

## LIBERALS FAULT THE BIBLE

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It is amazing beyond belief that among the challenges to pure New Testament Christianity today, the faithful have to stand up against so-called Christian college presidents and chide them for faulting the Bible! The cautionary tone Paul took with the Ephesian elders is needful today: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-30).

Ken Johnson, president of Rochester College in Michigan, blames the invention of the printing press and the propagation of the Bible for the division of professed believers in Christ during the Protestant Reformation. He wrote in Rubel Shelly and Mike Cope’s denominational paper *newWineskins* (the old *Wineskins* died due to lack of readership, and statements like the following show why), “Invention of the printing press triggered five hundred divisive years for the Body of Christ. As printed Bibles appeared, large numbers of believers could individually study the text. Soon, persons of persuasive talent, sometimes well educated and sometimes not, began shaping communities with a variety of theology. The result, highly visible to Christian and pagan, is today’s familiar Christian landscape with hundreds of denominations, each having a unique set of religious views and practices” (March/April 2002, p. 27).

The titles above the article read, “Nondenominational Christianity” and “Disciples in a Post-Denominational Age.” Whatever these titles are intended to mean, one thing is for certain: they do not mean the writer is opposed to denominationalism because within the article he went on to say, “...Today Disciples’ descendents comprise several distinct fellowship groups generally worshipping under the names Church of Christ, Christian Church, or Disciples of Christ. Disciples’ descendants outside the original movement are now at the core of new, highly successful non-denominational efforts in many communities” (pp. 27-28). Perhaps someone needs to share with the president of Rochester that a logical contradiction is in place in his statement, i.e.; fellowship with denominations cannot be “non-denominational.” His article appeared alongside those of Evangelicals,

Presbyterians (Community Church type), and one lady who sings for the choir in the Baptist Church!

Once a person has criticized the word of God, faulting it for denominational division, and that person continues to have position and prominence among people who are supposed to love the Bible, a flat out contradiction is more easily swallowed by his followers

May it be known that the reason for the division of Protestantism is due to such false teachings of men; then it was men like John Calvin and John Knox, now it is men like Ken Johnson, Rubel Shelly, and Mike Cope and not the Bible. Bible readers know that it says, “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” (I Cor. 1:10). Men just need to look out for the coming judgment of Christ because Jesus is the headstone of the corner which the builders rejected, and what happens when that occurs is mentioned by Christ who said, “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (Matt. 21:44).