

# THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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## NO TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS, PLEASE BILL HALL

We have received a remarkable heritage from men of the past, careful students of the Bible, who have provided for us a vast amount of information which they mined from the scriptures. These men faced many of the same doctrinal issues with which we struggle and have passed on to us sound, scriptural arguments that can help us come to the truth. Sadly, we are seeing very little appreciation for this heritage.

### Neglect in Teaching

Among many there is ignorance of both the sound teaching that has been passed down to us and of the men whom God used to provide this vast collection of teaching. To some degree we older preachers are at fault. We grew up hearing scriptural

arguments regularly. Preachers during gospel meetings were especially forceful in their presentation of truth. We could quote many scriptures, not because we had purposely memorized them, but from having heard them again and again.

But over the past forty years most of our teaching along these lines has been done in private studies. We see few non-Christians in our audiences. Why preach on controversy related to baptism, the Holy Spirit, or authority when we are “preaching to the choir?” “This audience already knows all these things,” we think, “and besides, they struggle with so many personal problems that we need to focus on these rather than on doctrinal issues.” Consequently,

there has been neglect in teaching fundamentals of truth, leaving many in a younger generation questioning conclusions that have been accepted through the years, not knowing the sound arguments leading to those conclusions.

### Rejecting of Anything “Traditional.”

Others reject the teaching that has been done in times past because they do not want anything “traditional.” They are looking for anything that is fresh and new. There is an eagerness to restudy subjects like the Holy Spirit and other subjects mentioned above, but, “Please, don’t give me the old, traditional arguments,” “Give me something exciting, something that challenges traditional

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*35 Walnut Ct.*

*Mogadore, OH  
44260*

*Phone:*

*330.628.7432*

### *SERVICES:*

*Sunday*

*Bible Study:*

*10:00 am*

*Worship:*

*10:50 am*

*6:00 pm*

*Wednesday*

*Bible Study:*

*7:30 pm*

thinking.” So, all of the vast information that is the product of hours and hours of careful study by great men of the past is laid aside in the quest for what is new and exciting.

### What Should Be Our Response?

How should we use this volume of information passed on to us? Should we blindly accept what has been taught in the past? No! A thousand times no! The scriptures are the standard of truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Whatever we hear or read, whether at present or from the past, must be tested by the scriptures “to find out whether these things (are) so” (Acts 17:11). In fact, many of us have had to abandon some of the arguments we heard and once made, because we were convinced that to use them would not be “handling accurately the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15, NASB). But we do not abandon them in search for what is new, fresh, and exciting. Any scripture, any argument in support of truth, that results from proper use of the word should be repeated again and again until it is embedded in the minds of our hearers, and we should not apologize for the fact that it is an argument that has supported the truth for 100 years or more.

Do we worship the men of the past? No! A thousand times no! But the Bible speaks of some in the first century who were to be highly esteemed: Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:29-20), Mary the mother of Jesus (Lk. 1:48), Mary who anointed Jesus (Mt. 26:13), and elders (1 Thess. 5:12-13). If these were to be highly esteemed, should we not appreciate those who have helped us in knowing truth? It is a sad day when gospel preachers are more familiar with the names of teachers of error than of the names like Larimore, Srygley, McGarvey, Puckett, Turner, and other good men who have helped us in overcoming denominational thinking in answering those who challenge truth.

What should be our response? Don’t ignore good teaching that was done in past generations or cast it aside as traditional. Study it in light of the scriptures, abandon any argument that is based on misuse of scripture, hold to all that is truth, teach it without apology and teach it often, and thank God for the blessing that is ours from the study of great men who went before us.

### Don’t Forget Our Gospel Meeting:

March 27—April 1

Speaker: *Paul Blake*

### Victory

“To faithful Christians  
death will seem,

Just as a sweet unbroken  
dream;

Within the silent tomb to lie,  
Awaiting summons from on  
high.

Then on the resurrection  
morn,

On wings of angels to be  
borne;

Somewhere beyond the sun-  
set’s hue,

To a city where we’ll live  
anew!

With all the ransomed ones  
to sing,

O Death, where is thy sting?  
O grave, where is thy victo-  
ry?”

-- Ollie Heath Ballou

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“So on I go not knowing;

I would not if I might;

I would rather walk in the  
dark with God, than walk  
alone in the light,

I would rather walk with  
Him by faith,

than walk alone by sight.”

-- Mary Gardner Brainard

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“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” (Acts 2:40)