

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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**On February 6, 2013, we received the following comment:**

“I have been working with a young brother in my congregation in helping him get settled with his sonship. I don't know if he intends to partake at the upcoming memorial, but I suspect he will. If so, then I am certain at least from our elders they will think I am responsible for his partaking. I will have to think ahead and formulate a response should questions arise. I will reread the response to an elder who was experiencing difficulties with his own body of elders in regard to speaking about his heavenly hope. [**Letter From An Anointed Elder 1/26/13**]”

To the author, thank you for your comment. We publish your comment and our response here because we suspect that many others among our association will be facing a similar problem as the Memorial draws closer.

First we want you to know that, of course, you are responsible for the young brother's partaking, and we say amen! That is what ambassadors for Christ are supposed to do!

“Go therefore and **make disciples** of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, **teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you**. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.” – *Matthew 28:18-20*

“They now arranged for a day with him, and they came in greater numbers to him in his lodging place. And he explained the matter to them **by bearing thorough witness concerning the kingdom of God and by using persuasion** with them concerning Jesus from both the law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.” – *Acts 28:23*

Take a look at the Society's publication, “*Bearing Thorough Witnesses About God's Kingdom*.” The entire book is about making disciples of the Kingdom. On page 10, paragraphs 20-21, it state:

“Let us keep ever in mind that we have been commissioned to do an important work – to preach and make disciples. With each day that passes, the urgency of that commission becomes greater. The end of this system of things is rapidly approaching. Never before have so many lives been at stake. We do not know how many more rightly disposed ones may yet respond to our message. (Acts 13:48) But **it is our responsibility to help such ones before it is too late**. – 1 Tim. 4:16

“**It is vital, then, that we imitate the example of zealous Kingdom preachers of the first century**. May your careful study of this publication more strengthen you to preach with ever greater

zeal and boldness. And may you be strengthened in your determination to continue “bearing thorough witness concerning the kingdom of God.” – Acts 28:23

Yes, brother. You have a responsibility to imitate the first century preachers and teach the hope they taught. And when you speak about the kingdom of God, you can use persuasion. If the hearer makes a decision to take up the mantle of the Christ, that is a joyous occasion! Which one of the elders does not rejoice when they make a new disciple? Which publisher does not feel proud when a Bible student gets baptized? If they can rejoice when they lead someone to the earthly hope, how much more so can you rejoice for leading someone to the heavenly hope.

This double standard in our organization is reprehensible. Those who preach about an earthly hope, which was **never** taught by Jesus or the early Christians, are praised for their disciple making, but those who preach about the heavenly hope, which is the **only** hope Jesus and the early Christians taught, should somehow be ashamed and chastised? That is despicable!

It is time for this double standard to be confronted head on if it is to be dissolved. And it must be confronted with dignity, courage, confidence and joy! Bravo to you if the young brother does indeed partake! More glory to the Christ and to his powerful message of sonship! And shame on those who would seek to discourage it! They are making themselves subject to Christ’s disapproval as were the Pharisees who were likewise shutting up the Kingdom of the Heavens! (*Matthew 23:13*)

There is a lot of patience and tolerance for administrative matters such as meeting times, frequency of magazines, dress, grooming, service appointments, even which holidays can be celebrated. But the righteous indignation of sons of the kingdom should arise when men seek to control who can enter the Kingdom of the Heavens. Such men become adversarial resisters who will be shaken to their core.

We reject the double standard and we hope all sons of the Kingdom likewise reject it. If you are called to answer for assisting others into the heavenly hope, do not cower in fear as if you have done something wrong. Let them know that you are proud of your hope, proud of your ministry, and proud to take sides with the Christ and the Kingdom of the Heavens. **They** are the ones that should be ashamed. You may want to read: **Proving Ourselves Worthy of the Christ and Sons of the Kingdom, Stand Up!**

We will pray that you and the young brother have the courage to take your stand, and we will pray that those who try to suppress and inhibit the heavenly hope repent before there is no longer any forgiveness for them left.

We welcome your comments.

*“Elaia Luchnia”*

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