

## **Make The Break**

**Quentin McCay**

Many churches are doing many things today that would have been unthinkable several years ago. Though the gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16), all kinds of gimmicks are invented to draw people. Church kitchens are built with the money from church treasuries. Children are rewarded with candy and cookies for riding the buses to services. Basketball teams, skating parties, fellowship halls, and youth rallies are designed to appeal to the young people. Homes for unwed mothers, homes for the needy, and schools, for which a fee is charged (to teach secular subjects), are invented to thaw people into the fold. Numerous other practices could be mentioned that indicate that many churches have abandoned the practice of doing all things according to the pattern of the New Testament.

Some people are bothered by all these things being done by the church. Often they say that they do not believe that such things are the work of the church and wish that the church would cease such practices. But they do not have the courage to break with the liberal trend. However, some have made the break and are willing to bear whatever reproach and shame evil men heap upon them. To those who have thought of breaking with the accelerating apostasy, we make an appeal to come back to the Bible, and take a stand with those who are fighting for the purity of the church.

To keep you safely in the fold of digression, many tricks are used. The "liberals" would have you believe that the "conservatives" are a bunch of cranks who would let poor little orphans starve and who think that it is sinful for churches to cooperate. Such charges are false and most everyone knows that such is false, but it serves the purpose to deceive. We stand ready to accept any passage or Bible argument that will prove these things to be scriptural. But all the wisdom of men has not found any Bible authority for the above mentioned practices. We urge you to examine what we teach and practice in these areas of differences and find out just what the issues are. Many honest people have done this and discovered that what we are saying is exactly what they believe, because it is what the Bible teaches, and have broken with the liberal forces. They have taken their stand with those who are making a sincere effort to "speak where the Bible speaks," and to "be silent where the Bible is silent." For the following reasons we appeal to you to make the break as many have done

### **For Conscience Sake**

Many say they do not believe many things that churches are doing and yet go right along giving their money and time advancing the very thing that they oppose. The Bible teaches, "*Whatsoever is not of faith is sin*" (Rom. 14:23). This means that we sin, if we do things, not being fully persuaded in our own mind that the practice is right. Paul was discussing the matter of eating meats, but his teaching has application to unscriptural practices of churches today. Practicing something without the full consent of one's conscience is sinful. So for the sake of your conscience, you should break with those unscriptural practices.

### **For Sake Of Your Children**

Though you say that you do not believe in many things being done by the church where you worship, your children will likely grow up believing that such are scriptural. Little by little the church is drifting

into complete apostasy and your children will find themselves involved in this apostasy. For the sake of your children, therefore you should lead the way out of the digressive movement. You have a duty to teach them the truth on every subject and show them the dangers of any departure from the ways of the Lord. Your children will grow up and give their time, money, and influence to the cause of digression, and you will be responsible for it. Their usefulness for truth and righteousness now, and their eternal salvation depends upon you leading the way out of error and back to the Bible.

### **Duty To Stand For The Right**

Christians have an obligation to "*contend earnestly for the faith*" (Jude 3). Error succeeds when Christians do nothing. When God's people fail to stand against error, there will be no opposition to it, and error will grow like leaven to permeate the whole body. Paul declared, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore ...*" (Eph. 6:10-18). The person that does not stand against (anti) error is in violation of this passage.

### **For Your Own Salvation**

One cannot be saved believing and following error. Jesus said, "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). One is made free from sin, or saved by truth, not error. A little error mixed with a lot of truth is destructive. Some say, "I don't go along, nor believe a lot of things being done where I worship." But they do go along by giving their time, money, and influence to those things. You should either correct the error where you worship, or make the break and find a place where you can stand for the truth. Your salvation depends upon it.

To have a clear conscience, to save your children, to fulfill your duty, and for the sake of the salvation of your own soul, you should make the break and take your stand with those who are making a sincere effort to please God in all things.

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## **Blessings Of Diligence**

**Quentin McCay**

God's gracious plan for the redemption of sinful man includes a common precious faith, provisions for life and godliness, exceeding great and precious promises, partaking of the divine nature, escape from the corruption that is in the world through lust, conditions upon which all may build their hope of immortality, blessings to all who give diligence to make their calling and election sure, and the importance of keeping these things always in remembrance. All of this is revealed to us by the inspired apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:1-15.

Having escaped the "*corruption that is in the world through lust*," one must add, or supply, those divine principles that create in the individual the divine nature.

It is not the purpose of this article to dwell on the meanings of these beautiful expressions which describe the fruitful life of the Christian (2 Pet. 1:4-7). It is enough to say that one must "*give diligence*" to add "*these things*" to one's faith. To faith must be added virtue, or manliness and courage to do right in the midst of assaults of the tempter. To virtue must be added knowledge of that which is right, which directs the courage into proper channels. To knowledge must be added temperance, or self-control, which enables one to govern appetites. To temperance must be added patience, or endurance. One who controls his appetites will learn to patiently bear hardships. To patience must be added godliness or reverence, holy fear and respect for God. The thought of God controls the Christian's whole being. Brotherly kindness must be added to godliness. From godliness flows love for God's people. Peter says to godliness add brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness add love. Love is the adhesive that binds all of these beautiful traits of the Christian together into one fruitful being. These supplied to the faith of the Christian create in a person the divine nature and fit him for heaven. The Christian becomes more and more like Christ as he grows in these virtues. As the servant of Christ drinks more and more from the fountain of truth, he becomes more and more in the likeness of the Savior of men and is prepared for the eternal home.

Followers of Christ are urged to give "*a diligence*" to add "*these things*" to their faith (vv. 5, 10). The apostle promises four advantages that will attend those who diligently labor to possess these great truths and to abound in them. There is promised a fruitful life, eyes which will see the glories of God, guard against failing from God's grace and that abundant entrance into God's eternal kingdom. These are the blessings of diligence.

### **Not Barren But Fruitful**

"*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (v. 8). God demands a fruitful life (Jn. 15:1-8; Rom. 7:4; Phil. 1:11; Jas. 3:17). Have you ever wondered why your life is never able to touch another life for good? Do you ask, "Why can't I be fruitful in leading people to Christ and encouraging them to live godly?" The answer to these questions is that virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love are not abounding in your life. Unless "*these things*" are made a part of one's life, something is lacking, and life will be barren. The life that begins in faith and abounds in these characteristics will shine more and more unto the perfect day. If one wants life to be worthy, helpful,

beneficial and fruitful, one must give all diligence, and to faith in God supply these components of the divine nature. This fruitful life is a blessing that attends diligence.

### **Not Blind But Seeing**

*"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins"* (2 Pet. 1:9). The converse of this is that if one abounds in *"these things,"* he is not blind and can see afar off. He sees not only what is near. His vision grows wider and farther. He has insight into the glories of the celestial, which captivates the vision of the inward man. He sees the unseen (2 Cor. 4:18). He is mindful of his salvation from sin and the divine provisions for his redemption. He has a vision of his duty while here in the flesh, and his eyes being enlightened know, *"what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints"* (Eph. 1:18). But he that lacketh these things sees only what is near and has taken no heed to foster the light of the glorious gospel, within which kindles faith. Such a person sees only that which is near, and his eyes are blinded to heaven and its blessings. His awareness of present duties to God is blurred. Being able to see the unseen is a blessing obtained by those who *"give all diligence to make their calling and election sure."*

### **Shall Never Fall**

*"If ye do these things, ye shall never fall"* (2 Pet. 1:10). The warnings of God found on every page of the Bible, the examples of those who have fallen from God's grace and the law of pardon provided for those who fall teach us clearly the possibility of stumbling, failing and falling so as to be lost eternally (1 Cor. 9:24-10:12; Gal. 5:1-5; Heb. 12:14-16). Constant diligence must be given to adding *"these things"* to faith and making them a part of life and living. Giving diligence to abound in them strengthens one against temptations and makes his calling and election sure. Such is a guard against apostasy. *"Ye shall never fall"* is God's promise and is a great blessing. It gives hope to those who make their calling sure by being diligent in adding *"these things"* to faith.

*"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 1:11). The word *"so"* is an adverb of manner. In this manner, or by giving all diligence to add these traits to faith, one is prepared for heaven and will have richly supplied the entrance into the everlasting kingdom of God. The apostle exhorts believers to supply these virtues and promises that an entrance *"shall be ministered"* abundantly into the eternal kingdom. This will be richly supplied. What man bestows shall be returned to him manifold. In that eternal home, the faithful will gather to reap the rewards and share in the delights of immortality. In heaven the true believers will meet their God face to face, and with loved ones and friends live forever together. This is the ultimate blessing of giving all diligence in making our calling and election sure.

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## **The Council of God**

**Quentin McCay**

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *"to glory"* (Psalm 73:24). These are the words from one of the Psalms of Asaph, who had observed the affairs of men and wondered why the wicked were so prosperous and happy. He makes a list of their seeming advantages and their evils and concludes momentarily that the righteous life is vain. His conclusion brought him great pain. He then went into the sanctuary of God and learned of the final end of the wicked. He learned that there will be a time when all the inequities of this life will be adjusted, that God will judge all people and prove Himself to be truly just. Asaph then commits himself to God and murmurs no more. He resolves to be guided by the counsel of God and has the blessed hope of being received into glory.

Asaph lived and wrote under the law of Moses, which was abrogated by the death of Christ (Heb. 10:9-10; Col. 2:14). Though we now live by the counsel of God revealed through Christ (Heb. 1:1-3), the principle set forth by Asaph is still true. It is by the counsel of God set forth in the New Testament that we are sanctified, justified, or saved. By the counsel of God, made known by Christ, we must live if we are to be received into glory. It should give one great courage to follow the counsel of God when he recognizes the completeness, sufficiency and the authority of it.

## **Revelation**

The Bible is a revelation of the counsel of God. The word "revelation" means "an uncovering." At one time the will of God was a "mystery," which means that His will had not been revealed. Paul declared, *"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ"* (Gal. 1: 11). From Ephesians 3:1-6, we learn that Christ made known unto Paul the mystery, Paul wrote it down, and those who read it can understand the mystery. This mystery included the message that the Jews and Gentiles are *"fellow heirs in the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel."* There are no additional revelations from God. The Bible is complete in its message for sinful man. All modern-day revelations, which claim to be from God are false.

## **Inspired Revelation**

The Bible is an inspired revelation. The men chosen to write the message from God were not guided by their own ability, wisdom, or memory. They were "moved along" by the Holy Spirit as they wrote the very word the Holy Spirit directed them to write in expressing to us the counsel of God. The Bible claims to be a verbally inspired revelation (Eph. 3:3-5; 1 Cor. 2:10-13). The Holy Spirit searched the "deep things of God," and guided men to express the counsel of God in words. Such a revelation assures us that we have a complete and sufficient message containing all of the counsel of God. Since the message from God is complete, there are no inspired men. None are needed.

## **Confirmed Revelation**

The Bible is also a confirmed revelation. What Christ and His inspired apostles revealed was confirmed by *"signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will"* (Heb. 2:4). Since there is no need of further revelation, there is no need of inspired men to make known

the message and no need of confirmation of the message since it has been confirmed once for all time by Christ and His apostles. The miraculous was to end with the complete revelation of the perfect law of liberty (1 Cor. 13:8-12). The claims of miraculous powers today are false claims. The Bible plainly declares that "when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." *"That which is done in part"* (1 Cor. 13:9-10) refers to those nine gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. *"That which is perfect"* means the perfect *"law of liberty"* which has come (Jas. 1:25; Eph. 4:7-16).

As long as there was a need of revelation of God's counsel, there was a need of inspiration. As long as there was a need of inspiration, there was a need of confirmation. Since revelation is complete (Jude 3), there is no need of inspiration, or further confirmation.

### **Understandable Revelation**

The Bible is an understandable revelation. As stated by Paul in Ephesians 3:1-6, he received his words by revelation, wrote it and we can read it and understand his *"knowledge in the mystery of Christ."* The Bible affirms that one can and must understand the counsel of God. *"Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"* (Eph. 5:17). All the truth one needs to know about God, His will, the church, sin and salvation has been revealed to us and one must understand it, believe it and obey it to be received into glory (John 8:31-32; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14).

All of this means that God's will is completely revealed. The counsel of God has been confirmed and is adequate and sufficient. There is no need for doubt. God's revelation to man is final and fixed. There is no need for more information and we are warned not to tamper with His revealed will. *"Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed"* (Gal. 1:8). God's counsel will judge us in that great day when all the evil thoughts, words and deeds will be remembered (Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Cor. 5: 10). It is a mark of great wisdom to be resolved, as was Asaph, to be guided by God's counsel. This is the way to glory.

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