

## “We Have A Right”

by J. T. Smith

The above title of this article is also the title of a new book published by the Guardian of Truth Foundation. The editors of the book are Dan King and Mike Willis along with articles from various writers.

The purpose of the book is to try to prove that the Guardian of Truth Foundation has a right to hold Bible Lectures each year as they have for the past two years. Their argument is that Guardian of Truth Foundation is only individuals working together and is no different from Gospel Truths, Inc. or any other individually owned entity. In fact, both brethren King and Willis have quoted from editorials in *Gospel Truths* and also from our articles of incorporation. However as brother Willis pointed out, there are rules and regulations that are laid down by the Federal Government that must be met if mailing permits are to be secured.

This is no different than that of many states that require incorporation of churches in order to hold title to property. This is true in the state of California. When I lived in Long Beach, each year there had to be a vote taken by the congregation on members of the congregation to be selected as members of the corporation. This is simply a formality that must be adhered to in order to satisfy the state. It has nothing to do with the organization of the church. The church is still under the oversight of the elders with the special servants (deacons) and members. It still functions in the same way without the interference of those who are members of the board of the corporation. Gospel Truths, Inc.

As I have illustrated on the front page, there is a world of difference between Guardian of Truth Foundation and *Gospel Truths*. Even though my wife, my daughter Joy and I make up the board for incorporation purposes, *Gospel Truths* was founded for the purpose of giving me a medium through which evangelistic work can be done.

### **Brethren Make A Contribution**

At least that is brother Willis' argument. Because brethren send in articles to *Gospel Truths* to have them published, he argues they are making a contribution to the corporation. But that which proves too much proves nothing.

The facts are these. Those who send articles to *Gospel Truths* use the paper as a medium to give others the benefit of their knowledge on different subjects.

What if a Baptist preacher who owns a journal offers to print an article by one of these brethren peculiar to the New Testament but in opposition to Baptist doctrine? Should he submit it? Who would deny it? He not only could but should. Has he made a contribution to the Baptist journal? Brother Willis says he has. If there is no difference in contributing an article and money he could send a contribution of a dollar or a hundred to that same journal? I am sure you can see the difference.

### **Bible Examples of Collective Action**

Those who have read brethren King and Willis book “We Have A Right” can observe that they try to equate *Gospel Truths* and *Gospel Anchor* (which were/are only individual projects – see above) with Guardian of Truth Foundation. They also try to use New Testament examples of Christ and the apostles (which brother Willis calls the “Jesus Group,”) Paul and Silas, et. al. Do these brethren think that their readers “fell off of the turnip truck yesterday with a nickel pencil and a ten cent tablet?” They even try to equate what they are doing with two brethren in Burkesville, KY having a tent meeting each fall.

I don't think any one would deny that the Guardian of Truth Foundation is a *human institution*. A human institution that is engaged in a business venture which they have every right to do (providing books, tracts, Bible class material, etc.). But with their annual lectureship, they are also doing every thing that a local congregation would do in holding a lectureship or gospel meeting. Is that God's arrangement? "Unto Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever" (Ephesians 3:21 - ASV). Should this read, "Unto Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus (*and in the Guardian of Truth Foundation, jts*) unto all generations for ever and ever" (Ephesians 3:21 - ASV). I think not!

Already some brethren are talking about whether there will be division over this issue. Are you brethren so set on having your lectureships that you are willing to have division among brethren? DO YOU HAVE THAT RIGHT!