

## **"Hold Your Fire!"**

**By Greg Gwin**

The wagons have been circled, and the Indian attack is underway. But, the Captain continues to urge his men to "hold your fire!" He knows that every shot taken must find its mark. The enemy numbers are too great, and the ammunition supply is too limited to waste any bullets. He wants his soldiers to "make their shots count." Do you remember those good old Westerns?

There's a spiritual lesson we could learn from that scene. Very often as we work together in the church there will be points of conflict or disagreement. Sometimes these will center on points of doctrine, and other times the issue will be one of judgment. It is important to recognize the difference so that we can "make our shots count" when they really need to.

In matters of doctrine, we cannot yield to any man (Acts 5:29; Gal. 2:4-5). To do so would jeopardize our relationship with God (2John 9-11). In such cases, we must speak up immediately and forcefully. But in situations where judgments must be made, where alternate courses of action are equally scriptural, we need to "hold our fire." The New Testament uses the word "submit" (1Peter 5:5).

Too often we find Christians who are ready to "blaze away" at any and every point of controversy -- even when these involve very simple and relatively un- important judgments. When they do this, they waste "shots" that they should have saved for more crucial issues.

I knew a man who griped and complained about every decision made in the church. He criticized the color of paint and the style of carpet. He had petty grievances about the Bible classes, the song books, and the way the preacher did his work. And he held back none of this. He was loud and vocal and everyone knew his opinions. One day a really serious doctrinal issue developed. He spoke up, and he was right. But no one listened. You see, he had "wasted" all of his ammunition!

### **Narrow Minded?**

Preachers, teachers and members of the Lord's church are sometimes accused of being "narrow minded" because we adhere to the literal interpretation of the Bible. We certainly are! But, so are factory workers, surgeons, and pharmacists. The factory worker is so narrow minded that he uses micrometers and measures to the thousandth of an inch the bores and pistons of engines, electronic components and balancing wheels in timepieces.

The surgeon is so narrow minded that he insist on ultra-technical laboratory analysis, meticulously sterilized instruments of special design. Why, he is even picky and narrow minded in that he makes his assistants wear masks over their faces.

The pharmacist is so narrow minded that he just has to have a prescription before he will let you have certain medications. He says he has to be narrow because government regulations are narrow and even thinks that this is a good idea.

As you think about it, it's a blessing that some are narrow minded. And however much we need to be narrow minded about vital material matters, we must be infinitely more careful and exact about spiritual laws. God will not be mocked.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20). Was Jesus Christ "Narrow Minded"? (The Gospel Digest)

### **Smart Frog?**

"But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil" (James 4:16). There is an old fable that says two geese were about to start southward on their annual autumn migration, when they were entreated by a frog to take him with them. The geese expressed their willingness to do so if a means of conveyance could be devised. The frog produced a long stalk of grass, got the geese to take it by each end, while he clung to it by his mouth in the middle. In this manner the three were making their journey when they were noticed by some men. The men loudly expressed their admiration for the device and wondered who had been clever enough to discover it. Whereupon, the vainglorious frog opened his mouth to say, "It was I," lost his hold, fell to the earth, and was dashed to pieces. "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2).

### **Who Is Jesus?**

The Lord Jesus Christ fills the pages of the entire Bible. An anonymous writer said of him:

In Matthew, He is the King of the Jews.  
In Mark, He is the Beloved Son of God.  
In Luke, He is the Perfect Son of Man.  
In John, He is the Servant of Jehovah.  
In Acts, He is the Ascended Lord.  
In Romans, He is our Righteousness.  
In 1Corinthians, He is the Firstfruits from the dead.  
In 2Corinthians, He is made Sin for us.  
In Galatians, He is the End of the Law.  
In Ephesians, He is our Armorer.  
In Philippians, He is the Supplier of Every Need.  
In Colossians, He is Preeminent in the Church.  
In 1Thessalonians, He is our Returning Lord.  
In 2Thessalonians, He is the World's Merciful Judge.  
In 1Timothy, He is the Mediator.  
In 2Timothy, He is the Seed of David.  
In Titus, He is our Great God and Savior.  
In Philemon, He is the Father's Partner.  
In Hebrews, He is the Rest of Faith and Fulfiler of Types.  
In James, He is the Lord of Sabbath.  
In 1Peter, He is the Theme of Old Testament Prophecy.  
In 2Peter, He is the Long Suffering Savior.  
In 1John, He is the Word of Life.  
In 2John, He is the Target of Antichrist.  
In 3John, He is the Personification of Truth.  
In Jude, He is the believer's Hope.  
In Revelation, He is the Lovable King and Lord.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.

--Don't call a man honest just because he never had the chance to steal.

--If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.

--I believe every child has hidden away somewhere in his being, noble capacities which may be quickened and developed if we go about it in the right way.

--Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm but the harm does not interest them.

--The trick is in what one emphasizes. We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same.