



IBFNA

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THE REVIEW

Where Are the Young Men?

by Dr. Bob Payne, Moderator

The question which marks the title of this month's article has been asked not only at our IBFNA meetings but also in gatherings of most fundamental Baptist circles. It has been correctly pointed out that many young men are rushing headlong into Reformed Theology and are becoming enamored with Reformed teachers and their doctrine.

In addition to this, we see many fundamental seminaries and colleges moving in the same theological direction, perhaps partly in an attempt to appease and draw students and partly because Reformed Theology has a pseudo-intellectual draw for some educators. As would be expected, changes in music and standards have also followed in lock step with the theological changes.

In this month's moderator's column, I would like to explore what is at the heart of Reformed Theology and how it manifests itself, as well as what can be done about the young preachers' flight to falsehood.

THE HEART OF REFORMED THEOLOGY

At the heart of Reformed Theology is an inconsistent hermeneutic (what we might call "the Reformed hermeneutic") which seems to manifest itself in the following ways:

1. The interpretation of some biblical passages with an inconsistently literal hermeneutic (e.g. not seeing dispensational distinctions in the "Sermon on the Mount" and applying it directly to the church).
2. The priority of grammar and exegesis over the total hermeneutical process. The Reformed hermeneutic sees grammar as the final argument to some questions without careful consideration of the rest of the hermeneutical process.
3. The other extreme of #2 is that words have absolutely no meaning outside of a context. This is actually a Neo-orthodox approach to scripture.
4. An arrogant "cerebral" approach to the scriptures (with a resulting attitude of "We are smarter than you are!"). Human reasoning takes precedence over biblical teaching; philosophy supersedes the text.
5. An excessive dependence on historical theology (instead of biblical and systematic theology). The reasoning seems to be that if the teaching is



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IBFNA
6889 Belleville Rd
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-7150
www.IBFNA.org

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old enough, and if the theologian teaching it is respected enough, what is being taught **MUST** be true.

6. A tendency to ignore progressive revelation and dispensational progression by reading back characteristics of the present dispensation into previous dispensations without sufficient textual support (this is commonly done by reading back certain aspects of our present salvation into the Old Testament, as well as by applying certain aspects of the present ministry of the Holy Spirit into the Old Testament). This leads to a sort of confusion between Israel and the church.

SO WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Is the solution to the young preachers' flight from fundamentalism to appease them? Should we begin to adapt our doctrine, music, etc. in order to draw them back into the fold? Does our theological and cooperative "tent" need to be a little bigger?

Instead of engaging in a philosophical discussion of our own, we need to ask ourselves, "What saith the scripture?" The problem of people departing from sound doctrine is not new. No matter what time era we find ourselves in, the biblical response to such a situation is clear:

1. Use and teach sound hermeneutical principles consisting of a consistently literal (normal) interpretation of the Word of God. We need to use the methodology mentioned in the book of Nehemiah (8:8): "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and

gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading."

2. Patiently preach, teach, and reason with these young men from the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:2). This will include much one-on-one teaching time. Dogmatically shouting what you believe louder than you normally would will prove to be ineffective in reaching hearts. Shine the light on the text, and allow it to speak for itself. Love them; be a mentor! Let's follow Paul's methodology who ministered to a very difficult "audience" (Acts 17:2): "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days **reasoned with them out of the scriptures.**" Bauer and Danker's lexicon tells us that the Greek word translated "reasoned" means "to engage in speech interchange, *converse, discuss, argue.*" We need to engage them from the scriptures and "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).
3. Pray, pray, pray for those young men under your ministry (1 Sam. 12:23).
4. Model a godly life before them (1 Tim. 4:12). Words spoken from the mouth are much more forceful when backed up by a Godly walk.
5. Invite them to IBFNA meetings, and be sure to let them know about our young preacher's scholarship.

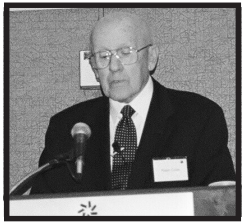
In these theologically confusing days, we need to encourage young men to be focused on Christ, centered in God's Word, and consistent in their biblical interpretation. Nothing less than the future of biblical fundamentalism is at stake!

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The IBFNA Heads South! Annual Family Conference Report

Our 20th annual family Bible conference for 2010 found us in Charlotte, NC. We praise the Lord for the safety in travel, the blessed fellowship and challenging preaching that have marked our conferences over these 20 years and look forward to being together again next year, in Lancaster, PA, if the Lord should tarry.

Every morning over the three days, Dr. Ralph Colas opened our meetings with a devotional study in the Word. Dr. Colas has always been a blessing, but these were rich as he drew from



Philippians 1 through 4, on Tuesday, to trace the pattern of Paul. Wednesday took us to Genesis 50 for the example and blessing of Joseph's forgiveness that we need to follow.

Thursday morning took us to I Samuel 18 and 23, for the importance of friendship as comrades in arms in the Lord's service. Dr. Colas spoke specifically about the gifts between friends: gratitude, time, attention and inspiration. Each day these studies prepared us for a season of prayer, and it was good to fellowship with folks we did not know before and to join with them before God's throne of Grace.

Pastor Mike McCubbins opened the regular preaching of the conference with the Separation message. Drawing from I John 1:1-7, Mike established the basis for the practice of Separation by examining the very character of God Himself as Light and no darkness at all. The Holiness, attributes and commandments of God are themselves a call unto Separation for God's people, and compromise undermines His very Person as revealed in Scripture. Mike dealt with the types and, what some call, degrees of Separation



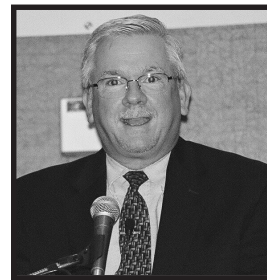
as well as political Separation.

Rev. Bud Steadman, from Baptist World Mission, addressed the need for leadership. Comparing Paul's instruction to Timothy in I Timothy 4:12 with the requirements of kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-17, Brother Steadman spoke about those things we need to keep in check:



our power vs. the power of God, our passions and morals, our possessions and value system and our pride. Returning to the pulpit Tuesday evening, Brother Steadman took us to II Samuel 21 and 22, as well as Psalm 18, in a quest for the next generation of giant killers and experiencing the deliverance and sufficiency of God.

Dr. Dan Brown, CBTS, took up the challenge of doctrinal issues and changes that impact our ministries both now and in the future.



Dan drew a picture of the diversity now present in Fundamentalism, from the New Age Fundamentalists (on the left) to the Hyper-Fundamentalists (on the right) and everything in everything in between, such as Pragmatic Fundamentalism. Working from I Corinthians 1, Brother Dan began by examining the essential doctrines, such as the Gospel of Salvation and then presented the most recent changes being introduced, especially in Evangelicalism. Some of the terms are familiar, while others may be new to some of us: Inerrancy, Openness of God, Emerging Church, New Perspective of Paul, as well as the changes in attitude towards Homosexuality and women in ministry. Perhaps the most interesting subject raised in his message and later discussed at length in the following panel discussion dealt with the distinctions between Conservative Evangelicals and Neo-evangelicals, across the spectrum of Fundamentalism. The fine distinctions Dr. Brown described between these two groups on

Evangelicals opened the question whether Separatists could have any closer relationships with the Conservative Evangelicals than with the Neoevangelicals. It made for a lively discussion you can listen to on the fellowship website. Dan also gave us some words of warning about how we are perceived by these groups, whether their perceptions are accurate or not. Of all their criticisms leveled at Separatists, the most pointed dealt with our attitude, the absence of humility and the documentation of charges against them. Brother Brown also noted a more serious caution about how widespread the influence of Conservative Evangelical authors and leaders has been upon our young people; specifically, those preparing for full-time ministry. Their influence upon the next generation should sound an alarm among us that leads to significant intervention by such groups as the IBFNA. The panel discussion time also gave opportunity to respond to questions about the IBFNA being KJV only and unfriendly to five-point Calvinists. Over the many years of our Fellowship, we are thankful to have had brethren with us who span the breadth of these issues. We appreciate Dan's research and warnings, and thank him for being willing to tackle controversial subjects for the welfare of our Fellowship.

Wednesday was a short day, with the afternoon off for touring or resting. One of our younger members, Brother Scott Burke, from East Lawrence, PA, brought the morning message from Acts 28, where Paul was granted assurance that despite current predicaments, he would yet minister the Gospel in Rome. It was not just the promise of God but also the remarkable ways in which God works out His will for us to serve Him.

One of the popular afternoon attractions nearby was the Billy Graham Library. Recently refurbished, visitors are guided through a picture and sound history of his ministry; and, though it is

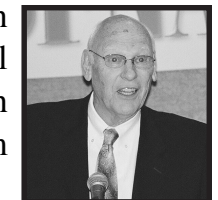
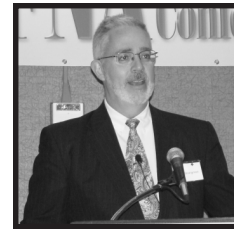
called his library, there are hardly any books. Some of the notable figures, like George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows, were also accompanied in other displays with people like Billy Kim of South Korea. The only notable who seemed missing was publishing magnate, William Randolph Hearst, whose "Puff Graham" direction to his publishers catapulted Billy Graham into religious stardom internationally but which came at a doctrinal price.

Pastor Jeff Kistler from Pittsburgh wrapped up Wednesday evening, preaching from I Corinthians 3 and Ephesians 2 on building an habitation for God as we hold fast and provoke one another unto good works.



Pastor Mark Strangman, also from the Pittsburgh area, opened the last day of the conference exploring what ensures our staying true. Mark developed Daniel 6:10 and Psalm 63 into a study on the preeminence of prayer to maintain our depth of relationship with the Lord, knowing the power, passion and peace of prayer.

Dr. Ken Hay, from The WILDS, also spoke Thursday morning and afternoon. In the morning, his theme was "Do you know where you're going? And is anyone going with you?" Using Genesis 11, Brother Hay used the efforts at Babel to challenge our commitment and communication with one another in the work of the Lord. His recommendations included: Having a Written Philosophy, Having a Plan for Instruction and Have a Practical Philosophy. Such preparations can help avoid controversies over methodology and help distinguish between method and purpose. Dr. Hay also conducted a workshop on "Building the Next Generation of Leadership." An important subject for all our local churches, Brother Ken dealt with such issues as isolating teens from parents and other Christian adults,



helping Christian parents spiritually nurture their children and extending the outreach of the church family to those who do not have Christian homes and families of their own. Dr. Hay's experience with young people at The WILDS was obvious in his compelling call for us to do better with the next generation, if our churches are going to have future leadership and make further progress in the years ahead.

While Dr. Hay was speaking to the men, his wife, Mrs. Dianne Hay, led a workshop for the ladies. She dealt with the mother's job of tending the family and reminded the ladies that the goal of every Christian mother ought to be to rear godly children who grow up into self-disciplined adults who will be ready to leave their home to serve the Lord and others. She challenged the ladies to have godly homes pointing out that "carnal parents reap carnal kids."

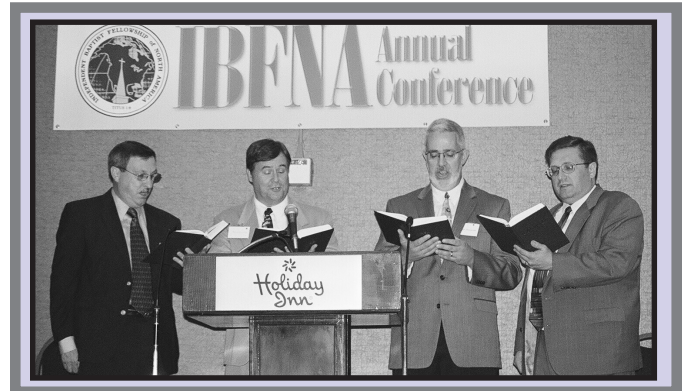
Dr. L. Duane Brown also presented a workshop study on the current status and background of the Southern Baptist Convention. Tracing its history from 1814, the struggles over slavery and biblical authority were addressed; and consideration was given as to whether the Convention has recovered any ground lost to Liberal influence over the last 50 years. That should be significant to us, since we see and hear so many pronouncements by Albert Mohler these days. The basic conclusion was that the titles of their internal divisions may have changed, but the problems remain the same. The former Moderates are now called Conservatives, the former Liberals are now the Moderates, and so on. The battle over the Inerrancy of the Scriptures in the SBC apparently wages on.

The other Thursday workshop was conducted by Pastor Kevin Hobi, who led us in a study of the dangers of the 2009 Manhattan Declaration. It was a strong reminder of the hazards of associating ourselves with non-fundamentalists for the sake of

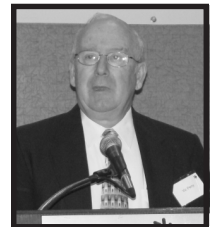


single issue causes, like some have, for example, fighting against Abortion. Euphemistically referred to as "Cultural Co-Belligerence," such efforts to find common ground with those significantly different in theology have already trapped many in awkward circumstances that undermine our testimony and confuse others. Kevin's workshop handout makes for a good resource for those of us combating such efforts to compromise with apostasy such as the Manhattan Declaration.

At the business meeting, the elections retained all of the present leadership: Bob Payne as Moderator, Tom Hamilton as Treasurer,



Mark Strangman as Secretary, and Charles Dear as editor of The REVIEW. Vic Perry also introduced several conference Resolutions including: A Resolution on Israel, The Need for Caution In Times of Profound Political Upheaval and The Call Unto Faithfulness. You should be able to find them on our website at www.ibfna.org for your reading pleasure.



The concluding message was brought by our Moderator, Dr. Bob Payne. Brother Bob brought a passionate message from Paul's charge to Timothy in II Timothy 4. All of the messages can be found on the Fellowship's website in mp3 format. Just look under the heading 2010 Conference. While we live in a time when many of our people may want smoother things from the pulpit, but we are no less charged than Timothy to faithfully preach the Word, no matter how times and circumstances may change around us.



The music ministries were also a rich blessing to everyone. It has always been good each year to come to the conference and know that the music will be rich in melody and message. This year we had one of the widest varieties of both instrumental and vocal music ever heard at an



an annual conference. From children's choir to the "exec quartet," duets (Bob and Heather Payne, Mark Strangman and Tom Hamilton) and solos (Mark Strangman, Tom Hamilton). Likewise, we

had several instrumentalists play violin (Heather Payne); flute (Pastor Mike McCubbins and Coleen James); a boys' instrumental trio; a french horn solo (Kyle James); Ryan James, who also played piano accompaniment for others, as well as offertories; and Karis Ward who also played the piano. Our sincere thanks to all who contributed for the way our hearts were blessed and refreshed through music.

Throughout the conference, there were other ministries and work going on. As a family conference, there were teen and children's ministries and activities conducted by Pastor Ed Mason and Pastor Al Harris; and Chip Edwards kept us up to date with a full-color daily newspaper. Of all the places to eat in Charlotte, the barbecue restaurants generated the most reviews (my vote was for Hillbilly's ribs); and, despite some early difficulties, the hotel accommodations proved adequate for both meeting and resting. As always, the blessing of fellowship with others from far away has made our conferences rich times of mutual encouragement. These bonds in Christ have been an unmeasured source of support to help us stay true in changing times.

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BECKY & HEATHER PAYNE

2010 IBFNA Musician Pictures



COLEEN JAMES



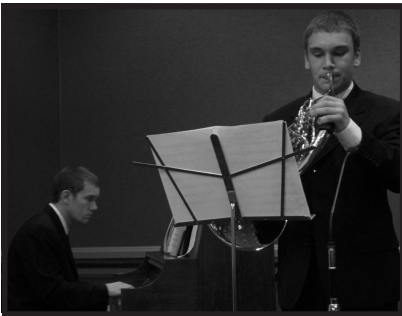
SEAN, ANDY & LUKE DAVIDSON



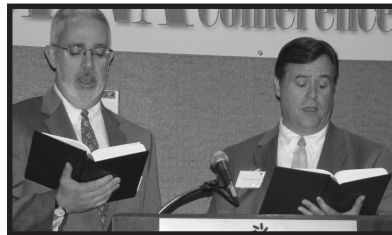
HEATHER & BOB PAYNE



KARIS WARD



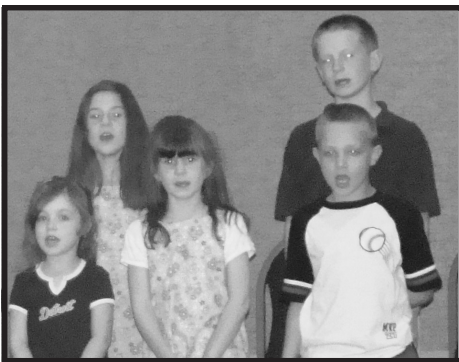
RYAN & KYLE JAMES



MARK STRANGMAN & TOM HAMILTON



RYAN JAMES & HEATHER PAYNE



ALANA, KARYNNA, JEREMIAH WARD
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SANDY ELLIS

Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America
6889 Belleville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111