

# The Grace Evangelical Society News

Volume 5

Number 1

January 1990

## National Meeting for Bible Scholars Considers the Gospel

In November there was a meeting of 500 top evangelical Bible scholars and theologians in San Diego, California. This was the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). The theme for the conference was "The Gospel and World Religions."

Dr. Bob Wilkin, Executive Director of GES, is a longtime member of ETS. He attended the meetings and presented a parallel session paper entitled "Current Issues in Salvific Repentance."

Several items of interest to GES News readers occurred.

Bob was not the only person to speak on repentance. A Lordship Salvation advocate immediately followed him speaking on the same topic from the opposite perspective. Afterwards the two met and the following conversation took place after they exchanged greetings. LS stands for the Lordship Salvationist and BW for Bob Wilkin.

LS "You know, Bob, we basically believe the same thing."

BW "I don't think so. We wouldn't answer the question, 'What must I do to be saved?' in the same way."

LS "Wouldn't we both say, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ'?"

BW "Yes, but we wouldn't mean the same thing. For example, if I shared the gospel as I described in my paper, calling a person to trust in Christ alone as their Savior, and I didn't call them to turn from their sins and commit their lives to Christ, and they responded by placing their trust in Christ alone, and then they died later that day, do you believe they would go to heaven or hell?"

LS "Oh, he'd go to hell since you didn't call him to turn from his sins and commit his life to Christ."

BW "Then we aren't saying the same thing."

On Saturday morning Dr. John MacArthur spoke in a plenary session on "Faith in the Apostle James." Dr. Earl Radmacher responded to his paper and did a good job of pointing out weaknesses in his approach. He pointed out, for example, that we establish doctrine in clear, not unclear, passages and hence it is wrong to go to James to prove one's doctrine of faith. He also pointed out that while Dr. MacArthur used over 20 different qualifiers for faith in his paper (e.g., dead faith, authentic faith, nominal faith, intellectual faith, heart faith, real faith, obedient faith, saving faith, sluggish faith), James used the term sixteen times in his letter without once using a modifier. He suggested that Dr. MacArthur's approach to the gospel was a road not back to Wittenberg, but to Rome.

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## The States and Countries of GES

Bill Durbin, GES Mailing List Coordinator, did a computer study of our readership. Here is a summary of his findings.

Texas is the leading readership state with over 1300 readers. Florida and California are next with over 200 each. Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota and Colorado run between 100 and 200 readers each. Michigan, Georgia, New York, Oregon, Nebraska, Ohio, Washington, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kansas range between 50 and 100 readers. All other states have 49 or less readers. [Every state is represented along with the District of Columbia and

the Virgin Islands, although 13 of these have less than ten readers.]

Canada is our leading foreign country with more than 25 readers. The Philippines is next with nearly 20 readers. There are also readers in Austria, Australia, Indonesia, the West Indies, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Sweden, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya, New Guinea, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of South Africa, Spain, West Germany, and Zimbabwe.

Our total readership now exceeds 4000! That is a lot of growth—doubling in fact—since last January when the

readership was at 2000.

As you can see, however, we have just scratched the surface. All states could have thousands of readers. Many foreign countries could as well. You can help. Sign up interested people from your church, former churches, neighborhood, family, school, and work. Don't overlook the possibility of signing up interested unbelievers. The GES News makes a good evangelistic as well as discipleship tool. It is a very unoffensive way to introduce unbelievers to the gospel. Send names and addresses and zip codes, neatly printed, to GES News, P. O. Box 9013, Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0013.



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## National Meeting Considers the Gospel

After Dr. MacArthur's paper and the responses of Dr. Radmacher and one other, the audience was permitted to ask questions. Dr. Bob Wilkin was able to ask Dr. MacArthur two questions.

BW "In light of 2 Corinthians 13:5 is examining ourselves to see if we are in the faith something that we as believers are to do regularly, throughout our lives?"

JM (Paraphrase) "Yes, we are to examine ourselves on an ongoing basis.... Of course, this has relevance to assurance."

BW "When, then, can a believer be 100% sure that he has passed the test?"

JM "I'm not sure what you mean by 100%."

BW "I mean absolutely, positively sure."

JM (Paraphrase) "Puritan writers said that such absolute assurance was not possible. We can have assurance, but not absolute certainty."

BW "Thank you."

One of the difficulties of Lordship Salvation, on top of its distortion of the gospel, is that it denies people assurance of their salvation.

GES News readers interested in receiving tapes of conference messages can contact Mobiltape Company, 25061 W. Ave. Stanford, Suite 70, Valencia, CA 91355 (Ph.: 800-423-2050; 805-295-0504 inside CA). That is an independent company not affiliated with GES or ETS.

## Sign up for GES

### Seminars

This month Bob Wilkin will be presenting two seminars on assurance in Indiana and will be teaching a two week Wintersession course at Florida Bible College on "Issues in Soteriology [the doctrine of salvation]."

Any church or organization can schedule a GES seminar by Bob Wilkin or by Zane Hodges. Normally Bob speaks on faith and assurance and Zane on Lordship Salvation. Other seminar topics are possible upon request. Write to GES, P. O. Box 1800, Roanoke, TX 76262 for further information.

## Change of Address for Contributions

Because of the expansion of GES and the number of people on our mailing list, we are moving our contributions address to this location:

P. O. Box 9013  
Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0013

This also is the address to write for new subscriptions for the News and Journal and for address changes. The reply envelopes in this month's letter carry the new address.

Any contributions sent to the Duncan, Oklahoma address will be forwarded.

## Journal Soon to be Released

The Autumn '89 issue of the *Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society* will be in the mail within the next four to six weeks, Lord willing.

All current members of GES receive the Journal (\$20/year; \$12/year for student members). So do non-members who subscribe (\$25/year). This issue includes many outstanding articles and reviews. Don't miss it! Sign up (or renew) now. Write to GES, P.O. Box 9013, Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0013.

### Grace Evangelical Society Mailing Addresses

#### Subscriptions, Address Changes, Membership, Contributions

GES, P. O. Box 9013, Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0013

Contributions to GES are needed, welcomed, and tax deductible. Membership in GES is \$20 (\$12 for students) per year (entitling members to two issues of the Journal) and must be accompanied by one's signature affirming agreement with the GES Doctrinal Statement. Non-members can subscribe to the Journal for \$25 per year.

#### Tape Library

GES Tapes, 2220 Ave. O, Huntsville, TX 77340

#### Letters to the Editor, Journal, Speaking Engagements, All Other

Bob Wilkin, P.O. Box 1800, Roanoke, TX 76262

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### Editor

Robert N. Wilkin

### Associate Editor

Charles Bing

### GES Purpose

To promote the clear proclamation of God's free salvation through faith alone in Christ alone, which is properly correlated with and distinguished from issues related to discipleship.

### Short Statement of Faith

Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, paid the full penalty for man's sin when He died on the cross of Calvary. Any person who, in simple faith, trusts in the risen Christ as their only hope of heaven, refusing to trust in anything else, receives the gift of eternal life which, once granted, can never be lost.

### Subscription Information

GES News is a free, monthly report about the Gospel, assurance, and related issues. For your free subscription send your name and address to P. O. Box 9013, Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0013. Please note if you are in the ministry since we sometimes have special mailings.