARD HELL

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Two scholars with the Jesus Seminar were scheduled to spew forth some of their damnable heresies at a conference Oct. 16-17 in Phoenix, Arizona. The two are Stephen Patterson of Eden Theological Seminary and Robert Miller of Juniata College. Patterson said, “Most people, not just conservative Christians, assume that what the Bible says happened actually happened,” but it is much better, he claims, to “take [the] blinders off” and not “assume the



Patterson (above) and Miller



Bible is history” (“Jesus Seminar Raises Controversial Issues,” *Arizona Republic*, Oct. 9). The misnamed Jesus Seminar began meeting in 1985 with the object of discovering which words of the Gospels are allegedly authentic. In 1993 the Jesus Seminar published *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*. The text of the Gospels was color coded to indicate the degree to which the various portions are considered authentic. Red for definitely authentic; pink for maybe; gray for probably; black for definitely not authentic. I can assure you that there is very little red ink in this volume! They deny the virgin birth, miracles, blood atonement, bodily resurrection, ascension, and second coming of Christ. In 1986, Jesus Seminar scholar Ron Cameron stated: “The death of Jesus was like a car wreck; it's an accident of history. ... I'm not sure why the Romans killed Jesus, but the gospel stories are not historical in the modern sense of the word” (*Christian News*, April 7, 1986). Jesus Seminar “fellow” Marcus Borg pontificated, “It is a distortion of Scripture to read [the Bible] as a book of the future. It has a profoundly disturbing effect and leads to the image of God as judge and emphasizes us as getting ready for judgment. It takes us away from the world” (*The Berean Call*, April 1992). “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1).

GORBACHEV CALLS FOR NEW WORLD ORDER

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Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet leader, is calling for a “new world order.” Speaking at the 91st annual Insurance Leadership Forum, Gorbachev said a new world order would rely heavily on the United Nations and would be more stable, more just, and more humane. In fact, the Bible describes two “new world orders” that will arise in the future. First, there will be the order of the antichrist, the man of sin, and the world will be required to worship his image and no one will be able to buy or sell without his mark (2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13). This will be followed by the order of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Only under this Order will peace and true justice reign on earth.





PROPHETS DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT

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Many of the charismatic prophets today admit that they are wrong at least part of the time, but they claim that a New Testament prophet does not have to be correct in all of his prophecies. Mike Bickle of Kansas City helped promote the prophetic ministry among the Vineyard Churches when he joined John Wimber in 1990. I heard Bickle and Wimber speak at the Indianapolis '90 ecumenical conference. Recently Bickle said, "The easy response is to discount a prophetic person who gets it wrong. That's not the right response" ("Prophetic Movement Confronts Extremes," Charisma Online, Oct. 7, 2004). He says we should not label it "false prophecy" but "soulish" or "humanly generated" prophesying. This is nonsense and heresy. If a man speaks by prophecy, he is to be judged as a prophet (Deut. 18:20-22; 1 Cor. 14:29). And one of the tests is accuracy. "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deut. 18:22).

THE COMPLEXITY OF MODERN TEXTUAL CRITICISM

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The principles of modern textual criticism that underlie the modern Bible versions are very complicated. They involve such things as conflation, recension, inversion, eclecticism, conjectural emendation, intrinsic and transcriptional probability, interpolation, statistical probability, harmonistic assimilation, cognate groups, hypothesized intermediate archetypes, stemmatic reconstruction, and genealogical methods. It is impossible to reconcile this scholarly complexity with the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3) and with the scriptural fact that God has chosen the weak of this world to confound the mighty (Mat. 11:25; 1 Cor. 1:20-29). At its heart, the Bible text and version issue is as simple as God's Character and His promise of preservation (1 Peter 1:23-25). A foundational principle of modern textual criticism is that the purest text of the New Testament was replaced in about the 4th century with a corrupted text and not "recovered" until the 19th century!



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A QUESTION FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS UPON THEIR LEAVING THE BWA

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The following is from "Theological Liberalism, Anti-Americanism Prominent in the Baptist World Alliance," *Foundation* magazine, July-August 2004: "Although the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is certainly taking appropriate action by withdrawing its financial support of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and its membership in the organization, [a question] must still be asked of the SBC. [W]hy does the SBC claim to stand firm for the truth while continuing to unite with those of all denominations who embrace false doctrine and even preach a false gospel? ... SBC pastors and churches play a prominent part in ecumenical endeavors such as Promise Keepers, the Global Pastor's Network, Campus Crusade for Christ, the Billy Graham crusades and many other such events and movements that unite those of all theological persuasions. Believers must beware of the BWA yet also realize that the SBC is still no place for a Biblical fundamentalist who desires to remain faithful to the whole counsel of God." Amen and amen!



The SBC is a major promoter and participant in such ecumenical endeavors as Campus Crusade and Promise Keepers.



CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY APPROVES DANCING

Cornerstone University, closely affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches since its inception, has lifted its ban on dancing, a ban that was in effect throughout its 63-year history. The vote by the trustees on Sept. 23 to lift the ban was unanimous. Ashley Reiman, one of the student leaders who worked for more than a year to have the ban rescinded, told the *Grand Rapids Press*, "I'm so pumped. I think it's great. I love dancing." Ashley got into trouble with the school two years ago when she "went clubbing in Florida" on Spring Break. Now she can dance away. She had already planned a dance party for that weekend. Kristin Cherne, a senior, said, "It was an old-fashioned rule that they should have done away with a long time ago." Rebekah DeHamer said the change is "cool." Tom Emigh, vice president for student development, exclaimed: "Students can begin dancing immediately." The student handbook formerly banned "social dancing and attendance at dance clubs" because of the potential for "personal spiritual harm," and the rule was wise and scriptural. Consider Ephesians 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS, but rather reprove them" and Ephesians 5:3, "But fornication, and ALL UNCLEANNES, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." Modern dancing would most definitely fall into the category of the unfruitful works of darkness and uncleanness; it is 95% sex. Cornerstone University was founded in 1941 as the Baptist Bible Institute at Wealthy Street Baptist Church under the pastorate of David Otis Fuller. The name was changed to Cornerstone in 1994. In the 63 years since this school was founded, the Bible hasn't changed and God's standards for His people haven't changed, but the leadership at the school has changed and the churches that support it have changed. Dancing has also changed since 1941; it has become far more sensual in the Eminem age. The Philadelphian church keeps God's Word (Rev. 3:8), while the Laodicean church dances and searches for new ways to be "cool" and glories in its lukewarmness (neither modernist nor fundamentalist).

CONCLUSION: Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. It is God's will that we know the times and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. These things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? Are you in the perfect will of God for your life and bearing fruit for His glory? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

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