

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM A DEPARTED SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

When I was a young preacher, brethren were saying, "What will happen to the church when brother A and B are gone" Today some are saying that "in a few years we will have no one to fight our battles as the giants in the land will all be dead." Let us hope and pray that there are, and I believe there will be, many young men who will rise up and lead the way. However, these young men must realize that the way is not easy—it never has been. The road down they travel is not a controlled-access highway. There will be many stop signs on the road and detours offered. Young men must stay on the Lord's highway and be willing to suffer persecution. The right way is a "strait"—difficult way (Mat. 7:14). The fight will be hard, but God will be the helper of his true soldiers....

To encourage young men, may we offer these suggestions:

1. **Do not be intimidated by so-called scholarship.** The so-called scholars of today want to make you feel handicapped. Their worldly wisdom, they think, gives them an advantage over you.... In your fight for the right you will be called "moss backs," "water ducks," "narrow-minded bigots," "traditionalists," "uneducated fools," and many other things to make you feel inferior. What has "so-called scholarship" brought us? Just count the young men who have been lost to the cause of Christ because they have been led away from the simple Gospel of Christ....
2. **Do not be intimidated by the cry of "legalism."** If one goes to the Bible for proof of doctrine he is called a "legalist." Yet all denominations [and even change agent liberals in the church, DM] go to the Bible for some points of doctrine. If one goes to the Bible for **one point** of doctrine he is as much a legalist as a man who accepts every point of law.... Do not be afraid to take all the Bible regardless of what men say.
3. **Do not be intimidated by the call to the "plains of Ono."** Do not surrender by compromise. In the work of Nehemiah we observe that he did not start out to **build a new wall**, but to **restore** an old wall (Neh. 1:2-3). When it was apparent that he would succeed, his enemies desired to compromise (6:1-4). There was a call to Nehemiah to come to the plain of "Ono" for a unity meeting. Today, our enemies [both within and without, DM] view the plea for restoration as a success, so they ask us to come to "Ono" for "unity meetings." We should be too busy to go to the conference. We are interested in unity, but we cannot sacrifice Truth for consolidation by mutual concession and compromise. ... Unity in "diversity" is not the unity for which Jesus prayed.
4. **Do Not be intimidated by those who mock at the "pattern of sound words"** (2 Tim. 2:13). We are duty-bound to hold to the Gospel both in words and in fact. Truth must be exalted above policy and duty above inclination. The preaching of the Gospel has been entrusted to uninspired men. Direct "revelation" or "divine illumination" is not how God leads man today. The task of preaching the Gospel is not committed especially to cultured and eloquent men, but to faithful men (2 Tim. 2:2). Much of our trouble is caused by departure from sound words.... When the Word of God is filtered through human intellect, no matter how scholarly, the result is systematic theology.

Let us not be dismayed; preach the Word in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:1-6). Let us fight the good fight—the good fight of faith.

—G.K. Wallace, deceased
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