

Arise!

Newsletter of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry
October 2024 • Issue 7

EARNESTLY CONTENDING

Is There not a Cause?

There is a battle to be fought today
by the soldiers of the cross!

**Sin is
Serious**

Theology

**The Battle
Rages On**

Earnestly Contending

**McIntire:
Defender of
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“I looked for the church and I found it in the world; I looked for the world and I found it in the church.” — Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Reformation required

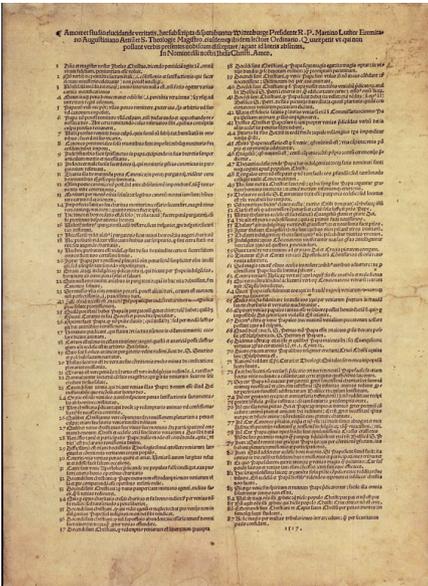
Technology and artificial intelligence are advancing at breakneck speed in this modern era of the 21st century. Conversely, Christianity is regressing and degenerating at an equally alarming rate.

About 200 years ago, Horatius Bonar - the 19th century Presbyterian minister known for composing hymns such as *“Go Labour On”*, *“Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face”* and *“I heard the voice of Jesus say,”* made the following remark:

“I looked for the church and I found it in the world; I looked for the world and I found it in the church.”

Two hundred years after Horatius Bonar, it is unsurprising that Christianity today is even more corrupted in doctrine and living now than ever before. Even amongst supposedly fundamentalist Christians, the doctrine of Christian liberty today is reprehensibly taught as the license to live as close to the world as possible.

Christianity today has turned apostate. The testimony of the Christian Church flickers faintly and weakly in the 21st century, and has been almost completely snuffed out.



The 1517 Nuremberg printing of *Ninety-five Theses*

Online Archives

Missed a recent issue of Arise! or want to revisit a previous RMG article? The digital editions can be accessed at <https://calvarypandan.sg/fellowship-groups/rmg>



Today, Christendom is no longer the same as it was when it first started during the time of the early New Testament church. The state of the Christian church witness today is in stark contrast to what the Jewish mob had accused the house church of at Jason's home, whom Paul and Silas had visited on their missionary journey at Thessalonica: *"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."* (Acts 17:6b)

... it is lamentable that the world has turned the church upside down today instead.

True biblical Christianity has always turned the world upside down. This is because Christ and Belial have no concord. There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness, and light has no communion with darkness. Believers have no agreement with idolators, and God and the Devil are diametrically opposed! (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

Unlike the days of Paul and Silas, it is lamentable that the world has turned the church upside down today.

Reformation remembered

The greatest revival in the Church of God was undoubtedly at Pentecost when the New Testament church witness

was birthed at Jerusalem. The impact of Christianity eventually also soon swept through the great Roman Empire through politics 300 years later. However, the witness of the Church was soon dimmed and snuffed out with the rise of the Roman papacy, which ushered in the 1000 years of the dark ages of the Roman Catholic Church.

Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany, to ignite the flame of the 16th Century Reformation on 31st October 1517. That was exactly 507 years ago. The fire of the 16th Century Reformation soon spread rapidly across Europe thereafter, leading to the greatest revival in the history of the Church since Pentecost. The LORD used the 16th Century reformers to let loose the light of the Gospel again in the fullness of time.

Similar to ancient church history during the Apostolic age, the 16th Century Reformation coincided with the European Renaissance, which ushered in a new dawn — what historians commonly label as the vital cog that pivoted the Medieval era to the Modern Times.

In a way, the European Renaissance may be viewed as the forerunner God had put in place to prepare the way for the 16th Century Reformation. The Renaissance revolution paved the way for the rise of languages and linguistic development, as well as the invention of the printing press and record-keeping. These contributed to an increased literacy

rate and an increased curiosity about the Scriptures. The LORD also raised many eminent scholarly church fathers during this period to provide for the faithful and accurate English translation of the Bible from its Original languages.

The increased literacy rate coupled with the Bible being translated into the English language meant that the common man on the street could now have access to the Word of God and read it for himself, thus eliminating the sacerdotalism that dominated during the papacy!

It may not be inaccurate to describe the relationship between the Renaissance and the Reformation as symbiotic. The 16th Century reformers broke away from the Roman Catholic Church, led a protest that changed the world, and fuelled the spread of the Renaissance throughout Europe. Political systems, governments and societies were radically restructured due to the impact of the Reformation. The Reformers literally turned the world upside down — starting in Europe first and then moving to America, before the Gospel eventually spread to the rest of the world. Their protests led to Protestantism, and the Reformed Faith as systematized by the French reformer and theologian, John Calvin.

Reformation renegades

Alas, history repeats itself and the Church today is marching straight back to Rome and into the dark ages again. There is an accelerated and concerted effort

within Christendom for Christians of all denominations and doctrinal persuasions to unite at all costs.

Furthermore, Protestant Christians and Catholics have been reaching out to one another as ‘separated brethren’ over the past 30 years. The ecumenical document “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” (ECT) was signed exactly 30 years ago by both Evangelical Protestant Christians and Catholics in 1994.

But the royal ensign of Christ must not fall and must still be lifted up by the soldiers of the Cross!

Fundamental biblical Christianity is on the decline. A counter-reformation movement today seeks to lead Christianity back to Rome again, as the Lord Jesus Christ had prophesied!

Earnestly Contending

But the royal ensign of Christ must not fall and must still be lifted by the soldiers of the Cross!

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19)

Though the foe may rage and gather
as the flood,
Let the standard be displayed;
And beneath its folds, as soldiers of
the Lord,
For the truth be not dismayed!

By the grace of God, may the LORD sustain this weak and feeble effort of *Arise!* in these last days to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3) to promote Christ and His Word through Christian literature. For if good and fundamental Christian literature that promotes Christ and His Word does not reach the hands of Christians, it is almost certain that corrupt and damnable literature will! If the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the truths of Scripture are not taught and proclaimed, the lies of the devil will continue to proliferate and promulgate, and assault God’s people from within and without.

Coinciding with the commemoration of the 16th Reformation in October, I pray and hope that you will enjoy this themed issue on “Earnestly Contending”. May you find many blessings for your soul and encouragement for your heart through the articles in this issue.

Your comments and feedback are always welcome. If you would like to share a thought, pls do not hesitate to email Dn. Adrian Poh (hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com) or Dn. Simon Chua (chuahanyong@gmail.com).



RISE UP MEN OF GOD MINISTRY

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
Let all your things be done with charity.”*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

MISSION

Building up godly and spiritual Christian men, husbands, and fathers in the Lord

OBJECTIVES

A Bible-based and Christ-centered ministry to help Christian men, husbands, and fathers to:

1. Be skilful in the Word of God and strong in their faith
2. Be godly heads of homes to lead their wives and children to follow Christ
3. Encourage, sharpen, and provoke one another unto love and good works

For queries contact,

Dn Adrian | M: 9030 5803 | E: hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com, or
Dn Simon | M: 8218 3570 | E: chuahanyong@gmail.com

9 am - 12.30pm

Calvary Pandan B-P Church, Main Sanctuary

2025

The Call and Duties of Christian Men

Pastoral Instructions from 1-2 Timothy
for the Man of God

1 January (PH)

Called to fight the good fight of faith!

1 Timothy 6: 11-21

12 May (PH)

Called to possess faith unfeigned!

2 Timothy 1: 1-7

30 August (4th Anniversary)

Called not to be ashamed of the Gospel!

2 Timothy 1: 8-18

29 November

Called to be strong in Christ Jesus!

2 Timothy 2: 1-13

Is There not a Cause?

“And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?” 1 Samuel 17:29



The 21st-century counter-reformation movement, which seeks to unite all Christians, Catholics and every religion in the world in the name of love and peace, has gained much momentum over the past century. It has been highly successful, and has produced many different forms of counterfeit Christianity today.

Christianity today is Christian merely in name, but not in faith and practice according to the truth of Scripture. Churches today pay lip service to Christ and His Word, and are syncretistic in their worship.

It is safe to liken the deadness of the Christian Church today to the deadness of the thousand years of the “Dark Ages” during the Roman Catholic church’s hold over Christianity, lasting from around the 5th to the 15th century. Like the Roman Catholic Church, Christian churches

today are dead because they preach a gospel that cannot save.

When there is a departure from the Written Word (Scripture) and the Living Word (Jesus Christ), the only Light of the Gospel that can save sinners from eternal damnation in hell is taken away, and there can be no salvation. Such corruption in doctrine and practice produces a façade of Christianity that en-coffins a dead church – powerless to save a world of sinners perishing in their sins!

The 16th Century reformers separated from the idolatry and human traditions of the Roman Catholic church. The 20th Century reformers separated from the compromising spirit of the Neo-evangelicals.

Alas! Today, the lines between truth and error are being gradually erased in the name of peace and love. The battle

lines are blurred. Many who were once fundamentalists and separatists – both fundamental in doctrine and separated from error unto the Truth – have lowered their banners and stopped fighting.

Dead indifference is frequently more difficult to deal with than the most lively assault ...

Why have Christians put off their armour? Why have the fundamentalists stopped fighting? Is the battle over? Has the battle for truth and righteousness been won?

If not, why have we stopped? Is there not a cause?

Must I take a stand?

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:13)

In order to stand, we must take a stand: a stand for Christ and His Word. The worst is having no opinion or no gumption, and having no fight! How goes the battle if there is no fight?

Spiritual indifference and apathy are both dangerous and difficult to deal with

in the Church. This is because indifference and apathy would be both indifferent and apathetic to their own follies!

Benjamin Warfield very eloquently puts it this way *“Dead indifference is frequently more difficult to deal with than the most lively assault... It is not hard to show the folly of theological indifferentism; but, just because it is indifferent, indifferentism is apt to pay little attention to our exhibition of its folly.”* [The Right Of Systematic Theology, Edinburgh]

We may live in a different era from the forerunners of the Bible-Presbyterian movement, Rev. Timothy Tow and Dr. Carl McIntire, but we can be sure that the devil uses the same tactics today as he did in the past – by infiltration within the Church and deception about what God’s Word says!

The Lord Jesus Christ is undoubtedly coming very soon again as we put on our spiritual lenses to view the global events around us today. Christianity will surely turn apostate before the Lord Jesus Christ returns, as Scripture has prophesied. But there is still much to fight for today and in this generation before the Lord Jesus Christ returns!

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6)

Men of God today must take a stand for the Truth and the Lord Jesus Christ. Reformation is the work of God. Only

God can quicken souls and revive spirits. Even if the face of Christianity cannot be reformed, surely souls still lost and perishing in their sins need to be saved!

See the cause and take a stand!

Tertullian, a Christian apologist in the early Church, remarked in the 2nd century that “*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church*”.

Christians in the early Church were persecuted, and many met with martyrdom for identifying themselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many were tortured and tormented with trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, imprisoned, sawn asunder, slain with the sword, burned, fed to wild beasts, and even stoned like the 1st martyr Stephen was. (Heb 11:33-37, Acts 7:59)



These believers saw the cause – to be on the LORD’s side. They would not compromise, and took a stand for Christ and His Word even if they had to endure much affliction and give up their lives.

We can also take a leaf from the Apostle Paul in this regard. Paul declared that he was “...*separated unto the Gospel of God...concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord...*” (Romans 1:1, 3) To take a stand for Christ means to be separated unto the Gospel, as Paul was.

The horizon is the line that separates heaven and earth at a distance. The horizon sets the limits and sets the boundary between heaven and earth. One could also argue that the horizon is where heaven meets earth although they do not actually meet, except in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! In the Gospel of God, the meeting of heaven and earth becomes a reality because God meets man, and heaven meets earth in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ – the Theanthropos (God-man)!

The horizon of the Gospel is the boundary of the Gospel. Paul lived his life according to the horizon and boundary of the Gospel. This meant that Paul evaluated everything in his life according to the Gospel of God concerning God’s only and eternally begotten Son Jesus Christ! This evaluation extended to every aspect and sphere of life, including his personal, private, and public life.

Paul was separated unto the Gospel, and marked and separated from them

that are “*contrary to the doctrine*” (Romans 16:17, 1 Timothy 1:10) or “*contrary to the Spirit of God*” (Galatians 5:17).

Throughout history, man has shown himself capable of suffering and dying for a cause that he is committed to. Millions give of their entire lives toiling hard in their worship of mammon in this life. Japanese kamikaze suicide pilots willingly offered their lives during World War II to die for their emperor. Even terrorist suicide bombers proudly give their lives as an offering to their idolatrous gods.

Then why would Christians — who claim to possess and be set free by the Truth, and profess to be redeemed by the Son of God from our sins and from the lowest depths of eternal condemnation in hell — not be willing to live and die, and

be separated unto the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?!

It is sad to live a life without a cause. Such a life would be devoid of purpose and direction. It is even more tragic if a soldier of Christ who fights under the Banner of the Cross does not see the cause of the battle and refuses to take a stand because of his cowardice.

There is a battle to be fought today by the soldiers of the cross! There is much to fight, and much to win! Faith and courage are needed now more than ever before!

Is there not a cause? The battle rages on! 🚧



morning *stretches & exercises*

with **Bro. David Sim**



8am, 16 November 2025



Tengah BP Church



Contact Bro. David Sim
(9652 4179)

What you will need:

- light exercise attire (e.g. PT)
- a yoga mat (if available), and
- drinking water.

A light breakfast will be provided.



Sin is Serious

Sin is a tyrant that enslaves and produces death and eternal condemnation. Sin controls and condemns man, and sin has its consequences in the flames of eternal torment in the lake of fire.

Sin is serious, and has serious consequences because it is an offence against God. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God. (Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 14)

The start of any reformation begins with consciousness and conviction of sin, and a fear of death and condemnation.

Such fear is a good and healthy fear, for sin is serious, its guilt is universal, and man's depravity is total.

However, the natural sinful man will never be in touch with the reality of his depraved and sinful estate because of the slavery of sin. For *"it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."* (Romans 3:10-11) A sinner will and can only see his own sinful estate and need of the Saviour when the

Holy Spirit convicts him of his sin, and awakens his consciousness to his sins.

In the materialistic and carnal society in Singapore, it may not be inaccurate to state that most Singaporean men fear losing their bonus and losing their lunchtime hour, more than losing their (and their family's) soul(s) in eternal condemnation in hell because of their own sins. I am not sure if Christian men in Singapore are any different.

The solution to sin

The 16th Century Reformer, Martin Luther, was gripped and terrified of death and divine judgement. As a law student at the University of Erfurt, Luther was caught in a violent thunderstorm when he was on his way back to visit his family on 2nd July 1505. According to history, the thunder was fierce and lightning nearly struck him. Fearing for his life, Luther sought shelter behind a large rock, cried out for mercy and promised to be a monk if he survived.

In God's great grace and mercy, He gave Martin Luther both a fear of sin, and

of death. More than that, the LORD also gave Luther a fear of the LORD leading Luther to the Scriptures and to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ through the inward convicting working of the Holy Spirit in his life.

Indeed, *“the fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.”* (Proverbs 14:27)

The Lord Jesus Christ came to this world to save sinners not the righteous. *“They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* (Luke 5:31-32)

The first step to reformation and the first step to the Gospel begins with acknowledgement and confession of sin.

Better off but not better

The Jews have the blessings of being God’s chosen people. They have the advantage of possessing and knowing God’s Word. (Romans 3:1-2) They are better off.

But they are not better (than the Gentiles). (Romans 3:9), for advantage and blessings do not save. It is Christ that saves!

Today, churchgoers and children who grow up in Christian homes also have the blessing of a covenantal home. They also have the advantage of learning and knowing God’s Word from an early age. Like the Jews of old, they are better off than others who do not come to church and are brought up in pagan homes.

They may be better off, but are they any better than the heathen man who worships mammon and spends his Sunday on the vaping on the beach? Most certainly not! They are not any better.

Coming to church does not save a man from sin. All need to come to Christ, for the corruption of sin is so great — only the infinite God could pay such a great debt to redeem and save wretched sinners from our sins.

O, that men of God will remember the sinfulness of sin, and the great and eternal salvation debt we owe in Christ!

Excerpt from “Westminster Confession of Faith (Adapted)” and “Westminster Larger Catechism (Adapted)”

Note: Portions of the text have been edited for clarity.

WCF Chapter 7: Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof

WCF VI:1-6

1. OUR first parents being seduced by the subtilty and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory.
2. By this sin they fell from their original righteousness, and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly

defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body.

3. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation.
4. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.
5. This corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and, although it be through Christ pardoned and mortified, yet both itself and all the motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.
6. Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner, whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.

WLC Question 24

Q. What is sin?

- A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.

WLC Question 25

Q. Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

- A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called original sin, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions. ✠



Excerpted from [*Westminster Confession of Faith \(Adapted\)*](#)
Published by Calvary Pandan
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Excerpted from [*Westminster Larger Catechism \(Adapted\)*](#)
Published by Calvary Pandan
B-P Church © 2009

The Battle Rages on



The following is a stirring excerpt from the booklet "The Battle Rages On" published by Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church in 2014 in commemoration of the 16th Century Reformation.

Courageous Leadership Needed

The causes of Christ demand men and women of courage. To be courageous is not to be foolhardy. The courage needed is the kind that comes from God whereby the Christian walks close to his Lord and the reputation of his Lord means more to him than his own life and family. Young David was such a courageous man. All of Israel saw Goliath the giant; young David saw Goliath the heathen mocking at the God of Israel. Filled with righteous anger, his words

to his brothers and Israel were, "*Is there not a cause?*" (1 Samuel 17). When Joshua was called by God to take over the leadership from Moses by leading Israel into the Promised Land, he was told to be strong and very courageous three times. This is the kind of courage needed to obey God's Holy Word. It is not some macho demonstration of brute strength but a courage that is God-given, internal, and profound, found in the heart and soul of the believer.

There is a need today for more men like David and Joshua. The questions we need to ask ourselves include: "Is God on our side?" and "Are we on God's side?" The battle is the Lord's and the victory is also the Lord's. Every Christian is called to be strong and very courageous and exercise his faith in these last days of apostasy and compromise.

Proper and Balanced Instruction Must be Given

Courage's faithful companion is wisdom through knowledge of Scriptures. One has to be armed with the Word of God to be effective or else we will be like the proverbial bull in a china shop. There is a need to ponder before we speak, and our words must be with wisdom seasoned with salt. There should be no rudeness in our speech. To defend the faith based upon lies and deception is not only harmful to the genuine cause of Christ, it is sinful. Lying is the hallmark of Satan who is the father of lies.¹⁸ The child of God must reflect the virtues and characteristics of God his heavenly Father and not Satan. God is good and He cannot lie. Christians must defend the faith by telling the truth always. This means that it must be according to Holy Scriptures.

The ministries of warning (the sword) and building (trowel) must go together.

Be fair and honest in what is reported and said against those who undermine the faith. The church must be taught the "negatives" as well as the "positives." The ministries of warning (the sword) and building (trowel) must go together. Failure in one is failure in both. The congregation must be taught the whole counsel of God.

To do this the pastor must be well trained. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" This should be the motivation for all believers to study God's Word. We seek only God's approval, not man's. The way to do so is to ensure our motives are pure, our actions transparent, and our attitude humble. Speak the truth in love is the key. Speaking the truth in love does not mean that the person is soft spoken and does not raise his voice. It is also not a reference to using hard and exact words. The apostle Paul in Galatians used very hard but exact words to describe anyone who preaches another gospel of a totally different kind. He cursed them with an anathema! Galatians 1:6-9 declares,

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

When the Lord Jesus Christ condemned the Pharisees and scribes and other religious leaders, He used very strong terminologies such as hypocrites and blind guides. 20 In Matthew 23:27 Jesus called them whited

sepulchres, *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."*

These were very strong terms used by the Lord to describe these evil men. These terms were strong but very appropriate. Isn't God the God of love and compassion? Therefore to speak the truth in love does not imply a lack of using strong adjectives to describe someone or some sin.

What the verse means is to speak with no hidden motive. It is to speak the truth with the solitary motive of helping the person. Use the right words to describe the right sin and situation with no personal gain but only to help restore the sinner back to God. There is no joy or delight in pointing out the sin of someone, only sadness. Barnes explained this verse well when he rightly observed that,

There are other ways of speaking truth. It is sometimes spoken in a harsh, crabby, sour manner which does nothing but disgust and offend. When we state truth to others, it should be with love to their souls, and with a sincere desire to do them good. When we admonish a brother of his faults, it should not be in a harsh and unfeeling manner, but in love. Where a minister pronounces the awful truth of God about depravity, death, the judgment, and future woe, it should be in love. It should not be done in a harsh and repulsive manner; it should not be done as if he rejoiced that men were in danger of hell, or as if

he would like to pass the final sentence; it should not be with indifference, or in a tone of superiority. And in like manner, if we go to convince one who is in error, we should approach him in love. We should not dogmatize, or denounce, or deal out anathemas. Such things only repel. He has done about half his work in convincing another of error, who has first convinced him that he LOVES him; and if he does not do that, he may argue to the hour of his death, and make no progress in convincing him.

Decisive Action Must Be Taken

Courage and knowledge must come with decisive actions. There is a need "to strike while the iron is hot." A courageous man armed with knowledge must be decisive in taking action even when his action may be an unpopular one. Decisive actions must not be based on impulse. It must be Spiritled. Decisive action does not necessarily mean immediate action, but an action that has been carefully considered and deliberated and taken at the right point in time.

The Neo-Evangelical Movement is an end time movement that will not go away. Procrastination is not an option for genuine believers. Not to act is to fail our Lord Jesus Christ. In the days of Isaiah when Israel was about to be destroyed by the Assyrians those who were watchmen were supposed to guard Israel but failed to do their duty. God described them in Isaiah 56:9-11 thus,

All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all **dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.** Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. [emphasis added]

To know the truth and to keep silent is one of the worst sins a Christian could ever commit against humanity and his God. To see men, women and children live in darkness but believing that it is light, bound for Hell, and yet keep silent and not do anything about it is unconscionable. God's instruction to Ezekiel is a very fitting warning to all believers in light of today's apathy. The blood of the sinners who were not told the truth by Ezekiel would be upon Ezekiel's head. God would hold Ezekiel accountable if he did not tell the truth and warn Israel of their sins. This is applicable today too. God warned Ezekiel and warns us in Ezekiel 3:16-21,

And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die

in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Every Christian is God's watchman. It is not an option but a high calling commanded by God that every Christian must obey. The Christian's duty is clear He is to warn. He tells the truth in love and warns his friends, loved ones and neighbours that the end time one world church of the Antichrist is being formed before our very eyes. The Neo-evangelical Movement is one of the key movements devised by Satan to bring this about. The hearts of millions of professing Christians are already tuned to accept this one world church system as the way to global peace. Do not be deceived. When we hear peace and safety all over the world, then the Christian is in greatest peril and time is running out.²² Be vigilant and watchful and serve the Lord by defending and promoting God's Truth. If God's children will not, who will? 🙏

McIntire: Defender of Faith and Freedom

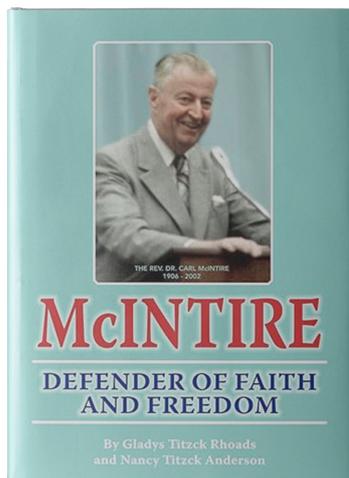
By Gladys Titzck Rhoads and Nancy Titzck Anderson

Xulon Press, 2012. 600 pages

Gladys and Nancy Titzck's memoir of Dr. Carl McIntire is published in the United States of America. Both Gladys and Nancy were members of Dr. McIntire's congregation at Collingswood, New Jersey. They wrote this personal biography of their pastor from their view point as members of his congregation.

Gladys is credited for gathering all the content, while Nancy put the pieces together and added more information after her mother's stroke and death in 2000. Nancy took at least 7 years to complete the book, and the 8 pages long bibliography (excluding 600 footnote citations) are testament to the effort that the authors have put into their research for the work.

Although the authors affectionately introduced Dr. McIntire fondly as their pastor who officiated important milestones in their lives such as their weddings, baptism and funerals of close family members, this book provides a balanced view of the success and failures of Dr. McIntire both in the ministry and his personal life.



In this book, the authors provide a narrative of the life of Dr. McIntire in a rather chronological manner and in a style that is easy to read. The spiritual perspective in these events is often clear. While it is encouraging and inspiring to read about the zeal and love that one may have for God's work and Word, the authors' deliberate attempt to trace the unseen Hand of God – orchestrating the 20th Century Reformation behind the scenes to ignite the flame of the Bible Presbyterian movement in America and

the also the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) – was clear and unmistakable.

It is also wonderful and amazing to see how the LORD uses weak and broken vessels for His work and to accomplish His will.

No effort was spared in retrieving the details of correspondence and letters that may help readers gain an insight into the mind and heartbeat of the spiritual forefather of every true-blue Bible Presbyterian. The mission and battle lines for each spiritual battle that was fought throughout the over nine decades of Dr. McIntire's life were well described. The issues were clearly delineated, and the elements of battle were presented in such a manner that readers may be inadvertently drawn to feel as if Dr. McIntire had agonised and fought the spiritual battle vicariously on their behalf.

It was not laborious to pour through the pages of the book, although a second or third reading to understand the context in relation to certain dates and data may be required especially for unfamiliar and lesser-known portions of historical events.

There were several unmistakable themes that invariably recurred throughout the book such as the battle for the Truth against the rising and swelling tide of liberalism and ecumenism, the dangers of compromise, the fierceness of the spiritual battle, the deceitful craftiness of the enemy as well as the divine sovereignty of God.

What was comforting to the reader was to remember that the battle for the Bible (Truth) is for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ especially in these last days; and the exhortation to be "*stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye [we] know that your [our] labour is not in vain in the Lord.*" (1 Corinthians 15:58)

It is sobering to remember how the best of man is but man at best. It is also wonderful and amazing to see how the LORD uses weak and broken vessels for His work and to accomplish His will.

The Singapore Bible-Presbyterian church owes part of her history to the American Bible Presbyterian movement. In fact, Rev. Timothy Tow (founder of the Singapore B-P movement) describes this as the American root of the Singapore B-P church history. Therefore, it may not be inaccurate to recommend and introduce this book as part of modern church history to every Singaporean B-P son and daughter.

When a child of God studies history, he views history as God's story and not man's story. He sees the workings and

actions of God, and not merely lives of men. Time is in the Hand of God. God fulfils all things perfectly in the fullness of time. God chooses the man, and God also chooses the time.

History is often fascinating and interesting to read. However, one must be cautioned that the study of history is of no use if it has no impact on us today. May the study of the past stir us today in the present – that we may rise up as Men of God and be done with lesser things, and do great things for the LORD to impact others for Christ in the future. Especially our children who will come after us in their generation.

The clarion call for the 20th Century Reformation was to “*Come out from among them, and be ye separate*” (2 Corinthians 6:17) Does this battle cry still ring loud and sharply in the halls and sanctuaries of the B-P churches in the 21st century today? Is the Singapore B-P movement still standing today?

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you.” (2 Corinthians 6:17)

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I Wholly Followed the LORD

“Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.”

Joshua 14:7-8 [emphasis added]

“Caleb” means “dog” in Hebrew, and by implication it describes faithfulness. He was 40-years-old when he was sent amongst the 12 from Kadeshbarnea to spy the Promised Land.

When the other 10 spies brought up an evil and negative report of the Promised Land to the people of Israel, *“Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”* (Numbers 13:30)

True to his name, Caleb boldly reported what was in his heart – and his bold declaration revealed the faith and courage he had in his heart.

One may be presumptuous to assume that Caleb was arrogant when he said *“I wholly followed the LORD my God”*. This is because Caleb’s public allegiance to the LORD was confirmed by Moses when he told Caleb *“Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children’s for ever, because thou hast*

wholly followed the LORD my God.” (Joshua 14:9) [emphasis added]

Further, Joshua also concurred when *“Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel”*. (Joshua 14:13-14) [emphasis added]

Caleb’s declaration was not an empty declaration. He was now 85-years-old and had earned his badge 45 years after Kadeshbarnea — thirty nine years of wandering in the wilderness with the children of Israel for an act of faithless transgression that he had not committed, and another 6 years of conquest that started with the crossing of River Jordan into Canaan.

This was the testimony of the octogenarian *“And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty*

and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.” (Joshua 14:10)

Give Me This Mountain!

Many would think of retiring after an 85-year lifetime of honourable and faithful service in the LORD’s work. But Caleb still had much fire in his belly and passion in his heart for the LORD’s work. His physical and spiritual strength had not diminished, and he wanted to continue fighting the LORD’s battles!

“As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain...” (Joshua 14:11-12a) [emphasis added]

One must not be mistaken to merely view Caleb as a brave soldier. We cannot be sure if Caleb enjoyed conquering lands and gaining real estate in the Promised Land. But we can be sure he certainly was not merely a professional general who had been to military school but not been to war. It is one thing to learn about war and talk about it, and another to go into battle.

Caleb’s short but powerful sermon to the people of Israel in Numbers 13:30, *“Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it,”* was backed up with 45 years of living what he had preached. A most powerful sermon

indeed! Caleb was no armchair general or backbench critic, for the battles of the LORD are not for armchair generals or debating critics!

Caleb demonstrated the same faith, courage and gumption he had displayed 45 years ago at Kadeshbarnea when he told Moses *“whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.”* (Joshua 14:12b) [emphasis added]

A Caleb Named Timothy

Testing at Kadeshbarnea

Rev. Timothy Tow (born 28 December 1920) was 40-years-old when the decision to establish the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) was made on 19 Sept 1960 — the same age as Caleb when he was at Kadeshbarnea.

This decision led to the starting of an evening school offering Old Testament History and Christian Doctrine that was first launched in July 1961, before FEBC was formally opened on 17 Sept 1962.

A three-man committee was appointed to draft the constitution and prospectus for FEBC, and also to serve as liaison between Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions, USA. The 3 men were Rev. Timothy Tow, Rev.

Quek Kiok Chiang and Dr. Tow Siang Hwa. Rev. Timothy Tow was tasked to head FEBC as principal and president of the Board.

Amidst her detractors and naysayers, FEBC opened her hall to the inaugural class of 3 students in 1962. Rev. Tow was the lone teacher (and principal) in the first class at FEBC – persevering in the vision to set up the Bible College for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

The early years certainly proved a test of his conviction and what was in his heart – perhaps like Caleb in Kadeshbarnea! There were dissenters from without and even within the faculty who famously and ill-advisedly told the 3 FEBC students to abandon a sinking ship (FEBC) and to jump ship before she (FEBC) sank!

But by the grace of God, Rev. Timothy Tow defied all odds and continued to steer the ‘sinking ship’ through the fierce waves and tempestuous storms on to fair havens and blue seas under the protection and direction of the Captain – the Lord Jesus Christ!

Testings in the Wilderness Wandering

The next test was around 1968-1970 when Rev. Tow faced opposition from within the Life B-P church session over his view about evangelicals such as Billy Graham. Rev. Tow had pointed out dangers and errors of Billy Graham. Unfortunately, this led to a controversy and contention so sharp within the church and the college

that Rev. Tow decided to take 5 months’ vacation leave away from Singapore.

Another similar test was in 1988 when a dissentious spirit arose within the Bible-Presbyterian Church as a result of the influence of the Ecumenical Movement – namely the speaking of tongues and modern Bible versions. This eventually led to the dissolution of the B-P synod in October 1988.

By the grace of God, the LORD preserved Rev. Tow and FEBC through these testings like He did for Caleb, who journeyed with the children of Israel and endured the testings in the 40 years of wilderness wandering!

At Mount Hebron - I wholly followed the LORD my God

Perhaps the biggest test of all was against the great and fenced cities of the giants (Anakims), in the form of the battle for the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation of Scripture that arose at the turn of the 21st Century, in the early 2000s.

Like Caleb, the then 83-year-old Rev. Timothy Tow was unfazed when he was unceremoniously shown the door at Life Bible-Presbyterian church in 2003, the first Singapore B-P church he had planted in 1955, after 48 years of pastoring the church. The only reason he was booted out was because Rev. Tow believed that the Word of God is Perfect because the LORD his God is Perfect.

To add insult to injury, Life B-P church would commence the 1st of two

lawsuits against FEBC on 15 Sept 2008 to evict FEBC from her heritage and home at 9/9A Gilstead Road.

But Rev. Timothy Tow wholly followed the LORD his God. He would ‘rather suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.’ (Hebrews 11:25-26)

The spiritual legacy and godly heritage of FEBC is the LORD’s inheritance of Rev. Tow because he (and other comrades) valiantly fought the LORD’s battle, and he wholly followed the LORD his God.

On 26 April 2011, the Court of Appeal, the apex court of the land, ruled in favour of FEBC’s appeal and dismissed all the claims of Life B-P Church.

[The Court of Appeal found that FEBC (1) did not become a new college after its registration as a Charity in 2004, (2) was constituted an independent college free from

ecclesiastical control since its founding and not a ministry of LBPC, (3) did not deviate from the Westminster Confession of Faith by believing in the VPP of the Holy Scriptures. As such, under the law of charitable purpose trusts, FEBC has the right to possess and use the premises at 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road (Khoo Jeffrey and others v Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and others [2011] SGCA 18).]†

Exactly 2 years after Rev. Tow was called home to glory on 20th Apr 2009, the LORD delivered and protected FEBC on 26 Apr 2011 and granted her victory. And FEBC has largely ‘rested from war’ after that battle since then.

Rev. Tow spent his entire life fighting the LORD’s battles, wholly following the LORD his God.

In every battle, faith and courage are very much needed. It is needed today as in the days of Joshua and Caleb, and in Rev. Timothy Tow. ✠

† “Far Eastern Bible College: Introducing the College.” Far Eastern Bible College, www.febc.edu.sg/introducing_the_college.

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Why Bible College?

Rev. Dr Timothy Tow was Principal of FEBC, and Pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. The below message, edited for The Burning Bush, was delivered at the Graduation Service of Bharat Bible College, Secunderabad, India, on March 17, 1989. It was originally published in the Reformation Banner (Jan-Mar '89), and subsequently reproduced in The Burning Bush July 1995 Volume 1 Number 2.

**Excerpt from "The Buring Bush, July 1995,
Volume 1 Number 2"**

*Note: Portions of the text have been edited
for clarity.*

Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-16

The Far Eastern Bible College was founded 1962 and I was called to head the school from the beginning. We have now an enrolment fluctuating between 60 and 70 students from 12 to 15 countries, while over 250

have graduated during the years. We provide a standard three- year course leading to the MDiv, a two-year MRE, a four-year BTh, BRE, and a three-year Diploma course. We also give a one-and-a-half year course awarding a Certificate of Religious Knowledge. The aim of Far Eastern Bible College is to train a new generation of pastors, teachers, missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ in the Far East, but God has widened our horizon to take in students from Africa and Australia, and a few from India and Pakistan.

I. By Divine Mandate for the Transmission of the Faith

Why Bible College? It is by Divine mandate for the transmission of the faith from generation to generation. Rev Paul Contento my old friend of China Inland Mission once said, "Without the Bible College the Church would die." Insofar as Far Eastern Bible College is concerned, the mandate from Paul to Timothy, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to*

faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim 2:2), had come to us soon after I graduated from Faith Seminary, USA, and was called to start an English Service for my Chinese-speaking home church. Though my mother had dedicated me to be a pastor, the love of theology in me was so great that when Dr Buswell, moderator of the ordination council, asked what my vocation was, I replied I was called equally to pastor and to teach. This dual holy desire was from the Lord, who has confirmed it by sustaining me by His grace through 45 years as pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and 33 years as principal of Far Eastern Bible College.

To shepherd a flock is hard work. To run a Bible College is hardest work.

What I am trying to say from experience in the light of Holy Scripture is that for anyone to start a Bible College, he must have not only the general mandate from Paul but a personal one as received by Timothy. For one to enter this sacred ministry without a personal call from the Lord, without that divine encounter as in Isaiah's call (Isa 6) will end in failure. I know a Chinese Pentecostal pastor who founded a Bible College in Malaysia with heavy American dollar support from blatant advertising of his work. After eight years, however, the College he founded folded up. To shepherd a flock is hard work. To run a Bible College is hardest work.

II. For the Training of Hardy Warriors of the Cross

The Bible College is like a military school; so Paul says to Timothy, *“therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier”* (2 Tim 2:3-4). In the words of Winston Churchill, the work and service of a minister is one of “blood, sweat and tears.” You who have found enrolment here should not regard this as a refuge from some frustrating secular job. An Indian student told me how he lost one job after another through his quick temper. So he turned to Bible training, as advised by his mother, that he might have a better chance working in a Church. He joined Far Eastern Bible College for two months. One day he had an argument in the College. Immediately after this he left with not even the flicker of a shadow. Neither is there place in this College like a monastery for the culture of lazy monks. This is a spiritual Sandhurst, training warriors of the Cross.

There is a personal mandate from the Lord to teach. There must be a personal mandate from the Lord to study, and with all the extra-mural assignments such as kitchen duties and street-preaching. If the Lord has not called you to Bible College, it is far better to pack up, go earn a decent living, and be an active member in your Church. This was what I heard from my teacher Dr Chia Yu Ming when I joined his school in Nanking, China, 1946. Those who were not called to study, yea, to suffer for the Lord, eventually dropped out. *“Then said Jesus*

to His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mat 16:24-26).

III. For the Perpetuation of a Faithful Faculty

A Bible College must produce its own faculty. You who are students today should one day become teachers, for we, even the Apostle Paul, cannot go on forever. But how can the good tradition persevere on, from one generation to another? As the Apostle says, *"The same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also"* (2 Tim 2:2).

It takes ten years to plant a tree, yea, a hundred years to nurture a man.

While the attainment of knowledge is the principal thing in a College curriculum, faith and faithfulness are even more important! Take note of the kind of students that are to be selected for further training. Not so much the clever and intelligent, but rather the faithful and devoted. So our emphasis of training is not mere scribal knowledge, but that wisdom from above and a heart true to the Lord and loyal to the Master. This is a very difficult problem facing every Fundamental Bible College.

There's a Chinese saying, "It takes ten years to plant a tree, yea, a hundred years to nurture a man."

From my experience, we have brilliant students who go abroad for further training. Some of these returned with swelled heads but no deepening of heart. Eager rather to display their scholarship, they mouth those shibboleths they had learnt without further examination. Some teach rather out of envy and strife, some out of contention, not sincerely; while others show off their own stuff saying, our exegesis is the only sound one. Students see their square hats with self-decorated golden tassel, but not Jesus Christ their Lord. Such young upstarts have not learned Calvin's three rules of theological study, viz. Humility, Humility, Humility. These conduct themselves not like the Apostle who says to the Corinthians, *"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake"* (2 Cor 4:5). ...

Like those in Jesus' day who tithed mint and rue but passed over the judgment and the love of God, theological education under such teaching can lead only to pedantic arguments and pride. But is not a Bible College to train men to save souls, to preach the Gospel that lives will be changed and moulded to the image of Christ? Pray that we have faithful men to be trained so as to train others, not high-minded and high-sounding scholars. While pointing out the pitfalls of scholasticism, we at Far Eastern Bible College have a vigorous Greek and Hebrew programme that includes modern Hebrew to make the sacred language live! It is only logical that a Bible College that defends



the Bible to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God would emphasise Greek and Hebrew the languages God used to reveal Himself.

IV. For Guardianship of the Church against Treachery from Within

Another problem about Bible Colleges today is the constantly changing tide of human philosophy masquerading as theology. Our peril is not so much from outside, as treachery from within. Warning the Ephesian elders of such a situation the Apostle Paul said, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." ...

Oftentimes we hear of carnal sin creeping into the Church, and a College principal, dean or lecturer is mown down by the temptation of sex or money. (Let us not look at Bakker or Swaggart, but those within our own ranks.) So Paul warns not only of "*Profane and vain babblings*" and of Hymenaeus and Philetus who deny such fundamental doctrine as the

Resurrection, but also against "*youthful lusts*" (2 Tim 2:16-26) and against "*the love of money which is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (1 Tim 6:10). "*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 16:18). The religion of those who serve their own belly, says Calvin, is their kitchen!

V. Integrity of Principal and Faculty of Paramount Importance to Succession

A Bible College must devote itself to the inculcation of holy living and good character. "*But in a great house there are only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man, therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work*" (2 Tim 2:20-21). This cannot be attained but by the example of the principal first of all, and after him, the dean and the lecturers. Paul exhorts Timothy further, "*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous. One that ruleth his own house, having his children in gravity ... Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil*" (1 Tim 3:2-6).

Reputation is also of paramount importance. There is a Chinese saying, "A man's reputation is his second life." Indeed, a ruler of men must himself be blameless. King David says, "*He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God*" (2 Sam 23:3). Can you say also with Sir Gallahad, "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure"? ...

If our Bible College is to remain effective for the Lord, we must look for the faithful, not the fitful, and nurture them that they in turn may do the same for those coming after.

Conclusion

There is a crisis in every Bible College and that is the problem of succession. This we had earlier discussed in Section III. Paul found

his Timothy and through Timothy the Word was transmitted to the following generations. According to tradition, Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus and remained true to his Lord until his martyrdom under the reign of Domitian. And is it not from Ephesus, from Paul's Bible school with one Tyrannus that was held for two full years "*that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks*" (Acts 19:9-10)? As a result the seven churches of Asia in Revelation were established. If our Bible College is to remain effective for the Lord, we must look for the faithful, not the fitful, and nurture them that they in turn may do the same for those coming after. "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim 2:2). Amen. 🙏



Excerpted from [*The Burning Bush, July 1995, Volume 1 Number 2 — Why Bible College?*](#) by Timothy Tow, Published by Far Eastern Bible College © 1995

Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church

CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"
(Rom 10:17)

Every 1st Saturday
of every month at 5pm

Current Theme:

Trouble, Trouble, Trouble



The End Times Deception

See the Battle Lines in the End Time

In this themed issue on *“Earnestly Contending”*, we commemorate the 16th and 20th Century Reformations. It is good to take time to recollect, and to remember what the LORD did in times of old.

Our study of the past ought to stir us up today, and remind us of the LORD’s goodness and faithfulness. But we should not unduly dwell on history, and must be careful not to live in the past.

We are called to live for the LORD today, tomorrow and in the future, if the LORD wills. Therefore, God’s people today must maintain a clear vision of the future. We must not just appreciate and see the battles, but also have the clarity

of vision to see the battle lines that are drawn.

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” (Matthew 12:30)

Ecumenism has crossed all religious and denominational lines today. It has progressed to unite almost all denominations and religions of all types today, even if they have nothing in common theologically. Such a unity that is not based on the Truth of God’s Word is an enemy of the Gospel and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Devil engages in open combat through the main gate, and also covertly through the back door by infiltration to

destroy the work of God. Therefore, the fundamental Bible-Presbyterians are still very much in conflict today.

We can do Nothing Against the Truth

“Tolerance is the virtue of those who believe in nothing.” It is highly ironic that this remark was made by G K Chesterton who gave up Christianity for Roman Catholicism. But it appropriately describes the tolerance that is frequently spoken about today.

The needful standard that must be raised and built in these last days are walls of holiness, and not more bridges of compromise.

A preacher frequently reminds his congregation to focus on the differences rather than the similarities: a simple but very wise piece of advice. This is because it is in these differences where the fault lines exist and where the battle lines are drawn in today’s conflict in the 21st Century.

These are the lines that divorce biblical Christianity from apostasy. It divides truth from error. And perhaps it may not be too farfetched to suggest that it divides between heaven and hell.

The enemies swell and rush in like a flood today in the 21st Century. It appears as if the remnant of the LORD is shrinking more quickly than ever before. We may be asked to stand alone, as the lone voice in today’s battle against the apostates of Charismaticism, Ecumenism and Neo-Evangelicalism.

In the Old Testament days of compromise between Northern and Southern alliance of Ahab and Jehoshaphat, Micaiah the prophet of the LORD stood as one man against 400 false prophets. Micaiah only spoke what the LORD revealed to him – whose message was in direct contrast and opposition to the false prophets who profess to speak the *“word of the LORD”*. (1 Kings 22:5-8)

For simply declaring God’s message as the LORD had revealed, Micaiah was put *“in the prison, and fed with bread of affliction and with water of affliction”*. (2 Kings 22:27) But Micaiah stood uncompromising upon the truth – for it was *“Thus saith the LORD”*.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (2 Corinthians 13:8)

Passion for Truth Needed Today!

The needful standard that must be raised and built in these last days are walls of holiness, and not more bridges of compromise.

Too much credit has been given to the much-vaunted internet as well as today's technological advancement for spreading the Gospel to all around the world. In the days of the old, in the 16th Century, there were no cars, no planes, no computers, and no internet. Messages were sent on horseback or by pigeons. Yet the message of the Gospel and of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and in Scripture alone spread like wildfire very quickly across Europe. The reformers whose hearts were gripped with the passion for the Truth of God's Word fanned the flames of revival!

**In the battle for the Truth,
it is of first and foremost
importance to discern truth
from error.**

What we need today is not more technological advancement or artificial intelligence in the work of the LORD. What is needed today are holy and godly men of God zealous for the things of God!

Men of God must rise up and be convicted by the Truth of God's Word. For why should our love and zeal for the LORD our God be any lesser than the reformers of old?

In the battle for the Truth, it is of first and foremost importance to discern truth from error. In this day and age of great deception in the end times, how else can one discern the truth except the Spirit of Truth reveals the Truth! Except a man be born again of the Spirit of God!

Rev. Timothy Tow was President of the Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches (FECCC). The excerpt "The Spirit Of Truth And The Spirit Of Error" published in The Burning Bush 1996 Volume 2 Number 1 is based on a message delivered at the Second National Conference of the Indonesian Council of Christian Churches, Jakarta, November 26, 1987. Read on!

**Excerpt from "The Buring Bush,
January 1996, Volume 2 Number 1"**

*Note: Portions of the text have been edited
for clarity.*

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

Introduction

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." As the Apostle John warns of false spirits and false prophets, more so does our Lord the same, yea, even false Christs *"shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matt 24:24). Peter adds with

“false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies” (2 Pet 2:1), while Paul rounds up the list with false apostles (2 Cor 11:13), false brethren (2 Cor 11:26) and false witnesses (1 Cor 15:15).

The mark of the Spirit of Truth is that He will not speak of Himself, but rather testify of the Son.

Furthermore, our Lord likens these agents of falsehood in the parable of the Good Shepherd to thieves and robbers, strangers, hirelings and wolves. But His sheep will not follow them. The sheep with keen discernment between the master's voice and the voice of a stranger will keep out of harm's way. Conversely, the Apostle John concludes, “*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error*” (1 John 4:6) [emphasis added]. Hereby is the test: if you say, “Amen,” to the preaching of the Truth, you have the Spirit of Truth. If you reject the preaching of the Truth, you have the Spirit of Error!

The Spirit of Error

Now, Jesus says He is the Truth (John 14:6). If anyone attacks His Person, like the Docetists in John's day denying His humanity (1 John 4:3), he is the tool of the Spirit of Error.

When Arius, forerunner of today's Jehovah's Witnesses, in the fourth century denied the full Deity of Christ, he was also used by the Spirit of Error. Throughout the long centuries, the Spirit of Error has made the salvation of a man's soul not by the sole grace of God, but by the complicated system of works by Mary, martyrs and saints, etc, etc. Of more recent history there have arisen the modernists and liberals who reject His infallible, inerrant Word, with the latest so-called Neo-Evangelical scholarship that hypocritically speaks of a “limited inerrancy.” It is the Spirit of Error that counters the inerrancy of the Bible, yea, even the living Word who is Jesus Christ. But we believe the Word to be infallible and inerrant to the jot and tittle, and hereby reaffirm our faith on this doctrine of doctrines.

The Spirit of Truth

While Jesus is the Truth, the Spirit of Truth is *Another Comforter* whom the Lord, before His departure, promised to send to His Church (John 14:16). The Spirit of Truth is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity (Matt 28:19). He proceeds from the Father (John 15:26).

He manifested Himself in power at Pentecost by giving utterance in many languages to the Apostles in order to expedite the Great Commission of the ascended Lord (Acts 2). He is sent to indwell believers and to teach and guide the Church into all truth (John 14:17; 16:13). The mark of the Spirit of Truth is that He will not speak of Himself, but rather testify of the Son. He shall glorify the Son, for He shall receive of the Son and

show it to us (John 16:13, 14). The Holy Spirit, being holy, “*will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*” (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit is not a frivolous Spirit intoxicating the Church with hysterical laughter or with barking like dogs or roaring like lions.

The Holy Spirit does not receive our prayers as the Father and the Son. His function rather is to make “*intercession for the saints according to the will of God*” (Rom 8:27). As He is sent from the Father by the Son (John 15:26), He is also called the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9). He is Comforter or Counsellor indeed, and no Jester. ...

Charismatics and Roman Catholics Since 1967

According to *The World Christian Encyclopaedia* (1982 edition), as of 1980 there were 100 million people in the world who claimed to belong to the charismatic-pentecostal *movement*. What is more significant is that since 1967 the charismatic experiences have leapt across the fence of Protestantism into the Roman Catholic fold. What began as pockets of tongue-speaking has now spread like a prairie fire, as we will see later in this discussion.

In the early 1970s the Jesus People Movement, a young people’s movement, swept America and parts of Europe. It was about this time that Christian rock music began to be popular among these Charismatic young people. This new Contemporary Christian Music, as it came to be called, has spread to mainstream Christianity.

From Charismatic to Ecumenism

As to the spread of Charismatic practices into the Roman Catholic Church, its strength can be seen in such meetings. In 1975, 10,000 Catholic Charismatics gathered at the Vatican in Rome and received blessing from the Pope. In 1977, a Charismatic meeting of 45,000 was held in Kansas City and its chairman was a Roman Catholic. At the North American Congress on the Holy Spirit and World Evangelisation, July 22-26, 1987, at New Orleans at which 35,000 to 40,000 attended, 50 percent of the conferees were Roman Catholics. Thus, the blossoming of the Charismatic Movement into a full-fledged Ecumenical Movement with an



ever-increasing Roman Catholic population has taken place in a matter of two decades. Furthermore, David W Cloud, who was an eyewitness of the North American Congress on the Holy Spirit, says, "*the charismatic movement is sweeping Asia and forms one of the most serious challenges to our missionary work and that of other fundamental preachers.*"

Now, while it is admitted that not a few members, lay people, in the Charismatic Movement are born again Christians that love the Lord, it is the leaders of the movement whose doctrines and practices energised by the Spirit of Error that must be refuted. In making our refutation, we would borrow in part the Statement on the Charismatic Movement issued by the Far Eastern Bible College, Singapore, as follows:

We see this Charismatic Movement as a counterfeit of the work of the Holy Spirit, being in essence Satan's confidence trick and end time deception.

Everywhere denominational distinctives are being dismantled and 'Christians of every sort, Protestant and Roman Catholic, evangelical and liberal, believers and unbelievers, are drawn together in ecumenical fellowship — all in the name of the Holy Spirit.

We see in the Charismatic Movement an insidious force aiding the ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT which is fast moving toward the formation of OIKOUMENE or ONE WORLD, Satan's counterfeit of 'the Kingdom of God.'

A movement that brings Protestantism which was liberated from the darkness of Roman Catholicism through Luther in the sixteenth century now back to Rome is undeniably a movement of the Spirit of Error. ...

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ... Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Conclusion

Let us hear the prophet Jeremiah, "*Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD*" (Jer 23:31, 32).

Jesus says, "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,*

neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt 7:15-23).

In conclusion, let us hear the Word of the Apostle John again, “*Beloved, believe not*

every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. . . . We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error”
(1 John 4:1, 6). 📖



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ENJOY SINGING PRAISE?

Men's Choir Ministry

The Men's Choir is an avenue for Christian men to minister the Word of God to others through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

The Men's Choir will present at the Sunset Gospel Hour (SGH) worship service each quarter, as well as at various ad-hoc church events, including vigil services.

To sing, serve and fellowship together in the Men's Choir ministry, you will need to be:

- A member of Calvary Pandan B-P Church
- Able to hold a tune. A simple audition will be done.
- Able to sing confidently with a limited number of practices. The Men's Choir only meets once a month to allow its members to serve in other ministries concurrently.

Practice are held on every fourth sunday from 4:30 - 5:30pm at #02-07

Please contact Dn. James Fu (9835 9432) or Dn. Adrian Ho (9106 3307) for enquires.