

THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST REVIEW

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Jack Keep, Editor

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CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED

Robert T. Ketcham, D.D.

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God the Father has planned and purposed that His incarnate Son shall have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18 declares that He is to have the preeminence in all things. Naturally He would have to have the preeminence in *all* things in order to be pre-eminent. If there is anyone or anything higher than He, then He does not have the preeminence. To give the Lord Jesus Christ the preeminence is to give Him the first place all of the time in everything. It will not do to give Him the preeminence on Sunday and then we ourselves take over the throne on Monday. It will not do to give Him the preeminence in one or two affections and then we let self rule in all the other affections of our lives. This is not giving the Son of God the preeminence. There is something about the Son of God which requires that He be Lord of all or He is not Lord at all.

When the Bible tells me that I am to give the Lord Jesus Christ this place of preeminence in my life, it is ready at once to present to me the divine arguments as to why I should yield Him that place. There are three outstanding reasons why Christ should have the preeminence in my life as a Christian. First, because He already has the preeminence with God the Father. Second, He already has the preeminence with God the Holy Ghost. And third, He already has the preeminence in the Book we call the Bible.

The Lord Jesus Christ has the preeminence with God the Father.

God the Father has many plans and purposes for this poor old world. There are many great and wonderful things which He plans to do for it and the people who live in it, but every last one of these plans and purposes, both of salvation and judgment, the Father has turned over into the hands of His Son for execution. God longs to save men but He will save them only in and through the person and work of His dear Son. God will judge all unbelievers, but He will judge them by His Son, that man whom He raised from the dead.

The Lord Jesus Christ has the preeminence with God the Holy Ghost.

If it is true that the *eye* of God the Father is filled with the Lord Jesus Christ, it is true that the *lips* of the Holy Spirit are filled

with the same blessed person. It is the chief ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God to speak to the believer's heart about the Lord Jesus Christ. As the servant of Abraham must have talked much with Rebekah about Isaac on the journey from the well to the wedding, so God's great servant, the Holy Spirit, speaks much to the bride of Christ about Him, as we too journey from the wells of salvation on to the wedding in the skies.

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The Lord Jesus Christ fills the pages of the Bible

In Genesis	He is the Creator and Seed of the woman
In Exodus	He is the Lamb of God for Sinners Slain
In Leviticus	He is our High Priest
In Numbers	He is the Star out of Jacob
In Deuteronomy	He is the Prophet like unto Moses
In Joshua	He is the Captain of the Lord's Hosts
In Judges	He is the Messenger of Jehovah
In Ruth	He is our Kinsman Redeemer
In Samuel	He is the Despised and Rejected King
In Kings and Chronicles	He is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings
In Ezra and Nehemiah	He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth
In Esther	He is our Mordecai
In Job	He is our Risen and Returning Redeemer
In Psalms	He is the Blessed Man of 1 He is the Son of God of 2

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Theme: "CHRIST ABOVE ALL"

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Raymond Buck Central Baptist Seminary, Minneapolis
- Dr. E. Allen Griffith West Chester, PA
- Missionary David Kilgore Wall Lake, IA
- Rev. John Kain Bremerton, WA
- Rev. Frank Williams LaMesa, CA
- Dr. L. Duane Brown Parsippany, NJ
- Dr. David Reinhardt Danbury, CT
- Rev. Larry Frye Ionia, MI
- Evangelist Ken Lynch Chester, PA

He is the Son of Man of 8
He is the Crucified One of 22
He is the Risen One of 23
He is the Coming One of 24
He is the Reigning One of 72
He is the Leader of Praise of 150

- In Proverbs He is our Wisdom
- In Ecclesiastes He is the Forgotten Wise Man
- In Song of Solomon He is my Beloved
- In Isaiah He is our Suffering Substitute
- In Jeremiah He is the Lord our Righteousness
- In Lamentations He is the Man of Sorrows
- In Ezekiel He is the Throne Sitter
- In Daniel He is the Smiting Stone
- In Hosea He is David's Greater King
- In Joel He is the Lord of Bounty
- In Amos He is the Rescuer of Israel

- In Obadiah He is the Deliverer on Mount Zion
- In Jonah He is the Buried and Risen Savior
- In Micah He is the Everlasting God
- In Nahum He is our Stronghold in the Day of Wrath
- In Habakkuk He is the Anchor of our Faith
- In Zephaniah He is in the Midst for Judgment and Cleansing
- In Haggai He is the Lord of Presence and Power
- In Zechariah He is the Smitten Shepherd
- In Malachi He is the Son of Righteousness
- In Matthew He is the King of the Jews
- In Mark He is the Servant of Jehovah
- In Luke He is the Perfect Son of Man
- In John He is the Son of God
- In Acts He is the Ascended Lord
- In Romans He is our Righteousness
- In 1 Corinthians He is the Firstfruits from among the Dead
- In 2 Corinthians He is made Sin for Us
- In Galatians He is the End of the Law
- In Ephesians He is our Armor
- In Philippians He is the Supplier of Every Need
- In Colossians He is the Preeminent One
- In 1 Thessalonians He is our Returning Lord
- In 2 Thessalonians He is the World's Returning Judge
- In 1 Timothy He is the Mediator
- In 2 Timothy He is the Bestower of Crowns
- In Titus He is our Great God and Savior
- In Philemon He is the Father's Partner
- In Hebrews He is the Rest of Faith and Fulfiller of Types
- In James He is the Lord of Sabaoth
- In 1 Peter He is the Theme of Old Testament Prophecy
- In 2 Peter He is the Long Suffering Savior
- In 1 John He is the Word of Life
- In 2 John He is the Target of the Antichrist
- In 3 John He is the Personification of Truth
- In Jude He is the Believer's Security
- In Revelation He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

EDITORIAL

CHURCH NOTES

The Northland Baptist Church of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, has voted unanimously to withdraw fellowship from the GARBC. The reason for disassociation was the organization's drift from it's original Biblical position on separation. Brother Reinhard Schumacher is the pastor.

The First Baptist Church of Paradise, Michigan unanimously voted on February 2 to withdraw fellowship from the GARBC. Pastor Sherman Skeens says, "I truly pray that the IBF will concentrate now on the future building of a *sound, separated, and sensible* fellowship of which we can be proud to be identified.

Pray for these two churches and their pastors. There is a price to be paid for independence.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ACCC

A Communication to the Council of Eighteen of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches from the American Council of Christian Churches.

The record of history reveals that on January 29, 1942, in Atlantic City, the messengers of the GARBC voted to declare itself in fellowship with the ACCC. It was careful to point out that it could not speak for the local Baptist Churches in the Association since each church is separate and independent. The Secretary, Dr. David Otis Fuller, sent the following telegram to the ACCC:

The American Council ... and it's objectives are approved by us without the sacrifice of emphasis upon our historic Baptist position ... We instruct the Council of Fourteen of the GARBC to declare ourselves in active cooperation with the American Council.

In 1949, at it's Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, another vote was taken in regard to the ACCC to "clear the atmosphere." The vote favored affiliation 383-3.

In relating the position of the GARBC to the American Council, Dr. Paul Jackson stated:

We are united in our opposition to the apostasy, in our need for contacts with the government in matters of chaplaincy placement, missionary recognition and visas, and with the radio commission on network programs ... we can strengthen one another without compromise of any kind ... the sovereignty of each church is protected. Those desiring to cooperate have the right to do so ... others have the right to refrain.

For many years the leadership of the GARBC, including the National Representatives, were very active in attendance at ACCC Conventions and promotion of the Council. However, in recent years there has been a marked decline in such cooperation and at times criticism by the leadership of the GARBC.

In light of recent developments which have softened the stand on separation among GARBC leaders, there is now division and also confusion in the fundamental circles. The open disdain of secondary separation - that is, separation from other believers who fail to take a clear-cut stand is one disturbing element in present GARBC leadership.

When separatists began to speak out against such a drift in the GARBC, they were attacked - not on the basis of Biblical truth, but on their personalities. Thus it has become difficult for close fellowship between the leadership of the GARBC and the leadership of the ACCC.

This communication is being sent with the purpose of encouraging the GARBC leaders to return to the heritage that marked that Association for many years and enabled us to walk together as Bible believing fundamentalists. We respectfully request that the leadership of the GARBC demonstrate and document that they repudiate [the position of, ED.] the Conservative Baptist Association and the National Association of Evangelicals. Fur-

ther, we desire that the Council of Eighteen publicly declares it's agreement with the ACCC position on Biblical Separation which includes secondary separation.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

Some of our readers may not be familiar with some of the organizations on the religious scene. For their benefit as well as those who may need to be reminded, we print this excerpt from an ACCC resolution adopted in October 1991.

The NAE and it's commissions, such as the National Religious Broadcasters, has embraced New Evangelicalism which is a theological movement of neutralism. This position can be defined as one designed to close the gap between fundamentalism and neo-orthodoxy which is weak on the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible. It is enamored with a desire to interpret Scripture in the light of science rather than to interpret science in the light of Scripture. It is also given to "dialogue" which means conferences with the liberals to assist in social-action and evangelism projects, with the charismatics to learn more about their teaching regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a corresponding willingness to confer with Jews, Roman Catholics, cults and even other faiths for possible religious benefits.

LETTERS

From Florida, an anonymous friend sends a poem:

Many Fundamentalists are drifting,
To a place of poor nutrition.
Can't you see the neo's smiling,
Anticipating our attrition.

They are right, the remnant wrong,
It's always been this way.
But faithfulness has it's grand reward,
On believer's judgment day.

From Mass.: "Thank you for another excellent Review. Thank you for sharing this information about AWANA. My wife and I have been discussing these issues in the schools for a long time. ... Pray for another Great Awakening....

Pastors: Order a bundle of the Review for your church. Send it to your missionaries. They want to know what is happening at home. Ask about special rates.

APPROVED OR NOT APPROVED?

Pastor Tom Nieman, Kent, Washington

What in the world have I done? To think that my church and I are no longer part of the only fellowship of churches that I have known for close to 40 years. No single word or phrase could express my feelings. On the one hand, there had been the latent security of being able to trust the "approved" agencies. There was even the subtle assurance that if I cooperated with and contributed to "the program" that I was also "approved." How could I ever decide to be unapproved?

The reasons that others have are varied. Quite frankly, as I saw significant problems developing, I felt that they would be investigated, addressed and corrected. I never dreamed that I might have to decide to leave "our fellowship." I had defended changes and the drift with the following rationale.

First, there has to be some latitude within Baptist groups. I was willing to acknowledge that. Second, I felt that to leave, there

had to be a clear-cut doctrinal problem as well as the suppression of debate. It is true, I had become increasingly uneasy over several doctrinal issues. However, I rejoiced that the Association as a whole could make a motion or a series of motions as in 1987, 1988 and 1989, which appeared to show that the messengers could affect the direction of the fellowship.

However, my assurance was destroyed in 1990 when I saw clear-cut parliamentary manipulation and suppression of debate. Then the doctrinal line was also crossed when a church was taken in which had an alien teaching on church government.

I realized that my duty to our Lord was more important than being approved by human organizations. I am sorry for fine people who are sincere but don't understand why some have made such a "big deal" over issues. IT IS NOT A PERSONAL-ITY CONFLICT. IT IS NOT A GRAB FOR POWER. IT IS OUR HONEST CONVICTION THAT THERE ARE DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES THAT ARE CHANGING SO RADICALLY AND RAPIDLY THAT I CAN NO LONGER HAVE GOD'S APPROVAL BY REMAINING A PART OF A FELLOWSHIP WHICH HAS CHARTED SUCH A COURSE.

I have said what I needed to say. The catharsis is helpful. I prefer not to have to spend more time defending my actions. I don't plan on spending the rest of my life attacking a fellowship in which I once worked. There are many fine and godly people in that fellowship whom I still love and admire, but I must go on. It is obvious that the great doctrines of the faith including the doctrine of separation do not have the same degree of importance to all. Therefore, rather than be a constant source of contention, I must part with that organized fellowship.

It has been my joy to see unusual blessings) in spite of trials) on God's work where I serve. Others who have chosen the same path report a similar experience. If God's blessing and strength indicates God's approval, then thank God, we are approved after all.

JOIN

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