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Paul wrote several of his epistles from jail or under house arrest. The conditions in most of those ancient jails was abysmal. They did not have the luxuries that people in prison have today. Even though Paul was in prison they could not cage his spirit. Man has yet to invent “heart cuffs.” Paul did not see his bondage as a hindrance to the cause of Christ. He spoke with every one about Christ, even those who held him in bondage.

You see, he understood that his true Master was Christ. No matter what his lot in life, Paul served the Master. The bondage to Christ was a willing, blessed bondage for Paul.

This bondage could only be maintained with the proper attitude. Paul knew that all things belonged to God and without him nothing mattered. *Philippians 3:8* “**Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.**” To Paul, things of a worldly nature were no more than refuse and filth. We should have the same attitude when we are forced to choose between Christ and the cares of the world.

You are in bondage today. You either belong to Christ, or you belong to Satan. There is no middle ground. You must choose one.

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### AN OUTSTANDING CLASS BOOK

The late Thomas Eaves, Sr., of Cookeville, TN was an outstanding gospel preacher and trainer of men to preach. Prior to his death he wrote a commentary on the book of Hebrews, which has recently been published by his widow, Pat. She is marketing this book, not for her own needs, but to promote the mission work that Thomas loves so well. It consists of comments and questions on 197 pages. It is a strict study of the Biblical text and is designed to be a class book for high school and adult level.

In hard back it is priced at \$7 and in paper back at \$4. However, at my request sister Eaves has made the latter available for our readers in quantity (72 to a case) for only \$200 postpaid. That comes to only \$2.78 per book.

Please order direct from: Mrs. Pat Eaves,  
1350 Carmel Dr., Cookeville, TN, 38508.  
Phone 931-537-9770 or online at [peaves@TNTECH.edu](mailto:peaves@TNTECH.edu)

Vol. 7

July 2004

No. 7

## TRUE FREEDOM

Johnny O. Trail



We live in a country where we enjoy great freedom. Our ancestors fought a revolutionary war so we could gain freedom from the oppressive practices of the British during the colonial period of this great nation. We enjoy virtually unlimited personal freedom, and we are very fortunate to live in such a great land.

Considering all of these things, it is ironic to realize that many do not have real freedom. We are not under a tyrannical American dictatorship, but the vast majority of people are under spiritual bondage.

In this life, we are under some type of bondage. We are either in bondage to Christ or to Satan. There is no middle ground, we serve one or the other. *Matthew 6:24* “**No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**”

Many pretend that they are the servants of God. They appear faithful outwardly, but they are entrapped in the cares and concerns of a worldly nature. The brother of our Lord, James, was very plain about this type of service. *James 4:4* “**Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**” If we are the friend of the world we are the enemy of God and in bondage to Satan.

There is good news — we can be in bondage to Jesus Christ. Paul starts the epistle to Philemon by saying in verse one “**Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ...**” He also calls himself a prisoner in verse nine, “**Yet for love’s sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.**”

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## ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Jim E. Waldron

Brother Vic Vadney, a gospel preacher, medical doctor and a graduate of Abilene Christian University, has put a report on the internet ([www.wayhome.org](http://www.wayhome.org)), which reveals the length to which the leadership at ACU is going to turn the church of our Lord into an evangelical protestant church.

According to his report ACU took a bold step in their 2004 Lectureship, and clearly defined terms for restructuring the churches of Christ in the 21st century. Such efforts are already being implemented in many congregations. These reforms, so called, will fundamentally change or make over the church to the point it will not be recognized from the manmade churches. **As you read these things keep in mind that Satan's ultimate goal is to eradicate the kingdom of Christ and God (Eph. 5:5) from the earth and a lot of preachers are working to help him.**

Some key points that ACU speakers made against the bride of our Lord were:

- 1.) "We should cease our elite and sectarian behavior, and ask (as they call them) 'our brethren' in all denominations to forgive our sins, especially that we have said they aren't saved."
- 2.) "We must not say that we have the truth, but that we are on a spiritual journey, just as our brethren (so-called) in the denominations are on their spiritual journey."
- 3.) "We should have open fellowship with all who say they believe in Jesus. We should follow the example of brave reformists (among us) who ask denominational preachers to share pulpits with their congregations. We should also share major social and religious events with our denominational 'brethren.' We should be ecumenical in our thinking and practice, and should openly align ourselves with the current evangelical ecumenical movement."
- 4.) "We should continue to say that baptism is important, but that it is not essential for salvation. We should recognize that there are many non-immersed believers who are saved."

Brother Vadney lists the speakers on the lectureship who led in this assault on the body of Christ and His doctrine. He wrote: "If you want to hear for yourself about this radical reformation, consider the tapes or CD's by the following men:

Mark Henderson: CD-001;

John Mark Hicks & Greg Taylor: CDs-101-102;

Doug Foster, Randy Harris; and Mark Love: CDs-255-257; ICOC (so-called International Church of Christ) Panel:  
Jack Reese, John Wilson, Jim Woodroof: CDs-265-266;  
Leonard Allen: tapes-104-106;  
Richard Hughes, Tom Olbricht, Robert M. Randolph:  
tapes-143-145;  
Leroy Garrett: tapes-152-153; Doug Foster: tape-154 and  
Lynn Anderson: tapes-235-237."

Vadney stated in his critique, "**Please understand that I have no financial connection with GaylorMultiMedia, and that this web address is given only to assist you in verifying information.**" (Many of those speakers are well known as change agents. JW)

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### THE ENTERPRISING CLERGY

Vadney's report continues: "In celebration of these, so called, reform values, ACU recognized their "Outstanding Alumnus", Max Lucado, preacher of the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX, during their 2004 Lectureship. Max has manifested so much of this new order (that) ACU felt that none other could match his attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and accomplishments. (In 2003) Max removed their sign saying 'Oak Hills Church of Christ,' and replaced it with one

saying just 'Oak Hills Church.' He introduced instrumental music into worship, and has been exchanging pulpits with a Baptist preacher. Max does not believe or practice the belief that baptism is essential for salvation. Rather, he teaches and practices that people are saved when they believe. As a result of these changes, Max's church has had very rapid growth, and now boasts 4600 members."

In this connection we must remember that the Spirit warned centuries ago, "**You shall not follow a multitude to do evil**" (Exodus 23:2); and the Savior said, "**Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers of the false prophets**" (Luke 6:26). In every generation there is a class of preachers who wants everybody to speak well of them. Just now the change agents are trying to outdo one another to see which one can get the most praise from the sectarian clergy class in this country and see who can sell the most books to their flocks.

To follow up on this, as noted, click on brother Vic's web page: [www.wayhome.org](http://www.wayhome.org), then click on the site about the ACU lectures. On it you will find his original critique of them and his answers to Jack Reese, who attempted to defend the errors propagated in the lectures. Reese is the head of Abilene's graduate department of theology.



### BOOKS FOR THE COST OF POSTAGE



5 copies of either of the following for  
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10 or more of either selection for **.50 per book**

**Bible Wines:** A classic by William Patton which illustrates that wine in the Bible must be understood in its context. It can be alcoholic (Pro. 20:1) or non-alcoholic (Isa. 65:8).

**An Exchange of Letters** between Mac Deaver and Jim Waldron on whether or not the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian in a direct, supernatural manner.

**Articles on "Mental Divorce":** This is a packet of materials which deals with another innovation on the question of marriage and divorce. Years ago brother H. Leo Boles observed that Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce (Mt. 5:32 and 19:6-9) is so simple that it takes a lot of help to misunderstand it. The doctrine of mental divorce seeks to do just that.

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