

Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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Lectureship Recap

By

Jackie M. Stearsman

The 2000 Lectureship is history. All the efforts and sacrifice put into the program are left to bear fruit to the glory of God and the cause of the Christ. Every sacrifice and pains taking effort paid rich dividends. The speakers did an excellent job, and the program went well. We are indebted to all who made this an enjoyable week.

The Lectureship Book was dedicated to Winfred and Polly Clark. The dedication page was written by Tom Holland. We were happy to have Winfred and Polly's two children to be present for this dedication in memory of their parents who have meant much to many who love preaching.

We appreciate the excellent job done by Brian Kenyon and those who assisted him in editing the book. We are grateful to all who wrote chapters in the book that will make it a lasting instrument of good to all who will take the time to read and study the issues and topics contained therein.

We thank J. H. Blackman, Jr. and for those who assisted him in taping each session. Having the tapes will add to the presentations in the book. By necessity, some of the oral presentations are different from

the printed materials. Tapes of each lecture are \$3.00. The book is \$16.00 and includes packing and shipping.

Sister congregations hosted refreshments for the event. These included: From Lakeland: North Lakeland, Sixth Street, and South Florida Avenue; from Plant City: Laura Street and Springhead. Special recognition was given to Mary Holton on Monday evening. She has for a number of years coordinated the hospitality hours.

In addition to those who assisted the office staff in serving refreshments, we recognize Dotty Gutzler and those assisting her in registering our guests during the week. They report the following:

450 Registered Guests
108 Cities in the US
13 States
4 Foreign Countries

Brother B. C. Carr was not able to be with us this year. He was undergoing treatment for cancer. Brother Carr requested that Ira Rice be asked to speak in his absence, and he graciously consented. The Carrs sent their regards to all present, and cards and notes were sent to them in Mississippi. Should any wish to contact them, you may do so at the following address:

B. C. Carr

61 CR 57

Belmont, MS 38827

601-454-3067

They would enjoy hearing from you.

There were some last minute adjustments in speakers that had to be made. We appreciate brother Bruce Daugherty substituting one session for brother V. P. Black. Brother Black made it here for his lectures on Tuesday and Wednesday. Bruce spoke on "Jesus the Master Teacher." Brother Guy Dickinson also assisted us in taking a last minute assignment. He spoke on "Preachers Need Support." These tapes are available and may be ordered as all other tapes.

To all who made financial contribution toward the lectures we are indebted. As always, your generosity helps us to make possible the lectures and to train preachers. As we turn our thoughts toward the third week in January, 2001 we hope you are planning to be with us. Keep the school in your prayers. Send us faithful men that we may train to be fellow laborers in the cause of Christ (II Tim. 2:2).

PICTURES INSIDE

Bible Questions

During the lectureship we had afternoon forums. These were handled in the following manner. There were three speakers given about twenty-five (25) minutes each to develop their assigned topics. After a thirty minute break there were questions presented, and each speaker could reply to the questions. As I reflect back on this type presentation, a central point must be focused.

Authority Principle

On more than one occasion, Jesus was questioned about authority. He demonstrated to one and all that some are not willing to face the issue of authority. (1) The Devil twisted the principle by presenting only part of the truth as if it were all. The whole of anything is the sum of its parts. To present a part of truth as if it represented all the truth on a given subject is to pervert the truth (Matt. 4:1-11). (2) The chief priests and elders of the Jews were unwilling to acknowledge the principle of authority (Matt. 21:23-27). Even though they demanded of Him justification for His authority, they were unwilling to admit the principle of Divine authority. To do so would have meant that they would have to admit His authority over them. (3) Some quote the Bible to justify a given point but will not accept the implication of their actions. If the Bible may be understood in one area, will not the same principles consistently applied provide insight in another? If not why not? The Jews could cite Scripture (OT) justification for the Messiah being of the seed of David, but when they did, a greater problem confronted them. How could He be David's son and David call Him his Lord (Matt. 22:41-46)?

Applying the Principle

There is a need for us to understand a principle of Bible

authority and to apply it consistently. I am confident that many today act in religious matters without understanding the need for Bible authority, and how to show Bible authority for our actions and/or attitudes.

The principle is clearly stated in Colossians 3:17. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

If we are to be the people of God we must be governed by this principle and the truth (John 17:17).

Preachers and Elders, can you show how the Bible authorizes a given action? Can you prove that what you are doing is approved by God? It is not enough to merely quote the Bible, the Devil did that but he misrepresented it. We must know what the Bible teaches and how. It may be misapplied. Are we rightly dividing the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15)?

Preachers, Bible class teachers, Elders, can you show why humming as an act of worship to God is wrong? Can you demonstrate that hand clapping in worship to God is without Bible sanctions? Can you show that worshipping with mechanical instruments of music constitutes vain worship? Can you prove that Jesus did not provide intoxicating drink to others? Can you prove that social drinking is a sin? Should all of our actions have authority behind them? Are we free to do things that are not "explicitly" forbidden?

In question and answer sessions you become aware that there is a need for teaching in these areas. Many who write questions and/or make comments show the need for assistance in these areas. Must we now have more than tradition and habit as the basis for

our actions? If we do not have a solid Bible basis for our actions, are we no different than most other religious persons? Did the Lord die for such confusion? Has the Bible been given for us to ignore and abuse (II Pet. 3:14-18)?

The Lord's church is in a life and death struggle. If we can not demonstrate to ourselves the basis of our actions, how may we expect to convince others? Is it because we have forgotten how to justify our religious practices that so many are not seeing any difference in the churches of Christ and the Denominations? Have many congregations of the churches of Christ become a "Big Sick Denomination"? When this statement was made decades ago, many were alarmed. However, when the completed picture is provided the source of this original statement was himself then surrounded by those who had lost their identity, and thus could have been loosely identified as the label stated. Has not that circle grown from that location and others of similar persuasion?

Is it necessary to have Bible authority for what one believes and practices? If your answer is yes, how may we demonstrate (prove) it, and why? Brethren, think on these things!

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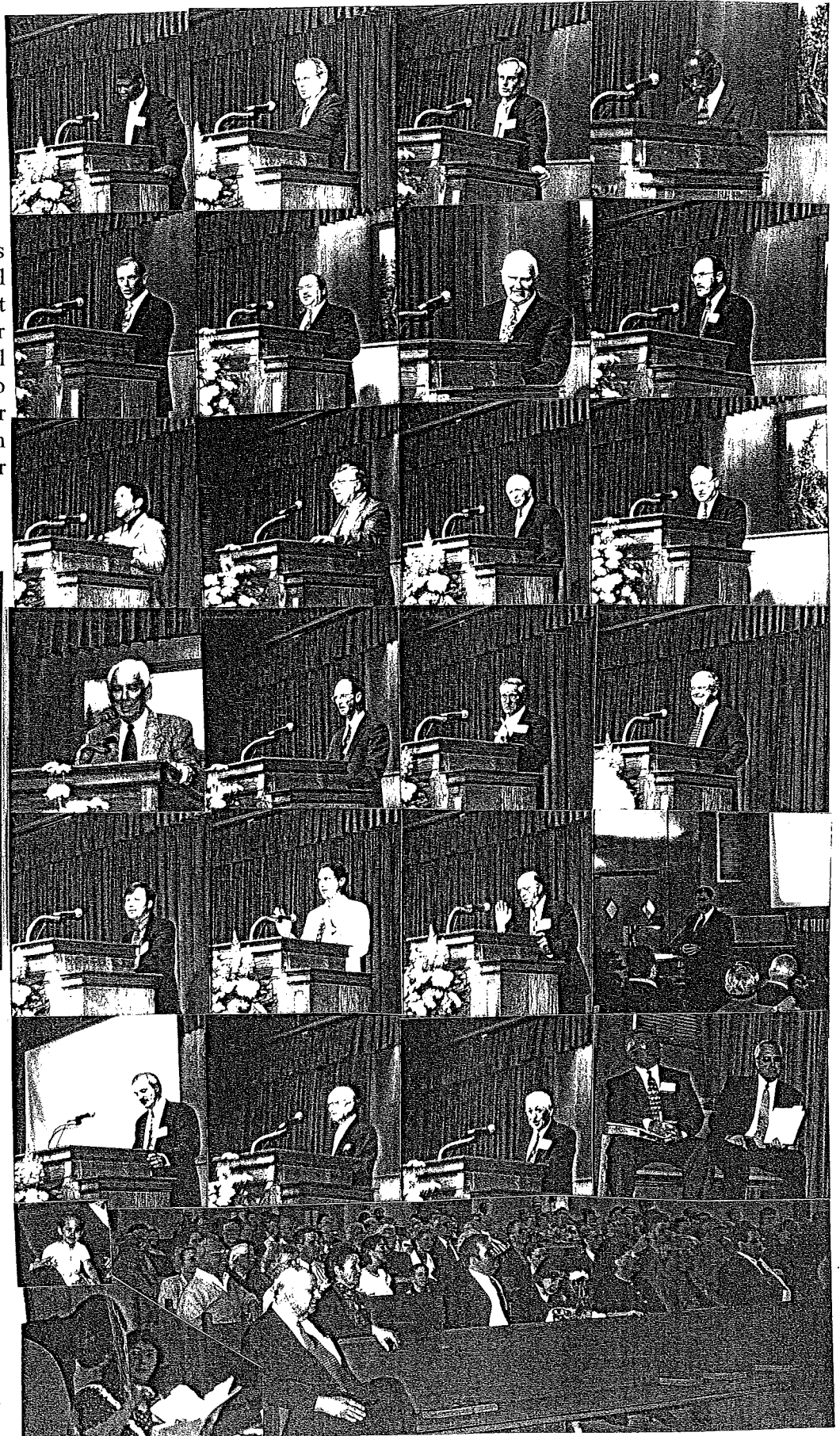
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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

New Office Computer

The present computer being used in the office is showing considerable wear and needed upgrading. This computer was given to the school and has served the office well. It will be reassigned to another location and the new system will replace it. The new system is also being given to the school by another party. We are grateful for all such gifts to the school that make our work more effective.





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