

THE "MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD" IS A DANGEROUS PLACE TO TRAVEL

Many brethren in the church today advocate the "middle-of-the-road" as a solution to the problems facing the church. Now, anyone in his right mind knows that one of the quickest ways to get killed is to get in the middle of the road and drive down the white line. He is then in a position to be run over by traffic coming both ways! That is the position the "middle-of-the-road" brethren are in. Brethren with convictions on either side of the present controversy are made sick to the stomach when one of these "fence-standing", undecided, unconvinced, "half-baked" fellows come along.

It is sad when a person cannot find courage and conviction within himself to have strong feelings concerning anything, but must float around as spineless as a jelly fish, constantly dodging a forthright committal on anything controversial in nature. But, the history of humanity reveals that the "middle-of-the-roader" is not a new breed, for the pages of history are blurred with him. Pilate of old was a "middle-of-the-roader". He knew that the Lord was innocent, but was just too cowardly to stand. I am persuaded that many of my preaching brethren know what the truth is, but are like Pilate, too cowardly to stand up and be counted. So, they take the coward's way out, the "middle-of-the-road".

It seems, as we look at the history of God's people, that the "middle-of-the-road" position has been found in every controversy that has arisen. After division had come over the society and instrumental music, and the "smoke" had somewhat settled, I understand that many of the "middle-of-the-road" preachers of that controversy were rejected by both sides. Nobody wanted them, they couldn't be trusted, they had been of no benefit to anyone. The same will be true, I am sure, with the present controversy. Many of the spineless "jelly fish" who call themselves "men" and have the audacity to speak of themselves as "gospel preachers" will wind up rejected and despised by both conservative and liberal brethren.

If my eyes don't deceive me, I believe I see "middle-of-the-road" thinking making its bid in some quarters here in this area. Don't be fooled brethren, by thinking this is the "cure-all" solution! It isn't that at all. The "middle-of-the-road" is just as wrong as the ultra-liberal position.

The "middle-of-the-roader" would like to walk on both sides at the same time, enjoying fellowship with everyone and committing himself to nothing. The very thought of such is sickening to people who have convictions.

In closing, I quote from our Lord, "*He that is not with Me is against Me: and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.*" (Matt. 12: 30). Surely we can see from this that actually there is no such position as the "middle-of-the-road".

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