

## Moral Bravery {continued from page 2}

by David Curry

We can rebuke our fellow Christians when they are in error, just as James did in the fourth chapter of his epistle. Surely James didn't enjoy rebuking the brethren, but he realized that such needed to be done.

These things are not easily done, but we must be willing to stand for what is right at all costs, or these things will go undone, and the damage will be not only to ourselves, but to the Lord's body.

It won't always be easy, standing for what's right, but it can sure be easier if we all will put our trust in God. Remember Romans 8:31 and be brave, brethren.

via The Southside Reminder  
Pasadena, Texas

## Moral Bravery

by Wayne Goff

*It has become politically incorrect to call names from the pulpit or in writings these days, but inspired writers knew no such correctness!*

*"Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme" (1 Tim. 1:19-20). Don't you know these two just hated being immortalized in Scripture for having rejected the faith?!*

*"But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus** are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some" (2 Tim. 2:16-18). There's ol' Hymenaeus again — he sure did get around! But Paul identified him because of his cancerous doctrine. He was not about to stand by while this error was taught!*

*"**Alexander the coppersmith** did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words" (2 Tim. 4:14-15). Now you see why Paul identifies these false teachers by name. He wants sound brethren to "beware of him"!*

*"Be diligent to come to me quickly; for **Demas** has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica..." (2 Tim. 4:9-10). Demas was once a faithful brother, but sadly turned away!*

## Not All Bad!

Do not misunderstand, not everyone identified by name was **bad**! Paul was even more effusive of his praise for good people like *Prisca, Aquila, Onesiphorus* (2 Tim. 4:19), *Erastus* and *Trophimus* (2 Tim. 4:20). You see, we shouldn't mind having our names identified with our actions — whether good or bad, so long as we are not being misrepresented.

For example, suppose someone across town made this statement: "Wayne Goff teaches that baptism is necessary to salvation!" Would there be anything wrong with that? Should I be offended because someone called me out by name? On the other hand, suppose that same person made this statement: "Wayne Goff believes in water salvation!" Now I am offended because I have been misrepresented. We can all see the difference.

## Helping Whom?

*The only thing being helped out* when we refuse to identify false teachers and false doctrine by name are those **false teachers**! Of such the apostle Paul again said in Galatians 2:5 — "to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." So what is more important: the truth or a false teacher's feelings?!

Paul called those false teachers **spies** who had come in to **spy out** their liberty in Christ (Gal. 2:4). He was not worried about his reputation among men, but his reputation before God!

*"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). When we realize the value of an eternal soul, then we will be less hesitant to identify the false doctrine by name, and the false teacher who is promoting it!*

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