

# The Harvester



## Preparing Souls

## To Serve The Lord



Volume 34

September 2013

Number 2

### “Who Ever Goes to War at His Own Expense?”

By Brian R. Kenyon

Even among the poorest countries of antiquity, men in battle training were at least given the bare necessities from those who enlisted them to train as soldiers. This principle also applies to those engaged in training for spiritual battle. Let us consider some points Paul makes about support and how these principles apply to us.

#### The Context of Support

The question in the title above is from First Corinthians 9:7. Here, in addition to the question about going to war, Paul asks two others, “Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?” (NKJ). These questions are introducing a section in First Corinthians where Paul teaches that all good workers have a right to receive support from their Scriptural occupations (1 Cor. 9:7-14). The soldier, the farmer, and the shepherd are all supported by their occupation, whether in wages or in produce!

This principle is not of human invention, but of God’s design. Even the Law of Moses supported this point.

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? <sup>9</sup>For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” (1 Cor. 9:8-9a cf. Deut. 25:4)

Was this law given merely for the oxen’s sake? Of course not! Listen to Paul,

Is it oxen God is concerned about? <sup>10</sup>Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. (1 Cor. 9b-10)

God did not give this law for oxen only, but for all workers, including apostles (and even some elders, 1 Tim. 5:17-

18). Both the one who plows and the one who threshes work with the expectation of partaking in the fruits of their labors!

This principle is also true for those whose labor is spiritual in nature. Paul continues,

If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? <sup>12</sup>If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. (1 Cor. 9:11-12)

Paul labored among the Corinthians in spiritual matters (1 Cor. 3:6 cf. Lk. 8:11) and was, therefore, entitled to receive “material [carnal, KJV] things” (1 Cor. 9:11). The fact that other workers (of less importance) exercised this same right among them indicates that Paul has an even greater right to receive their support! Paul did not use this right, not because he was not an apostle, but because it might hinder the gospel (1 Cor. 9:12b cf. 9:15-18).

Those who preach the gospel should be supported by those to whom they minister. Paul appeals to the Levitical system,

Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? <sup>14</sup>Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:13-14)

The principle Paul gives about a spiritual laborer being worthy of material support by those for whom he labors

**2014 LECTURESHIP  
SCHEDULE INSIDE**

is no different from the Levitical priests who were supported materially by the people to whom they ministered (1 Cor. 9:13 cf. Num. 18:8-32; Deut. 18:1-2). This was God's will then, and it is God's will now!

## The Commitment of Support

As we start our forty-fifth school year, we thank our generous supporters. The Florida School of Preaching simply could not operate as we have since 1969 without your commitment! Individual Christians and local churches of Christ have stood with us all these years. Because of your commitment of support, we have been able to train preachers and prepare souls to enter the vineyard of the Lord!

A commitment of support begins with the proper attitude toward money. We must first realize that money is neither good nor bad of itself, but our attitude toward it will either make us or break us (Pr. 23:7). If we have a godly attitude toward wealth, we will use it in a good way; but if we have a selfish attitude toward wealth, we will use it in an evil way (Pr. 4:23 cf. 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Eccl. 5:10-11). Our attitude must not allow us to regard money as the main goal in life (cf. Eccl. 5:10-11). Second, we must realize that money is a tool to be used, not a commodity to be hoarded. If we are in a position to use our money for good, then we must do so (Pr. 3:27-28). Using money to accomplish good is the only way an individual can benefit from it (Pr. 11:24-25). What better good is there than spreading the Gospel of Christ! If we do not use our money for good, we will suffer (Eccl. 5:13 cf. Mt. 6:19). Thus, we must be willing to use our money for God's glory

(1 Tim. 6:18-19). Third, we must realize that money is not dependable (Pr. 11:28 cf. Lk. 12:16-21; 1 Tim. 6:17; Jas. 4:15). Jesus warned that "moth and rust destroy" valuables and thieves can "break in and steal" our money (Mt. 6:19). Fourth, we must realize that our true happiness and/or commitment cannot be based on how much money we possess (Pr. 30:8-9 cf. Eccl. 4:8; Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:8). Finally, we must realize that we cannot take our money with us when we depart this world (Eccl. 5:15 cf. 1 Tim. 6:7; Eccl. 2:18-19).

When we have the proper attitude toward money, committing it to the work of the Lord becomes easier. There are many good, Scriptural ways to support the furtherance of the Gospel. However, not many works have the potential return that training preachers has. Even with all the instantaneous means modern media affords, someone still has to teach and/or preach the Gospel!

Thanks to your commitment of support, our graduates have gone from here to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things" Jesus has commanded (Mt. 28:19-20). Only eternity knows the number of souls saved due to the work of the Florida School of Preaching! We still need your help. As our culture seems to abandon every moral principle founded in God's word, there is an urgent need to call people back to the "old paths" (Jer. 6:16). If the church will not support preacher training and preachers, who will?

## The Harvester

Published Monthly  
Florida School of Preaching  
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Lakeland, Florida 33803  
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\*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.



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# Florida School of Preaching

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## "Do You Understand Truth?"

39th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 20-23, 2014** Brian R. Kenyon, Director

### MONDAY

9:00 What Is Truth and Can We Know It? Jackie M. Stearsman  
9:40 Suppressing the Truth (Rom. 1:18-20) Charles Broyles  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Is Atheism Credible? Eric Lyons

11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Challenges to Truth

1:30 Postmodernism Daniel Stearsman  
2:00 Other Philosophical Challenges Rick Kenyon  
2:30 Modern Media Cloyd "Ben" Frock, Jr.  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Eve: Tricked About Truth Mike Elledge  
7:45 Jesus' View of Truth Billy Lambert

### TUESDAY

9:00 "Thy Word Is Truth" George F. Beals  
9:40 True Religious Authority Michael Shepherd  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Denominational Baptism and Truth Cameron Freeman

11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Truth and Religion

1:30 Roman Catholicism's View of Truth Earl Edwards  
2:00 Islam's View of Truth Trent Wheeler  
2:30 Mormonism's View of Truth Nathan Franson  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 The Young Prophet: Believing a Lie Vernon Simmons  
7:45 Jesus: Bearing Witness to the Truth Jimmy Clark

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 Mercy and Truth J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.  
9:40 Righteousness and Truth Sam Willcut  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Worship in Spirit and Truth Jimmy Clark

11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Truth and Worship

1:30 Truth Concerning Music in Worship Stan Mitchell  
2:00 Truth Concerning the Lord's Supper Alfred Woodard  
2:30 Truth Concerning "Tongue Speaking" Brian R. Kenyon  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Micahiah: Some Do Not Want Truth Brian Howard  
7:45 Jesus: Grace and Truth Cameron Freeman

### THURSDAY

9:00 Truth and the Consequences of Sin David Stearsman  
9:40 Truth and "Same Sex Marriage" Mark McWhorter  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error Melvin Otey

11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Truth and Preaching

1:30 Preaching the Truth in Love Bruce Daugherty  
2:00 They "Went Out from Us" Jackie M. Stearsman  
2:30 Persecution and Preaching the Truth Rico Brown  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Ananias and Sapphira: Lying to God Christian Torres  
7:45 Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life Melvin Otey



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- Do You Understand the Local Church? ('12)
- Do You Understand the Biblical Value of Women? ('11)
- Do You Understand Expediency? ('10)

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*We live in a culture where it seems that all truth is relative. That is, there is no such thing as objective truth, Biblical or otherwise! Is this true? Come, join us for this important study!*



## Florida School of Preaching

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**The Harvester**

**September 2013**

**Page 4**

## The Connection of Support

Sometimes a congregation or individual will support a work, but know nothing about it except maybe the address where they send the checks. We at the Florida School of Preaching want you to know about our work: the school, the staff, and the students! We are about the business of training preachers and preparing souls to better serve the Lord. Learn about us from our classes, publications, lectureships, website, and graduates. Your support is helping preachers to train preachers to preach “the power of God to salvation” (Rom. 1:16) and to help establish and strengthen local congregations as the Gospel is carried throughout the world.

As congregations (and individuals) begin to look at setting their budgets for 2014, please consider supporting the Florida School of Preaching. While it is true we need your support, our strongest appeal is to look at the value the school has been to the truth over the years, especially in Central Florida. How many more congregations would have joined the anti-Biblical expediency movement had it not been for

the Florida School of Preaching’s stand against it? How many more congregations would have fell for the Boston/Crossroads deception had it not been for the Florida School of Preaching’s warnings against it? What future “movements” will threaten the brotherhood? Only God knows, but rest assured, as long as the present leadership is in place, we will fight the good fight! 🕊



Students and Director, Fall 2013. Top row: Jack Pinckert, Gerald Griffith, Kyle Smith, Rick Evans, Kenneth Harrison. Bottom row: Brian and Jagie Kenyon, Taj Williams, Jeremy Padilla, Cody Walling, Troy Postlethwait. THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.