



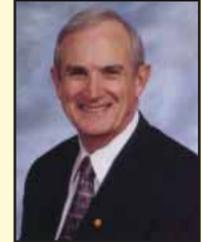
YOKEFELLOW

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Co-Editor's Column
A CLASSIC TRACT
REPRINTED



From The Director

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

Being near to our Creator, Jehovah God, should be the urgent desire and deep motivation of each of us. "...they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our very being" (Acts 17:27, 28). Jesus our Lord is our perfect example (1 Pet. 2:21) in nearness to the Father while here on earth. He was from God, of God, and actual God—from heaven and of heaven, and yet God incarnate (John 1:1-3, 14). What was there about Christ, while temporarily here on earth, that can enable us to be near to God while we are "straying pilgrims" here in preparation for our eternal home?

1. Christ obeyed His parents; "he was subject unto them" (Luke 2:51). "Children, obey your parents in all things" (Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-4).
2. Christ studied and meditated upon the Scriptures, and was regularly in worship, in the temple (Luke 2:41-49); He quoted Scripture in overcoming temptation (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). See Matthew 13:54.
3. Christ was industrious, "the carpenter's son" (Matt. 13:5), "the carpenter" (Mark 6:3). "Jesus answered them, My Father worketh even until now, and I work" (John 5:17).
4. Christ grew and matured, thus was near the Father. "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52), in His Father's business (2:49).
5. Christ was baptized, "to fulfil all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15); He submitted to God's will for His life, "For all thy commandments are righteousness" (Psm. 119:172). His command for sinful man [Christ had no sins] is to be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), removing what separates from God (Isa. 59:1, 2).
6. Christ realized keenly what brought Him to earth; "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10); that is our mission. He "went about doing good. . . God was with him" (Acts 10:38).
7. Christ came to bring peace, to reconcile men to God (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Being the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6,7), Christ established the kingdom/church of peace; there is no place in the kingdom for those who persist in being wolves, leopards, lions, and bears; "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:6-9). "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9); "Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:13; Gal. 5:22, 23).
8. Christ came to demonstrate genuine love (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

(Continued On Page 2)

The "Christian church" conducted a so-called "Unity" meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 3, 1939. One of the invited speakers was brother H. Leo Boles, of Nashville, Tennessee, a great Christian, and a faithful and able gospel preacher, and a man held in high esteem by the church of Christ and appreciated by many who were not Christians. Brother Boles died February 7, 1946. He was one of the most illustrious men of his day. He preached the gospel for more than forty years, taught for many years on the faculty of David Lipscomb College, and eventually became its President. He was the Editor of the Gospel Advocate, and wrote numerous books and commentaries on the New Testament. Brother Boles' grandfather was the legendary "Raccoon" John Smith.

Following the "Unity Meeting" on May 3, 1939, in Indianapolis, Indiana, brother Boles' superb, powerful, and effective address was printed in both the **Gospel Advocate** and the **Christian Standard**, and later it was printed in a tract, and it enjoyed wide distribution. Brother Boles has crossed the river of death, but we continue to honor his memory. Through his writings, like righteous Abel, "he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4).

Brother Boles' great tract, which I have recently reprinted, has been reviewed by several capable, well known brethren. Alan E. Highers, Editor of **The Spiritual Sword** wrote (Oct. 2006, 38:1):

BOLES' SPEECH AVAILABLE AGAIN
In 1939, H. Leo Boles delivered a speech before a "unity meeting" attended by those from churches of Christ and the instrumental Christian Churches. Brother Boles' speech is a classic. With a renewed emphasis on unity efforts in the year 2006 and beyond, the need for this speech is as great (if not greater) than when it was first delivered. We are pleased to note that "The Way of Unity" by H. Leo Boles is available once again in tract form. Order from: Garland Elkins, 7350 Crowther Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 (75 cents each, or \$75 per hundred plus postage).

Brother Jack P. Lewis, in the **Gospel Advocate**, October 2006 edition, in an article entitled "My Pilgrimage," wrote among other things:
The Boles Address

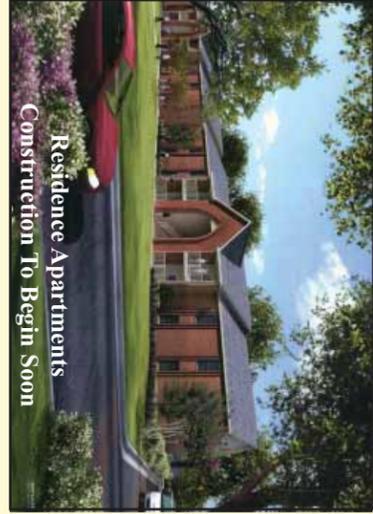
At an early unity meeting in Indianapolis in 1939, H. Leo Boles of Nashville had an opportunity, not open since that time, to explain in clear terms why he and the rest of us cannot accept the instrument.

(Continued On Page 2)

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(Cates Continued)

"We love, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We love, we love God, we love others because God first loved us! "There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear" (4:18). The new commandment is that we "love one another" even as Christ loved us (John 13:34, 35). The evidence that we have become new creatures is that "we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14); we "know," for Christianity is not a religion of doubt! We love, for our Savior loved (2:7-11; Jas. 1:27; Gal. 6:10; 2 Pet. 1:7; Heb. 13:1).

9. Christ had an attitude and a heart of forgiveness; He shed His blood for man's forgiveness (John 1:29; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14; Rev. 1:5). His dying prayer was, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). His compassion is seen in forgiving the penitent adulterer (John 8:11) and in forgiving the penitent malefactor (Luke 23:42, 43). On the other hand, He warned that the prayer of the unforgiving heart will not be heard (Matt. 6:14, 15). Compare the unforgiving spirit of the elder brother, in contrast to the attitude of the Father of the prodigal son (Luke 15:17-32).

10. Christ was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin; thus we have a High Priest who can "be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." "Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need" (Heb. 4:14-16). Because Christ "suffered," struggled with temptation, "he is able to succor them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:18). Does that help us to feel near Him?

11. Christ realized the importance and value of every individual. Often He taught the multitudes; at other times He taught one person, such as the Samaritan woman (John 4:6-27). Leaving her waterpot, she told the people, "Come, see... Many of the Samaritans believed on him because of the word of the woman... And many more believed because of his word" (4:28-42). Do we think this woman was near God? His teaching her prepared the way for the conversion of the Samaritans, which "multitudes gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip" (Acts 8:5-13).

12. Christ taught us to value the spiritual above the material. The Lord, who "loved" the rich young ruler, pleaded with him not to "trust in riches," to no avail (Matt. 19:16-26; Mark 10:17-27). The apostles, on the other hand, who "left all and followed" Christ, would be blessed with "in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:28-31). Christ specifically called "fool" the materialistic, rich, covetous farmer who preached to himself that "things," rather than his "soul," were his most valuable possession—"for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:13-21). One "near to God" is the one who is "rich toward God."

13. Christ prayed to and trusted in His Father; His was a life of prayer. His apostles asked, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). In Gethsemane, His prayers were characterized by agony, "with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death," and He was "heard for his godly fear" (Heb. 5:7); He learned the cost, the price of obedience and of man's redemption (5:8, 9). Christ ministered, and God exalted Him (Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:9-11).

14. Christ humbled Himself, He "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant... becoming obedient, even unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8). He commands, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3); "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Those who "turn and become as little children." "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:1-4). "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" (8:5); does humility have any bearing upon being near to God?

15. Christ was the Master Teacher; "he opened his mouth and taught them saying" (Matt. 5:1, 2). His words were authoritative; He was the Prophet sent from God (Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-26; Luke 1:76); "they were astonished at his teaching; for his word was with authority" (4:32); "he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes" (Matt. 7:28, 29). The apostles spoke with authority (Acts 2:42), "for the words which thou gavest me I have given unto them" (John 17:8). Their Word, the Holy

Scriptures, enables His children thus to "be perfected into one" and to be one with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit (17:17-27); indeed, "our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3)—nearness!

16. Christ was the epitome of tenderness: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37). How tender He is as our Great Physician (Matt. 9:10-13)! Read Psalm 103:8-18 about Jehovah's mercy, graciousness, lovingkindness, pity, knowledge and remembrance that we are dust, and blessings upon us if we fear Him. God takes no delight in the death of the unrighteous (Ezek. 18:32); He does take delight in the penitent and the merciful: "and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32).

17. Christ has gone to heaven to prepare many eternal mansions for the redeemed; He is coming again to receive us "unto himself" (John 14:1-6); where He is, Christians shall be also (Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). That hope is living (1 Pet. 1:3), it is in Christ (Col. 1:27), it trusts in God (1 Tim. 4:10; 5:5), and it is the anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:18, 19). Where is it anchored? It is "a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil"—the mercy seat of God. Who is our forerunner? Christ, our High Priest (6:20).

Christ urged, 1. "Let not your heart be troubled"; 2. Trust in God; 3. Trust also in me; 4. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Follow my commands through faith, "die in the Lord," and you will be blessed (John 14:1-6; Rev. 14:13). How powerful is Christ's example to those desiring to be "Near to the heart of God"!
Curtis A. Cates

(Elkins Continued)

The address that Boles gave, but which the Restoration Summits have not been willing to hear, has been reprinted by Garland Elkins. It is titled, "The Way of Unity Between the 'Christian Church' and the Churches of Christ," and is available through the Gospel Advocate bookstore. If one wants a review of the issues, here is a convenient place to find them. His arguments stand unanswered. Boles did not present new arguments; there are no new arguments. He just explained plainly and forthrightly in his way that the issue is one of Scriptural authority.

Brother Robert R. Taylor, faithful, able gospel preacher, and a superb, prolific writer, concluded his great review of brother Boles' outstanding tract (scheduled to be printed in the **Gospel Advocate**) this way.

BROTHER ELKINS AND THE TRACT OF THIS SPEECH

The tract containing this speech had been available for a number of years. Sometime back brother Garland Elkins secured proper permission to reprint it which he has done at his own expense. He has made provisions with his family for its continuation after he has left earthly scenes. It is a tract that will continue to be relevant as long as these innovations exist.

He has made many valuable comments both at the beginning of the tract and at its conclusion. The tract has 48 pages and the front cover is attractive indeed.

With all the efforts being made in 2006 for unity between the two groups with little or no willingness on the part of the Christian church to come all the way back to truth and Biblical patterns, this tract by H. Leo Boles needs wide coverage both among churches of Christ and the Christian church. This tract will not lose its relevancy at the end of 2006.

It may be ordered from brother Elkins at 7350 Crowther Cove, Memphis, TN 38119. Prices are: 75 cents ea.; \$75.00 for 100; \$350.00 for 500; \$600.00 for 1,000 plus postage.

I have reprinted brother Boles' tract at my own personal expense and as these tracts are sold I will use those funds to reprint more tracts, and through that means I plan, the Lord willing, to keep brother Boles' great tract in print permanently.
Garland Elkins



Vada L Rice
3809 Wind Valley Dr
Memphis TN 38125-2461

Oct. 1, 2006

Dear Brethren,

With the 5th anniversary of Leo's death almost here, I am making a contribution to the MSOP Student Building fund in his honor. I'm sure he would be very happy to see these dreams and plans for the student housing taking shape. One of the highlights of his latter years was being able to make that speech at the Housing Council meeting that seemed to turn the tide in their approving this project.

He believed that if a person or congregation was willing to step out in faith on a worthwhile endeavor, others would then step in and help.

Yours in Christ,
Vada Rice