

From: scott parker [mailto:2timothy42@kc.rr.com]

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 4:21 AM

To: 'rshepherd@mcdonoughcofc.org'

Subject: MBI - Scott Parker

Hello Roger. Scott Parker here. I came across your website yesterday. I could not sleep so I thought I would drop you a line. I will get right to the point. Understanding Col. 3:17 and other passages relative to Bible authority, I was wondering where is the N.T. authority for a preacher training school/college? Also, where is the passage that authorizes the types of offices/titles (such as President) you list on the brochure on your website

(<http://mcdonoughbibleinstitute.com/College%20Brochure%20New.pdf>)? Moreover, where is the authority for something that is “*a reality because of the dreams of the McDonough Church of Christ*” to actually charge people tuition to learn scripture (*ibid*)? Unless I have really missed something, I’m quite certain local churches have no authority from God to do so. However, let’s assume for a moment that something like McDonough Bible Institute is authorized (which it is not), where is the authority to fund the effort via cookbook sales, benefit dinners, and silent auctions as you announce you do through a “Ladies Auxiliary”

(<http://www.mcdonoughbibleinstitute.com/MBILADIESAUXILIARY.htm>)? In fact, where is the authority for a Ladies Auxiliary to begin with – an auxiliary complete with a President, Vice President, etc.? I hope that in view of 1 Pet. 3:15 you will provide an answer to all of my queries. As you likely inferred, I long ago repented of the sin of institutionalism. I truly hope you will come to do the same (1 Tim. 2:4). Time will tell if you’ll allow pride to trump scripture (cf. Prv. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:12). I want you to know that I have, after looking carefully at your website, followed the apostolic command noted in Rom. 16:17-18. I am marking you on my website (link below) in the “Departures from the Truth” category. I hope in so doing that I can discourage others from running into sin via disrespecting Bible authority. If I am wrong about institutionalism, and human institutions like MBI are, in fact, authorized of God please cite the command, approved example, or inescapable conclusion that demonstrates such. I will then remove the material. If, in fact, institutionalism is authorized of God then it ought to be very easy for you – one who has preached for more than 30 years – to instruct me (Gal. 6:1). Now listen, I realize you may be offended by what you read here (such is not my goal. Jude 3 is the goal). If you get offended, you may be tempted to think you can cloud the real issue by dragging it into the arena of “*you antis are mean!*” If that is your intent, then let me be clear that I have no intention of entering that circus with you. The real issue here is application of Bible authority, and on that battlefield will I remain. So please do not let emotions run the show. What I will entertain are passages which authorize what you are involved with – in fact, what you are the President of. Whether or not you will accept such to be the truth, I really do seek only your good, Roger. It is late (early) so please overlook any typographical errors in the body of this letter. I await your reply.

Concerned,

Scott Parker

www.bywhatauthority.com