

"Bible Believers"

There was an excellent article in the latest edition of Faith Fellowship Newsletter. The article was a reprint of something A.E. Knoch wrote long ago, but is so needed in this present day.

How many times are we asked, "What church do you attend?" ... or "What church are you a member of?" But these denominations and church affiliations are simply a part of the "church of man," and not God's one true church. We who are believers are automatically a part of the one true church (the ecclesia, or the Body of Christ). It is not an organization, or an institution, or anything we can join. We are simply made a part of this one true church by God. We are not Methodists, or Baptists, or Lutherans, or Roman Catholics. We are a part of the one true church.

So when asked, how do we reply? Mr. Knoch suggests we refer to ourselves as a "Bible Believer." He points out that "this name unites all who are God's whether in a denomination or not."

I think this is an excellent suggestion. Many "Bible Believers" do not attend a church of man at all. As a matter of fact, I have talked with many who were asked to leave a church of man, because they disagreed with the doctrines of the church. (In most cases the issue is that of eternal torment, which is a "keystone" to the doctrines of most traditional churches. If one points out, from God's Word, that God's plan is to reconcile all to Himself, and that none will be lost eternally ... he is generally asked to leave).

Whether one chooses to attend a church of man or not is totally immaterial. We have many chances to fellowship, worship and study with our brothers and sisters outside the bounds of any church of man.

Mr. Knoch points out that if one calls himself a "God Believer" he are merely stating that he believes there is a God ... but is this the God Who has revealed Himself in the Scriptures ... or not?

Often I have referred to myself as a "Biblical Universalist." But now I see this is simply drawing attention to one portion of God's Word. Certainly God's Word clearly teaches that He is in the process of saving all and reconciling all to Himself ... but this is not the only thing revealed to us in the Scriptures. How much better to refer to ourselves as a "Bible Believer."

As Abraham simply heard God and believed, and it was reckoned as righteousness ... so also we have God's revelation (The Bible) and believe. But just as Abraham did not fully understand God's revelation (with Ishmael being one evidence of this fact), so also not all "Bible Believers" fully understand God's revelation ... so at times we may have points of disagreement in its interpretation. But if we simply study and believe God, cooperating (and not fighting) with our brothers in sisters in discussing and studying the Scriptures, we will come to a fuller understanding of that which God has revealed.

May we enter 2008 filled with expectation, and love for our fellow man. Let us endeavor to present ourselves to God qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

Yours in Christ Jesus,

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