

***CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE* CAPITULATION**

Gary McDade

The drive into denominationalism led by the *Christian Chronicle* produced by Oklahoma Christian University is both insatiable and unrelenting. The Baptists have their Manual (SBC has “The Baptist Faith and Message”). The Methodists have their Discipline. The Catholics have their Catechism. The Mormons have their *Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants*, and *Pearl of Great Price*. Now the *Chronicle* urges Rick Warren’s *Purpose Driven Church* and *Purpose Driven Life* on churches of Christ, and sadly many congregations are taking it seriously enough to implement these books into the work of the church. For example, recently church bulletins have been discussing “40 days of prayer” or like events taken from Warren’s books. Rick Warren, Baptist preacher disguised as Community Church Guru, is the author of the manual now guiding many churches of Christ instead of the Bible.

Odum’s “Comfort Zone”

Patrick Odum wrote the two-thirds of a page promotion of *PDL* in the May 2003 issue of the *Chronicle*. He is “a minister at Northwest church, Chicago, Ill.” After discussing Warren’s abuse of scripture in *PDL*, Odum softens the blow by suggesting such dealings with holy writ are “outside my comfort zone.” Yet, he closed his remarks following the discussion of Warren’s serious abuse of scripture by saying, “Still, for Christians wanting to discover and clarify God’s purpose for their lives, this is an enlightening, very readable guide for individual or especially, group thought and discussion—a timely reminder that for believers, there is always a ‘why’ for our ‘here.’”

The Open Letter

More than 18 months ago *The Spiritual Sword* carried a carefully written open letter by Hugh Fulford to the *Chronicle*. Bear in mind the *Chronicle* has a circulation of about 100,000 and *The Spiritual Sword* has a circulation of about 30,000. For OCU and the *Chronicle* to refuse a response is unconscionable. Brother Fulford plead, “Since the *Chronicle* purports to speak to ‘all segments of the brotherhood,’ I would remind you that there is a segment that is now waiting to hear why the *Chronicle* has such an apparent affinity with those who are seeking to move the church from Bible-anchored truth. We shall look forward to your response” (34:1, Oct. 2002, p. 26). To date, the *Chronicle* prefers to pretend that its corrupt leadership is advancing unchallenged and while men, perhaps even most

men, may not care at all about the doctrinal compromise OCU is structuring, Christ remains in the midst of the golden candlesticks holding the keys of hell and of death.

OCU Has Capitulated

Compromise has taken place at OCU which has sold out and become the spokes-medium for churches convinced that it is unchristian to speak out against the Devil's doctrine of division. Concern for the lost yields compromise with them instead of compassionate rebuke. Concern for acceptance by denominational people erases the proclamation of the gospel from the printed page, radio, television, and electronic media and in its place puts clown ministries, small group ministries, and contemporary worship practices. Clearly, churches yielding to the influence of the *Chronicle* have lost their distinction as churches of Christ like the church where Patrick Odum "ministers" calling itself just the "Northwest church" following the model of Rick Warren's Saddleback church. Why write about these things like this? Because the Bible still says, "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth" (Titus 1:13-14).