

## Problems with Christians in Church – FINAL AUTHORITY

### Introduction

Problems with Christians in church may be many and varied. The main problem in this writer's view based on his own experience from a few years ago is that of FINAL AUTHORITY with respect to where the pure words of the Lord are for today.

The following article reveals how the Lord's people today, by way of example church leaders that this writer is acquainted with, typically have no such FINAL AUTHORITY and that what they put in its place merits the rebuke of Nehemiah 6:8 ***"...There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart."***

### Undermining or Open Cast Excavation

#### ***Church Leaders' Statement***

The reader's attention is drawn to a written statement by a number of local church leaders on the need for unity of the local fellowship. See the attached scanned copy of the statement entitled *One in Christ – a message from the church elders*. The key word in the statement is *undermining*, which occurs either as such or as another part of speech four times.

This writer is aware of why the attached statement has come about and will explain why that is so and why what has been termed *undermining* is in reality *open cast excavation*. ***"The dross of silver"*** Ezekiel 22:18 in this case must be removed in order to bring forth ***"The words of the LORD...pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times"*** Psalm 12:6.

See graphic and note Paul's exhortations to the Thessalonians and to Timothy and in turn to today's believer. It is for the reader to decide whether the attached statement or this writer's studies fulfill Paul's exhortations and whether or not *open cast excavation*<sup>1</sup> fits reality instead of *undermining*.

***"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good"*** 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

***"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"*** 2 Timothy 1:13.

#### ***Devoid of Scripture***

It is noteworthy that the attached statement is itself devoid of scripture. With the title *One in Christ* an appropriate scripture might have been expected such as Psalm 133:1 ***"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"***



See further Paul's exhortation. ***"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"*** 1 Corinthians 1:10.

#### ***Final Authority Unspecified***

It is further noteworthy that the attached statement is devoid of any reference to final authority. That is because the statement has been composed in principle on the basis of the FIEC Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches<sup>2</sup> 'originals-onlyism' as follows. Emphases in the FIEC statement below are this writer's. The FIEC is saying in effect that only the lost originals are/were really the word of God and it therefore follows from the FIEC stance that no-one really has the word of God today or ever can have it:

## 2. The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that **the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine.** The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

See the attached study '**Originals-Onlyists' Final Authority – End Game** for an introduction to the heresy of 'originals-onlyism' and its unbiblical outcome. For the record this writer's final authority is and always will be the 1611 Holy Bible "**the book of the LORD**" Isaiah 34:16 "**the scripture of truth**" Daniel 10:21 "**the royal law**" James 2:8 and "**All scripture**" that "**is given by inspiration of God**" 2 Timothy 3:16 this writer steadfast in the certain belief that no other book is.

Note that anonymity has been preserved throughout this work, in part because this writer thinks that at least some of the church leaders were reluctant participants in the church leaders' statement according to the sense of 2 Samuel 15:11 "**And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.**"

### No Coherent Responses

The church leaders' statement urges readers to speak to the elders with respect to *a substantive complaint or concern*. This writer did so in some detail on two occasions with respect to studies of particular passages of scripture<sup>3, 4</sup> that were made available to the church leaders. No coherent responses have ever been received so this writer is therefore governed by Titus 3:10-11 "**A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.**"

### Explanation for the Church Leaders' Statement

Why the church leaders' statement came about is explained by reference to these studies<sup>5</sup>. See **References**.

This writer had communicated aspects of those studies to various individuals in the church both verbally and in writing. It was that communication that eventually brought about the attached church leaders' statement. It is ironic that the statement disparages *formation of any kind "clique."* St Paul's declaration is "**For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you**" 1 Corinthians 11:18-19.

The reader will benefit further from a further study<sup>6</sup> showing the *open cast excavated* real face of 'originals-onlyism.' This work has sought to show likewise for the church leaders' statement. That statement follows, followed in turn by the study '**Originals-Onlyists' Final Authority – End Game**.

Note that the date February 2106 should read February 2016.

## One in Christ – a message from the church elders

February 2106

We have recently benefited from preaching on Romans concerning our interactions as a loving fellowship of believers. Hopefully, we all feel that we can subscribe to Paul's writing and the preaching derived from it.

Our church has always had believers from different denominational and doctrinal backgrounds. We have sometimes benefited from our differences in non-core gospel matters that we do not consider to directly affect that gospel or are clearly unscriptural. While these differences themselves are not always helpful, we rejoice in the loving fellowship with mutual concern and affection that overcomes them.

We must, however, recognise the dangers that can arise if such differences are given undue importance, potentially leading to divisions in fellowship and factions within the body of believers.

What are the warning signs and behaviours to be avoided? Here are some examples:

- Persistent pointing out and discussing "errors" associated with diverging doctrines and practices.
- Constant criticism and undermining of preached message content or direction.
- Promoting non-core points of view or doctrines in a way that implies that those who disagree are not legitimate Christians, or leads them to question their salvation.
- Intemperate or abusive language used against those with whom we disagree.
- Formation of any kind of "clique" within the fellowship centring around disagreement with others in the fellowship.

We need to be careful how we express our disagreements, not upsetting or undermining the faith of others, not undermining church leadership. If there is a substantive complaint or concern, please speak to the elders. If you think that an issue should be regarded as "core" but are concerned that it is not, please discuss this with the elders.

This does not mean that we can never be critical of another point of view, including those held by the leadership. We just need to be careful that this is done in a considered and loving fashion.

We expect believers who are regularly worshipping with us, whether or not on the church membership roll, to come to worship and share fellowship rather than with a purpose to criticise or undermine.

### **'Originals-Onlyists' Final Authority – End Game**

The 'originals-onlyist' is in effect his own final authority with respect to ***"the words of the LORD"*** Exodus 4:28, 24:3, 4, Numbers 11:24, Joshua 3:9, 24:27, 1 Samuel 8:10, 15:1, 2 Chronicles 11:4, 29:15, Psalm 12:6, Jeremiah 36:4, 6, 8, 11, 37:2, 43:1, Amos 8:11 (18 occurrences in all). The Lord has said ***"I will not give my glory unto another"*** Isaiah 48:11 and therefore concerning the 'originals-onlyist' ***"the same is a thief and a robber"*** John 10:1.

For a current example of ***"...thieves and robbers..."*** John 10:8 see this study<sup>7</sup> and this extract, noting the unbiblical outcome of the 'originals-onlyists' final authority.

*'Only the originals were the pure, perfect, inspired word of God'* or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

*'Multiple versions are needed'* or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

*'Multiple versions must be sifted through to get what God really said'* or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

*'Decide for yourself which version to use on the basis of whatever you think is best for you out of all the versions available to you'* or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

*'Go back to the Hebrew and the Greek to get what God really said'* or a comment to that effect. No scripture – and no identification of *which* Hebrew or *which* Greek to go back to and no explanation of why God was evidently unable to preserve His words perfectly from the perfect originals to what is extant today, in spite of Psalm 12:6-7 ***"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."*** This is what Gail Riplinger had to say<sup>8</sup> in her book about the multiple-whatever-suits-you-DIY-version approach.

*It is scandalous for rich Americans to have ten versions of the bible, instead of just one. Four million dollars was invested in the New King James Version; subsequent to that; several million dollars was spent on advertising campaigns. Many tribes and peoples around the world have no King James Bible type bibles at all; the Albanian bible was destroyed during the communist regime. Many of the tribes in New Guinea do not have a bible in their language. But, these countries have no money to pay the publishers. The publishers are not interested in giving these people bibles; they are just interested in making bibles that can produce a profit for their operation.*

As a challenge to the 'originals-onlyist,' do you want to be counted with that crowd at ***"the judgment seat of Christ"*** Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10? The Lord's evaluation in sum is ***"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them"*** Isaiah 8:20.

The end result is that the individual is left with being his own final authority on what God said according to the mind-set ***"I will be like the most High"*** Isaiah 14:14. That is not a good situation. ***"no king in Israel"*** applies equally to ***"the word of a king"*** Ecclesiastes 8:4 no longer in a church.

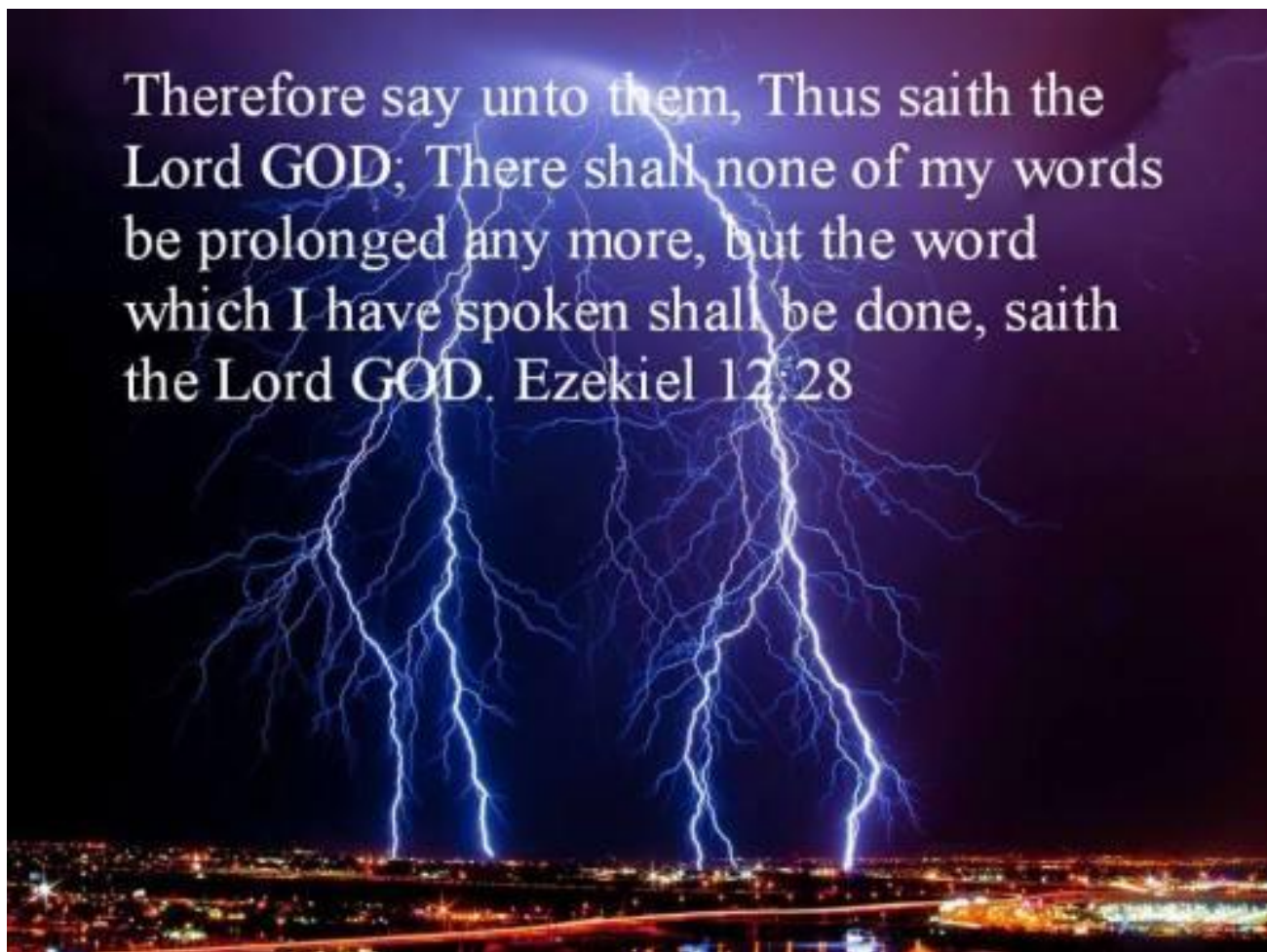
***"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes"*** Judges 21:25.

### **Conclusion<sup>9</sup>**

***"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"*** Ecclesiastes 12:14.

***"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was"*** 2 Timothy 3:8-9.

Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 12:28



## References

All web references were current at the time of writing.

- <sup>1</sup> [www.123rf.com/photo\\_24627635\\_big-yellow-excavator-extracting-iron-ore-in-opencast-mine-and-loading-heavy-truck.html](http://www.123rf.com/photo_24627635_big-yellow-excavator-extracting-iron-ore-in-opencast-mine-and-loading-heavy-truck.html) *Stock Photo - big yellow excavator extracting iron ore in opencast mine and loading heavy truck*
- <sup>2</sup> [fiec.org.uk/who-we-are/beliefs](http://fiec.org.uk/who-we-are/beliefs) *Beliefs – Doctrinal Basis*
- <sup>3</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php) *Acts 8v37 - Why this SHOULD be in the Bible!*
- <sup>4</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) *1 John 4, 5*
- <sup>5</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/)  
*AV1611 Advanced Revelations*  
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- <sup>6</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/) *The Great Bible Robbery*
- <sup>7</sup> [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php) *The 1611 Holy Bible Cleanses Fundamental Evangelical Modern Version Falsehood pp 25-26*
- <sup>8</sup> [www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html](http://www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html) *Which Bible is God’s Word?* by Gail Riplinger, p 116
- <sup>9</sup> [ioan17.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/1396051\\_532673163490649\\_1417765287\\_n.jpg](http://ioan17.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/1396051_532673163490649_1417765287_n.jpg)