

Differing Paths

Caution! - Beware! - Warning!

When traveling through the Appalachians, I have noted the markers indicating the Eastern Continental Divide. This line denotes the watershed between streams that feed into the Atlantic Ocean and those that feed into the Gulf of Mexico. Two drops of rain, falling only inches apart on the ground, will end up separated by hundreds of miles before they reach the end of their journeys.

As we consider, personally, the choices we make day by day, we should recall the words of our Lord, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much." (Luke 16:10) The small things in our lives can well lead to big changes, either for good or for evil. This principle extends to congregations, as well.

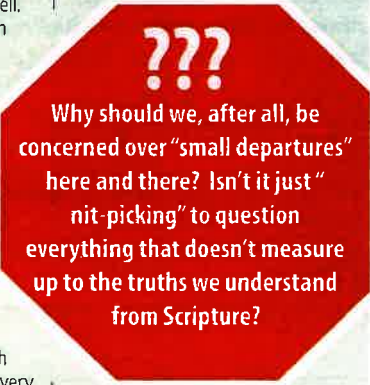
Frequently, an emphasis on doctrinal exactness is greeted with a roll of the eyes. Why should we, after all, be concerned over "small departures" here and there? Isn't it just "nit-picking" to question everything that doesn't measure up to the truths we understand from Scripture?

We should be concerned about apostasy, even in the smallest measure, because it is a step down a path which will end in destruction. Every heresy that has divided the church began with a small departure from the truth, which lead to greater and greater departures over time.

Our fellowship must stand firm on the in-errancy of Scripture, the total truth and authority of God's word. We must stand firm in attempting to understand and follow

the pattern of faith and practice outlined in the Bible. Most centrally, we must stand firm in teaching the exclusive truth of God's way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Even the slightest deviation in our commitment to these basic truths will plunge the church quickly into all manner of false teaching.

When Christian teachers and preachers depart from a complete confidence in Scripture, they stand in danger of losing their faith altogether. When congregations begin introducing unauthorized elements into the worship and work of the church, there is no end to the changes which will occur. When the church begins fellowshiping outsiders as if they were members of the Lord's church, soon the very



heart of the gospel is laid aside. Constant vigilance is needed to keep the Lord's church true to the Lord's way.

- Author Unknown -
via *Magnolia Messenger*
Church of Christ, Kosciusko, MS

HOLD FAST

- **Hold fast to the gospel of Christ** (1 Cor. 15:1, 2). This means that we will obey and live the gospel.
- **Hold fast to what is good** (1 Thess. 5:21). This means that we are keeping evil out of our lives and clinging to the virtuous things.
- **Hold fast to heavenly hope, confidence, and rejoicing** (Heb. 3:6). This means that we will always be optimistic and expressing our joy in the Lord.
- **Hold fast to the confession in Jesus as the Christ** (Heb. 4:14). This means that we will be telling others about Him and how He saves.
- Ed Sterchi -
(via *Bulletin Digest*)

O for a faith that will not shrink, tho' pressed by every foe, that will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe.

That will not murmur or complain beneath the chast'ning rod, but in the hour of grief or pain will lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear when tempests rage without; that when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt!

Lord, give us such a faith as this; and then, whatever may come, we'll taste e'en here the hallowed bliss of an eternal home.

- William H. Bathurst, 1831 -

News & Notes

CONFESSIONS & REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Anita Hopwood, Carol Stillwell. **THANKS:** To Ed & Linda Wiersbicki for the beautiful flower arrangements placed around our building during our Gospel meeting.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes **this Tuesday, Oct. 1st at 9:00 a.m.** All the ladies are invited to participate in helping to make stuffed bears for kids.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, Oct. 5th, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's in Chester.

NURSING HOME VISIT & DEVOTIONAL: Next **Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2:30 p.m.** at Fox.

NO COVERED DISH DINNER OR EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE: Next **Sunday (Oct. 6th)** or other Sundays in October. **Resumes the first Sunday of November.**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: In an effort to update our membership directory, all will be done in-house (pictures, etc.) at no cost to members. The next appointments can be scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 12th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** (sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer). Each family will receive a free directory after all pictures and information are processed. Your cooperation will be appreciated to expedite this effort.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAYS: (1) Saturday, Oct. 5th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Columbiana, OH Church of Christ **Topic: Vinedressers - Growing the Fruit of the Spirit** with Katie Gilchrist as speaker.

(2) Saturday, Oct. 19th at National Road Church of Christ, Wheeling, WV. **Registration: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Topic: "Spiritual Potpourri."** Additional information at www.nationalroadchurchofchrist.org or (304) 242-2321. Lunch provided.

(3) Saturday, Nov. 2nd at Hanoverton, OH Church of Christ. **Registration: 8:15-9:00 a.m. Topic: "On the Road to Heaven." Speakers:** Latisha Brown, Danielle Burch, Angela Marshall, Terrie Spooner. Lunch provided.

PANTRY: Canned peaches and pears.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER & WITH CARDS:

Rick Beck (minister at Weston, WV), 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452. Rick had recent cancer surgery.

Kathy McGeehan (Mike Martin's sister-in-law), 11325 Straford Ridge Lane, Chardon, OH 44024. Kathy is undergoing cancer treatments.

SICK & SHUT-IN: VALLEY OAKS, East Liverpool: Fred Larrimore. **AT HOME:** Cam Adamson (Twila's husband), Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Arlen & Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

GOSPEL MEETINGS & LECTURES

Weirton Heights.....	Oct. 13-18, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Brent Gallagher
Hanoverton	Oct. 20-24, 7 p.m. (except Sunday)	Bill Miller
WVSOP, Moundsville	Oct. 20-24, Various times	Different Speakers

Deposit God's Word in your memory bank, and you will draw interest for life.