

"Now, Is That Nice?"

Gary McDade

We are unalterably committed to "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). Sometimes when you speak the truth no matter how much love you have in your heart for the lost someone will think your efforts unkind. Perhaps some of that has to do with the gullible philosophy of relativism that has permeated our society these days that holds to the view that "everyone is right and no one is wrong" about anything! When we believe and defend the premise that the Bible is from God and constitutes the sole standard in matters of faith and practice, we are viewed as narrow minded or exclusivists.

People are listening to our radio program from Getwell, "The Truth In Love." It is the longest continually airing religious radio program in the Mid-South. It began in February of 1954. Emerson J. Estes was the first speaker. It has occupied the same place and time for all those years (8 a.m. 560 AM). Also, for about five years now we have been airing over radio station WPPA, 1360 AM out of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The program there is supported by the Pottsville Church of Christ that meets at 200 North Route 183, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania 17902 where Vic Carmichael serves as the preacher. We hear from people personally and through the mail who regularly listen.

One man wrote recently, "It is 7:22 a.m. Friday [March 9, 2007] and I have just been listening to a radio message by Adrian Rogers, ex-pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, on Christian Radio AM 640.

"He preached on five ways to tell a false prophet.

"I respect you highly but only one item reminded me of you.

"He said that anyone who preached that anything other than by faith through grace in Jesus Christ was a false prophet. He specifically mentioned that anyone who said baptism was

necessary before you can be saved is a false prophet."

Many members of the churches of Christ mistakenly are under the impression that denominational preachers are so polished and proper that never would they utter anything offensive or combative in any way toward anyone. At least this man's letter serves to correct that misimpression. Incidentally, Bellevue is, as reported, continuing to air Adrian Rogers radio addresses even though he expired some time ago. He is responsible for what he taught while he was alive, and Bellevue is responsible for the content of these programs and answerable for that content even though the speaker is dead. Please, notice that the late Adrian Rogers did not say of those who teach that baptism is necessary to salvation that they could possibly be mistaken or that those who teach that baptism is necessary to salvation should reconsider certain other teachings in the New Testament on the subject. No, he called all such as teach the necessity of baptism false prophets. Revelation 20:10 says, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." To those always seeming to side with the denominational preachers approach to religious discussions we cordially ask, "Now, is that nice?" If you think those of us with the courage of our convictions to take on these high dollar doctors of divinity are rough and unpolished, then what do you think of Adrian Rogers now? When he says, "Anyone who said baptism was necessary before you can be saved is a false prophet," he was saying that those who teach that are going to hell. We have it on record now, and even those who are not members of the churches of Christ like the man who wrote in to "The Truth In Love" radio program know it that the Bellevue

Baptist Church believes and teaches that we are going to hell because we teach that "baptism is necessary before you can be saved."

Let's look at some preachers who taught that "baptism was necessary before you can be saved."

Peter

The apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). In his first letter he said, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 3:20-21).

Paul

In a book that has as its theme the obedience of faith Paul wrote, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:3-5).

Jesus Christ

Do the people at Bellevue not know that our Lord Jesus Christ taught that "baptism was necessary before you can be saved"? Hear him, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16).

Peter, Paul, and even our Lord Jesus Christ taught the doctrine that the people at Bellevue Baptist Church say makes one a false prophet. Don't you think it is time that they realize they could possibly be mistaken on their stand against baptism and that they should reconsider certain other teachings in the New Testament on the subject of baptism? We in the

churches of Christ are unalterably committed to "speaking the truth in love."