

Now most of us here and now either have come out from such institutions as I have, and belong to smaller organizations founded in comparatively recent years, or else have been converted to Christianity without having had contact with one of our old established institutions or organizations. And we live in an area where there are many fine churches standing for the Word of God. But there aren't a great many areas in the U.S. like this any more.

I have a friend who is in the contracting business and he went to the state of New Mexico about two years ago for a month examining roads, making bids for highway construction. So he and his wife lived in a trailer and spent nearly every Sunday in a different town, and he told me in every town we'd try to find a church that was standing for the Word of God. He said, It wasn't once in ten weeks that we were able to find one. Such is the situation in the country as a whole.

There has been a recrudescence of writing that stands for the Word of God in the last 10 or 15 years. There has been great increase of activity in organizations trying to spread the Word of God. But all that they have reached, fine as it has been in many ways is perhaps 1/10, certainly not over 1/3 as great as a number of our people who are still loyally attending churches in which the Word of God is being denied or ignored.

So many of us today are in a situation similar to that of the man of God who came up from Judah and pronounced his rebuke against Jeroboam's false worship. We are in that situation, and yet the situation is very involved and far from clear. So it is a situation in which we need to give a great deal of thought.

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I remember the years when I was in Princeton Seminary. People spoke and they would say, That's poison. That's remote from the world. People are there reading those old fashioned books, standing by these ideas and that's what's around them, and they don't realize the real world that they live in. "Now the world that we live in, the evangelical influences in the country is much greater than of course one institution such as Princeton was at that time, but it is a comparatively small today in the midst of professing Christians (Christendom?)

So this matter is one that is of great concern to us. What are the times when it is our duty to stand up like the man of God speaking against Jeroboam, and to speak the Word of God without fear or favor? What are the times when we have the question of ~~some~~ someone like the old prophet who brought him back to have lunch with him, and here we find that here is a man who is truly standing for the Word of God. But there are circumstances that make it very difficult perhaps, wrong, for us to have any sort of fellowship with him. This is a question that will face every one of us at and a question that we must think through and have definite ideas about.