

*The Agreement
Concerning Matters
Requiring Prayer
by the Churches*

from Associational Records of the Particular Baptists of
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Edited by Glenn Shoemake
*Director, Mississippi Baptist Commission
on History and Archives*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This document was written in 1653. It accompanied a letter of exhortation from the Particular Baptist church at Waterford, Ireland, subscribed by brethren from the churches at Killkeny and Dublin. The letter was dated April 1, 1653, and sent to the churches of like faith in England.

In presenting this document, the editor, for the benefit of the readers, has modernized the spelling. For example, *pretiouse* in the original document has been changed to *precious*. Also included are the texts of the Scripture references cited in the document. All texts are from the King James Version of the Bible.

It is our hope and prayer that this short publication will be a spiritual stimulus for all Christians who read it to seek the Lord earnestly and regularly. May God bless it as it circulates once again among the churches of Christ.

-- Glenn Shoemake
Seminary, Mississippi
January, 1997

THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING MATTERS REQUIRING PRAYER BY THE CHURCHES

The churches of Christ in Ireland walking in the faith and order of the Gospel, do agree together, through the Lord's assistance, to set apart one day in every month, solemnly to seek the face of our God and, fasting and praying, humbly to mourn before him for the things following, which is also recommended to our dear friends the churches of Christ in England and scattered brethren in several places, who have obtained like precious faith with us.

First. Our little knowledge of and less trusting in the name of our God in Christ, so as to set him for ever before our eyes, that we may glorify him both in our bodies and souls, which are his.

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

2. Our little sincere love to the Lord and his people and our little knowledge of the office and proper place of each member as God has set him in the body of Christ, to the end that every particular member might be now effectually improved for the mutual edification of the whole.

I Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

3. Our little serious searching into the word of God and not substantially acquainting ourselves with the foundation truths revealed therein.

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Romans 1:16,17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto

salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

4. Our little faith in the great and precious promises of the Lord, which are to be fulfilled in the latter days.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

II Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. Our little pressing after the mark of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ and our inordinate affections after earthly things.

Luke 10:40-42 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Philippians 3:7-14 But what things were gain

to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the 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, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

6. our little praying and praising frames of hearts in particular for faithful laborers in the Lord's vineyard and for all whom he has set in authority over us, under whom we have much opportunity to practice the truth we profess.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but

the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

I Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

I Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

I Peter 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Psalms 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

7. Our little sense of saints' sufferings.

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

8. Our great aptness to forget the great things God has done for us. And the abuse of the many precious mercies he has multiplied upon us.

Psalms 78:7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Psalms 106:13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

9. Our want of spiritual wisdom to reprove sin plainly in all without respect of persons and to exhort faithfully so as to stop the mouths of gainsayers and to give no just offense to any.

Proverbs 19:25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

Proverbs 9:8,9 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he

will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

10. Our little laying to heart the great breaches the Lord has made among us by removing many righteous ones from us and from the evil to come.

Isaiah 57:1,2 The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

II Kings 22:20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

11. Our little mourning for sin both in ourselves and others.

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Hosea 4:1,2 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land,

because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

12. Our great ignorance of the deceitfulness of our own hearts.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

These things among others ought to be sufficient grounds of our being low before the Lord that his voice may lift us up in due time,

James 4:9,10 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

and supply all our wants according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

