

The Holt-Hall Doctrine of the Church Examined

Sermon By Donald Townsley

Introduction

1. As an evangelist of the gospel of Christ, I must every be set for the defense of the gospel-- Phil. 1:17; Jude 3.
2. Error wears no sign saying, "I am error".
3. I have found people do not applaud when it is rebuked, or exposed; they often sympathize with it and defend it, but I must rebuke it just the same -- 2 Tim. 4:2 - 5.
4. Grown men and women are deceived by false teachers and religious error that appears as "angels of light".
5. It would be nice if error could be assailed without personalities or men becoming involved, but it is invariably associated with, and preached by, some individual.
 - (1) Hymenaeus and Alexander -- I Tim. 1: 19 -20
 - (2) Alexander the coppersmith -- 2 Tim. 4:14
 - (3) Diotrephes -- 3 John 9 - 10
6. In the New Testament, preachers of the gospel made no compromise with error -- Gal. 2:5, 11 - 13.
7. Men in the past have learned the hard way that you cannot compromise with error -- J. W. McGarvey spoke these words to J. P. Swell in 1902: *"You are on the right road, and whatever you do don't let anybody persuade you that you can successfully combat error by fellowshipping it and going along with it. I have tried. I believed at the start that was the only way to do it. I've never held membership in a congregation that used instrumental music. I have, however, accepted invitations to preach without distinctions between churches that used it and churches that didn't. I've gone along with their papers and magazines and things of that sort. During all these years I have taught the truth as the New Testament teaches it to every young preacher who has passed through the College of the Bible. Yet, I do not know of more than six of these men who are preaching the truth today. It won't work."*
8. I cannot compromise today; I must stand against all false teaching.
9. We have been studying the church, and since a very prominent person has been in our assembly the last two Wednesday nights, who has in the last several years taught much error concerning the church, we feel the need to examine some of his teaching.

I. CHARLES HOLT DENIES THAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

1. Sentinel of Truth -- Sept. 1966, pg. 3
 2. Sentinel of Truth -- Sept. 1967, pg. 21
 3. Florida College Lectures of 1966, pg. 4
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1. Salvation is in the church because it is blood purchased -- Acts 20:28
 - (1) Church members are blood-bought (I Cor. 6:20), non members are not -- who will say one is saved apart from the blood of Christ? -- Matt. 26: 28; Heb. 9:22.
 - (2) The church is the only thing bought with the blood. Those not in the church are not blood bought.

- (3) If the church is not essential, the blood is not essential -- Matt. 26:28.
2. Salvation is in the church; Paul promised that Christ would save the church -- Eph. 5:23.
 3. Salvation is in the church because it is there that man is reconciled unto God -- Eph. 2:16.
 - (1) It is admitted that man must be reconciled to God to be saved -- Isa. 59: 1 -2
 - (2) Reconciliation unto God is in the body or church -- Eph. 2:16; 1: 22 -23.
 - (3) Therefore, man must be in the church to be saved.
 4. Salvation is in the church because that is the group that Christ will present unto Himself -- Eph. 5:27.
 5. Man cannot be saved out of the church because God adds all the saved to the church -- Acts 2:47.
 6. It is impossible to be saved out of the church because it is impossible to be saved without being delivered out of the power of darkness -- Col. 1:13; Matt. 16: 18 - 19.
 7. It is impossible to be saved out of the church because the church is the fullness of Christ -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23.

II. HE DENIES THE LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIC ENTITY; AN ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION THAT IS TO FUNCTION UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF ELDERS IN DISCHARGING DIVINELY ORDAINED WORK.

1. Rom. 12: 4 - 8 -- Paul said in these verses that different members in the local body do not have the same work.
2. Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5
3. Acts 20:17, 28
4. The function of the local church shows organization:
 - (1) One of the duties of a local church is to support the preaching of the gospel -- I Cor. 9:14; I Tim. 3:15; 2 Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4: 15 - 16
 - (2) This is done out of a common treasury -- I Cor. 16:1 -2