ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

July 19 began the eleventh year of work for the Colleys at Getwell. Some may think "it surely has been longer than ten years," while we hope others may not! We have appreciated the kind words from the faithful at Getwell and continue to have at heart the interest of every member. Including the radio lessons, the Sunday and Wednesday lessons, and Maggie teaching in the Ladies Bible class, we have prepared and presented approximately 2,650 public Bible studies and several private studies. This is in addition to writing the bulletin articles, teaching 60 hours in the summer in the Memphis School of Preaching, and appearing on "GBN Live" and "A Bible Answer" at times. We have enjoyed planning the "Spiritual Sword Lectureship" for ten years and writing for several brotherhood publications, as well as writing regularly for the "Spiritual Sword Publication" edited by Alan Highers, that extends its influence throughout the world. Please do not think we are boasting or complaining. We are not! We are thankful daily that we have been granted the strength by our Heavenly Father to so work! We have intended to strengthen every honest soul, and to give God the glory in all the small things we have done (Lk. 17:19). We do not know what the future holds, but we are exceedingly grateful that we know Him who holds the future!
The churches of Christ have contended for the principle of New Testament unity through the years. This has not been with the desire to be contentious, but because of the emphatic teaching of the Holy Scriptures. Jesus prayed for the unity of His followers and gave all who would listen the way it was to be accomplished (Jn. 17:20-21). Unity is good and pleasant! (Psa. 133:1). It is unequivocally commanded (I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-5). Division is condemned with the strongest of language (I Cor. 3:1-3; Rom. 16:17-18; II Th. 3:6).

The True Way to Religious Unity

We firmly believe that unity can be achieved. But we fear that the biggest obstacle is that many do not want it! Loving the doctrines and practices of men and loving their places in these divisions causes many eyes to be closed and hearts hardened (Mt. 13:15-17). We can have true religious unity provided we are willing to recognize the following:

1. Christ as the only Head, Ruler, and Legislator of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Mt. 28:18-19). This would eliminate the Pope and all governing councils, conventions, and synods.

2. The Bible as the only source of religious authority (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3). This would eliminate all divergent standards, as Health With Key To The Scriptures, The Book Of Mormon, along with all creeds, manuals, and catechisms. We plead for unity’s sake, let us go back to the Bible (I Pet. 4:11).

3. The one body, the church revealed in the New Testament Scriptures. This is the one that Jesus said He would build (Mt. 16:18), the one which wears His name and to which He adds the saved (Acts 2:47), the one which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). This would eliminate denominational bodies for the body of Christ (Cor. 1:18).

True religious unity can be attained! What a thrilling thought! But we must be guided by the New Testament in matters of doctrine, practice, and worship. Let us cease being divided over things not found in the Book!
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* indicates a keynote message; ** indicates a sermon series.