

I came into the church life in 1971 at the age of seventeen. In spite of my age, I did not blindly follow anyone to the church life. I had no doubt that God had called me here. This conviction was absolute and no one could persuade me otherwise. Through Bro. Lee's speaking, the Word of God was unveiled to me. I have stayed here all these years because of that revelation. Whenever Bro Lee spoke, there was an inward witness that he was speaking the truth according to the Bible. I had the absolute conviction that I was not just hearing the words of a man, but the word of the Lord Himself. Whenever I was under Bro. Lee's ministry, the Spirit Himself was witnessing with my spirit. (Romans 8:16)

For years, I attended every one of Brother Lee's trainings. I was willing to do what ever I had to, in order to make it work. With four young children, it was sometimes a challenge. When our fourth child was only six weeks old, I attended the Winter training sessions – sometimes with less than one hour of sleep. Why? Because I wanted to. Where there's a will, there's a way. I knew the revelation, light and life I would receive was worth any inconvenience. Today, I no longer have any desire to attend the LSM trainings. You can say that I must have changed – and that may be. To me, I see brothers reading point by point from an outline. That is not how Bro. Lee ministered.

Brother Lee always charged the saints to go to the Bible – the more the better. He exhorted the saints to find out for themselves – not just to blindly take his word. Today, we are no longer allowed to think and question. Questions, sincere or not, would never threaten someone assured of his standing. So why are these "blended brothers" so threatened?

Also, in the last few years, some of the speaking from those who call themselves "the blended brothers" has not created this same kind of an inner witness that I mentioned previously. Instead, some "red flags" were raised in my being. Unfortunately, I can't remember the exact details or words spoken. However, I do want to point out that I had this inner warning without talking to anyone. No one convinced me there was a problem. Rather, I began to realize myself that some speaking was not according to the pure Word of God. The differences were subtle, but they occurred again and again.

Some topics that caused concern are 'one publication,' the minister of the age, the dilution of the local administration, the insistence on secondary items, the arm's length control from LSM and the "blended brothers."

I have personally attempted to stay out of the current fray. I have never had a discussion with those supporting the blended brothers. I have sometimes wondered why these LSM-saints have never attempted to contact me. Don't they care or do they already know they won't find a receptive ear? Nonetheless I should never have to say, "I am of LSM" or "I am of Titus" or "I am of anyone." Does this not remind you of the situation 1 Corinthians 3? Verse 4 calls people who speak like this "men of flesh". The issue should be: "what does the Bible say?" That is the only ground on which we should stand.

However, by quarantining Titus Chu, the proper ground of the Scriptures has been removed. The brothers who signed that letter have forced the saints to take sides. If we don't choose a side, a side is chosen for us by default. It's the "he who is not for me is against me" principle. To say "I stand on the Bible" has become equal to being against the blended brothers and the ministry of the age.

In my mind, the other piece of evidence indicating that some have swerved from the mark is the mean spiritedness that is displayed over and over again. The writings of the blended brothers are not words of love nor an attempt to restore a brother. Instead they are defensive and mean spirited. The attacks against Titus Chu and Nigel Tomes seem personal and just plain nasty. If the blended brothers are the ministers of the age, why can they not allow others to work and minister in whatever way they feel led by the Lord? Allow the Lord to be judge. Will these brothers one day be found to be fighters against God? (Acts 5:39)

Unfortunately, stories of unkindness and ostracizing of saints in different places also keep surfacing. Eventually, you have to ask, "What is going on?"

In Philippians 1:18, Paul says, *"Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice."* Witness Lee's footnote says "Paul's heart was so broadened by grace that he even rejoiced in his opposing ones' preaching of Christ in pretense. What an upright spirit is this!" Where is this spirit in the blended brothers and other saints who are following "the ministry of the age?" It appears to be missing.

This upright spirit was also clearly missing in the spectacle in [the Church in Toronto] District 1 last Sunday. In words, those opposing the elders shouted of a new vision, but the tone of those words and the vocabulary they used expressed defiance and insolence. Sisters stood to openly defy the elders and slandered them publicly. One sister who has been in the Lord and in the recovery for many years repeatedly called the elders "bullies." Until that day I never quite understood why Paul admonished the women to be silent in the churches and ask their own husbands at home (1 Cor. 14:34 and 35.) Other sisters, some of whom I previously held in respect, were sitting on the edge of their chairs, cheering with pumping arms like spectators at a baseball game. No one who has received new light from God needs to behave in such a rebellious and unruly manner. The whole meeting smacked of a political arena.

I cannot believe that saints whom I have know for 20 to 30 years would ever behave this way. Has some long-ago offence, which was never dealt with, taken root over many years and now is bearing fruit in the present situation causing many to be defiled? (Hebrews 12:15). I cannot otherwise explain the behavior of dear saints who have been among us for so many years.

When I served in the Children's meeting in Group 3 we studied the Old Testament stories. One story I always told the children was 1 Samuel 24 where David could have killed Saul, but refused to stretch out his hand against God's anointed. David did nothing to bring his own promised kingship to fruition. Rather, he allowed God to be God in God's time and in God's way. Apparently today there is no respect for God or His arrangement.

I do not believe Titus Chu is the real issue. I see the quarantine as a "smoke screen." While everyone is busy debating the quarantine, we are not looking at the real problem – i.e. blended brothers and the direction they have taken the saints. If they are so persuaded that their direction is of God, why are they so threatened by anyone who thinks or writes something else? What is going on here? Is it a struggle for power? Now Titus is the target. Who will be next?

Let me point out that I have never been a supporter of Titus – my reasons are not important. However, I have never expressed this view to any of the saints – except Dennis. I am only mentioning this now, because I want you to understand that my current feeling is not based on an appreciation for the man or his ministry, but on the principles I see in the Bible. Through all the years, my feeling was always that if the elders felt his coming was profitable to the church, then my opinions were unimportant and best kept to myself. In spite of those opinions, I never doubted Titus' sincere and honest desire to serve the Lord and the churches.

This matter of 'one publication' seems to be at the center of the quarantine. Titus has published materials not sanctioned by LSM. Unfortunately, 'one publication' is not mentioned in the Bible. In fact, the opposite seems to be true. The Bible itself is a composition of many writers. I doubt they sought approval from each other before writing. It is the Holy Spirit that sanctioned their work. Perhaps it would be wise for the brothers to allow the Holy Spirit to determine the value of Titus' writings.

Since 'one publication' is not in the Bible, it is at best a practice. Even if some feel it is a very worthwhile practice, it is still just a practice. I recall many messages where Bro. Lee cautioned the saints not to fight for practices. Our only fight is for the common faith. How can a brother be quarantined for not following a practice that is not even mentioned in the Bible? If you don't like what Titus is doing, why not just ignore him altogether? Why make such an issue?

Brother Lee always said he did not control the churches and Anaheim was not headquarters. It seems to me LSM is very much trying to control the churches. It has come to the point that I must read the prescribed messages at the prescribed time. To read either portions of the Bible or a Life-study other than those prescribed, is considered divisive. What nonsense is this?

After listening to messages from the blended brothers, I do not believe they are the extension of Bro. Lee's ministry, as they claim – at least not of his public ministry that I heard at trainings and conferences. Of course, I have no idea what was said behind closed doors.

One positive note to all of this – it has forced me to go back to the Bible and reconsider some truths.

I also question--By what authority did these brothers issue the quarantine? Even if you buy into the present teaching regarding the minister of the age (which term is not in the Bible) - what is their Biblical authority?

We need to be grounded in the truth, not tossed about by every wind of teaching. We need to guard the deposit (1 Tim. 6:20) and be equipped with the God-breathed Scriptures (2 Tim 3:16-17).

I am very glad I do not have the responsibility of deciding what to do about this quarantine of Titus Chu.

I suppose the first consideration is – based on the Bible, has Titus done anything worthy of the quarantine? If the answer is "yes," it's simply a mattering of cutting all ties with Titus Chu.

If Titus has done nothing to warrant this quarantine, the choice may still not be so simple or clear cut. Of course, we cannot support the quarantine, but the elders still have to decide what the ongoing relationship between the church here and Titus will be. Feelings among many saints run very strong.

To complicate matters, the issue isn't just the church's relationship with Titus, but with the blended brothers and their ministry. The term "blended co-workers" or "blending brothers" is not in the Bible. However, elders are in the Bible. You are the overseers of the flock. Be encouraged by Acts 20:28-32.

I pray that God would grant you much wisdom and lead you according to the Bible and His Spirit. Brothers, "be strong and take courage...Jehovah...will not fail you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

For years we have sung, chanted and declared that this is the Lord's recovery. If that is still the case, we have to trust the Lord to take care of His recovery. Who knows - maybe the Lord wants to do a new thing.

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