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M E S S A G E

TO Pastor Larry Keenan
Rt. 1, Box 44K

Davisville, W. Va. 26142
DATE Aug. 1, 1980

- Dear Larry -

It's been awhile since I talked with you - I think it was prior to your trip to Great Britain. I've not heard a word from the "Restorationists" about the book since January. Do you know when the book will be ready? I keep getting inquiries from interested friends, some who have listened to the tapes & also read my mss. Most of them say they don't see why the "RM" would want to

BY

R E P L Y

DATE *print the debate unless they are masochistic.*

I met Leroy Garrett, of "The Restoration Review" at the Christian Booksellers Convention & he was very complimentary of my research & observations into the "R.M." Of course, both the "liberal" & "conservative" "Restorationists" have no use for Leroy, although I found him to be a man of commendable characteristics.

Let me know what you know about the book. (carbons: Mr. Pyle & Mr. Varnum)

SIGNED *Yours by grace, Bob*

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2950 Camden Avenue
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

RS

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CHARLES C. PUGH III, Minister

August 21, 1980

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Mr. Larry K. Keenan
Valley View Bible Church
Rt. 1 - Box 44K
Davisville, WV 26142

Dear Mr. Keenan:

In reply to your letter of August 8, 1980, we submit the following:

1. In regards to your two questions presented to both of us concerning the doctrine of hereditary total depravity, we have dealt either explicitly or implicitly (a) in four lessons over W B R J on the dates of September 13, 14, 15, and 18, 1978; and (b) in a series of eight articles in the Parkersburg News and Sentinel. You, yourself, admit that explicit answers are not necessary in every case dealing with error. In your May 21, 1980 letter to Charles C. Pugh III, you stated in reference to one of Mr. Pugh's articles, quote: "I need not refute the errors in the article. If it can be proven you have a false concept of the Biblical doctrine of sin and depravity, then your articles will fall of their own weight." By the same principle (which you have admitted) if it can be proven that your doctrine of hereditary total depravity is false, then your questions "will fall of their own weight"! We have ^{proved} in the four radio broadcasts and the eight newspaper articles that your doctrine is false. Therefore, no question you ask is going to change the Bible teaching on this subject.

2. It certainly is the case that sufficient evidence has been presented to prove that your doctrine is false. However, from the reading of your letters we have come to question just what your motive really is. Examples: your letter of May 21, 1980, "I believe I have the 'Sword' into the hilt on this one." And your letter of August 8, 1980, "I am beginning to think that perhaps I have you stumped." Is it your purpose to simply "STUMP"? The truth is the "stump" which you can not uproot and over which you are continually tripping and stumbling!!

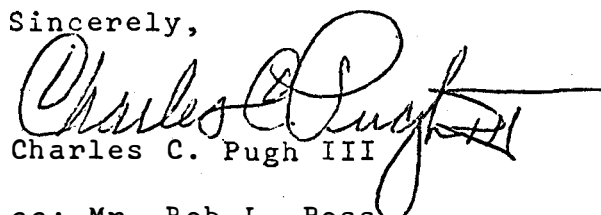
3. We agree with you that we "encourage response" to the truth as we set it forth; however, we firmly disagree, as you state, that we "are unable (and unwilling) to meet the challenge when it comes." We not only have met the challenge, but we extended to you the challenge and met; viz. Elkins-Ross debate on one of your false doctrines! And we stand willing to engage in honorable debate with honorable opponents on any pertinent issue. You know this as well as we do!!

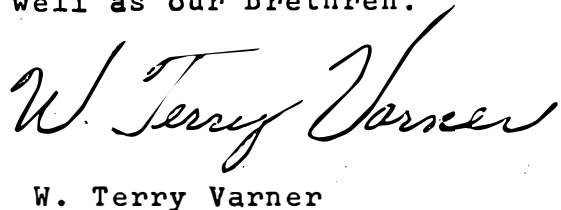
4. In regard to your question concerning whether Mr. Pugh went to Ingold Chapel for a discussion with one of our brethren, we would like to ask you if it is the case that Mr. Myron Guiler (one of your brethren) reprimanded you on his radio broadcast of August 14, 1980, when he chided and rebuked preachers who spend too much time dabbling in politics and fighting issues such as; "REGIONALISM"? Was he rebuking you, Mr. Keenan? Just as in the Elkins-Ross debate when you and Mr. Ross raised the issue of division among others, it comes back to haunt you. No one is more greatly divided than you Baptists!

5. In reference to your so-called plan "to reveal all the truth" to those who read the newspapers, we simply, but, firmly inform you that if you print anything concerning our exchange and teaching on the doctrine of hereditary total depravity, we EXPECT, just as your word states, "all the truth". Therefore, you will be expected to print all that we have presented in Mr. Varner's four radio broadcasts and Mr. Pugh's eight newspaper articles. In addition to the radio broadcast's and newspaper articles, we expect and insist that this letter likewise be printed. To fail to present "all the truth" (your letter of August 8, 1980) will be a grave mistake on your part!

6. In regards to the printing of the Elkins-Ross Debate book, it will be printed as we have informed Mr. Ross and you. At the time of this writing it is on the press. Your "wishful thinking" that it not be published by us is fast turning into a "nightmare" for you! For in your own words "to not print the book is an admission of defeat in regard to the debate" (your letter, Aug. 8, 1980). If it be the case that "to not print the book is an admission of defeat" (and we are printing it) and you obviously are not, after saying you were going to print it, where does that leave you and Mr. Ross concerning admission of defeat? Mr. Keenan, "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth" (Prov. 6:2). We shall be awaiting your purchase, and the purchase by many of your brethren, of the debate book. We are looking forward to a good circulation of this book among the Baptists, as well as our brethren.

Sincerely,


Charles C. Pugh III


W. Terry Varner

cc: Mr. Bob L. Ross
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