



# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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## Foolish Charges and Nonsense Letters

By

Jackie M. Stearsman

I have chosen the above terms prayerfully and carefully. I intend the readers to understand what I mean by them. Therefore, consider the abbreviated definitions from *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th ed.). **Foolish**: lacking in sense, judgment, or discretion 2 a: absurd, ridiculous b: marked by a loss of composure. **Charge**: to make an assertion against especially by ascribing guilt or blame <they were *charged* as being instigators> to place the guilt or blame, to assert as an accusation <*charges* that he distorted the data.> **Nonsense**: words or language having no meaning or conveying no intelligible ideas, language, conduct, or an idea that is absurd or contrary to good sense, an instance of absurd action, things of no importance or value, trifles. **Letter**: a direct or personal written or printed message addressed to a person or organization.

### Nonsense Letters Foolish Charges

April 29, 2005

Dear Brethren,

*In Acts 20:29-32 We find that Paul was very distressed by the thought of the "grievous wolves" who were drawing away disciples after themselves. This has been happening ever since and is going on in the Lord's church today. I am not referring to this new movement in the church (although that needs to be confronted with everything in us) but I am speaking about the old and still flourishing division that is still being promoted by many.*

*In the State of Florida ... leaders of the division (grievous wolves) are ... and Jackie Stearsman, Director of the Lakeland School of Preaching. They also have many supporters who "wish them God speed" and thus become partakers.*

*... these schools teach that "Necessary Inference" is equal in authority to God's commandments and examples found in the scriptures. They have in fact added their own "Private Interpretation" to the*

*Word of God. This is Heresy.*

*For over eight months I have been offering to meet with them or any minister that supports this false teaching in an open, public forum to discuss this man made doctrine. I have written to over 300 congregations and no one is willing to openly defend this false teaching even though it continues to be taught. [Names withheld. Only items relating to the foolish charges made against FSOP are included for this rebuttal, Editor]*

### Passages

These passages provide foundation principals from which I wish to rebut the foolishness of letters that continue to be circulated in opposition to the truth and our school.

- (1) "Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly" (Prov. 17:12).
- (2) "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD" (Prov. 17:15).
- (3) "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him" (Prov. 26:4). "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest

**For schedule of classes for 2005-2006,  
see inside on page 3.**

he be wise in his own conceit” (Prov. 26:5).

(4) “Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm” (1 Tim. 1:7).

(5) “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things” (Rom. 2:1).

#### Item

Our bold “scholarly” brother cites a passage about Paul being concerned about “grievous wolves” (Acts 20:29-32), and then draws an inference that this applies to me and others. Yet, our bold “scholarly” brother denies that “necessary inference” has authority. We answered his nonsense in the September 2004 issue of this paper. Sadly, he does not know when he has been answered. However, others do, and some have asked for permission to use our rebuttal of his foolish nonsense.

#### Item

Paul writes in First Timothy 1:7 that some desire to be a teacher but do not understand enough to be teaching. This was true then, and it is true today. It was wrong to try and teach what one does not understand then, and the Bible implies (necessary inference) that it applies today. Only the person who is willing to hear and apply truth will be blessed (Matt. 7:21-27). The only way one may know what is applicable to him or her is to reason properly—“He that hath

an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches” (Rev. 2:8, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

#### Item

God, in Proverbs 17:15, makes us know that it is no innocent matter to pervert the truth and to falsely accuse those of wrong doing who are not guilty. We have just completed a study of the Book of Job. Job had three friends who unjustly accused him of wrong doing. At the close of the Book of Job, God rebuked the friends, and had Job offer sacrifices for them (Job 42:7-9).

#### Item

God through Paul teaches that a person is self condemned when he practices the very thing he condemns (Rom. 2:1). Our brother labels the school and others with error for drawing inferences from the text of the Bible. Yet, he does the very thing he condemns. The “rationality” of our brother in simple terms is like this: “X” is and “X” is not. I am not wrong in stating that such is foolish nonsense. It is foolish nonsense to draw a conclusion (inference) from a passage and then say it is heresy to draw an inference from the text of the Bible.

#### Item

Our brother writes letter after letter crying that no one will meet with him to discuss what he terms “man made doctrine.” Will it never dawn on him that the foolish and nonsense charges he makes

would render any conversation meaningless as well as hopeless. I think if no one would meet and discuss religious matters with me, I would seriously consider that the fault may be with me.

#### Item

Wisdom dictates that there comes a time when the folly of a person should be ignored, and there is a time when the folly must be answered (Prov. 26:4-5). We have ignored much of what has been falsely charged against us, and we have answered the same charges with the truth of the Bible. Anyone with a sense of Bible knowledge and the capacity to reason knows that this is true.

#### Conclusion

We close with the words of the Apostle Paul, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant” (1 Cor. 14:37-38).

Ω

### *The Harvesters*

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(863) 683-4043

Editor: Jackie M. Stearsman, Director  
Brian R. Kenyon, Associate Director  
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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

**Classes Scheduled  
2005-2006**

**Fall Semester 2005**

**Monday**

Romans (21361) ..... Davis  
Pentateuch (11364) ..... Kenyon

**Tuesday**

Greek III (21271) ..... Stearsman  
Logic (31370) ..... Burgett  
(pm) Survey New Testament (21340) ..... Blackman

**Wednesday**

Revelation (21359) ..... Stearsman  
Church History (21341) ..... Kenyon

**Thursday**

First and Second Thessalonians (21337). .... Kenyon  
Missions I (21355) ..... Wheeler

**Friday**

Preacher and His Work (11307) ..... Stearsman  
First and Second Corinthians (11355) ..... Kenyon

**Spring Semester 2006**

**Monday**

Life of Christ (12317) ..... Davis  
Marriage and the Family (22345) ..... Kenyon

**Tuesday**

Christian Evidences (22344) ..... Stearsman  
Cults (22352) ..... Burgett  
(pm) Life of Paul (22362) ..... Blackman

**Wednesday**

Computers and Churches (32390) ..... Stearsman  
Holy Spirit ..... Kenyon

**Thursday**

Eph., Phil., Col., Phlmn (12336). .... Kenyon  
Missions II (22356) ..... Wheeler

**Friday**

Preacher and His Work (12308) ..... Stearsman  
Isaiah and Jeremiah (12313). .... Kenyon

**NOTE:** Day Classes meet 8:30-12:00 noon  
1:00-4:15; Evening classes 7:00-9:30  
15 minute break near midpoint of each class.

**Extension Classes**

**Fall 2005, Spring 2006**

**Evenings, 7:00 to 9:30**

**Auburndale, Florida**

Orange Street church of Christ building

**Thursday**

Fall: Revelation (21359) ..... Bauer  
Spring: General Epistles (22349) ..... Bauer

**High Springs, Florida**

High Springs church of Christ building

**Monday**

Fall: Ezekiel and Daniel (21314) .... Elledge  
Spring: First and Second Timothy and Titus  
(22338). .... Elledge

**Jacksonville, Florida**

Wesconnett church of Christ building

**Thursday**

Fall: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and  
Philemon (11336) ..... Colwell  
Spring: Greek I (22322) ..... Atnip

**Clearwater, Florida**

Central church of Christ building

**Thursday**

General Epistles (21349) ..... Burgess  
Isaiah and Jeremiah (12313) ..... Burgess

**Warner Robins, Georgia**

church of Christ Building

**Tuesday**

Fall: Hermeneutics (11300) ..... Stilwell  
Spring: Christian Evidences (22344) . Stilwell

**Florida School of Preaching**

**Annual Lectureship**

**January 16-19, 2006**

**Theme**

***Do You Understand Restoration?***

## Beyond the Classroom

Bob Bauer and Ted Wheeler will be leading two groups going to Ghana during the summer months. These brethren will be working at establishing congregations and encouraging those begun in the past. Both Ted and Bob have made annual return trips to Ghana for a number of years.

Ted and his family have been returning each year for more that a quarter of a century. Ted's wife attended the Florida School of Preaching and received a certificate of completion when Ted received his. Ted and his family lived in Ghana for five years, and his daughter was born there. She is now a student at Freed-Hardeman University, and will be going with the group to Ghana.

### Bob Bauer Group

In addition to being one of the instructors of the Florida School of Preaching, Bob is the full time preacher for the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale, Florida. In the group lead by Bob Bauer will be Brian Kenyon (Associate Director of the Florida School of Preaching, and Board Member), Jim Hall, Daniel Stearsman, and Chad Tagtow. Both Chad

and Daniel have attended classes at the Florida School of Preaching. They left for Ghana, West Africa, Thursday, May 19, 2005 with the return to be June 6, 2005.

### Ted Wheeler Group

In the group led by Ted Wheeler will be Ted's family, David Stearsman (a full time student at FSOP) and 13 others, a total of 18. Ted is a member of the faculty, a member of the Board of Directors as well as serving as an elder of the congregation in Venice, Florida where he also serves as the preacher.

Ted writes, "Taking 18 to where I am going in the North is going to be a job. No regular food or shops up there. Everything we will eat or use will have to be taken with us. – so the logistics are going to be tough. I wish I could just feed them corn dough and soup." This group will leave July 7, 2005 and return August 3, 2005. Keep them in your daily prayers.

Supporting the Florida School of Preaching reaches beyond the classroom exercises. Can you help us? We surely need any assistance given. –Gene Burgett, Public Relations Director, burgett@atlantic.net 352-339-3195

*Return Service Requested*

WEB SITE: [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net)

E-MAIL: [fsop@gte.net](mailto:fsop@gte.net)

FAX: 863-683-0750

PHONE (863) 683-4043 (800) 320-9780

LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE

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