Recent Events

Contending for the Faith with a one cup no class Church

At our monthly elders, deacons, and preacher meeting the elders asks me to write a bulletin regarding what has taken place here over the past ten months. Our hearts are saddened yet vigilant due to a recent movement by the one cup no Bible class brethren who have infected this local church. Here is a brief overview of the events as they occurred:

- March of 2010 Gary McDonald jr. comes to John Robertson's office on two different occasions to study the subject of using only one cup in the Lord's Supper and having no Bible classes.
- After these two studies there was a "stalemate" whereas brother Robertson could not convince Gary that using more than one cup and having Bible classes were matters of expediency.
- Brother Robertson and McDonald jr. come to an agreement, with consent from our elders, to have a thorough study of how Bible authority works so that we can come to an agreement. Brother McDonald jr. agreed to this solution. Brother Robertson told McDonald jr. that at the end of the lessons over Bible authority he would preach a sermon over the issue and then leave the final decision in McDonald's hand.
- Meanwhile, Mike Chancellor (one of our elders) approached brother Gary McDonald jr. and asked him to study out the issue. Gary told Mike that he was very busy at the moment. Mike replied that he was willing to study anytime and anywhere that would be convenient for Gary yet brother McDonald declined the invitation.
- April of 2010 said Bible study over authority began so that we may help brother McDonald jr. Brother Robertson took note that McDonald jr. was not attending on a regular basis. Brother McDonald's hit and miss attendance could not possibly give him a full picture of the study. Furthermore, the hit and miss attendance was a violation of the agreement to study out the issue.
- July 2010, After a prolonged absence of brother McDonald, Robertson calls him and finds that he has decided to worship with the
Crestview church (a one cup no classes church). Gary had come to about three of the classes that began in April. Brother McDonald told Robertson that there were more members of the Floral Heights church considering moving over to Crestview but he did not give names.

McDonald's violation of the agreement to study and threat of converting more of our members over to the Crestview church was cause for alarm.

August 1, 2010 Robertson preaches two part sermon over one cup no classes (months before it was suppose to be preached due to McDonald's error and the potential of others loosing their soul to such a cultish movement). Within the sermon brother Robertson states, "I do not know exactly where the Crestview church stands as far as the one cup no classes issue" (i.e., he had called their church after finding out that Gary went there but did not get hold of anyone - left a message. At that point brother Robertson did not know if the Crestview church actually believed it to be sinful to use more than one cup when serving Lord's Supper and having classes).

August 2010 Dennis Scroggins holds a meeting for the Floral Heights church. During the meeting the two Crestview preachers come twice. The first time they said nothing but smiled as though all was well. The second time they made it known that they would like to talk about our differences. Brother Robertson said that he would like to know what they truly believe. During the years gone by there have been two occasions where the one cup no classes brethren came to our meetings, shook our hands, and acted as though all were well between us. The Crestview preachers and brother Robertson agree to meet at the Crestview church to see where each other stood.

September 08, 2010 brother Robertson meets with the two Crestview church preachers (Jimmy Cating and Clint DeFrance). The meeting did not last but about 20 min. Robertson ask Cating and DeFrance about their differences and the two said that the members of the Floral Heights church are in sin and going to hell for using more than one cup serving the Lord's Supper and for having Bible classes. Brother Robertson promptly marked them as false teachers to their face being those who bind where God has not bound. Oddly, brother Robertson was then served with debate propositions that were already drawn up by Clint DeFrance.

September of 2010 it came to be known that Bill and Diane Lee (McDonald's close friends and former fellow members of an institutional church) had also questioned whether it was right to use more than one cup and have Bible classes. Brother Robertson and Tom Witherspoon (one of our elders) fielded Bill's questions in the foyer of our building.

October of 2010 we find out that Bill and Diane had left to attend the Crestview church. Bill and Diane had all the Bible class material
available to them to study, they were present at the two part sermon that was preached over the one cup no Bible class issue, they talked with Tom and John, and Bill talked with brother Robertson over the phone about the issue.

- November 09, brother Robertson is served with an ultimatum by Clint DeFrance. DeFrance puts a "7 day" limit for Robertson to reply to his demand for a debate. Robertson and Dennis Scroggins were working on propositions that the two sides could agree on. As of yet there had not been an agreement on both sides to the propositions for debate.

- Late November a preacher, who had knowledge of the Crestview church, visited us and told me that the Crestview church believes that baptism washes away old marriages that happened before one came to be a Christian. Robertson writes an e-mail to DeFrance stating, "I have heard some things that cause me to believe that there are not just differences between us in the area of cups and classes. I have heard (and so I am asking you rather than believing a rumor) that you all believe that an unbeliever who had been divorced for irreconcilable differences and then gets baptized may marry again (i.e., baptism washes away old marriages). Is this true? I have also heard that you all believe it to be sinful to partake of the LS on Sunday evening (i.e., you serve it once on Sunday only)" (e-mail sent December 06, 2010).

- DeFrance answered the question over serving the Lord's Supper twice on Sunday stating that it was sinful yet refused to answer the question about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Robertson pressed DeFrance for a simple yes or no regarding the rumor that he had heard yet DeFrance time and time again refused to answer the question. After seven back and forth e-mails with DeFrance refusing to answer the question brother Robertson remarked, "If you reply to me with one more e-mail like you have sent I am blocking you from my address. Your next post to me should give the answer to the question I wrote. Who has the right to marry, divorce, and remarry. When you answer that question I have more. When I have a thorough understanding of where you are coming from then we can get started. I'm not going to go digging through all your sermons and articles trying to figure out what you believe. You need to give clear and concise answers to these questions and thereby obey the Lord (1 Peter 3:15). If you want to kill this discussion then send another e-mail like the ones below. Now, do you want to go on with this or not?" (December 08, 2010).

- Obviously Clint DeFrance wanted no part in answering the question nor having the debate over cups and classes. That same day DeFrance replies with accusations that the elders and preacher at the Floral heights church made no efforts to study with the McDonalds or Lee's. DeFrance claimed that our efforts were so horrible that we did not even know where the McDonald's or Lee's live. Robertson ends the discussion by not replying to any more of DeFrance's back and forth refusal to give answers to the reason of his faith noting that this man is "perverted and sins being self-condemned" (Titus 3:11).

These recent events have resulted in four of our members rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ for a "different gospel" (Galatians 1:6-7). Those four members are Gary McDonald jr., Gary McDonald Senior, Bill and Diane Lee. Like Demas of old they have forsaken the right ways of the Lord (2 Timothy 4:10). The false teacher Clint DeFrance said in his final words to me, "I pray for you and your congregation. May God have mercy on your souls and grant you a further opportunity to repent. Know that we will continue to spread the truth on this issue across the city and in every home." Brethren, this has the ring of a threat that these brethren are going to continue their efforts to destroy souls (from their prospective they are saving souls). Mike and Tom (elders) have asked that if you are contacted by these brethren to let them know immediately. Jesus warned his disciples of false teachers saying, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees" (Matthew 16:5-6). The apostle Paul warned the brethren about Alexander the coppersmith saying, "of whom do thou also beware" (2 Timothy 4:14). Brethren, I too warn you to beware of Clint DeFrance and Jimmy Cating.