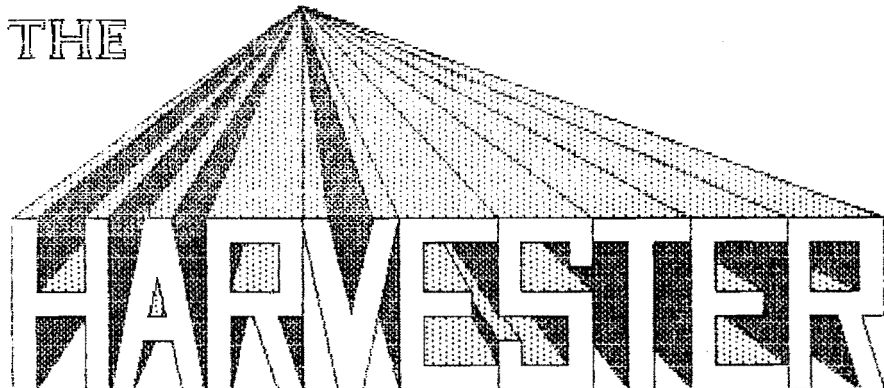


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray
ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send
forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

JUNE 1991

No. 066

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTENTIONS

To my brothers and sisters in Christ and to my fellow travelers: As we travel toward our graves and the Judgment, will you stop and think? It seems that people would compass land and sea just to try to justify Sunday School or the class system of teaching using some woman to teach some of the classes and then declare we speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent. I want to point out some of their silly arguments, then I want to point to you God's way that would do away with this ungodly and unauthorized practice.

It seems that some people do not understand what is meant about I Corinthians 14:23-40.

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"Let the women keep silence in the churches (or assembly)". Matt. 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I'll be in the midst." 1 Cor. 14:23, "If the whole church be come together in one place" and verse 37, "These things I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord;" and 1 Tim. 8:1-4, "if any man consent not to wholesome words even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ." One silly argument is made, a woman can teach little children but she can't teach men. My answer to this argument is please tell me where did they find that statement? Not in the Bible, nothing like it. I say where ever a woman is allowed to teach a child, she is allowed to teach a man, yea and wash the saints feet, lodge strangers, etc. See 1 Cor. 14:23-25, 1 Tim. 2:11-12, and 1 Tim. 5:10.

Another argument Sunday School contenders say is that 1 Cor. 14:34-35 does not apply to us today, for in 1 Cor. 14 they spake in miraculous tongues. My answer to this, if this be true we cannot use any part of 1 Cor. letter for there was no chapter or verse to begin with neither could we use Acts 2nd chapter for it had miraculous tongue speaking. This argument will not stand under the test of the Bible.

Another argument just as foolish, they say that a woman can teach anywhere at anytime. They say Matt. 28:18-20 said teach but did not say how. My answer to this is even though Matt. 28 did not tell us how to teach or where to be silent, other scriptures do, such as 1 Cor. 14:34-37. These are God's commandments, also. Matt. 4:4, "we must live by every word;" See also 1 Tim. 2:11-12 and Titus 2:1-10. Matthew 28 does not say repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, but Acts 2:38 does. In Acts 18:24-28, a man and woman heard a preacher in the synagogue

speaking boldly and when they heard him, they took him to themselves and taught him the way of the Lord more perfectly. This is a Bible example of how a woman can and did teach a man. But as further proof that some people just wilfully pervert the scripture (Gal. 1:6-9), they will not let the woman get up in the pulpit nor will they let a woman teach their men's Sunday School Class. May I ask why? Matt. 28:18-20 does not forbid it, does it? Now so much for their contentions.

We might be benefited much if we would study both the Old and New Testaments on both public teachings and private teachings. Rom. 15:4, *"the things written aforetime were for our learning"* (1 Cor. 10). For example, in Deut. 6 we find some private or father and mother teaching; in Deut. 31, we find an assembly of men, women and children and strangers and their children that had not known anything, hearing and learning to fear God. In Deut. 32: 1-6, he shows his doctrine or teaching to be like the rain in the forest. Now let's see, did God put the grown trees in the forest in one class and let the big rain fall on them? Then the younger trees and the still smaller and the very tiny trees, and then the big rains, smaller and yet just a fine mist? 10,000 times NO, but his rain falls on the old and young alike, so does his doctrine and each old and young absorb what it needs. Now we turn our attention to the New Testament, the rule that you and I are to follow.

Christ taught both public and private. He chose 12, later 70 men (not one woman). He calls His 12 apostles, all men. This was Christ's choice for leadership. As public and private teaching, Christ sends men as leaders and public teachers and preachers. See Mark 16:15-16, Acts 5:29-42, and 1 Cor. 14:26-35. All speak or prophesy one by one while the other

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holds his peace. *"Let the women keep silence in the churches (assemblies) for it is not permitted unto them to speak ... And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is a shame for women to speak in the church (or assembly)!"* 1 Tim. 2:11-12, *"Let the woman learn in silence in all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man."* In Rev. 2:18-20 this church was condemned for having a woman teacher.

Now let's notice that both men and women have their duty and responsibility for teaching: Eph. 6:1-4, bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; 2 Tim. 1:1-5, also 3:12-17, mother and grandmother; Acts 18:24-28, man and woman teaches a preacher; Titus 2:1, older women teaching young women. The ones who contend for the Sunday School regardless to their sincerity and honesty, education or ignorance cause division contrary to sound doctrine (see Rom. 16:17-18). They cause confusion (see 1 Cor. 14:33). They go about to establish their own righteousness and have not submitted to the righteousness of God. They ignore the prayer of Christ in John 17. They transgress and will not follow all the doctrine of Christ, 2 John 9-11. They reject and lay aside the commandments of God, Mark 7:7-9. My heart's desire and prayer to God goes out for peace, unity and love to be restored.

May I call your attention to a warning of God, Rev. 22:18-19 & Gal. 1:6-9. Now let me persuade you in all sincerity to study the Bible with an unbiased mind seeking for the whole truth. Let's endeavor to keep the unity Christ prayed for in John 17, which the Holy Spirit taught us, 1 Cor. 1:10-13 & Phil. 3:16. Let's follow after the things that make for peace where we may edify one the other, Rom. 14:19. Let us consent unto the words of Christ, 1 Tim. 6:3-5. He is the author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him, Heb. 5:9. So let's lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, Heb. 12:1-2, and let's seek to make our calling and election sure. See II Pet. 1:1-11 and look forward for His return, Rev. 22:12-14 & 1 Thes. 4:13-18. Written with true Christian love and sincerity.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who came to Hagar in the desert by the spring of water as she was fleeing Sarai?
2. How many daughters did Moses' father-in-law have?
3. Why did Paul oppose Peter in Antioch?
4. How many miracles are recorded in Mark?
5. Under Solomon's reign what became as common as stones?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. None of the kings of Judah were as close to God as what king? HEZEKIAH (2 Ki. 18:5)
2. What did the critics accuse Stephen of doing? BLASPHEMY AGAINST MOSES AND GOD (Acts 6:11)
3. What was there about the children of Hosea that God used in his prophecy to Israel? THE MEANING OF THEIR NAMES (Hos. 1:4,6,9)
4. What did Tertius do? HE WROTE THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS FOR PAUL (Rom. 16:22)
5. The tribe of Simeon received their land within the territory of what other tribe? JUDAH (Josh. 19:9)

CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

During the days of the Kings and the Captivity, God sent to his people messengers called prophets. These religious teachers interpreted spiritual truths and constantly reminded the chosen nation of the coming Messiah.

ISAIAH, which means "God is Salvation", prophesied in Judah for about 60 years. He especially helped in Hezekiah's reform program. When he wrote "Immanuel", Isaiah became the first prophet to give a proper name to the Messiah. He also called Him Wonderful, Prince of Peace, and Counsellor. Isaiah is particularly remembered for his portrait in the 53rd chapter. He predicted the human and divine nature of our Lord, as well as His suffering. In Isaiah, we know Christ before He arrives!

JEREMIAH is the most complex of all prophetic books in the OT. Here is a prophet who saw Jerusalem pass from prosperous times under Josiah to its invasion by Babylon. For 40

years he preached to a stubborn people, only to be ignored. They neglected his prophecies of the coming Shepherd and of the righteous Branch. Jeremiah wept often because the people were actually ignoring the Lord who would indeed reign on the throne of David.

The book of LAMENTATIONS is a result of Jeremiah's eyewitness account to the desolation of Jerusalem. It is a funeral poem to a city. As Jeremiah wept over the holy city, six centuries later the Man of Sorrows would weep over the same site. As Jeremiah saw the Temple in destruction, this was a foreshadow of another Temple that would be destroyed at a place called Golgotha. And as Jeremiah prophesied of restoration, so would the Redeemer arise from the sting of death!

The next prophet, EZEKIEL, was taken as a captive to Babylon. He was a priest when he was called by God and his prophecies emphasize his concern with the temple, priesthood, and sacrifices. Although Ezekiel is not quoted by the NT writers and his Messianic teaching is not as specific as others, he does refer to Christ as a tender twig that becomes a stately cedar on a lofty mountain and as the true Shepherd who will deliver and feed His flock.

The last of what is considered the major prophets is DANIEL. Taken from Jerusalem with other young princes, he lived through the entire Period of Captivity. Daniel, whose name means "God is My Judge", is one of the few well-known Bible characters about whom nothing negative is ever written. In his prophecies we see the strength of the Messiah, a Great Stone that crushes the empires of this world. We see the establishment of a Kingdom that shall never fall. We see the exact time when Christ will come and be "cut off" in Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks.

RAY

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
June 3-7	Taylor's Crossroads Roanoke, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 9-14	Mt. Carmel Church Woodland, AL	V. W. Boland (Gadsden, AL)
June 9-15 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00pm/ 10:30am & 6:00pm	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
June 16-21	Ephesus Church Ephesus, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 18-21	Claud Church Claud, AL	V. W. Boland (Gadsden, AL)
June 18-21	Cold Springs Church Bogue Chitto, MS	Miles Crouch (Dadeville, AL)
June 23-29	Athens Church Casey County, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 24-28	Liberty Church Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 30 - July 5 (Su-F)	Sun Hill Road Church Birmingham, AL 7:30 evenings	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

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DON'T FORGET !

GATHERING AT WEDOWEE, ALABAMA

June 10-14, 1991

MORNING STUDIES on Issues which Confront Today's Christians

EVENING STUDIES on Prophecy as it Relates to Today's Christians

DIFFERENT SPEAKERS ON EACH TOPIC