

The Old Paths

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“Gung Ho!”

Larry Ray Hafley, Baytown, TX

Is this church a “Gung Ho” church? It ought to be. Indeed, it must be if it is to be pleasing to the Lord.

“Gung Ho” is a Chinese expression. “Gung” means, “to work,” and “Ho” means, “harmony, accord.” Hence, to be “Gung Ho” means to work in unity and harmony with one accord. It is a Biblical concept. The early church “*continued steadfastly...daily with one accord*” in the work of the Lord (Acts 2:42, 46). “*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul*” (Acts 4:32). We are to “*be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*” (Phil. 2:2). “*Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (I Cor. 15:58).

A church may have unity and harmony but do nothing in service to the Lord. Likewise, a church may be at work but torn apart by quarrels and strife (Rev. 2:2-5; 3:1-5). Neither is approved in God's sight (I Cor. 3:1-3; Gal. 5:7).

Generally, the busier a church is, the less likely it is that it will be fussing and feuding. “A mule cannot kick while he is pulling.” “Idle hands are the devil's workshop.” To avoid needless, sinful bickering and backbiting, “*Let us*

rise up and build” (Neh. 2:18).

Usually, a church that is characterized by “*strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance (and) disturbances*” is a church that is doing little at all to advance the cause and course of the Christ (II Cor. 12:20). To effectively serve the Lord, we must lay aside “*all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*” and none of us should be “*an evildoer or...a busybody in other men's matters*” (I Pet. 2:1; 4:15).

In other words, to serve the Lord acceptably and go to Heaven when we die, this church must be a “Gung Ho” church!

Editor's Note:

As we look at the work going on here, we see many things being done to the glory of God (website, personal work, bulletins, TV, radio, etc.). For these opportunities, we ought to thank God. Yet, we also know that there is still room for improvement. As we strive to spread the word of God as far as we can (I Thess. 1:9; Mk. 16:15; II Tim. 2:2; etc.), let us also be active in nurturing and cultivating a united love for God and one another in this place. For examples of what this demands, read Exodus 36:1-7; as well as Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37, 8:4; and I Thessalonians 4:9.

This church can be readily described as “gung ho” so long as we follow the Lord's plan in all things (Col. 3:17).

“A Little Boy's First Bible”

A little boy's first Bible
Is the greatest thrill he's known
There's a sweet unique excitement
In a Bible all his own!
And yet my heart is smitten
As the touching sight I see,
Has his reverence for that Bible
Depended much on me?

As I see him with his Bible,
I bow my head and pray,
“May he always love that Bible
The way he does today.”
Then I hear a voice within me
Speak in solemn words and true;
“How he cherishes that Bible
Will depend a lot on you.”

I love my Bible better
Since I've seen the beaming joy
This wonderful possession
Has afforded to my boy.
May I seek to give mine daily
A devotion he can see;
For the love he bears to his Bible
Will depend a lot on me.

--Selected

The most exercise some folks get is “jumping” to conclusions!

Remember: “*The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.*”
(Prov. 18:17, NKJ)

Can You Teach The Gospel?

Jarrod Jacobs

The following question might be misunderstood as a question about whether or not one can teach the gospel in a public manner among a number of folks. Please do not make that assumption. While it is a great thing to have men ready and willing to teach others the gospel in a “public manner,” please understand that this question asks simply whether or not we can spend time instructing our young (Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:3-5), as well as instructing a friend or neighbor in the truth of God’s word (II Tim. 2:2). “Can YOU teach the gospel?” The place where instruction takes place could be in the “living room,” at the “dinner table,” or across the fence!

Christians ought to examine their knowledge and their willingness to teach others the gospel. Even knowing the “basics” of the gospel and teaching it can do much to help others. After all, do **you** know what you did to become a Christian? If so, then can we not also spend some time telling others what we did, and encouraging them to do the same?

The following article written by bro. Steven Deaton asks some pointed and pertinent questions related to our Bible knowledge and willingness to speak to others about the Bible. Please read this and bear in mind that one does not need to be a “great orator” in order to teach the gospel effectively. It does however, take knowledge, courage, and a willingness to teach folks the truth. Please read brother Deaton’s article carefully, and then let us make some positive changes so

that we can be better suited for the kingdom of God.

Can You Teach?

Steven F. Deaton, Shepherdsville, KY
From: *The Hebron Herald*, Oct. 2006,
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Paul rebuked the Hebrews for not being able to teach (Heb. 5:12-14). They ought to have been able to instruct others about God’s will, but were in need of teaching, themselves. Their growth was stunted, their maturity in the Lord lacking. We pity the person with physical immaturity or mental retardation. Do we feel the same way about an underdeveloped soul? What if it is ours?

Christians need to grow to the point they can teach others. Timothy was given the charge to “commit these (gospel truths) to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2). One’s ability to teach does not mean he must know how to address “every single point” of Premillennialism with a Baptist preacher before he can teach someone. However, every Christian ought to be able to teach their neighbor what to do to be saved — with the ability to address common objections to the gospel plan of salvation.

Address the following questions and see if you can give four or five

Scriptures — book, chapter, and verse — and/or arguments for each.

- Can you teach someone that baptism is essential for salvation?
- Can you teach someone that the thief on the cross is not our pattern for going to Heaven?
- Can you teach someone that the Old Testament is not authoritative for us?
- Can you teach someone that faith alone is a false doctrine?
- Can you teach someone that once-saved-always-saved is false doctrine?
- Can you teach someone that the Bible can be understood?
- Can you teach someone that we can understand the Bible alike?
- Can you teach someone that the Bible does not support many “roads” to Heaven?

No, we will not give the answers in this article. If you do not know them, search the Scriptures until you find them. These are basic. If you cannot address them and answer them adequately, then how can you hope to discuss salvation with others?

Let us not fall under the same condemnation as the Hebrews — babes in need of milk. Let us teach to the souls of others, and our own (I Tim. 4:16).

(Adapted for this bulletin space - JJ.)

“Let The Bible Speak”
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“The Ancient Landmark”: airs Monday (9 p.m.), Wednesday (5 p.m.), & Thursday (11 p.m.) on channel 52.

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