



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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Page 1

THE MENACE OF MULTICULTURALISM

By Laurence A. Justice

Exodus 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

For Christians today multiculturalism is a widely used but little understood term. Multiculturalism has found its way into our institutions and into our everyday lives yet the great majority don't even seem to realize it. Our children have been taught this philosophy in the schools. Hollywood and the whole entertainment industry are constantly propagandizing the public with its principles. Liberalism and ecumenicalism have even brought multiculturalism into the churches. So pervasive has multiculturalism become that it has turned our Western civilization upside down in one generation. Christians need to be aware of multiculturalism and to understand it and to

act biblically in relation to it if we are to be pleasing to God.

WHAT MULTICULTURALISM IS

I have in my possession several different dictionaries of the English language. No dictionary that I own defines multiculturalism, indicating that this is something that has come to prominence just in the present generation.

Multiculturalism is a worldview that declares that all human cultures and moral codes, no matter how ennobling or how rotten are equally valid. It believes that all human cultures are of the same worth.

The basic message of multiculturalism is that all cultures are equally good and beneficent, no matter how violent or oppressive. **(Next Page)**

J.R. GRAVES and OLD LANDMARKISM PERVERTED

By J. C. Settlemoir

In the June, 2001, issue of *Berea Baptist Banner*, [Mantachie, MS, hereafter BBB], Elder Curtis Pugh, a missionary to Romania and a foreign correspondent of BBB, published an article which he took from J.R. Graves' weekly paper, *The Baptist*, identified only as to the year, 1867. The title in BBB was “Principles, Policies & Practices Consistent with Biblical Baptist Doctrine, Adapted & edited by Curtis Pugh” p. 101. He did not identify Graves by name but said *The Baptist* was “Published by certain influential members of the Southern Baptist Convention of those days.” This article

was Graves' **Standing Editorial** in *The Baptist* which he kept before the world for many years!

Bro. Pugh made many changes (I estimate about two hundred) in this document without giving the reader any idea of what he had altered, deleted, changed, added or perverted—and he did all of these! One of the most significant changes Bro Pugh made in this document was in “Six Important Doctrines” number 4, which is the definition of a church and how it is constituted.

Because I had read this *standing editorial* of **(See PERVERSION Cont. P. 6, Left Col.)** (())

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CO-EDITORS' ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Editor, Eld. Wayne Camp, may be reached at the address given above, or at his home address. His home address at present is: 3809 Strider Rd, Scobey, MS 38953.

Home: (662) 229-9578

E-mail address: rwcamp@gpp-5grace.com

Visit our Home Page on the Internet

<http://www.gpp.camps-computer.com/>

Editor, Eld. Bill Lee may be reached at PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38901-0876.

Editor Lee's phone number is 662-226-2715.

E-Mail Address: billandjan@cableone.net

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(MULTICULTURALISM CONTINUED F. P. 1)

Ruthless, repressive, backward cultures are seen as equal to Western civilization.

Every culture is seen to be correct by its own standards and thus not to be judged by others. Westerners have no right to judge other cultures because they are of as much value as our own Christian culture. Multiculturalism calls for **diversity** which means that they will accept any religion and any culture. The obvious faults and shortcomings of non-Christian cultures are ignored and even praised.

Multiculturalism says that there is **no absolute truth**, only personal preferences and private opinions, each of which is as good as any other if believed sincerely. We therefore must be neutral and **tolerant** of all aspects of all human cultures and religions. One pundit has correctly called multiculturalism, **hyper-tolerance**.

Multiculturalists view the displacement of paganism by Christianity as an embarrassment and an injustice to paganism. Another name for multiculturalism is **PC** or **political correctness**.

Multiculturalism started on our college campuses during the 1960's. It has been brought in and continually promoted through the universities, the public schools and the media. The entertainment industry which is now without question the dominant force in our culture, is thoroughly multicultural in outlook.

Even our churches have been permeated by the multicultural worldview. An example of this is seen in an editorial by Diane West that appeared on Townhall.com March 10, 2007 and I quote: "While British authorities were sifting through the rubble of a terrorist bombing in London, an Anglican priest in a church within sight of that investigation urged his flock to 'rejoice in the capital's rich diversity of cultures, traditions, ethnic groups and faiths.'" By capturing and using these institutions our historic spiritual and moral values are being rapidly broken down.

MULTICULTURALISM TEACHES THAT ALL GODS & ALL RELIGIONS ARE EQUALLY VALID

Multiculturalism would place the one true God next to all of the idols of this pluralistic age instead of above them. According to the scriptures there is only one true God and all men are called upon to worship him alone. It is the duty of all men to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God. The Triune God of biblical Christianity is the only true God! He says in Isaiah 44:6, "...Beside me there is no God!" In Isaiah 46:9 Jehovah God says, "I am God and there is none else." In Psalm 86:10 the Psalmist says to Jehovah, "Thou are God alone! Allah does not exist! There is **one** God. He is

revealed in his word. His names are revealed in that word and Allah is not among those names. Hindus have so many gods they are hard to count!

The first commandment condemns all other gods, religious or material. In our text in Exodus 20:3 Jehovah God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." In Exodus 34:14 Jehovah God says, "...Thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God."

Christianity has the only true God and all other gods are idols. Turn to I Chronicles 16:26-30. This passage calls all men and nations to worship this one true God of the Bible. "For ***all the gods of the people are idols***: but the LORD made the heavens. Glory and honor *are* in his presence; strength and gladness *are* in his place. Give unto ***the LORD, ye kindreds of the people***, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Fear ***before him, all the earth...***"

The apostle Paul did not recognize the culture of the Athenians as equal to his. He called on the Athenians to turn from their idol worship and worship the one true God. He declared to the idolatrous Athenians in Acts 17:28-29 that "...in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ***ought not*** to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Paul called for these pagan Athenians to reject their gods and trust in the risen Christ. This would certainly be a politically incorrect message today!

Many pastors and evangelists and theologians today have folded under the pressure of multiculturalism. Here's what Billy Graham said in an article in McCall's Magazine dated January 1978. The title of the article was "I Can't Play God Anymore." "I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost - were going to hell - if they did not have the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God - through

nature, for instance - and plenty of other opportunities therefore of saying 'Yes' to God...I have never supported Jewish missions..."

Christianity is the one true religion! It is true, not only for Christians but for all men. God's word teaches and Christians proclaim the uniqueness and exclusiveness of the Christian religion! God's preachers have always declared the fact that biblical Christianity is the one true religion in this world but many preachers today would not dare to say such a thing.

Instead they put Christianity into a class with all the other religions of this world. The cowardly Lutheran Christian minister who spoke for Christianity at the Virginia Tech convocation after the terrible campus massacre there said only politically correct things and didn't even mention the name of Jesus Christ after whom his very religion is named.

God's word teaches that ***Jesus Christ is the only Savior!*** As God, he created everything and thus is the source of everything. Jesus Christ is God incarnate, God come in the flesh. John 1:14 has reference to this fact when it says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." One must see Jesus Christ to see God because Jesus Christ is God in the flesh! John 1:18 says, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (or led him forth or manifested or revealed him)." The Lord Jesus himself says in John 14:9, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Man is a sinner, ruined by the fall, full of guilt and bound for hell, completely unable to save or help save himself. Man needs a Savior to deliver him from his guilt and penalty and slavery to sin. In Jesus Christ God became flesh, died for sins and rose again to save sinners. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the only sacrifice that a holy and righteous God will accept for sinners. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proves that everything he said and claimed is true.

Matthew 1:21 says that the name of Jesus means Savior. Here the angel says to Joseph before Christ's birth, "...thou shalt call his name

JESUS: *for* (or because) he shall **save** his people from their sins." God's word tells us that only Jesus Christ can save and that **there is no salvation apart from him**. In John 14:6 the Lord Jesus himself says, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**." Acts 4:12 says in speaking of Jesus Christ, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, **whereby we must be saved**."

All who are ever saved must enter through the narrow gate of faith in Jesus Christ the Savior. The Buddhist must believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved! So must the Shinto and the Jew and the Muslim.

Biblical Christianity has the only true Savior and all other saviors lead their followers to eternal ruin! The Lord Jesus promises eternal condemnation to those who do not believe that he is the Savior. John 8:24 says, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for **if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins**."

The Holy Bible is the one true religious book! Most religions claim their own sacred books. Islam has its Koran and Mormonism has its Book of Mormon. But there is only one holy book that comes from God, only one written revelation from God and that is the Bible. Christianity has the only true and infallible book. Only the Bible is God's inerrant and infallible word for man. Only Christianity is based on a book whose every word is inspired or breathed out by God. II Timothy 3:16 says that "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God..." Jesus Christ has emphatically declared that God's written word is **the** truth. Look at John 17:17 where he says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**." God's book is the only book that reveals true salvation in Jesus Christ. The Bible is the written record of the doing, dying and rising from the dead of Jesus Christ for the salvation of sinners.

MULTICULTURALISM TEACHES MORAL RELATIVISM

Moral relativists insist that no universal standard exists by which to assess the truth of

an ethical proposition. Moral values are applicable only within certain cultural boundaries or in the context of individual preferences. In other words no system of morality or code of ethics is universally binding on all men! All truths are created by humans, the multiculturalists say and thus we cannot judge one truth as being superior to another. I am not bound by any particular moral code as an absolute standard because there is no absolute standard of right and wrong! We all as individuals are the final judges of how we should live. This means that your code of ethics is as good as mine and mine is as good as yours!

Because of this we are often asked to tolerate sin under the guise of tolerating cultural diversity. Multiculturalists often say that what we need is to "understand" other cultures and view their wicked, immoral, and even terrorist acts "in context."

The other day I watched a special on the National Geographic channel on the Aztec Indians in Mexico. The program made no reference to the heinous and morally reprehensible nature of their mass human sacrifices in which the hearts were cut out of their victims while they were still alive in order to appease their gods.

The Islamic culture that practices female genital mutilation is seen by multiculturalists as not to be criticized because after all we celebrate diversity! The heinous murders called honor killings practiced by Islam are rarely mentioned by multiculturalists. When Islamic girls or women participate in pre-marital sex, get divorced, or are raped, family members often kill them in order "to protect their family's honor." In 2002 the Independent Human Rights Commission reported that 460 women in Pakistan were victims of honor killings. Their killers were their own brothers and husbands and fathers and uncles and even mothers.

How can multiculturalists give moral justification to such a barbaric and unthinkable practice? Islamic Jihadists will strap a bomb on a child's waist, send him into a crowded market and blow up as many people as possible. How can

the promoters of multiculturalism justify or even rationalize such a barbaric and

unthinkable practice?

Only God can authoritatively establish the standard of right and wrong for men! The only true morality is God's morality! God has the right to set the standard for right and wrong because he is the Creator of man and of all things and he is the only true God. If the God of the Bible is the only true God then keeping his law is the only true morality.

The Ten Commandments are God's standard of right and wrong. They show what God expects and demands of men as far as morality is concerned. God's code of ethics is true for all cultures at all times and is the ultimate moral authority. The Ten Commandments is the only system of morality that is valid in God's eyes. The law of God has clearly spoken concerning dishonesty, theft, murder and adultery and leaves no room for tolerance of these things no matter who is guilty of them. The nations and individuals in them must answer to God for their moral conduct in relation to the absolute standard of God's Ten Commandments.

At one time America was unified on the principle that our country was founded on a moral structure based on the Bible. We were a nation that based our judicial laws on the law of God. Christian virtues were seen and upheld as preferable. But in recent years multiculturalism has chipped away at the idea of an absolute divinely inspired moral code.

Multiculturalism's undermining of our Christian sexual mores is fast bringing our country to its knees. Multiculturalism has now succeeded in making our country so politically correct and minority sensitive that we have all but forgotten our Christian roots.

MULTICULTURALISM IS DANGEROUS TO BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

It is decidedly intolerant of biblical Christianity, even hostile to it. Because Christians proclaim an exclusive book, God and Savior they are more and more being accused of "spiritual intolerance." But in fact multiculturalism which speaks so much of the need for tolerance is the most *intolerant* philosophy of all! No religion except biblical Christianity is treated by them as inherently

offensive. Multiculturalists want to create the impression that Christianity is offensive in order to reduce its influence in public life. Virtually everything about multiculturalism is against God, against God's law, against God's word and against God's Son.

Our universities highly value multiculturalism but at the same time they censor and silence the Christian world view and Christians who oppose multiculturalism are called racist, bigoted and homophobic. The National Geographic and many scientists and educators today will no longer use the time designation of B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (the year of our Lord). Instead they have adopted B.C.E. for Before Current Era and C.E. or Current Era.

There is a whole list of dangers to our country and our churches created by multiculturalism.

1. Because of the widespread acceptance of multiculturalism our Christian culture is largely unable to defend itself.

One of the purposes of multiculturalism is to mentally and spiritually disarm Christians so that they cannot and will not stand up for and proclaim biblical truth.

2. Multiculturalism creates a spiritual and moral vacuum into which any false god or doctrine or system may easily be introduced.

3. It is a Trojan horse that is bringing the homosexual agenda into our schools.

The reason multiculturalists hate Christianity is because our moral values get in the way of their wicked lifestyles. Since under their influence the biblical standard of morality is prohibited, sin goes unchecked.

4. Multicultural thinking keeps our country from understanding that Islamic Jihad is evil and must be stopped because multiculturalism leaves people blind to evil.

Multiculturalism causes Americans to oppose shutting down mosques in our midst where violence is preached.

Multiculturalism is a lie! God's word says there is one God, one way of salvation and one way of living that is acceptable to God.

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO ABOUT THE MENACE OF MULTICULTURALISM?

1. First we must realize that we are in a great battle in this matter.

We are now in a battle between moral relativism and biblical Christian values and morality. All our great American military and economic power will be for nothing if we lose our moral bearings.

2. We must preach and stand for the truth in a world that is often offended by it!

We must begin to speak out against multiculturalism wherever we encounter it and speak up for Christ and the gospel. We need to get some Christian backbone that will enable us to boldly and unashamedly stand for the gospel of Jesus Christ as the one great need of mankind. In doing this we must avoid all compromise with this dangerous, Satanic worldview.

3. We must realize that the biblical program of missions is at stake in this matter.

Our very concept of missions and

(PERVERSION Continued From Page 1)

Graves before, I recognized instantly under the Heading "Six Important Doctrines", that *doctrine* number 4 had been perverted! It had been altered from *Divine Authority* for constitution of churches which Graves believed to Essential Mother Daughter Authority [EMDA] for the constitution of churches which Pugh believes!

But in order to write the Editor of BBB and Bro Pugh to protest the falsification of item number 4 in particular, I needed a copy of the original so as to verify the exact changes introduced. I emailed Bro. Pugh and asked him for an original copy. He never replied to this request. I did not write Elder Cockrell, editor of BBB, because he was at that time extremely ill, and I would not disturb him during his illness. Thus, I made the trip to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Library, in Louisville, Ky., where they have *The Baptist* on microfilm. The editions from which I made copies were from May 4, and April 27, 1867. The change in Graves' words in number 4 was almost exactly as I thought they were. Bro Pugh had actually reversed **Graves' meaning!**

A little background here may help. The EMDA brethren are seeking to find especially some quote from Graves or one of the old

missionaries is at stake. Since multiculturalism teaches that all religions are of equal validity, the Christian work of preaching the one way of salvation through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ is considered offensive and unacceptable. God's word reveals that sinful men need the Savior regardless of their culture or religion. Chinese people need to hear the gospel, Mexicans, Brazilians, Arabs, Jews and Philipinos. Christians have been commanded by Christ himself to preach the gospel to every creature throughout the whole earth but multiculturalists want to shut our mouths about that gospel!

Multiculturalism has transformed most Protestants today from talking about missions and missionaries and evangelism to "holding interfaith dialogue." Biblical Christians must stay committed to the evangelization of all nations!

Landmarkers which supports EMDA because they have been challenged to produce just one old Landmarker who believed EMDA. They claim these men believed EMDA. Bro Pugh in a letter to me [7-27-01] says:

I believe that Bro. Graves came in his later life to the position which I hold on the manner of church organization, but I have not with me the books necessary to prove this.

If this is true, Bro Pugh is responsible to give us the reference! In fact, if he had such information why did he not include the reference when he published this *changed* version of Graves? He stated in another letter to me that he did this "Adapting & Editing" while he was in Mantachie, MS, where he would have had access to all the books. Bro. Pugh unintentionally admits:

1) He **changed Graves' position in this article;**

2) He admits **Graves' original position was Divine Authority**— that three or more scripturally baptized members can constitute a church according to Mt 18:20 with the authority coming directly from Christ, and

3) That if he cannot supply quotes from

Graves proving he changed his position to EMDA—that every church must have mother-church authority to constitute, then he, Bro Pugh, **produced a false version of Graves, a version he knew was false** when he submitted it for publication!

4) As these supposed quotes have never been produced, it is quite certain Bro Pugh never had any such quotes and his silence proves he never had them. **[Editor's note: It is now July 13, 2007, and to my knowledge, Bro. Pugh still remains silent on this claim of proof that Graves changed his position. He has had six years and one month to furnish the proof. But, the answer has been total silence.]**

Did Graves really change his position? I don't think so and I give my reasons.

I do not believe any such information concerning J.R. Graves changing his position on church constitution exists! Jarrel published *Baptist Church Perpetuity* in 1894 (the year after Graves died) in which he quotes Graves' position exactly as it had been for nearly fifty years! Jarrel was a scholar and an associate of J.R. Graves. If Graves had changed his position on this subject, Jarrel knew it! I cannot account for Jarrel quoting Graves on this very subject of church constitution as if he had never changed his position in a most significant way if he really had! While I have not read all of the nearly 40,000 pages of *The Tennessee Baptist—The Baptist—The Baptist Reflector* [various names of Graves paper 1846-to the end of his life], I am quite familiar with most of Graves published books and I have never seen a line which teaches EMDA. I challenge Bro Pugh – or any other man– **to produce one quote from J.R. Graves** (in unedited form!) **to support this contention!**

Furthermore Graves' son in law O.H. Hailey wrote a brief biography of Graves in 1929. If any man knew Graves position it was Hailey. In this book, written nearly forty years after Graves' death, he quotes this doctrinal statement, perverted by Bro Pugh, from *The Baptist* of 1867, and not a word of a change concerning item number four!

Either Graves reversed his position from Divine authority for constitution of churches to

EMDA or he did not. If he did not then Bro Pugh has misrepresented Graves' position. Which is it?

Bro Pugh closed his article with these significant words:

“These are not new ideas, but are consistent with Biblical, Baptist doctrines that we believe are taught in the Word of God and have historically been embraced by sound Baptists.”— [BBB, p. 112.]

But these ideas (in the item discussed) are not the ideas of *The Baptist*, J.R. Graves, or Landmark Baptists of that day and were not embraced by Baptists historically! Graves did not publish, believe, preach, nor practice this doctrine enunciated by Bro Pugh in item number 4. These ideas in number 4 were not Graves' ideas at all but Pugh's ideas! They were not consistent with Baptist doctrines of those days, to say the least. Hailey says of Graves: “His views and teachings were accepted as the Baptist interpretation of New Testament Christianity.” [Life & Times, p. 110].

This is a plain example of making Graves' written word say something Bro Pugh knew Graves never meant and which his words could never mean and so in order to make them say what he wanted them to say he **had to add this idea to them**, and by so doing falsified Graves' meaning.

To verify these things I will now give these two versions so the reader may satisfy himself as to my charges.

Elder J.R. Graves' Editorial, *The Baptist*, May 4, 1867, p. 1. Graves was fond of italicizing and emphasis. I have not tried to indicate these differences between him and Bro Pugh.

4. Each visible Church of Christ is a company of scripturally immersed believers only, (not of believers and their *unconverted children* and *seekers* on probation), associated by voluntary covenant to obey and execute all the commandments of Christ, having the same organization, doctrines, officers and ordinances of the Church at

Jerusalem, and independent of all others, acknowledging no lawgiver in Zion but Christ and submitting to no law he has not enacted.

Read Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1-5; Acts 2:41,42; Matt. 18:20-23-28; 2 Cor.7:6-19; Philip. 26:27; 1 Cor. 5:12, 13.

Elder Pugh's edition, BBB, June 5, 2001, beginning on p. 101. This section is on p. 109-110. I emphasized the changes which Bro Pugh made.

"4. Each true Church of Christ is a company of Scripturally immersed believers only (not of believers and their unconverted children and seekers on probation), associated by voluntary covenant to obey and execute all the commandments of Christ, having been organized by an ordained man or men having authority from a pre-existing Church of Christ of like faith and order with the Jerusalem Church, believing in the same organization, doctrines, officers and ordinances of the Church at Jerusalem, independent of all others, acknowledging no lawgiver in Zion but Christ, and submitting in spiritual matters to no law He has not enacted.

Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1-5; Acts 2:41, 42; Matt 18:20-28; 2 Cor. 7:6-19; Rev. 2:23; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 5:12, 13; **Acts 13:1-4."**

Here the reader can see Bro Pugh has significantly and materially altered Graves' meaning by adding:

been organized by an ordained man or men having authority from a pre-existing Church of Christ of like faith and order with the Jerusalem Church, believing in

This alteration was made because Graves' position opposed EMDA ! Is this honest? Is this in accordance with the Scripture **"Provide things honest in the sight of all men."** [Rom 12:17].

In a personal letter to me Bro Pugh also

stated in his defense of his "editing and adapting" in reference to this article by Graves:

Secondly, I think it foolish to argue about a dead man's doctrine without taking into consideration the fact that he made changes in his doctrine over the years.

What should one make of such a statement? I do not here argue about Graves' doctrine—let it be right or wrong—but I am contending about **changing** his doctrine! Bro Pugh would not dare do to a living man what he has done to Graves and because he is dead does not excuse this falsification but makes it worse because Graves cannot defend himself.

Bro Pugh admits he changed Graves' meaning in a letter to me. He said:

Have you raised such a hue and cry against the changing of the words of songs (revising them, adapting them to fit correct doctrine) as you have against my doing the same thing with Bro. Graves's words? Is it unethical to so change the meaning of the songwriter and "CONFORM" or "MAKE SUITABLE OR FIT" or "REVISE" it for our purposes? If not, how can you accuse me of doing wrong in this matter? We in these instances certainly make the author's words mean something far different (even opposite) than he intended. And we do this purposefully. Is this wrong? [July 26, 2001].

Bro Pugh here refers to what congregations sometimes do in changing a word or two in a song so as to make it agree with their understanding of the Scripture. But the case is entirely different. Churches when they sing such hymns are not publishing these songs to the world as the words of Cowper, for example! They are singing unto the Lord. They are not saying this is what Cowper wrote in "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood"! But if they do change the meaning and publish it, it is wrong!

Edit does not mean an editor **can change the meaning** of a writer or a speaker he publishes, bringing opposition into approval! He cannot make a negative a positive! He cannot make a truth into a lie! He cannot make non-

support into support! He cannot make an Arminian a Calvinist! He cannot make one who believes in grape juice in the supper to contend for wine! He cannot make a four pointer into a five pointer! He cannot change the meaning of a writer or speaker. And anyone who does so is bearing false witness! What mere fifteen year old school boy would be naive enough to try to sell that line to a teacher!

In fact, **edit never permits the editor to change the meaning!**

The intent of **edit** is not one of *content* but *style!* One *refines and brings into conformity to a standard or to suit a particular purpose* by making a document meet the **editorial standards** of the publication, as to grammar, spelling, syntax and other minor forms. This never permits the material alteration of the meaning. A Campbellite editor has no right to make a Baptist agree with his paper nor do I believe you can find one dishonest enough to attempt it! If this were not the case then there would be no disagreements, no debates in print! The editors would, following this outrageous notion, “refine and bring into conformity” every diverse opinion in the whole world so there would be nothing but unity! Marvelous power!

An example of proper editing is as follows:

The editing of the following treatises has been limited to the removal of obsolete words, substitution of current words for quaint expressions, shortening of sentences by making one or more sentences (re-supplying the subject and verb), adding and subtracting subheadings—all as helps to the reader. *The Five Points of Calvinism*, Editor, Jay Green.

I have many books which Jay Green has edited. I have never found a single case where he altered the meaning of an author. What can we say that about what Bro Pugh has done to J.R. Graves!

An editor may, then, correct spelling, grammar, or even syntax. He may break up a paragraph into smaller paragraphs. He may shorten up a sentence, supply the new sentence with a verb and subject needed to make it coherent. He may condense the article. All of

this is permissible and is constantly done—yet **in no case can he properly alter the meaning or intent of the writer.**

One may add words to a document and make it speak false. This is what Bro Pugh did. One may take away words and change the meaning of a document. One can in other ways alter what one says and change the original intent and purpose. Whenever this is done it is wrong. It is not proper editing but it is an act of desperation which makes a false statement before men and God as to what someone said or wrote [2 Cor. 4:2]. Let the reader judge!

Now in this case J.R. Graves has been perverted by Elder Pugh to **teach what he never said, and contrary to what he did say!** This is indeed “as unwarranted”... as it is unprecedented in its grossness and flagrancy” [Graves. *Great Carrollton Debate*, p. 350] because Bro Pugh *added words which changed the meaning and put a lie in Graves’ mouth!* This is a crime against the Lord, against a brother, against the readers of BBB, against Baptists and other denominations for surely the religious world looks on aghast and repudiates such gross and improper handling of a quote! [1 Pet. 2:12]. There is not a fair and honest infidel in the world who will support such mistreatment of what a man wrote!

I called a lawyer friend of mine and asked him about this. He informed me when a man is dead, he cannot be contacted and his writings become what is called “Intellectual Property.” This kind of document cannot properly be changed. If it is, the parties who have the rights to such books, papers, poetry, and so on, can sue the perpetrator for his perversion and collect damages!

If Graves actually taught EMDA, why did Bro Pugh have to Edit and Adapt him? Why did he not just give us the reference where Graves taught this idea? Could it be simply because no such quotes exist? A few quotes will demonstrate Graves’ position as clear as a bolt of lightning! So clear are these quotes that Bro Pugh has never dealt with them nor has any other EMDA writer! The reader will understand why!

Did Graves teach you must have an ordained man present to constitute a church as

Bro Pugh and others contend?

"Wherever there are three or more baptized members of a regular Baptist church or churches covenanted together to hold and teach, and are governed by the New Testament,' etc., there is a church of Christ, even though there was not a presbytery of ministers in a thousand miles of them to organize them into a church. There is not the slightest need of a council of presbyters to organize a Baptist church.' "- [J.R. Graves, quoted in *Baptist Church Perpetuity*, Jarrel, p. 1. Emphasis added].

Did Graves teach Mt 18:20 refers to church constitution?

It is true that two or three baptized individuals can organize a Church, provided they adopt the apostolic model of government, and covenant to be governed by the sole authority of Jesus Christ.- [*Great Carrollton Debate*, p. 975].

Tertullian [A. D. 150] says, 'Ubi tres ecclesia est, licet laici.' Three are sufficient to form a church although they be laymen. [*New Great Iron Wheel*, p. 136; *Old Landmarkism*, p. 41.].

Did Graves teach the authority for constitution came from Christ or from a mother church?

Christ said, where two or three are gathered in my name [authority], there am I in the midst of them. [*New Great Iron Wheel*, p. 136].

Did Graves teach that a church is a company of baptized believers associated by covenant?

"Each visible Church of Christ is a company of Scripturally immersed believers... associated by voluntary covenant..." - [The Baptist, May, 1867, p. 1].

"Now I wish Elder Ditzler to know that there is a world-wide difference between originating an organization different from

anything that can be found in the Bible, different from anything the world had ever before seen or heard of, and calling it a Church, and organizing a Christian Church. It is true that two or three baptized individuals can organize a Church, provided they adopt the apostolic model of government, and covenant to be governed by the sole authority of Jesus Christ."- [*Great Carrollton Debate*, p. 975.].

Did Graves teach that a church gets its authority directly from Christ?

Each particular Church is independent of every other body, civil or ecclesiastical, and receiving its authority directly from Christ, it is accountable to him alone. [*Great Carrollton Debate*, p. 995].

Did Graves teach that a church is invested with authority from a mother church or **directly from Heaven**?

...Therefore, each assembly was a complete Church, and being complete in itself, it was independent of all other like bodies in other localities, and being each independent it was **divinely invested** with all the powers and prerogatives of a Church of Christ. J.R. Graves. *New Great Iron Wheel*, p. 127. My emphasis.

Did Graves teach that a church is dependent upon another church for its organization?

Each particular church, is a body of Christ complete in itself, and absolutely independent of all other religious organizations.

This is so evident upon the face of the Scriptures I see not how to make it more manifest.

The proof given that the very word ekklesia (an assembly) denotes a complete church, equally implies its independency, i.e., that it is dependent upon no other body for its existence or self perpetuation, or the discharge of all the functions and trust of a

Church of Christ. J. R. Graves. *New Great Iron Wheel*, p. 134.

It seems abundantly clear what Graves taught and practiced. In these quotes which I have given Graves expresses **Divine Authority** for church constitution. He says this authority comes from Christ **directly!** This means the authority does **not come from a mother church!** It does **not come from or through an ordained man!** It does not come from a **church vote!** It does not come from a **church letter!** It does not come from any earthly source—**but from Heaven; from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!** It comes **Directly from Christ!** How Graves could have more clearly expressed his position, I cannot imagine. His statements literally mulch the whole EMDA system and spit it out in very small chips! Therefore in light of these quotes for any man to maintain Graves taught EMDA is absolutely preposterous!

Bro Pugh claims J.R. Graves once taught self constitution or Divine authority but later in his life changed and taught EMDA! He claims there are books of Graves which proves he changed his position on this subject. Yet in six years Bro Pugh has never provided these references! Has anyone ever seen these references? Why are they not found and published? Where are they? Perhaps the books went down with the ship!

What has been done? Graves has been broken on the wheel of EMDA expediency! His position reversed, Landmarkism distorted, Baptist History altered!

Why has this been done?

RAIN

The Great Work of God

By John Piper

***“I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields”—
Job 5:8- 10***

If you said to someone: “My God does great and unsearchable things; He does wonders without number,” and they responded, “Really? Like what?”—would you say, “Like rain”?

When I read these verses from Job recently, I felt, at first, the way I did on hearing some bad poetry that went something like this: “Let me suffer, let me die, just to win your hand; let me even climb a hill, or walk across the land.” Even? I would suffer and die to have your hand, and *even* walk across the land? As if walking across the land were more sacrificial than dying? This sounded to me like a joke.

But Job is not joking. “God does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number. He gives rain on the earth.” In Job’s mind rain really is one of the great, unsearchable wonders that God does. So when I read this a few weeks ago, I resolved not to treat it as meaningless pop musical lyrics. I decided to have conversation with myself (which is; what I mean by meditation).

Is rain a great and unsearchable wonder wrought by God? Picture yourself as a farmer in the Near East far from any lake or stream. A few wells keep the family and animals supplied with water. But if the crops are to grow and the family is to be fed from month to month, water has to come from another source on the fields. From where?

Well, the sky. The sky? Water will come out of the clear blue sky? Well, not exactly. Water will have to be carried in the sky from the Mediterranean Sea over several hundred miles, and then be poured out on the fields from the sky. Carried? How much does it weigh? Well, if one inch of rain falls on one square mile of farmland during the night, that would be 27,878,400 cubic feet of water, which is 206,300,160 gallons, which is 1,650,501,280 pounds of water.

That’s heavy. So how does it get up in the sky and stay up there if it’s so heavy? Well, it gets up there by evaporation. Really? That’s a nice word. What does it mean? It means that the water stops being water for a while so it can go up and not down. I see. Then how

does it get down? Well, condensation happens. What's that? The water starts becoming water again by gathering around little dust particles between .00001 and .0001 centimeters wide. That's small.

What about the salt? Salt? Yes, the Mediterranean Sea is salt water. That would kill the crops. What about the salt? Well, the salt has to be taken out. Oh. So the sky picks up a billion pounds of water from the sea, takes out the salt, carries the water (or whatever it is, when it is not water) for three hundred miles, and then dumps it (now turned into water again) on the farm?

Well, it doesn't dump it. If it dumped a billion pounds of water on the farm, the wheat would be crushed. So the sky dribbles the billion pounds of water down in little drops. And they have to be big enough to fall for one mile or so without evaporating, and small enough to keep from crushing the wheat stalks.

How do all these microscopic specks of water that weigh a billion pounds get heavy enough to fall (if that's the way to ask the question)? Well, it is called coalescence. What's that? It means the specks of water start bumping into each other and join up and get bigger, and when they are big enough, they fall. Just like that? Well, not exactly, because they would just bounce off each other instead of joining up if there were no electric field present. What? Never mind. Take my word for it.

I think, instead, I will just take Job's word for it. I still don't see why drops ever get to the ground, because if they start falling as soon as they are heavier than air, they would be too small not to evaporate on the way down. But if they wait to come down, what holds them up till they are big enough not to evaporate? Yes, I am sure there's a name for that too! But I am satisfied for now that, by any name, this is a great and unsearchable thing that God has done. I think I should be thankful—lots more thankful than I am.

Thank You!

In the last issue of our paper we reported to you about the wreck of Bro. Anond's truck and the purchase of a new truck. We want to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and churches that have responded and helped us in this matter. Our God has graciously supplied our needs, and as He usually does, He has done this through the generosity and the faithfulness of His people and His churches.

Bro. Anond now has a new truck that is completely paid for and we have adequate funds in our Thailand account to meet the monthly needs of the Lord's work in Thailand. Again, to all of those who have helped us in this, we thank you, and at the same time we give all of the glory unto our God.

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