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PRESENT NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH

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Some have been discouraged over what they consider the slow progress of our Bible Presbyterian testimony. Others feel that there is no real reason for discouragement. Whichever of these positions one may take, it must be admitted that there is much room for advancement in our denomination. What will bring about that advancement is a question which demands a fuller treatment than can be given in this brief article. At least, a few suggestions can be made.

First of all there is need for more **Fellowship**. Because of their location many of our ministers have little or no regular fellowship with other Bible Presbyterian men. (During our vacation we spent some time with one such minister. There are only a few other ministers in his presbytery and they are hundreds of miles away. He goes for months without seeing another Bible Presbyterian minister.) And since every preacher must have fellowship they make friends among other ministers. This is generally beneficial when the other men are orthodox, spiritual, and separate from Modernism. But sometimes, these ministers attempt to convert our men to their position. One will argue immersion, another the second blessing, and a third absolute independency. Since many men are convinced by the arguments they hear the most frequently some of our men have been strongly influenced, if not lost to the movement. This might have been avoided had the proper fellowship been provided.

At least two things can be done to remedy this situation. One is the appointment of a Home Missions Secretary. This Secretary by regular visits to all the churches could strengthen the pastor in his denomination. He also could help the pastor start another work in his own locality which would ultimately result in a solution

of the fellowship problem. Another would be the making available of certain of our leading ministers for special meetings in these outlying churches. Not only would this provide fellowship for the minister but would be a means of great blessing to his church.

A second suggestion for the growth of our work is A RE-EMPHASIS OF OUR POSITION. If our ecclesiastical position is publicised our church will grow. For that position is right. The reason why the U.S.A. church (and other modernistic denominations) squelches investigation, while we encourage it, is that our church gains by it and theirs loses. When Christian people learn that their churches are not only tolerant of heretics but controlled by them and that there is a true church free from such teaching, they will make the change. It is our duty to help them to see this.

Our position toward historic Christianity should also be made clear. Some groups, which are extreme, involve not only Church doctrine but also Church government in their separation. They say that one should not only leave the "old line" denominations because of their heresy but also because of their form of government. Had these folks lived in the days of the purity of the great denominations they would have separated from them—even then. We would have stayed with the denominations. We believe in the continuity of the historic Christian church.

A final suggestions would be **A Proper Perspective**. Although much talk about modernism and separation from it is necessary, the propagation of such information is not the primary function of our Church. Our main ob-

jective is the salvation of men and women. Christ's last command was the evangelization of the world. The negative aspect of the gospel is important but not pre-eminent. People are not saved, sanctified, or made serviceable by negative preaching. Such preaching can arouse the proper indignation against the evil-doers of our day but it cannot instill in people the elements for spiritual growth. Elementary psychology declares that continual meditation on the evil about one causes morbidity.

Having shown the people that their churches are modernistic and inadequate we cannot stop there but must go on to prove that we have something better. Churches with sound Biblical teaching and true Christian fellowship must be provided. When people "come out", they must have some place to go. What is needed is a happy combination of the positive and negative aspects of the gospel in our preaching, the proper proportion of each to be determined by a diligent study of the Scriptures.

These few suggestions are offered with the hope that all of us may do everything within our power to advance this work which is so close to our hearts.

"Loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ demands that every Christian study to know and declare himself either for or against the Christ of the Fundamentalist or the Christ of the Modernist. In such a conflict as this silence is cowardice, nay, it may even be construed to be desertion and teachery. Loyalty to God in these difficult days of deepening apostacy calls every Christian to three things: discernment, devotion and division."—Ruth Paxson in *Life on the Highest Plane*.

"FOR IF THE TRUMPET GIVE AN UNCERTAIN SOUND, WHO SHALL PREPARE HIMSELF TO THE BATTLE."—I Corinthians 14:8.